

B2 Independent User: SPEAKING ASSESSMENT CRITERIA *(Last update: July 2025)*

"Can give clear, systematically developed descriptions and presentations, with appropriate highlighting of significant points, and relevant supporting detail. Can give clear, detailed descriptions and presentations on a wide range of subjects related to their field of interest, expanding and supporting ideas with subsidiary points and relevant examples."

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

	COMMUNICATION Communicative competence, interaction and content (25%)	DISCOURSE Fluency, coherence and cohesion (25%)	PRONUNCIATION Pronunciation, articulation of sounds and intonation (25%)	LANGUAGE Language complexity, range and accuracy (25%)
5	<input type="checkbox"/> Shows excellent communicative competence by adapting language appropriately to different situations. <input type="checkbox"/> Maintains natural interaction , initiating and responding with ease. <input type="checkbox"/> Develops relevant content clearly and coherently throughout the conversation.	<input type="checkbox"/> Demonstrates excellent fluency , speaking smoothly with minimal hesitation. <input type="checkbox"/> Maintains clear coherence by organizing ideas logically and sequentially. <input type="checkbox"/> Uses a range of cohesive devices to ensure strong cohesion .	<input type="checkbox"/> Pronunciation is consistently clear and natural. Can articulate virtually all the sounds of the target language. Usually self-corrects when mispronouncing a sound. <input type="checkbox"/> Accurate articulation of sounds, including consonants, vowels and connected speech. <input type="checkbox"/> Uses varied intonation patterns to enhance meaning and expression naturally.	<input type="checkbox"/> Demonstrates strong language complexity through confident use of a variety of grammatical structures, including different tenses and embedded clauses, with minimal L1 influence. <input type="checkbox"/> Shows a wide range of vocabulary and grammatical structures appropriately. <input type="checkbox"/> Maintains a high level of accuracy , with very few noticeable errors.
4	Sharing features of bands 3 and 5			
3	<input type="checkbox"/> Demonstrates sufficient communicative competence , mostly appropriate responses. <input type="checkbox"/> Manages interaction reasonably well; can respond and initiate with very little support. <input type="checkbox"/> Produces generally relevant content , although may lack depth or clarity.	<input type="checkbox"/> Shows reasonable fluency , with occasional pauses or self-correction. <input type="checkbox"/> Shows some coherence , though ideas may be loosely connected. <input type="checkbox"/> Uses basic linking words to create cohesion ; some repetition may occur.	<input type="checkbox"/> Pronunciation is generally clear. Occasionally self-corrects noticeable errors. <input type="checkbox"/> Articulation of most consonants, vowels, and connected speech is mostly accurate. <input type="checkbox"/> Uses basic intonation patterns, though they may be inconsistent or flat at times.	<input type="checkbox"/> Attempts language complexity , with some successful use of more advanced structures, although L1 influence may still be noticeable. <input type="checkbox"/> Uses an adequate range of vocabulary and grammar for the task. <input type="checkbox"/> Makes occasional accuracy errors, but they do not impede understanding.
2	Sharing features of bands 1 and 3			
1	<input type="checkbox"/> Develops communicative competence by beginning to use appropriate expressions in different situations, with support. <input type="checkbox"/> Makes an effort to engage in interaction , although may need prompts or encouragement to participate fully. <input type="checkbox"/> Begins to express some ideas, but content may be limited or not always clear.	<input type="checkbox"/> Shows emerging fluency , with frequent pauses. <input type="checkbox"/> Develops basic coherence , but ideas may be disorganized or hard to follow. <input type="checkbox"/> Demonstrates limited use of linking devices; cohesion is inconsistent.	<input type="checkbox"/> Develops pronunciation by working on clearer articulation of sounds; errors occur. <input type="checkbox"/> Shows emerging control of articulation , but errors sometimes hinder understanding. <input type="checkbox"/> Demonstrates limited intonation control; speech may sound monotone or unnatural.	<input type="checkbox"/> Develops language complexity by relying mostly on simple sentence structures, with limited variation; L1 interference may affect language choices. <input type="checkbox"/> Uses only a simple range of appropriate vocabulary and grammar. <input type="checkbox"/> Demonstrates low accuracy ; frequent errors and L1 patterns may obscure meaning or require listener effort to interpret.
0	Performance below band 1			