

B1 Independent User: SPEAKING ASSESSMENT CRITERIA (Last update: July 2025)

“Can reasonably fluently sustain a straightforward description of one of a variety of subjects within their field of interest, presenting it as a linear sequence of points.”

[CEFR – Companion volume, 2022, p. 62](#)

	COMMUNICATION Communicative competence, interaction & content (25 %)	DISCOURSE Fluency, coherence, cohesion (25 %)	PRONUNCIATION Pronunciation, articulation of sounds & Intonation (25%)	LANGUAGE Complexity, range & accuracy (grammar & vocabulary) (25%)
5	<input type="checkbox"/> Communication: Can start unprepared and talk comprehensibly. <input type="checkbox"/> Maintains and develops the interactions to negotiate towards an outcome with very little support. <input type="checkbox"/> Relevant information on familiar topics .	<input type="checkbox"/> Fluency: Produces extended relevant stretches of discourse with little hesitation, pausing or repetition. Circumlocution may be necessary. <input type="checkbox"/> Coherence: Can link a series of shorter, discrete simple elements into a connected, linear, clear and coherent sequence of points. <input type="checkbox"/> Uses a range of cohesive devices .	<input type="checkbox"/> Occasional mispronunciations and evident foreign accent. <input type="checkbox"/> In general, individual sounds are articulated clearly enough to be understood. <input type="checkbox"/> Intonation is generally appropriate to support meaning and to indicate new information.	<input type="checkbox"/> Complexity: Shows good control of simple grammatical structures and attempts some complex forms (different tenses, simple and complex sentences). <input type="checkbox"/> Range: Has enough language to get by, despite some hesitation and circumlocutions, on topics such as familiar topics. <input type="checkbox"/> Accuracy: Very few errors in simple sentences.
4	Sharing features of bands 3 and 5			
3	<input type="checkbox"/> Communication: Occasional hesitation about how to say things. <input type="checkbox"/> Usually initiates and responds appropriately. Keeps the interaction going with little prompting. <input type="checkbox"/> Content: Makes generally relevant responses.	<input type="checkbox"/> Fluency: Responses, despite hesitation, are extended beyond short phrases. <input type="checkbox"/> Coherence: Contributions are mostly relevant, but there may be some repetition. <input type="checkbox"/> Uses only basic cohesive devices .	<input type="checkbox"/> Pronunciation is clearly intelligible. <input type="checkbox"/> Articulation: Has some control of phonological features at both utterance and word levels. <input type="checkbox"/> Mostly intelligible intonation , though sometimes maybe difficult to follow.	<input type="checkbox"/> Complexity: Uses tenses appropriately and can vary sentences reasonably. <input type="checkbox"/> Range: Uses a range of appropriate vocabulary when talking about familiar topics. <input type="checkbox"/> Accuracy: Errors are noticeable, but meaning can still be determined.
2	Sharing features of bands 1 and 3			
1	<input type="checkbox"/> Communication: Minimal and/or irrelevant responses with long hesitations <input type="checkbox"/> Interaction: Requires some prompting. <input type="checkbox"/> Content: Frequent breakdown in communication.	<input type="checkbox"/> Fluency: Responses characterized by short phrases and frequent hesitation. <input type="checkbox"/> Coherence: Repeats information or digresses from the topic. <input type="checkbox"/> Cohesion: Relationships among ideas are not clearly expressed or extremely simple.	<input type="checkbox"/> Pronunciation: Inability to produce certain sounds. <input type="checkbox"/> Articulation: Mostly intelligible but mispronunciation often impedes comprehension. <input type="checkbox"/> Unnatural intonation .	<input type="checkbox"/> Complexity: Lacks tense and sentence variety and only uses basic sentence structure. <input type="checkbox"/> Range: Uses only a simple range of appropriate vocabulary and constructions. <input type="checkbox"/> Accuracy: Frequent errors may obscure meaning.
0	Performance below band 1			