

The following criteria are a summary of our holistic approach to marking the speaking tests. More detailed criteria for assessing accredited levels can be found in the AIM Awards Suite of ESOL International Qualifications Specification.

B1 INTERMEDIATE

	COMMUNICATION	CONTENT	PRONUNCIATION	VOCABULARY	GRAMMAR
D	Can keep going comprehensibly and express most of what he/she wants to say. There may be pausing for grammatical and lexical planning. Can do more than just short answers or sentences but may occasionally need to go back over phrases, repair mistakes etc.	Covers the subjects of discussion satisfactorily.	Clear pronunciation and stress/intonation.	Uses appropriate words and idiom for the tasks at this level.	Inaccuracies and inappropriate uses, but generally confident with the structures demanded by the tasks.
M	Candidate is reasonably fluent but has false starts and repairs.	Covers the subject adequately.	Reasonable. Pronunciation and stress / intonation.	Adequate words and idiom for all the tasks at this level	Mistakes are made but do not seriously break up the flow.
P	Candidate can manage tasks and contribute effectively to the discussion but needs obvious prompting and help to keep going.	Can cover the subject adequately but needs help and prompting.	Mother tongue easily detected and leading to oddities in stress and intonation, but not generally interfering with understanding.	Just about adequate words and idiom for the tasks, with prompting and help.	Mistakes but can keep going and make him/herself understood.
R	Pauses and hesitation indicating lack of adequate range in candidate's spoken English to cope with the tasks at this level.	Does not cover the subject. Is very hesitant about what to say, even with prompting and help.	Flow of pronunciation and intonation not inspiring confidence in the speaker having an intermediate level of spoken English.	Vocabulary too limited to be called functional at this level.	Mistakes indicating intermediate grammar in spoken English not quite achieved.
U	Little or no communication in English takes place at all.				