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### Speaking Practice Test Directions

This section measures your ability to speak in English about a variety of topics.

There are six questions in this practice test. For each question, you will be given a short time to prepare your response. When the preparation time is up, answer the question as completely as possible in the time indicated for that question. You should record your responses.

You will have the opportunity to submit your recorded responses to question types 1, 3 and 6 for possible scoring by ETS raters. To submit, you will need to upload them to a media-sharing website such as [YouTube \(opens new window\)](#) or [youku \(opens new window\)](#) (in China), then share the links to their locations\* as directed in the practice test.

Only responses submitted by Wednesday, July 6, 11:59 UTC will be considered for scoring. Speech which goes beyond the time indicated for a question will not be considered for scoring; only the first 45 seconds of responses to question type 1 will be considered, and only the first 60 seconds of responses to question types 3 and 6 will be considered.

**On Friday, July 8 after 21:00 UTC, sections 4.8 and 4.10 will be released. Responses that have been selected for scoring will be shared.** You will be able to compare all of your responses (responses to questions 1 through 6) with scoring information presented by the raters, as well as with the scoring rubrics.

**Please note:**

Your performance on this practice test is not a predictor of how you might perform on the actual *TOEFL iBT®* test. Although the practice questions are real TOEFL iBT questions, the testing experience has been adapted for presentation in this course. Scores and scoring information are for preparation use only; they are not official or scaled scores.

\* In order for ETS raters to hear your responses, you must make access to them public. This means that others will also be able to hear your responses.





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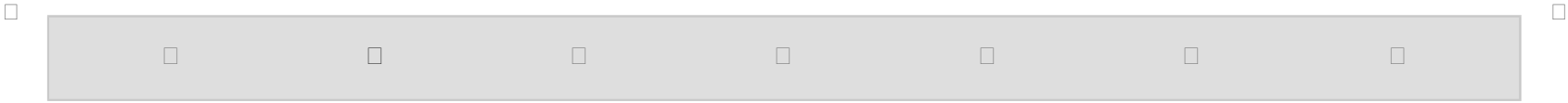
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Week 4 - Speaking > 4.7 Speaking Practice Test > Question Type 1



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Question Type 1

**Directions:** You will now be asked to speak about a familiar topic. Give yourself 15 seconds to prepare your response. Then record yourself speaking for 45 seconds.



People enjoy reading many different types of books such as mystery, biography, romance, etc. Of all the different types of books that there are, what type do you most enjoy? Explain why.

Preparation Time: 15 seconds  
Response Time: 45 seconds

Share your response:

- Upload your response to a global video or audio sharing website such as [YouTube \(opens new window\)](#) or [youku \(opens new window\)](#) (in China). Then submit the link to your response by Wednesday 11:59 UTC.
- ETS raters will select two responses for scoring and feedback. Responses received after Wednesday 11:59 UTC will not be considered for scoring.
- Check back on Friday after 21:00 UTC to see whose responses were selected. Sections 4.8 and 4.10 will be released at that time.

Submit Your Response (opens new window)

Did you submit a Speaking response?

(1 point possible)

Yes

No

1  
2  
3

CHECK



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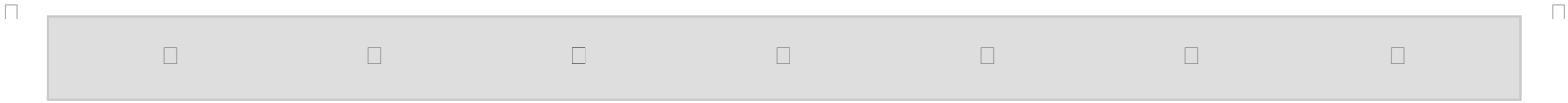
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Question Type 2

**Directions:** You will now be asked to give your opinion about a familiar topic. Give yourself 15 seconds to prepare your response. Then record yourself speaking for 45 seconds.



Do you agree or disagree with the following statement?**One of the best ways to learn is by making mistakes.** Use specific examples and details to support your opinion.

Preparation Time: 15 seconds  
Response Time: 45 seconds

Check back on Friday after 21:00 UTC to see sample responses in section 4.8. Section 4.10 will also be released at that time.



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Question Type 3

**Directions:** You will now read a short passage and listen to a conversation on the same topic. You will then be asked a question about them. After you hear the question, give yourself 30 seconds to prepare your response. Then record yourself speaking for 60 seconds.



Reading Time: 50 seconds

University Should Allow Eating in Class

Currently, there is a university-wide policy that prohibits eating in the classroom. I disagree with this policy. I think students should be allowed to eat in class. This change would be good for two reasons. For one thing, if students were permitted to eat, they would be able to concentrate better, because students often get hungry during long classes, and hunger makes it difficult to concentrate. Also, if food were allowed in classrooms, it would be possible for us to have in-class parties on the last day of class—with snack foods and beverages—to celebrate the end of each semester.

Sincerely,  
Nancy Myers



The man expresses his opinion about the proposal in the newspaper. Briefly summarize the proposal. Then state the man’s opinion and explain the reasons he gives for holding that opinion.

Preparation Time: 30 seconds  
Response Time: 60 seconds

Share your response:

- Upload your response to a global video or audio sharing website such as [YouTube \(opens new window\)](#) or [youku \(opens new window\)](#) (in China). Then submit the link to your response by Wednesday 11:59 UTC.
- ETS raters will select two responses for scoring and feedback. Responses received after Wednesday 11:59 UTC will not be considered for scoring.
- Check back on Friday after 21:00 UTC to see whose responses were selected. Sections 4.8 and 4.10 will be released at that time.

[Submit Your Response \(opens new window\)](#)



Did you submit a Speaking response?

(1 point possible)

Yes

No

1  
2  
3  
CHECK

Show Discussion

Add a Post



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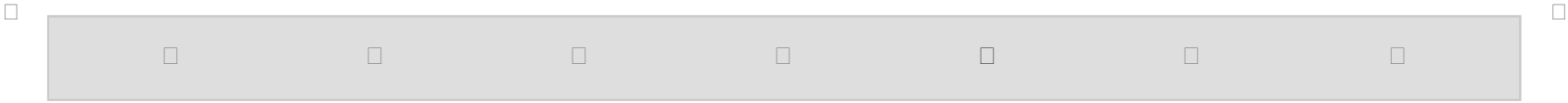
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## Question Type 4

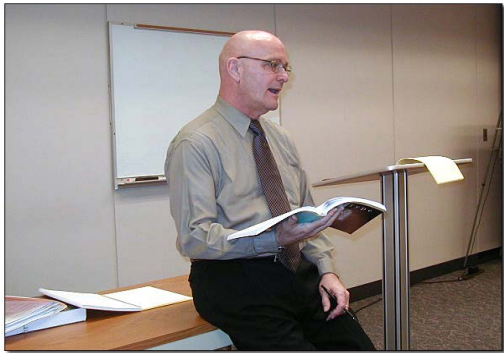
**Directions:** You will now read a short passage and listen to a lecture on the same topic. You will then be asked a question about them. After you hear the question, give yourself 30 seconds to prepare your response. Then record yourself speaking for 60 seconds.



Reading Time: 50 seconds

### Comfort Zone Bias

Psychologists have found that when people make important decisions, they often choose to stay in their “comfort zones”; that is, they prefer remaining in comfortable, familiar situations, rather than entering into new, unfamiliar ones. This tendency is often referred to as the *comfort zone bias*. When people are reasonably content, they often decide not to pursue a new opportunity, even if it attracts them and offers more advantages. Psychologists believe that the comfort zone bias exists not only because we have a natural preference for what we already know, but also because we want to avoid taking risks.



Using the example from the lecture, explain the comfort zone bias.

Preparation Time: 30 seconds  
Response Time: 60 seconds

Check back on Friday after 21:00 UTC to see sample responses in section 4.8. Section 4.10 will also be released at that time.





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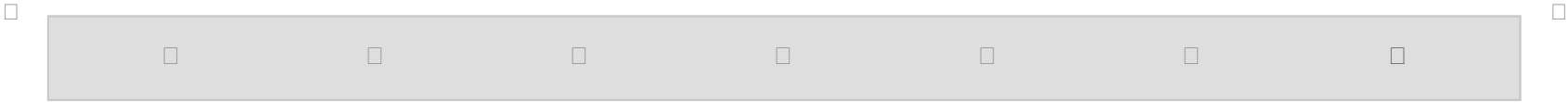
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Question Type 6

**Directions:** You will now listen to part of a lecture. You will then be asked a question about it. After you hear the question, give yourself 20 seconds to prepare your response. Then record yourself speaking for 60 seconds.



Using the examples of the eel and the angler fish, explain two types of adaptations that help animals survive in the deepest parts of the ocean.

Preparation Time: 20 seconds  
Response Time: 60 seconds

Share your response:

- Upload your response to a global video or audio sharing website such as [YouTube \(opens new window\)](#) or [youku \(opens new window\)](#) (in China). Then submit the link to your response by Wednesday 11:59 UTC.
- ETS raters will select two responses for scoring and feedback. Responses received after Wednesday 11:59 UTC will not be considered for scoring.
- Check back on Friday after 21:00 UTC to see whose responses were selected. Sections 4.8 and 4.10 will be released at that time.

Submit Your Response (opens new window)

Did you submit a Speaking response?

(1 point possible)

Yes

No

CHECK

Show Discussion

Add a Post



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Practice

Pick two of the following activities and complete them on your own.

1. Collect pictures from magazines, newspapers or the Internet. Look at each picture, and describe it in one minute. Try describing the same picture more than once, using different adjectives and adding details.
2. Think for 20 seconds about what you did yesterday, then talk about it for 45 seconds. Remember to use verbs in the past tense. You can do the same thing to talk about what you will do tomorrow, using verbs in the future tense.
3. Think about a problem that has more than one possible solution. Talk about which solution you think is best. Make a recommendation on how a person should proceed with handling the problem.
4. Find an online newspaper from an English-speaking university. Look for topics like admissions, housing, student activities, registering for classes, school-improvement plans, sports, and more. Then choose an article to discuss with a speaking partner or study group.
5. Find listening and reading material that are both about the same topic. The material can contain similar or different views. Then prepare an outline for a one-minute talk that includes your opinion, two points to support your opinion, and one detail or reason to support each point.
6. Read a short news article, and record yourself summarizing it. Then create a transcript of the recording by writing down exactly what you said. Review the transcript, and think of other ways of saying the same thing.
7. Find textbooks in English that include study questions at the end of each chapter, and practice answering the questions out loud. Start with subjects you’re familiar with, then move on to less familiar subjects.



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