



Helping Motivated International Medical Graduates Get the
English Skills They Need to Succeed

OET Speaking: 10 Tips To Pass First Time!

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Understand What to Expect on Test Day – Know the format of the test inside out

Knowing what to expect will give you more confidence and the ability to focus on the most important thing- demonstrating how well you can use English in a healthcare setting

Here are the basics of what to expect but make sure you know it in detail.

- ✓ Identification check
- ✓ A 2-3 minute warm up with the interlocuter (this is not assessed)
- ✓ 3 minutes to prepare for the first roleplay.
- ✓ 5 minutes to complete the roleplay
- ✓ 3 minutes to prepare for the second roleplay
- ✓ Another 5 minutes to complete the second role play

It will take approximately 20 minutes in total (not long at all really !) and then the audio recording will be sent away for assessment.

For further information here's a link that I think you'll find helpful:

[Go there](#)

Know your English Language level

Are you ready yet?

If your level of general English is B2 or above, this is great news as you will be ready to prepare for OET speaking. If your level is lower, don't worry. It will take a little longer to be test ready but you can do it!

Keep in mind that in general, it takes 100 guided study hours to move from one language level to the next so if your level is B1 at the moment it's likely to take approximately 200 guided study hours to reach the level needed to pass OET speaking.

If you're unsure of your current level, your English teacher will be able to assess it and help you create a plan to get you test ready.

As an alternative you may wish to try the test that OET provide called OET Pulse

[Go there](#)

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Know what the examiners are really looking for

Make sure that you truly understand the test criteria and how to ensure you fulfill them. If you haven't seen them yet then here's a link to the test criteria.

OET Speaking Assessment Criteria Explained

It's well worth taking the time to understand what they mean because then you're on the right track to being able to fulfil the criteria and get top scores. Afterall, if you don't know what the assessors are looking for how can you give them what they want?

Once you understand, the next step is putting it all into practice.

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Practice Makes Perfect

Knowing how to do something in theory and being skilled at it in practice are 2 separate things.

To become skilled at the role plays will take practice so if you have a willing study partner that's great! If not going thorough the role plays alone and recording yourself can help you assess your own performance. Don't forget of course that lesson time can to work on this is highly valuable.

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Language skills alone are not enough!

Unlike other English language proficiency tests, excellent linguistic skills alone will not be enough to pass OET speaking. Remember not to underestimate the importance of excellent clinical communication skills after all, if you speak perfect English but there is not trust built during the consultation, it can't be classed as a success.

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Remember it's a 2-way of conversation

It's completely understandable that after all of your hard work perfecting your English skills that you'll want to show the assessors how great you are at speaking English but remember that both linguistic skills AND clinical communication skills are being tested. This includes allowing your patient time to speak too so that you can respond appropriately to what they tell you. Remember you'll score extra marks for doing just this which goes back to fully understanding the clinical communication criteria.

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Speak like a native

Get familiar with what native medical professionals say during consultations so that you can express yourself like a native and improve your linguistic score. Listening to what medical professionals say when they communicate English can help you sound natural and impress the assessor.

Try listening to official Listening Part A tests and focus on what the medical professional says for some great ideas.

Here's a link to official sample OET Listening tests (remember to focus on Listening Part A to help you with OET speaking)

[Listening sample tests | OET](#)

Another fun way to pick up native expressions is to watch shows such as "GPs Behind Closed Doors" which is a documentary from the UK. Episodes can be found on YouTube.

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Watch out for medical jargon

If you speak to your patient using medical jargon without explaining what it means there will be problems with communication. Put yourself in the shoes of your patient and use language that anyone would understand even if they haven't been to medical school.

In practical terms on test day, scan the role play card looking for any medical terms and ensure that they are expressed in everyday language.

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Stay motivated

Good preparation for OET speaking is going to make your patient consultations much more rewarding and your working life in general a lot less stressful! Stay motivated and know that all your hard work will be worth it. Not only so that you can pass OET but so that you can enjoy your work.

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Don't struggle alone

Get the help of a trained OET preparation provider to assess your strengths and weakness and give you feedback to improve. In the long run, you'll be able to prepare more effectively and you may be doing better than you think which will give you confidence!



When looking for someone to help you get a high score in OET, look for a tutor who specialises in OET exam preparation and is listed on the OET website as an OET preparation provider. As a former UK doctor, Premium OET Preparation Provider and OET All Star, I have studied how best to help candidates like you get the results you are looking for.

If you have any questions about OET or are looking for advice on how to prepare for OET, Please contact me. It would be great to hear from you.

Best wishes

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