

PRONUNCIATION SCORING GUIDE

- 6 Superior.** The speech of this non-native speaker clearly demonstrates competence in pronouncing English. Speech is completely intelligible and natural, and no special effort to listen is required. Words and phrases are articulated clearly, accurately, and audibly. Intonation, rhythm, and sentence focus are smooth and fluent across thought groups, closely approaching native English patterns. May have occasional or slight errors or systematic phonemic replacements that do not obscure meaning.
- 5 Competent.** The speaker demonstrates competence in pronouncing English, though may have occasional errors and display occasional hesitations. Speech is almost always intelligible. Words and phrases are generally articulated accurately and audibly, with some systematic phonemic replacements. May display slight imprecision in individual sounds or words. Intonation and rhythm are fluent, though may display occasional inaccuracies in word stress and sentence focus. Inaccuracies seldom obscure meaning.
- 4 Functionally competent.** The speaker demonstrates functional competence in pronouncing English. Speech is generally intelligible, especially with a concentrated effort at listening. Demonstrates adequate pronunciation of words and phrases to convey global meaning. May occasionally delete or add sounds to words, display some hesitations, and lack vocal force. May contain some serious errors in phonemes, word stress, intonation, and sentence focus that occasionally obscure meaning.
- 3 Developing in competence.** The speaker demonstrates some developing competence in pronouncing English, but speech remains flawed. Speech is fairly intelligible with a concentrated effort at listening. Displays phonemic inaccuracies, systematic deletions or additions of sounds, hesitations, and/or inadequate volume. An accumulation of errors in phonemes, word stress, intonation, and sentence focus often obscures meaning.
- 2 Low in competence.** The speech of this non-native speaker suggests incompetence in pronouncing English. Displays a limited degree of intelligibility. A concentrated effort at listening results in low overall comprehension of meaning. Speech displays a failure to pronounce many phonemes, words and phrases clearly or accurately, and hesitations may be frequent. Serious and frequent errors in phonemes, word stress, intonation, and sentence focus generally obscure meaning.
- 1 Incompetent.** The speaker demonstrates incompetence in pronouncing English. Barely or not intelligible. Even a concentrated effort at listening results in minimal degree or a lack of comprehension. Hesitations and repetitions are frequent and interrupt the flow of meaning. Serious and persistent errors in phonemes, word stress, intonation, and sentence focus obscure meaning.

