

OET Speaking Meeting the assessment criteria: *Fluency*



- ✓ Practice speaking as much as possible
- ✓ Practice common tasks from the role play
- ✓ Record and notice your weaker areas

What do the descriptors mean?

Band	Intelligibility
6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pronunciation is easily understood and prosodic features (stress, intonation, rhythm) are used effectively. • L1 accent has no effect on intelligibility.
5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Easily understood. • Communication is not impeded by a few pronunciation or prosodic errors and/or noticeable L1 accent. • Minimal strain for the listener.
4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Easily understood most of the time. • Pronunciation or prosodic errors and/or L1 accent at times cause strain for the listener.

- ✓ Pronunciation is easily understood
- ✓ Stress, rhythm and intonation are used effectively
- ✓ Native accent has no negative effect on the listener

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

How to improve in this area

Rate of speech – even and at a natural pace



Hello. I'm nurse Sam. I'm one of the nurses on duty, and I'll be looking after you today. I can see from my notes that you were brought in last night with chest pains. How are you feeling today?



Hesitation and fillers

Basically, you just need to change the dressing again if it gets wet or dirty.

✓ Naturally found in speech

Well, you see, the reason that it is important to do some regular exercise is that it will help lower your cholesterol.

✗ Don't over use them

Umm, Well, the doctor is with another patient at the moment, but he will be coming to see you shortly.

Self-correction



Yes, that's right. You need to apply the cream three times a week, I mean three times a day, sorry.



You need to change the dress, sorry, dressing, if it's dry or dirt, no...sorry, I mean if it's wet or dirty. If you have problem, a problem, you can...um...you can back....come back.



Study Ideas

Practice as much as possible.

Look for opportunities to practice your English: at work, language exchanges.

Listen. Observe how fluent speakers manage their conversations.

Ask for feedback about your rate of speech, your use of fillers or hesitation and how easily you are understood.



Record your practice. Identify any weaknesses in this area and then repeat.

Practice your introductions. It can help you make a confident start in your roleplay.

Practice giving explanations and other common tasks such as reassuring the patient or giving advice.

Create a language bank of functional phrases that are easily adapted to any exam.

