

How do raters score my test?

Each of the two examiners who meet with you for the speaking test will independently give you a score from 0-4 after each of the parts of the test. They will score your answers based on the scale descriptions that are summarized below and by comparing your speech to sample recordings at each level.

CELC Speaking Ability Scale Descriptions

Rating (0-4)	Language Control	Intelligibility	Task Completion
→ Tips for Success:	Choose your words carefully!	Speak as clearly as possible so that the examiners can easily understand what you say.	Give complete answers to the examiners' questions. Include examples, reasons, and explanations whenever possible.
↑ Passing ↓	4 You will receive 4 points after each of the 5 Parts of the test in which your answers meet the requirements in this section		
	You use a wide variety of appropriate words and grammatical structures to make what you are saying perfectly clear, and you either make no mistakes, or make only small errors that do not make it difficult at all for the examiners to understand what you are saying.	You speak clearly enough that the examiners can easily understand you at all times without any effort. You may pronounce some words differently and/or make a few small errors, but it does not distract the examiners from paying attention to what you are saying.	You give a complete and clear answer to the examiners' questions on the topic by using examples, reasons, and explanations to provide strong support for your main points. For the Description, your words create an exceptionally clear picture with lots of details in the examiners' imaginations; for the Narrations, the examiners easily follow your stories, including the details; for the Supported Opinions, the examiners clearly understand your point of view and the relevance of all of your supporting ideas.
	3 You will receive 3 points after each of the 5 Parts of the test in which your answers meet the requirements in this section		
	You use mainly common words and basic grammatical structures, but your main idea and supporting points are at least generally clear, and any mistakes you make do not cause confusion for the examiners.	You speak clearly enough that the examiners can understand you most of the time without having to make a special effort or "guess" what you intend to say. You may pronounce some words differently and/or make a few small errors, but it is only slightly distracting to the examiners, who are still able to pay attention to what you are saying.	You give a complete and clear answer to the examiners' questions on the topic by using examples, reasons, and explanations to provide adequate support for the main points you make, which are generally clear. For the Description, your words create a clear picture with some details in the examiners' imaginations; for the Narrations, the examiners easily follow your stories, including at least basic details; for the Supported Opinions, the examiners clearly understand your point of view and the relevance of at least a few supporting ideas.
↑ Not Passing ↓	2 You will receive 2 points after each of the 5 Parts of the test in which your answers meet the requirements in this section		
	You use common words that are not always appropriate for your ideas, and you may even repeat the same words. You also use mostly simple grammatical structures that may have errors. The result is that the listeners get only a general idea of what you are saying and may be confused by parts of what you are saying.	You speak clearly enough that the examiners can understand you part of the time, but at times they need to make a special effort or "guess" what you intend to say. You pronounce some words differently and/or make a errors that distract the examiners, who are unable to pay full attention to what you are actually saying.	You give a partially complete and only somewhat clear answer to the examiners' questions on this topic. You may use examples, reasons, and explanations but provide only vague support for the main points you make. For the Description, your words create an incomplete "picture" in the examiners' imaginations; for the Narrations, the examiners find it difficult to follow your stories and their details; for the Supported Opinions, the examiners do not fully understand your point of view and the relevance of your supporting ideas.
	1 You will receive 1 point after each of the 5 Parts of the test in which your answers meet the requirements in this section		
	You use only very common words and say very little or repeat the same words. You use simple grammatical structures but with errors. The result is that the listener finds your answer confusing and unclear.	You do not speak clearly enough for the examiners to understand you without making a special effort about half the time or more. The examiners are distracted by errors you make and spend most of their energy trying to figure out what words you are saying rather than paying attention to your intended meaning.	You give an incomplete and unclear answer to the examiners' questions on this topic. You may attempt to use examples, reasons, and explanations to support for the main points you make, but the examiners only get a general idea of what you are trying to say. For the Description, your words create almost no "picture" in the examiners' imaginations; for the Narrations, the examiners find it nearly impossible to follow your stories and any details you might offer; for the Supported Opinions, the examiners do not fully understand your point of view because you offer too few relevant details.
0	Not enough comprehensible language to evaluate: You say nothing or speak in a language other than English, or most of what you say is not understandable.		