

VERSANT ENGLISH PLACEMENT TEST · PEARSON

Speaking Section

Section 1 · Study booklet

SEPTEMBER 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.

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

After school, a young child goes to the park with a parent. The child runs to the swings and laughs in the cool air. Nearby, other children play simple games and take turns on the slide. A small dog walks past with its owner and stops near a bench. When the sun gets low, families slowly leave, and the park becomes calm again for the evening.

A2

During a labor dispute, an independent mediator meets each side in separate rooms before joint talks begin. The aim is not to force quick agreement but to reduce anger and clarify the main concerns. When language becomes less hostile, practical options are easier to examine. Even so, progress may remain slow because trust has often been damaged long before formal discussion starts.

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

in a locked drawer upstairs

my brother keeps

important papers

C2

► Listen to the word groups

the test results

in clear language

the doctor explained

C3

► Listen to the word groups

before boarding the late train

many passengers checked

the schedule

C4

► Listen to the word groups

creative staff maintain

steady concentration

a quieter workspace helps

C5

► Listen to the word groups

after the sales figures arrive

our department will review

the budget

C6

► Listen to the word groups

their contrasting textures

the curator arranged

the sculptures to emphasize

C7

► Listen to the word groups

she warmed it

because the soup had cooled

over a low flame

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

a serious obstacle

their private disagreement soon became

to further progress

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 should the plants be moved?

YOUR ANSWER

D2

▶ Listen to the conversation

▶ Listen to the question

Who is covering the front desk?

YOUR ANSWER

D3

▶ Listen to the conversation

▶ Listen to the question

Until when is the pass valid?

YOUR ANSWER

D4

▶ Listen to the conversation

▶ Listen to the question

What will be added to the order?

YOUR ANSWER

D5

▶ Listen to the conversation

▶ Listen to the question

What flowers are for the welcome desk?

YOUR ANSWER

D6

▶ Listen to the conversation

▶ Listen to the question

Why are the headphones going back to the store?

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

Where should the spare key be left?

YOUR ANSWER _____

D9

▶ Listen to the conversation

▶ Listen to the question

Which ingredient is missing for dinner tonight?

YOUR ANSWER _____

D10

▶ Listen to the conversation

▶ Listen to the question

What time is the dentist appointment?

YOUR ANSWER _____

D11

▶ Listen to the conversation

▶ Listen to the question

When will the books be returned?

YOUR ANSWER _____

D12

▶ Listen to the conversation

▶ Listen to the question

When is the copier check scheduled?

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 your bag under the chair.
B2	I am ready.
B3	We stayed inside because the street was full of water after the storm.
B4	When the lights went out, everyone looked for a candle.
B5	I was happy when my friend brought warm soup to me.
B6	I left my glasses on the counter.
B7	Please wait beside the front desk.
B8	We meet after lunch.
B9	Her advice sounded unusually sensible.
B10	Although the train was delayed, we still reached the conference before it began.
B11	If the bus is full, we can walk instead.
B12	When pressure rises unexpectedly, even skilled people may abandon their usual method.
B13	The museum acquired a rare object after months of careful negotiation.
B14	Although the room looked empty, someone was obviously waiting inside.
B15	While the committee debated minor details, the broader ethical question remained unsettled in everyone's mind.
B16	Even when the budget appears stable, hidden maintenance costs can undermine long term planning.

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	My brother keeps important papers in a locked drawer upstairs.
C2	The doctor explained the test results in clear language.
C3	Many passengers checked the schedule before boarding the late train.
C4	A quieter workspace helps creative staff maintain steady concentration.
C5	Our department will review the budget after the sales figures arrive.
C6	The curator arranged the sculptures to emphasize their contrasting textures.
C7	Because the soup had cooled, she warmed it over a low flame.
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	Their private disagreement soon became a serious obstacle to further progress.

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 hallway also accepted: hallway, into the hallway A: Are the plants staying on the balcony? B: No, move them into the hallway tonight. A: Right, the wind is getting strong.
D2	Ben A: Will Maya cover the front desk this afternoon? B: No, Ben is covering it until five. A: Thanks, I'll leave him the visitor list.
D3	Next april also accepted: until next april, april A: Did you renew your pass for the pool? B: Yes, it's valid until next April. A: Nice, then you can join us often.
D4	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.

Item	Expected response
D5	Roses also accepted: the roses, some roses, the rose flowers A: I've got roses for the front table, not lilies. B: Perfect, the welcome desk needed roses today. A: I'll put the lilies near the window instead.
D6	The wrong model also accepted: they were the wrong model, wrong model A: Why are you carrying that empty box? B: I'm returning the headphones to the store. A: Were they damaged? B: No, they were the wrong model.
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	Under the ceramic plant also accepted: the ceramic plant, by the back steps, under the ceramic plant by the back steps A: Where should I leave the spare key for you? B: If I'm delayed, put it under the ceramic plant by the back steps. A: All right, I'll text you once it's there.
D9	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.
D10	Half past three also accepted: at half past three, three thirty, at three thirty A: Did you book the dentist after your meeting? B: Yes, although the morning was full, they had a slot at half past three. A: Good, I'll remind you before lunch.
D11	Tomorrow also accepted: return them tomorrow A: Are you carrying those library books back today? B: I was, but since the branch closes early, I'll return them tomorrow. A: Then leave them by the door so you won't forget.
D12	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.



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