



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

OET Speaking:

Don't Make These Mistakes!

**5 Common Mistakes to Avoid
to Boost Your Score!**

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5 Common Mistakes to Avoid to Boost Your Score!

There are certain mistakes that I've noticed students frequently make that unfortunately have a ***hugely negative impact*** on their scores.

These mistakes are completely understandable and often go unnoticed until they are highlighted, which is where an **OET teacher** comes in.

Fortunately, students that get feedback from an OET teacher, can make the changes necessary to **avoid losing precious marks**. This can be the difference between passing and failing OET Speaking.

Today, I want to share with you the **5 most common mistakes** that I see students making.

See if you are making any of the mistakes I'm going to highlight. If you are, then the great news is that **you can fix them to boost your score!**



5 Common Mistakes in OET Speaking that Lose you Marks:

1

Starting the Role Play Incorrectly

Starting the role play **correctly** sets the tone for a successful interaction. Let's explore some key strategies to ensure you begin the role play confidently and effectively:

- ✓ Be clear on the **setting**.
- ✓ Know the **purpose** of the consultation and your role in the patient's (carer or relative's) care.
- ✓ **Do you know the patient already?** If you've already met, you should not be introducing yourself as they already know who you are.
- ✓ Work out if the conversation starts at the **beginning or in the middle**

This is a very common mistake!!

Top tip! If on the role play card, you can see that you have just examined the patient, DO NOT start by introducing yourself. Instead, you need to imagine that you have already done this before the examination

- ✓ A very common linguistic error is to refer to the interlocutor using a title and first name e.g. "Hello again Ms Anna". **Please remember** to use **a title + last name** e.g. "Ms Anderson" **or simply use the first name** e.g. "Anna" if you feel this is appropriate.

2

Not Listening to the Interlocutor and Responding Inappropriately

Under the pressure of the exam, it's understandable that sometimes candidates focus so much on reading the tasks that they forget to listen to what the interlocutor is saying. Unfortunately, this is a mistake that can lose you a lot of marks as **without listening you cannot respond appropriately** to what the interlocutor says. You will fail to have a meaningful 2-way conversation and this will cause **low scores for your communication skills**.

The great news is that it's a mistake that can easily be avoided by simply remembering to **stop for a moment, listen** to what the interlocutor says, **respond appropriately** and ONLY THEN **move on** to the next part of the task.

3

Lack of Empathy or Empathetic Statements that are Generic

Failing to respond empathetically is a fast way to lose marks but by following the advice just mentioned, you will not miss what the interlocutor says and you will hear what you need to empathise with.

So, once you've heard the difficulty that your patient is facing, **remember to respond with empathy in a way that sounds genuine, not generic**. For example, simply saying "I understand your concern." repeatedly without any expansion on this statement will not sound convincing to your patient.

4

Using Medical Jargon

As you read through the role play card you will come across medical terminology. Make sure that you take note of this so that you remember to **explain medical jargon in a way that can be understood by those without medical training.**

By being mindful of your language and avoiding excessive medical jargon, you'll foster better communication, build rapport with your patient, and ensure that your explanations are informative and easily understood

Here are 2 approaches to use:

- ✔ **Define Technical Terms:** If you must use medical jargon, ensure you provide clear and concise explanations. Define any technical terms you use, making sure the listener understands their meaning. For example, "The medical term for a heart attack is myocardial infarction, which occurs when blood flow to the heart is blocked."
- ✔ **Use Layman's Terms:** Practice using layman's terms to describe medical concepts. Imagine explaining a condition or procedure to a family member who has little medical knowledge. This approach leads to better patient engagement and comprehension.

5

Not Leading the Conversation

As a healthcare professional, **leading the conversation is essential** to ensure effective patient interactions and successful outcomes. Taking charge of the discussion enables you to guide your patient through the consultation effectively as you gather and give information.

Clear signposting of topic changes and proceeding through the tasks in a logical and purposeful way will enable you to have an efficient and effective consultation

Remember while you are there to lead the consultation, the conversation should *always* remain patient-centred.

To wrap up...

Knowing the common mistakes that are made in OET speaking can make a real difference to your score on test day and thankfully, there are simple solutions!

I truly hope these tips have helped you see where you might be able to avoid making costly mistakes in your OET Speaking test.

If you feel you need 1-1 help to make sure you're well prepared for test day, please feel free to contact me. I want you to pass first time!



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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