OET Speaking
Meeting the assessment criteria:
Appropriateness of Language

Top Tips!

- ✓ Use common lay terms
- ✓ Create a language bank
- ✓ Practice

What do the descriptors mean?

Band	Appropriateness of Language
6	• Entirely appropriate register, tone and lexis for the context. • No difficulty at all in explaining technical matters in lay terms.
5	• Mostly appropriate register, tone and lexis for the context. • Occasional lapses are not intrusive.
4	• Generally appropriate register, tone and lexis for the context, but somewhat restricted and lacking in complexity. • Lapses are noticeable and at times reflect limited resources of grammar and expression.

source: https://prod-wp-content.occupationalenglishtest.org/resources/uploads/2018/08/22102547/speaking-assessment-criteria-updated-2018.pdf

- ✓ Register and tone
- ✓ Vocabulary
- ✓ Lay terms

How to improve in this area

Register

Nurse: Good afternoon, I am registered nurse Sam jones, one of the nurses on duty today. *I have reviewed your notes which inform me* that you were admitted last night after a car accident. I will explain the next steps in your care today, but first *I am required to* ask you some questions.

Patient: Oh, ok

Nurse: Could you tell me if you are currently in any pain?

Patient: Well, I have got a bit of a headache this morning

Nurse: Hello I'm Samantha, one of the nurses on duty today. I see from my notes that you were admitted last night after a car accident. That must have been very frightening.

Patient: Oh, it was. It just happened so quickly, but I suppose it could have been much worse.

Nurse: How are you feeling today?

Patient: Much better than yesterday, although I have got a bit of a headache this morning.

Tone

Nurse: Hello Jenny. Nice to see you again, I understand that you want to talk to me about your mum.

Patient: Well, yeah, I'm just so worried about her. I know that the symptoms are to be expected with dementia, but it just seems to be getting worse more quickly than I'd expected.

Nurse: I can see how hard this is for you. What concerns you the most about what is happening with your mum?

Nurse: Hello Jenny. Nice to see you again, I understand that you want to talk to me about your mum.

Patient: Well, yeah, I'm just so worried about her. I know that the symptoms are to be expected with dementia, but it just seems to be getting worse more quickly than I'd expected.

Nurse: Ah sure, that is a pity, but don't worry, keep your chin up! We'll take good care of her.

Tone

Patient: I have read that high cholesterol can contribute to heart attacks and I have got relatives that died from that. So, I thought I better get it checked out.

Doctor: I can see that you are worried about your cholesterol levels, but we have the results back and they are only slightly high. This can be lowered with some lifestyle changes, which we can talk about now. How does that sound?

Judgemental language

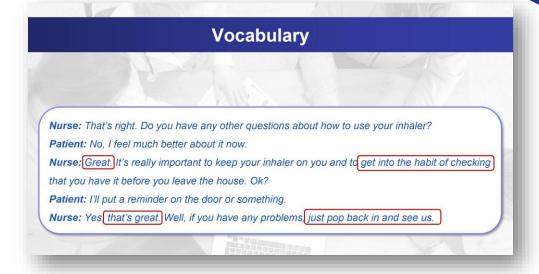*You must give up smoking. It really isn't helping you.*

I know it can be hard to stop smoking, but would you be willing to try to reduce the amount of cigarettes you smoke?
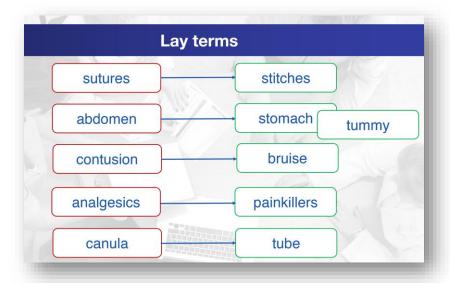
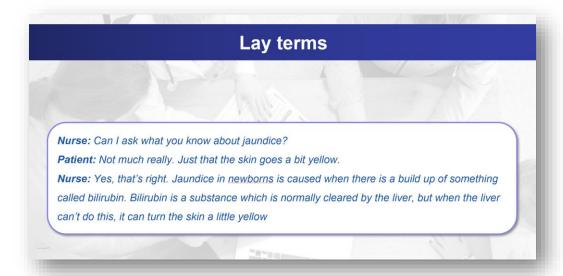*So, would you say that you don't really do much exercise then?*

Can you tell me how much exercise you do?

Vocabulary

Nurse: *That's right. Do you have any other questions about how to use your inhaler?*

Patient: *No, I feel much better about it now.*

Nurse: *Great. It's really important to keep your inhaler on you and to get into the habit of checking that you have it before you leave the house. Ok?*

Patient: *I'll put a reminder on the door or something.*

Nurse: *Yes, that's great. Well, if you have any problems just pop back in and see us.*

Lay terms

sutures	→ stitches
abdomen	→ stomach — tummy
contusion	→ bruise
analgesics	→ painkillers
canula	→ tube

Lay terms

Nurse: *Can I ask what you know about jaundice?*

Patient: *Not much really. Just that the skin goes a bit yellow.*

Nurse: *Yes, that's right. Jaundice in newborns is caused when there is a build up of something called bilirubin. Bilirubin is a substance which is normally cleared by the liver, but when the liver can't do this, it can turn the skin a little yellow*

Study Ideas

Mathew Smith's YouTube channel

24 hours in A&E

GPs behind closed doors

Good news vs Bad news

Functional language

Giving Advice

It would be better to...
It's a good idea to...

suggestions

You should...
Try to...

It's really important that you...
It's vital that you...

strong advice