

Top 6 PTE Speaking Tips

Know the following expert tips and tricks suitable for each PTE Speaking question type. It helps you to prepare and score high in the speaking section.

1. Personal Introduction

The Personal Introduction serves as the initial segment of your speaking section. Remember that **this question does not contribute to your score** but is an opportunity to set a good first impression on the institution you aspire to join. You will get 25 seconds to read the prompt and prepare your response, followed by 30 seconds to record. Utilise this time carefully and consider the content and tone of your voice in the introduction. Your recording, along with your score report, will be forwarded to your chosen colleges and universities.

To ensure a smooth and effective introduction during the PTE Speaking test, follow these tips and strategies,

- Rehearse a brief introduction about yourself. Tell your name, academic and personal background, work experience (if applicable), and motivation for pursuing further studies.
- Keep your language formal and professional. Ensure proper pronunciation.
- Be crisp and concise to the point. Avoid lengthy introductions that may lose the listener's interest.
- Your voice and tone should reflect your confidence and enthusiasm.
- Ensure your microphone is working properly. Listen to the beep sound and start speaking.
- When the countdown begins, start by recording your introduction.
- The personal introduction gives you 30 seconds to record, so speak clearly and don't rush. If you speak too fast it can make you nervous, so maintain your speech at a moderate and comfortable pace.
- Pay attention to the progress bar to manage your time effectively. You should finish speaking before the progress bar reaches the end.
- Remember, you can only record your introduction once, so make it count.
- Practice speaking for exactly 30 seconds. It's crucial to finish speaking before the recording ends, as incomplete sentences lead to negative impressions.

2. Read Aloud

In the Read Aloud question type, your performance is evaluated based on **content, oral fluency, and pronunciation**. Follow these valuable tips to maximise your points:

- Begin practising with different tongue twisters right from day one of your preparation.
- You will have approximately 40 seconds to review the text before the microphone activates. Use this time to read through the text clearly and confidently.

- Do not substitute, omit, or add any irrelevant words. If you make an error, keep speaking without interruption because if you make mistakes or do corrections, it will count as added words, so always aim for accuracy.
- When prompted, speak promptly with a smooth pace. To avoid speaking too quickly or too slowly, use your natural speed.
- Use proper English rhythm, including correct chunking and sentence stress for an effective delivery.
- Minimise hesitations as these can impact your score.
- Practise a rising tone at the beginning of the sentence and a falling tone at the end to sound more authentic.
- Utilise punctuation marks to determine appropriate pause points when reading.
- Be aware of the recording process. The recording status box counts down before the microphone opens. Take 30–40 seconds to read and prepare.
- Once you hear a short tone, start speaking right away. Don't speak before the microphone opens, as it won't record your voice.
- Speak clearly and confidently without rushing. Conclude your speech before the progress bar reaches the end (changing from "Recording" to "Completed").
- Do not remain silent for more than three seconds, or the recording will stop.

3. Repeat Sentence

The Repeat Sentence task assesses your listening and speaking skills. Its scoring is based on content, oral fluency, and pronunciation, similar to the Read Aloud item type. In this question type, you'll listen to a recording of a sentence and repeat it. The audio begins automatically, and when it finishes, the microphone opens. As there is no way to replay the audio, you have only one chance to record your response. So consider the following tips to achieve more points in this question type:

- First and foremost, understand the meaning of the sentence, so as to remember it easily.
- Try to avoid the Erasable Noteboard Booklet. Instead, keep the sentence in your mind.
- You can close your eyes and actively memorise the sentence. As there's no beep at the end, start speaking immediately after the clip concludes.
- Repeat all the words in the exact same order without rushing.
- If you have doubts about the vocabulary used by the speaker, try repeating what you think you heard.
- Avoid hesitation, word repetition, or stumbling at the start.
- Imitate the speech sounds and intonation patterns of an English speaker while maintaining your own accent.
- If you find it difficult to remember the entire sentence, concentrate on the keywords and repeat them.
- Be aware that the recording status box shows "Recording." Speak into the microphone immediately; there is no short tone.

4. Describe Image

In the Describe Image question type, your score is based on three factors, namely, **content**, **oral fluency**, and **pronunciation**. Here, you'll see an image on the screen. You have 25 seconds to analyse the image and prepare your response. After a short tone, begin speaking immediately. Remember, you can record your response only once. To describe the image effectively, including various forms such as **graphs, pictures, maps, charts, or tables**, follow these tips and tricks:

- Begin by thoroughly reading the title of the image to gain an understanding of its context and purpose.
- Utilise the Erasable Noteboard Booklet to jot down notes about the image. Depending on the type of image, look for trends in graphs or charts, or identify important features in maps or pictures.
- Include all aspects and elements of the image in your response, ensuring that no critical details are omitted.
- Start with a general statement about the image and explain the most significant points or findings within the image.
- If the image contains words that you're unsure how to pronounce, make an effort to pronounce them as accurately as possible.
- Similarly, if you find words on the image but are unsure how to pronounce them, simply pronounce them based on how you believe they should be said.
- Link your information using connectors or connecting words such as **"also," "however," "as," or "besides"**.
- Keep in mind that you can receive up to 5 points for your content, so try to include relationships between different parts of the image, possible developments, conclusions, or importance of the presented information.
- Start your descriptions with appropriate introductory words like **"illustrates," "elucidates," or "depicts,"** depending on the context of the image.
- Determine the type of image you are describing, whether it's a bar chart, line graph, or pie chart, and use the relevant vocabulary such as "timeline," "slices," or "comparisons."
- Make use of spatial words to provide a clear orientation within the image, such as **"on the left-hand side," "on the right side," "next to," "below/bottom," "above," "at the top," "foreground," "background,"** and so on.
- Aim to complete your description within a 30 - 35 seconds timeframe and avoid leaving incomplete recorded sentences.
- Ensure your pronunciation is clear and speak at a comfortable pace. Finish speaking before the progress bar ends, changing from **"Recording"** to **"Completed."**

5. Re-tell Lecture

In the Re-tell Lecture question type, you're assessed on presenting academic lecture content on your own words. The scoring factors are **Content**, **Oral Fluency**, and **Pronunciation**. The audio plays automatically with an image, and after it concludes, you have 10 seconds to prepare. Begin speaking promptly when you hear a tone after the countdown in the recording status box. Do not speak before the microphone opens to avoid losing your response. Here are some extra tips, tricks and strategies to help you score well:

- Quickly scan the image before the recording begins. In just 3 seconds, see what the lecture is all about.
- Use the Erasable Noteboard Booklet to note down key points while listening to the recording. Since time is limited, keep concise notes and ignore lengthy sentences.
- Once the recording ends, you'll get 10 seconds to organise your response and 40 seconds to record your answer.
- Make use of the 40 seconds speaking time by covering all the important points of the lecture.
- Start with a general statement of the content before summarising the major points.
- Use connector words like "**therefore**," "**because of this**," "**as a consequence**," and "**given that**" to link your ideas smoothly.
- Ensure that your response covers all the essential elements like **situation**, **characters**, **aspects**, **actions**, and any **developments** presented in the lecture.
- Include **relationships**, **potential developments**, **conclusions**, or **implications** of the information you heard to score above 1 point for content. Think critically and consider what might happen next and why.
- Start discussing possible developments and conclusions when you have about 8 seconds left.
- For the speaking portion of the test, maintain a steady speed. Avoid speaking too quickly or too slowly.
- Maintain your accent without compromising pronunciation. Make sure your vowel and consonant sounds are easily understood, and try to replicate the speaker's intonation patterns.
- Pay attention to keywords, as they provide crucial context for the topic. You can use titles instead of full names, such as "Dr. Smith says" or "the professor mentions."
- Finally, aim for 3-5 key sentences from the lecture that summarise the lecture effectively.
- Keep speaking confidently and don't worry about any mistakes.

6. Answer Short Question

In the "Answer short question" question type, your vocabulary is a major factor for scoring. You'll be assessed based on your capacity to comprehend a recorded question and deliver a brief, precise response. It's important to note that no credit is awarded for no response or an irrelevant response, and you only have one chance to record your answer. To excel in this task, consider some quick and easy tips:

- Respond with a short and accurate answer. Do not try to give lengthy sentences.
- Speak clearly and pronounce words correctly, paying attention to word stress.
- If you're unsure about the answer, give yourself a brief pause to think. If it doesn't come to you, simply skip to the next question.
- If you don't have the answer, take a moment to think. If it doesn't come to you, try to repeat the words in the question and simply click 'next' to skip and move on to the next question.
- Remember to add articles (a, an, the) where appropriate to make your responses grammatically correct.
- Speak clearly, and avoid rushing. Finish your speech before the progress bar ends. The word “**Recording**” changes to “**Completed**”.
- Don't wait more than 3 seconds. The recording will stop, and your chance to answer will be lost.
- This question type affects the scoring of listening, speaking and vocabulary.