WIDA Speaking Scoring Scale
GRADES 1–12

For scoring only. To interpret ACCESS for ELLs and WIDA Screener scores or to evaluate classroom performance, see the WIDA Speaking Rubric.

Score point	Response characteristics
Exemplary use of oral language to provide an elaborated response	• Language use comparable to or going beyond the model in sophistication • Clear, automatic, and fluent delivery • Precise and appropriate word choice
Strong use of oral language to provide a detailed response	• Language use approaching that of model in sophistication, though not as rich • Clear delivery • Appropriate word choice
Adequate use of oral language to provide a satisfactory response	• Language use not as sophisticated as that of model • Generally comprehensible use of oral language • Adequate word choice
Attempted use of oral language to provide a response in English	• Language use does not support an adequate response • Comprehensibility may be compromised • Word choice may not be fully adequate
No response (in English)	• Does not respond (in English)

Scoring processes

Select the score point that best describes the overall response relative to the qualities of the model
- Check to ensure each bullet point is met
- If not, check one level below

Scoring notes & rules

- For P1 tasks, assign a score of **Adequate and above** if the response includes more than one word in English. This includes an article plus noun (e.g., "a chair"), and words repeated verbatim from the model.
- For P3 and P5 tasks, students may take up and use language from the model and should not be penalized for this. This is particularly relevant for personal-preference tasks.
- At all task levels, simply repeating or reading all or part of the task question should be scored **Attempted**.
- At all task levels, responses of "I don't know" should be scored **Attempted**.

Off-task response: The response shows no understanding of or interaction with the prompt. It may answer another, unrelated task. A response that is entirely off task receives a score of Attempted.

Off-topic response: The response shows a misinterpretation of the instructions. An off-topic response is *related* to the prompt, but does not address it. (Note that this does not refer to task completion—for example, if a student is asked for 3 reasons and gives 1, this should be scored based on language use and is not considered off topic.) The maximum score for an off-topic response is Adequate. If any part of the response is on topic, the entire response is scored as on topic.

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