



OET Speaking Meeting the assessment criteria: *Appropriateness of Language*



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

What do the descriptors mean?

Band	Appropriateness of Language
6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Entirely appropriate register, tone and lexis for the context. • No difficulty at all in explaining technical matters in lay terms.
5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mostly appropriate register, tone and lexis for the context. • Occasional lapses are not intrusive.
4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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



Functional language

giving advice

- I would suggest (not) __ing*
- I recommend (not) __ing*
- It's a good idea (not) to*
- You might want to...*
- You should...*
- It's better (not) to ...*
- You can...*

Study Ideas

Functional language

Things you can do yourself

Mild urinary tract infections (UTIs) often pass within a few days. To help ease pain while your symptoms clear up:

- take paracetamol – you can give children liquid paracetamol
- place a hot water bottle on your tummy, back or between your thighs
- rest and drink plenty of fluids – this helps your body to flush out the bacteria

It may also help to avoid having sex until you feel better.

You can take paracetamol if you need to

I recommend resting and drinking plenty of fluids

It might be a good idea to place a hot water bottle on your tummy. Or it might feel better on your back or between your thighs

You might want to avoid sexual activity until you feel better

The main symptoms of rheumatoid arthritis are **joint pain, swelling and stiffness**. It may also cause more general symptoms, and inflammation in other parts of the body.

The symptoms of rheumatoid arthritis often develop gradually over several weeks, but some cases can progress quickly over a number of days.

The symptoms vary from person to person. They may **come and go** or change over time. You may experience **flares** when your condition deteriorates and your symptoms become worse.

Ask for feedback

Become familiar with common lay terms



