

The WIDA Screener Speaking Scoring Scale

Score point	Response characteristics
Exemplary use of oral language to provide an elaborated response	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Language use comparable to or going beyond the model in sophistication • Clear, automatic, and fluent delivery • Precise and appropriate word choice
Strong use of oral language to provide a detailed response	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Language use approaching that of model in sophistication, though not as rich • Clear delivery • Appropriate word choice
Adequate use of oral language to provide a satisfactory response	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Language use not as sophisticated as that of model • Generally comprehensible use of oral language • Adequate word choice
Attempted use of oral language to provide a response in English	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Language use does not support an adequate response • Comprehensibility may be compromised • Word choice may not be fully adequate
No response (in English)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does not respond (in English)

Scoring processes

Select the score point that best describes the overall response relative to the qualities of the model

- Check to ensure each bullet point is met
- If not, check one level below

Scoring notes & rules

- For P1 tasks, assign a score of **Adequate and above** if the response includes more than one word in English. This includes an article plus noun (e.g., “a chair”), and words repeated verbatim from the model. *Note: P1 tasks appear only on the WIDA Screener Online.*
- For P3 and P5 tasks, students may take up and use language from the model and should not be penalized for this. This is particularly relevant for personal-preference tasks.
- At all task levels, simply repeating or reading all or part of the task question should be scored **Attempted**.
- At all task levels, responses of “I don’t know” should be scored **Attempted**.

Off-task response: The response shows no understanding of or interaction with the prompt. It may answer another, unrelated task. A response that is entirely off task receives a score of **Attempted**.

Off-topic response: The response shows a misinterpretation of the instructions. An off-topic response is *related* to the prompt, but does not address it. (Note that this does not refer to task completion—for example, if a student is asked for 3 reasons and gives 1, this should be scored based on language use and is not considered off topic.) **The maximum score for an off-topic response is Adequate.** If any part of the response is on topic, the entire response is scored as on topic.