

VERSANT ENGLISH PLACEMENT TEST · PEARSON

Speaking Section

Section 1 · Study booklet

OCTOBER 2026

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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.

SECTION 1

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

A family lives in a small apartment near a bus stop. Each morning, the parents leave early for work. The children eat bread and fruit before school. In the evening, everyone comes home tired but calm. They wash their hands, share a simple meal, and talk about the day. After dinner, one child reads a book, and the other draws a picture at the table.

A2

In a language archive, trained staff preserve old recordings that were made on fragile tape many years ago. The sound may fade unless each reel is cleaned and copied with great care. Because labels are sometimes incomplete, researchers compare voices, dates, and background noise before they describe the material. Their notes must be exact, so future users can trace each source without confusion.

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. The word groups are printed below each link so you can work offline.

C1

► Listen to the word groups

after dinner last night

we watched

a funny movie

C2

► Listen to the word groups

near the entrance yesterday

a strong wind knocked down

several signs

C3

► Listen to the word groups

along the front path yesterday

our neighbors planted

new flowers

C4

► Listen to the word groups

the test results

in clear language

the doctor explained

C5

► Listen to the word groups

for the evening meeting yesterday

several students borrowed

extra chairs

C6

► Listen to the word groups

that students remembered easily

the lecturer clarified

the theory with examples

C7

► Listen to the word groups

with young business owners

the conference speaker shared

practical advice

C8

► Listen to the word groups

the delicate ceiling repairs

after workers completed

the museum reopened

C9

► Listen to the word groups

the final decision appear

more balanced and deliberate

her careful remarks made

C10

► Listen to the word groups

often weaken public trust

senior staff warned

that vague goals

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

What is being made for the party?

YOUR ANSWER _____

D2

▶ Listen to the conversation

▶ Listen to the question

Where will they get sandwiches?

YOUR ANSWER _____

D3

▶ Listen to the conversation

▶ Listen to the question

Which room should they use?

YOUR ANSWER _____

D4

▶ Listen to the conversation

▶ Listen to the question

Which class will their father take them to?

YOUR ANSWER _____

D5

▶ Listen to the conversation

▶ Listen to the question

What time does the cleanup begin?

YOUR ANSWER _____

D6

▶ Listen to the conversation

▶ Listen to the question

Where was the scarf?

YOUR ANSWER _____

D7

▶ Listen to the conversation

▶ Listen to the question

What will they watch first?

YOUR ANSWER _____

D8

▶ Listen to the conversation

▶ Listen to the question

When will the jacket be fixed?

YOUR ANSWER _____

D9

▶ Listen to the conversation

▶ Listen to the question

Where will they record this afternoon?

YOUR ANSWER _____

D10

▶ Listen to the conversation

▶ Listen to the question

Until when is the card valid?

YOUR ANSWER _____

D11

▶ Listen to the conversation

▶ Listen to the question

What do they still need?

YOUR ANSWER _____

D12

▶ Listen to the conversation

▶ Listen to the question

Which ingredient is missing for dinner tonight?

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 put the cups on the table.
B2	My phone is in my bag.
B3	After lunch, I helped my friend clean the kitchen floor.
B4	When the movie ended, everyone stood up quietly and left the room.
B5	Do you want tea, or would you like water instead?
B6	Did you call your friend?
B7	Please leave the package beside the front desk.
B8	I usually take notes during the meeting.
B9	The patient waited quietly in the hall.
B10	We nearly missed the early train.
B11	She felt nervous because the manager asked several detailed questions.
B12	Please revise the draft so the main argument appears earlier and reads more clearly.
B13	Before you water the plants, check whether the soil still feels damp beneath the surface.
B14	Even after the revision, the policy still creates confusion for staff and clients.
B15	Unless the team reaches a clear consensus soon, the dispute may quietly damage morale.
B16	Please explain how the revised framework addresses concerns without creating unnecessary complexity.

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	We watched a funny movie after dinner last night.
C2	A strong wind knocked down several signs near the entrance yesterday.
C3	Our neighbors planted new flowers along the front path yesterday.
C4	The doctor explained the test results in clear language.
C5	Several students borrowed extra chairs for the evening meeting yesterday.
C6	The lecturer clarified the theory with examples that students remembered easily.
C7	The conference speaker shared practical advice with young business owners.
C8	The museum reopened after workers completed the delicate ceiling repairs.
C9	Her careful remarks made the final decision appear more balanced and deliberate.
C10	Senior staff warned that vague goals often weaken public trust.

Part D — Conversations

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

Item	Expected response
D1	Lemon cupcakes also accepted: cupcakes, some lemon cupcakes, the lemon cupcakes A: Are you baking something for the party? B: Yes, I'm making lemon cupcakes. A: Save one for me later.
D2	The cafe also accepted: cafe, at the cafe A: I'm hungry before the movie. B: Let's get sandwiches at the cafe. A: Good idea. I'll order tea too.
D3	The back room also accepted: back room, the back room near the stairs, back room near the stairs A: Which room should we use tonight? B: Use the back room near the stairs. A: Okay, I'll set the chairs there.
D4	Art also accepted: art on thursday, the art class, art class A: The twins have music on Tuesday and art on Thursday. B: Their father can take them Thursday, not Tuesday. A: Great, I'll handle the music class myself.

Item	Expected response
D5	Half past nine also accepted: at half past nine, nine thirty A: The neighborhood cleanup starts at ten, right? B: Actually, it begins at half past nine. A: Then we'd better leave early.
D6	The locker also accepted: in the locker, locker A: I left my scarf in the studio yesterday. B: I saw gloves there, but your scarf was in the locker. A: Thanks, I'll check the locker after class.
D7	The comedy also accepted: comedy, the comedy show, comedy show A: We could watch the comedy, or the crime series. B: Let's start the comedy; the crime show's too long. A: Fine, I'll make tea before it begins.
D8	Today also accepted: later today A: The tailor can fix it today or on Friday. B: Today works, since Friday I'm out of town. A: Great, I'll take the jacket over this morning.
D9	The spare room also accepted: spare room, in the spare room A: Can we record in the office this afternoon? B: No, the office is noisy; use the spare room. A: Fine, I'll move the microphones there at two.
D10	Next march also accepted: until next march A: Did the library renew your card? B: Yes, it's valid until next March now. A: Good, then you can borrow the atlas.
D11	One more can also accepted: a can, one more can of paint, another can A: Do we have enough paint for the hallway? B: No, we still need one more can. A: I'll stop by the hardware store.
D12	Basil also accepted: some basil, fresh herbs A: Do you want me to pick up anything for dinner? B: Yes, since we're out of fresh herbs, get some basil from the market. A: Sure, I'll buy it with the bread.



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