



Here's What you'll need To Collect Feedback On Your Speaking Skills - even if you're on your own!

- Use the voice recorder of your cell phone.** As you are practicing, make sure you record yourself so you can replay what you've said. If you're not recording yourself, there's no way to notice what you're doing well and what you need to improve on! So grab your phone and get your voice memo app ready!
- Notice vitals:** Decide what speaking task you'll practice, and notice this vital information: Brainstorming/Prep time and Recording times. For example: Speaking task two is talking about a past experience. You'll have 30 seconds to prepare what you'll say. Then you'll have 60 seconds to answer. Here is a handy list of prep and recording times for the speaking tasks you'll encounter on the exam:

Speaking Task	Preparation Time	Recording Time
Task 1: Giving Advice.	30 Seconds	60 Seconds
Task 2: Talking about a personal experience.	30 Seconds	60 Seconds
Task 3: Describing a Scene	30 Seconds	60 Seconds
Task 4: Making Predictions	30 Seconds	60 Seconds
Task 5: Comparing and Persuading	Part 1: 60 Seconds Part 2: 60 Seconds	Part 1: None Part 2: 60 Seconds
Task 6: Dealing with a Difficult Situation	60 Seconds	60 Seconds
Task 7: Expressing Opinions	30 Seconds	90 Seconds
Task 8: Describing an Unusual Situation	30 Seconds	60 Seconds

Have note paper and a pen handy.

Use a timer. Use your phone or some other way to time yourself. If you were practicing speaking task 2, you'd have 30 seconds to plan what you're going to say! Set your first timer accordingly. When you're ready, start the timer and then begin creating a quick and simple outline of what you'd like to talk about: remember, you're going to talk about a previous experience. Maybe talk about your first day in Canada, or your first day of school, or the most exciting thing you did this year so far. When the timer stops, you too must stop writing! (No cheating!)

Record Your Answer! As quickly as you can, open your phone's voice memo app and begin to record your answer. Use your notes to help you, but keep an eye on the duration of your recording. Once you get to the 1 minute mark - hit stop. You cannot record longer than this, and you cannot under record either. Get as close to the 1 minute recording time as you can. The closer the better.

6 Things To Listen For - Give yourself feedback!

Play back your recording and check that you're doing the following 6 things:

- Did I fill up my recording time correctly?** Remember: You can't go over the recording limit, and you can't be more than 8-10 seconds UNDER the limit.
- Content Feedback:** Did I stay on topic and fully answer the question? Make sure your ideas are all related to the question and not going off topic in any way.
- Am I presenting more than one idea as I share my answer?** An interesting answer will include more than one idea. Try to offer several - like 2 or 3 ideas as you talk about your topic. When I told you about learning to ski, I didn't just talk about going on a ski trip. I told you about needing beginner classes. I told you about our simple snow plow lesson. And then I told you about our exciting down hill adventure! All on the same topic of my first ski trip. Try to do the same thing!
- Details Matter!** Am I including feelings and details to add interest?
- Vocabulary:** Am I using a wide variety of words as I talk, and not repeating the same word choice over and over again? Do your best to fully describe and explore your topic! Show the test rater that you can talk about your topic with ease, and that you're having fun doing it.
- Listenability:** Am I making long pauses? Am I using 'um's' and 'uh's' too much? Is my voice conveying emotion - or am I stuck in a boring monotone? (aim for emotion! Ups and downs in your voice!) Does my answer sound natural, or am I speaking too quickly - or too slowly?

Listen carefully to your answers, and try to identify where you are following this feedback checklist, and also where you need to improve.

Where you need to improve, make careful note of what is missing and then record yourself again.

Follow the process as many times as you need to until you are satisfied with your responses.

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