

VERSANT ENGLISH PLACEMENT TEST · PEARSON

Speaking Section

*Section 1 · Study booklet***AUGUST 2026****INSIDE THIS BOOKLET****SECTION 1****Speaking Section**

Parts A–D · spoken responses

40 items

≈ 11 minutes

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A practice booklet to print or complete on screen. Answer keys and transcripts for this section are at the end.

Speaking Section

Parts A–D · spoken responses

40 items **Duration** ≈ 11 minutes

Parts A to D are spoken. Every item runs on its own countdown and moves on by itself, so work at test pace. Open the audio link for each item from the digital booklet, then answer aloud — record yourself if you want to review your responses afterwards.

PART A

Read Aloud

2 items 30 s to speak · start within 10 s

Read the passage aloud smoothly and naturally in a clear voice. You will be stopped after 30 seconds. This is not a speed reading test. You may not be able to finish reading the entire passage, but that is okay. When your time is up, you will automatically move on to the next item.

A1

At the market, people move slowly between the tables. Fresh fruit and green vegetables fill many boxes and bags. A woman picks up apples, looks at them, and chooses a few good ones. Nearby, a man sells bread that smells warm and sweet. Before noon, the market becomes crowded, and friends stop to talk while they wait to pay for their food.

A2

During a long hiring process, small delays can alter the quality of the final choice. Strong applicants may accept other offers while a committee debates minor points. At the same time, hurried approval can overlook signs that a candidate lacks sound judgment. Effective selection depends on steady timing as much as it depends on careful review. Both speed and caution serve the same practical aim.

PART B

Repeat

16 items 15 s to speak · start within 6 s

Please repeat each sentence that you hear.

Audio items — open the listen link on each item from the digital booklet. Nothing is printed for you to read.

B1 ▶ Listen to the sentence

B2 ▶ Listen to the sentence

B3 ▶ Listen to the sentence

B4 ▶ Listen to the sentence

B5 ▶ Listen to the sentence

B6 ▶ Listen to the sentence

B7 ▶ Listen to the sentence

B8 ▶ Listen to the sentence

B9 ▶ Listen to the sentence

B10 ▶ Listen to the sentence

B11 ▶ Listen to the sentence

B12 ▶ Listen to the sentence

B13 ▶ Listen to the sentence

B14

▶ Listen to the sentence

B15

▶ Listen to the sentence

B16

▶ Listen to the sentence

PART C

Sentence Builds

10 items 15 s to speak · start within 8 s

Now, please rearrange the word groups into a sentence.

Audio items — open the listen link on each item from the digital booklet. Nothing is printed for you to read.

C1

▶ Listen to the word groups

under the bed this morning

my warm coat

i found

C2

▶ Listen to the word groups

to the table very quickly

the waiter brought

our drinks

C3

▶ Listen to the word groups

on friday afternoons

our teacher gives us

easy homework

C4

▶ Listen to the word groups

more water during the flight

the doctor advised him

to drink

C5

▶ Listen to the word groups

so we missed

our train arrived late

the start of the meeting

C6

▶ Listen to the word groups

had revived the soil

the garden looked vibrant

because recent rain

C7

▶ Listen to the word groups

before the final inspection

every window

the repair team checked

C8

▶ Listen to the word groups

after workers repaired

the museum reopened quietly

the damaged ceiling overnight

C9

► Listen to the word groups

even after the lawyer challenged

the witness remained calm

her account

C10

► Listen to the word groups

the audience unexpectedly sympathetic

a quiet apology left

toward his position

PART D

Conversations

12 items 15 s to speak · start within 8 s

You will hear a conversation between two people, followed by a question. Give a short, simple answer to the question.

D1

▶ Listen to the conversation

▶ Listen to the question

Where can the eggs be bought?

YOUR ANSWER

D2

▶ Listen to the conversation

▶ Listen to the question

Where is the parcel now?

YOUR ANSWER

D3

▶ Listen to the conversation

▶ Listen to the question

Where is the practice room booked?

YOUR ANSWER

D4

▶ Listen to the conversation

▶ Listen to the question

What's the reason for missing the gym class tonight?

YOUR ANSWER

D5

▶ Listen to the conversation

▶ Listen to the question

When is the technician coming?

YOUR ANSWER

D6

▶ Listen to the conversation

▶ Listen to the question

What will be added to the order?

YOUR ANSWER

D7

▶ Listen to the conversation

▶ Listen to the question

Which room was booked for the budget review?

YOUR ANSWER

D8

▶ Listen to the conversation

▶ Listen to the question

Who will greet the visitors?

YOUR ANSWER _____

D9

▶ Listen to the conversation

▶ Listen to the question

Where will they sit?

YOUR ANSWER _____

D10

▶ Listen to the conversation

▶ Listen to the question

What's the plan for the leftover soup?

YOUR ANSWER _____

D11

▶ Listen to the conversation

▶ Listen to the question

When is the copier check scheduled?

YOUR ANSWER _____

D12

▶ Listen to the conversation

▶ Listen to the question

Who must send the final wording?

YOUR ANSWER _____

Answer keys

Parts F and G have one right answer and you can mark them yourself. For the spoken parts and the long writing tasks, compare your response with the transcript or the content points listed below — the real test scores them on accuracy, fluency, vocabulary and sentence mastery, which needs the online version.

Part A — Read Aloud

No answer key: the passage is printed in full above. Read Aloud is scored on pronunciation and fluency, which needs the recorded version.

Part B — Repeat

Item	Expected response
B1	Please sit near the window.
B2	We walked home after class.
B3	We can watch a movie after we finish our homework tonight.
B4	After dinner, we washed the dishes and cleaned the table.
B5	I was tired, so I went to bed early.
B6	We meet after lunch.
B7	The manager wants a quick update before lunch.
B8	My neighbor waters the plants every morning.
B9	Her advice sounded unusually sensible.
B10	Although the restaurant looked busy, we found a quiet table near the window.
B11	If the bus is full, we can walk instead.
B12	The lecture was engaging, even though some of the terms seemed unnecessarily technical.
B13	The museum reopened quietly after the repairs were finished ahead of schedule.
B14	Unless the medication is stored properly, its effectiveness can gradually decline over time.
B15	The speaker argued that lasting reform requires patience, compromise, and unusually clear goals.
B16	If the proposal sounds promising but lacks detail, ask for clarification before offering support.

Part C — Sentence Builds

The task is to rearrange the word groups, so where the three groups assemble more than one way every correct build is listed.

Item	Expected response
C1	I found my warm coat under the bed this morning. also correct: Under the bed this morning, I found my warm coat.
C2	The waiter brought our drinks to the table very quickly.
C3	Our teacher gives us easy homework on Friday afternoons. also correct: On Friday afternoons, our teacher gives us easy homework.
C4	The doctor advised him to drink more water during the flight.
C5	Our train arrived late, so we missed the start of the meeting.
C6	The garden looked vibrant because recent rain had revived the soil. also correct: Because recent rain had revived the soil, the garden looked vibrant.
C7	The repair team checked every window before the final inspection. also correct: Before the final inspection, the repair team checked every window.
C8	The museum reopened quietly after workers repaired the damaged ceiling overnight. also correct: After workers repaired the damaged ceiling overnight, the museum reopened quietly.
C9	The witness remained calm even after the lawyer challenged her account. also correct: Even after the lawyer challenged her account, the witness remained calm.
C10	A quiet apology left the audience unexpectedly sympathetic toward his position.

Part D — Conversations

The transcript of each conversation is printed with its answer so you can check what you missed.

Item	Expected response
D1	The market also accepted: at the market, market A: We need more eggs for dinner. B: I can buy them at the market. A: Thanks. Please go before six.
D2	By the side entrance also accepted: the side entrance, side entrance, at the side entrance, by side entrance A: Was the parcel left at your desk? B: No, the driver put it by the side entrance. A: I'll go pick it up before the rain starts.

Item	Expected response
D3	The music building also accepted: in the music building, music building A: Did you book the practice room for tonight? B: Yes, from six until eight in the music building. A: Great, I'll bring my guitar after work.
D4	To watch my niece also accepted: watch my niece, i promised to watch my niece, promised to watch my niece A: Are you joining the gym class after work? B: No, I promised to watch my niece tonight. A: Maybe next week, then.
D5	Friday also accepted: on friday A: Did the repair service call you back? B: Yes, the technician is coming on Friday. A: I'll be home that afternoon.
D6	Labels also accepted: the labels, more labels, some labels, labels to the order A: Do we need more envelopes or more labels? B: Labels. There are plenty of envelopes in the cabinet. A: I'll add labels to the order, then.
D7	The smaller studio also accepted: smaller studio, studio, the studio A: Did you reserve a room for the budget review? B: Yes, although the boardroom was taken, I booked the smaller studio. A: That should work, as long as the projector's there.
D8	Daniel A: The seminar starts soon, so who's greeting the visitors? B: Daniel will, because I still need to test the microphones. A: Good, I'll put the name tags by the door.
D9	Inside also accepted: sit inside A: Are we eating inside or on the terrace? B: Let's sit inside, since the wind has picked up near the river. A: Good idea, I'll ask for a table.
D10	Freeze it in small containers also accepted: freeze it, in small containers, freeze it in small containers for next week A: Have you decided what to do with the leftover soup? B: Yes, I'll freeze it in small containers for next week. A: Great, then we won't need takeaway on Tuesday.
D11	Thursday afternoon also accepted: on thursday afternoon, thursday A: Has the maintenance team checked the copier yet? B: Not yet, because the technician is tied up, they scheduled it for Thursday afternoon. A: Fine, I'll warn everyone to use the other machine.

Item	Expected response
D12	The legal team also accepted: legal team A: Should we print these forms now or wait? B: Wait, unless the legal team sends the final wording today. A: All right, I'll check my inbox again later.



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