

 **Title:** *Understanding Speaking Assessment: What Every Teacher Should Know*

 **YouTube Link:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=olzUcZ7BBDk>

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## Overview

This British Council webinar provides ELT professionals with practical insights into assessing speaking skills. It covers key aspects such as test tasks, scoring, and how speaking assessments can support learning.

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### 1. What Is Speaking Assessment?

Speaking assessment evaluates learners' ability to communicate effectively in spoken English. It involves tasks that measure fluency, pronunciation, grammar, vocabulary, and the ability to convey meaning clearly.

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### 2. Key Aspects of Speaking Assessment

#### A. Test Tasks

- **Monologue Tasks:** e.g., giving a short talk or presentation.
- **Interactive Tasks:** e.g., role plays, discussions.
- **Integrated Tasks:** e.g., responding to a prompt or question based on a reading or listening task.

#### B. Scoring Criteria

- **Fluency:** Ability to speak smoothly without excessive hesitation.
  - **Pronunciation:** Clear and intelligible speech.
  - **Grammar and Vocabulary:** Appropriate and accurate use of language structures and words.
  - **Coherence and Cohesion:** Logical organization of ideas and effective use of linking devices.
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### 3. Face-to-Face vs. Computer-Based Speaking Tests

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- **Face-to-Face:** Allows for natural interaction, better assessing real-life communication skills.
- **Computer-Based:** Provides consistency in scoring and is more scalable, but may lack the interactive element.

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#### 4. Benefits of Speaking Assessments

- **Diagnostic Tool:** Identifies areas for improvement in learners' speaking abilities.
- **Motivational:** Provides learners with goals to work towards.
- **Feedback Mechanism:** Offers learners constructive feedback to enhance their skills.

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#### Summary Table

Aspect	Focus
Test Tasks	Monologue, interactive, integrated
Scoring Criteria	Fluency, pronunciation, grammar, vocabulary, coherence
Test Mode	Face-to-face vs. computer-based
Benefits	Diagnostic, motivational, feedback

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#### Actionable Takeaways for Teachers

1. **Diversify Assessment Tasks:** Incorporate a mix of monologue, interactive, and integrated tasks to assess various speaking skills.
2. **Develop Clear Scoring Rubrics:** Ensure consistency and transparency in evaluating speaking performances.
3. **Provide Constructive Feedback:** Offer specific, actionable feedback to help learners improve their speaking abilities.
4. **Consider Test Mode:** Choose between face-to-face and computer-based assessments based on the context and objectives.