

Spontaneous Conversation Rubric

Comprehension: The ability to understand what is said to the speaker.

- 2 Shows ability to understand the target language when spoken at a somewhat normal rate of speed, with only one repetition or rephrasing, if necessary.
- 1 Can understand the target language when spoken at a somewhat normal rate of speed, with more than one repetition or rephrasing.
- 0 Does not seem to understand the target language.

Pronunciation: Pronouncing words in such a way that native speaker would understand what is being said.

- 2 Can be understood in the target language, but may make few or minor errors. Makes an effort to sound “native,” i.e., uses target language speech patterns, intonation, and phrasing.
- 1 Can be understood in target language, but may make one or two major errors and/or has some interference from English language speech sounds, patterns, and rules.
- 0 Makes major errors and/or uses English pronunciation rules to speak in the target language, or doesn’t/can’t respond.

Vocabulary: Words and expressions used in the target language.

- 2 Uses excellent vocabulary with relative ease. Demonstrates an increasing knowledge of words and expressions.
- 1 Uses vocabulary that is just adequate to respond. No attempt is made to use a variety of expressions. Generally understood, but limited to the very basic.
- 0 Makes no attempt, or response is totally irrelevant or inappropriate.

Fluency: Easy, smooth flow of speech, within a reasonable amount of time (15–20 seconds).

- 2 Has a generally smooth flow, with self-correction and little hesitation.
- 1 Speaks slowly, using hesitant or halting speech.
- 0 Makes no attempt or shows constant hesitation.

Grammar: Word order and sentence structures in the target language.

- 2 Demonstrates good use of grammatical structures. Makes no grammatical errors, or a few minor grammatical errors that do not interfere with communication.
- 1 Uses a range of grammatical structures, but may make several grammatical errors that do not interfere with communication.
- 0 Makes many grammatical errors that negatively affect communication, or doesn’t/can’t respond.