

SPEAKING TEST

Speaking Questions 1-2: Reading a Text Aloud.

In this part of the test you are being tested on your ability to read aloud. You will be judged on how well you can be understood. It is not bad to have an accent but the examiner must be able to understand what you say. Three main factors are involved: pronunciation, stress and intonation.

Practice Paragraph 1 →

Weather this weekend will be marked by a storm system that will continue moving across the Midwest on its way towards the East Coast. The temperatures in the Midwest will rise into the 70s and 80s as the system continues to produce showers and strong thunderstorms across the Midwest. The Storm Prediction Center has also issued a moderate risk for severe weather in the Upper Midwest due to the possibility that these thunderstorms will produce hail and tornadoes. Residents in the area should monitor the weather situation as it can change very rapidly throughout the day. An expansive high-pressure system producing dry conditions will affect the climate up and down the eastern seaboard. The east will see milder, warmer temperatures in the north and the south, with highs of 58 in Boston and 78 in Atlanta.

use FORVO or word reference ←

Pronunciation: Concerning pronunciation, you must practice the basic vowel sounds. The listener should also be able to tell if you are speaking in either the past or present tense.

Stress: Remember, in English we stress at least one word in the sentence. If you choose the word you want to stress, you will be easier to understand.

Practice Paragraph 2 →

Intonation: There is nothing worse for an English speaker than listening to someone saying everything with a very flat voice! EXAGGERATE your intonation – it will never be too much. You probably think you sound over the top, but we promise you that you will be easier to understand. So, in order to choose the right intonation and make your reading interesting you must first understand what you have to read. Use the time you have to prepare to find the key words in each sentence - then stress these words. Use punctuation to help you. Pause at the end of a sentence. If something is between commas show this by pausing slightly and changing your intonation. If there is an exclamation mark, change your voice accordingly. Pretend you are an actor and you will find it easier to read the text aloud.

SAFETY INSTRUCTIONS

To avoid personal injury or property damage, follow these safety instructions when using this product:

Practice Paragraph 3 →

- Keep product away from radiators and other heat sources and in a place where air can circulate freely around it.
- Do not make or receive calls while standing in or near water, such as a sink, bathtub, or swimming pool.
- Do not place furniture or other items on top of the power cord.
- Do not apply excess force when dialing. This could result in permanent damage to the buttons.
- Disconnect product from electrical outlet before cleaning. Do not use liquid cleaners and do not immerse product in water. Instead, wipe thoroughly and gently with a damp cloth.
- Avoid using product during an electrical storm.
- If repair work is required, contact the manufacturer at the phone number listed on the front cover of this manual.

NOTICE

The four parking garages for Mansfield Towers will be closed at various times during the last three weeks of June for cleaning and repainting. Please make alternative arrangements for parking during this period. Make sure to inform the receptionist in the lobby if you are expecting clients from out of town in June. We will issue temporary parking passes for the garage at 5th and Main for our clients. These passes can be purchased for a fee of \$2.00 a day during the month of June, but are reserved for regular clients, not employees. There are five spots available for these clients, and these will be assigned on a reservation basis only.

Note: Parking on Green St. or Howe Ave. is strictly prohibited. Cars that are illegally parked will be ticketed and towed. For information about other local parking garages call the city help line at 800-555-9000.

Practice Paragraph 4 →