

Instructions to the Student

You have been registered to take ALTA's Spoken Language Evaluation. This evaluation, which is conducted live **over the telephone**, tests your speaking ability in a given language. Your evaluator will be a native speaker of the language being tested, and the test will last between 15 and 25 minutes depending on your skill level.

At the time of the test, your school's proctor will place the call to be connected with the evaluator. Note your appointment time is valid for 15 minutes (5 minutes before the time of the test and 10 minutes after). If you fail to report within this 15-minute time frame, you will be considered as no show.

We recommend you to be in a quiet place and have a very good phone connection so you can perform at your best.

Before the test begins, the evaluator will ask you:

- Do I have permission to record our conversation?
- Please say your full name for the record.

Additionally, one other identity question may be asked. The evaluator will then proceed with the test questions, which will be about a variety of general topics (for example: routine actions, stating a preference, describing past or future situations, discussing a course of action, or defending one's opinion). The test allows you to provide numerous samples of your speaking ability in the target language.

Test-taking tips:

- If you have a connection problem and cannot hear your evaluator properly, let the evaluator know about this at the start of the test.
- The test is progressive – that is, the questions become harder as you move through the test. Don't get frustrated if, for example, you find a question in the middle of the test to be difficult. Language learners have different strengths and weaknesses, and the evaluator knows it is possible for a test-taker to mishear an intermediate question but respond very well to the most difficult questions. This is why the evaluator will never stop the test if the test-taker is struggling to answer questions. You will be given the opportunity to answer every question on the test.
- Many of the questions deal with everyday topics and conversational language. Others may be asked in a more formal type of speech. If you are able, you should use the same type of language in your answer as was used in the question.
- The questions use a wide variety of vocabulary – you will hear common vocabulary and advanced vocabulary, along with some phrases and idioms. It is important for you as a test-taker to demonstrate the range of your vocabulary, as well.

- The evaluator won't be judging the content of your answers, only the way you use the language. There is no right or wrong answer for any question on the test.
- If you need a question repeated or rephrased, let your evaluator know. After two repetitions, however, your evaluator must subtract points from your score.

At the end of the evaluation, you will be instructed to hang up the telephone. You will be scored in the categories of communication, comprehension, grammar, and vocabulary. An overall score will be assigned, and your results will be sent to the school requesting your test. Your evaluator cannot share your score with you.

Remember to stay relaxed and enjoy the conversation!