

# Versant™ English Assessment

Measure English speaking skills quickly, accurately and reliably

Used by top global companies, local authorities, councils and universities, over 1 million Versant™ English Language Tests are used each year to screen candidates and applicants for proficient use of the English language.

Versant™ is a completely automated test of spoken English that enables you to ensure applicants and employees have the level of spoken English language skills necessary for a given job.

Use Versant™ to objectively measure English speaking skills:

- Evaluate the ability to understand spoken English.
- Evaluate the ability to be understood when English is spoken.
- Enable consistent English language proficiency levels throughout your organisation.

## At a glance:

- Assess an individual's spoken English language skills objectively.
- A test of spoken (UK) English with fair and bias-free contents.
- Online or Mobile, 17 mins, timed.
- 63 questions delivered via web, software or mobile app.
- Remote monitoring - Test anywhere, anytime - giving you confidence and security when testing remotely.
- Available via mobile app - flexible testing via Versant™ Mobile our newest language test delivery method.
- Extensively tested and validated to provide results you can trust.



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## THE FORMAT OF THE TEST

The Versant English Test consists of 63 questions in total and takes only 17 minutes to complete. Questions cover:

- **Sentence builds** – candidates listen to a group of three short phrases presented in random order and then rearrange them to make a sentence.
- **Story Retelling** – candidates listen to a series of brief stories and retell them in English and in their own words.
- **Short questions** – candidates listen to a series of questions, and are instructed to answer in a simple response.
- **Reading** – candidates should read the sentences as instructed.
- **Repeat** – candidates are required to repeat each sentence they hear.
- **Open questions** – candidates should respond to two questions after the beep, within a time period of 40 seconds.



Versant is free of bias and driven by artificially intelligent (AI) scoring technology, giving scores that are available almost immediately and giving organisations confidence in secure testing.

Results are analysed in minutes and retrieved by the administrator from **Pearson's ScoreKeeper management system**. The scores evaluate the candidate's overall abilities plus their fluency, pronunciation, sentence mastery and vocabulary skills.

## REMOTE MONITORING - ADDED SECURITY

Remote monitoring is available for the Versant English Test.

With remote monitoring candidates are recorded and AI remote monitoring used to ensure the test is being taken fairly; any suspicious behaviour is flagged. This way candidates can take the test at home while you have the insight and confidence you need to select candidates.

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## VERSANT™ MOBILE – PEARSON'S NEW TESTING APP

A new way of testing for a mobile-friendly world. Versant™ Mobile is our newest language test delivery method, available right from your smartphone. With Versant™ Mobile you have a flexible solution that is designed for any testing situation:

- It offers candidates practice tests.
- Offline testing when Internet connection is unavailable (and to prevent interruptions during testing).
- Large scale testing for groups of candidates.
- Flexible testing – anywhere including off-site testing such as at recruitment events.
- 24/7 availability.
- Instant scores helping you to make decisions confidently and efficiently.



## BENEFITS

- **Reduce recruitment costs** – Versant™ has been proven to help screen applicants on a supervised or unsupervised basis, so that recruitment managers only put those candidates forward for interview, who are able to meet an acceptable level of spoken English.
- **Score without bias** – Versant™ tests are scored automatically, reducing the risk of inconsistency and human bias. Items have also been reviewed for fairness and bias-free usage.
- **Save time** – Up-scale your recruitment process by testing thousands of candidates quickly, efficiently and reliably.
- **Quality recruits** – Global employers are using the Versant English Test as part of their candidate selection process and for in-house development. It helps remove miscommunication and reduce customer complaints. Local councils and community organisations also use the test as part of their driver licence application process and safeguarding measures.


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## REPORTING

The candidate achieves an overall score with sub-scores in the following areas:

- **Pronunciation** - This reflects the ability to produce consonants, vowels and stress in a native-like manner in sentence context.
- **Fluency** - This reflects the rhythm, phrasing and timing evident in constructing, reading and repeating sentences.
- **Sentence Mastery** - This reflects the ability to understand, recall and produce English phrases and clauses in complete sentences.
- **Vocabulary** - This reflects the ability to understand common everyday words spoken in sentence context and to produce such words as needed.

The score report looks at the candidate's current capabilities, offers recommendations for improvements and outlines the relationship between the score and other scales that measure or describe language proficiency.



**SCORE REPORT**  
Versant English Test (Demo)



Test Identification Number: 1111 1111  
Test Completion Date: August 12, 2008  
Test Completion Time: 3:46 PM (UTC)

**OVERALL SCORE**  
**69**


SKILL AREA	SCORE	20	30	40	50	60	70	80
Overall	69	<div></div>						
Sentence Mastery	74	<div></div>						
Vocabulary	80	<div></div>						
Fluency	63	<div></div>						
Pronunciation	51	<div></div>						

	DESCRIPTION
Overall	The Overall Score of the test represents the ability to understand spoken English and speak intelligibly at a native-like conversational pace on everyday topics. Scores are based on a weighted combination of four diagnostic subscores. Scores are reported in the range from 20 to 80.
Candidate's Capabilities	Candidate speaks and understands at native-speaker speeds with minimal effort, and can contribute readily to a native-paced discussion at length, maintaining the colloquial flow. Speech is fluent and intelligible; candidate has consistent mastery of complex language structures.

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**SCORE REPORT**



Test Identification Number: 1111 1111

**DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF LANGUAGE CAPABILITIES**

This section allows users to form an idea of the spoken language tasks and interactions that average candidates scoring above a certain Versant English Test score are likely to be able to do. This information is based on the results of a study in which experienced raters listened to and rated candidates responding to the variety of prompts implemented in the Versant English Test, including responses to open questions that ask for personal opinions and views on different issues.

The score interpretations are based on samples of speakers representing a range of language backgrounds including Arabic, Chinese, Gujarati, Hindi, Hungarian, Korean, Polish, Japanese, and Spanish. Male and female speakers were equally represented, and the age of candidates ranged from 12 to 65 with an average age of 25. The information presented here may not apply equally well to candidates from other language backgrounds or outside of the sampled age range.

The section refers to the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (Council of Europe, 2001). Descriptors from this publication were used by the raters while listening to candidates' performances and deciding on their levels of competence.

The information presented in this section is based on the average ratings of large samples of candidates. It refers to the average candidate; individual candidates may perform at a slightly higher or lower level than indicated in this guide. (See "Current Capabilities" on pages 1 and 2 for your personal results.)

SKILL AREA	A CANDIDATE WITH THIS OVERALL SCORE TYPICALLY:
Listening	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Can understand enough to follow extended speech on abstract and complex topics beyond his/her own field, though he/she may need to confirm occasional details, especially if the accent is unfamiliar.</li><li>• Can recognize a wide range of idiomatic expressions and colloquialisms, appreciating register shifts.</li><li>• Can follow extended speech even when it is not clearly structured and when relationships are only implied and not signaled explicitly.</li><li>• Can follow most lectures, discussions, and debates with relative ease.</li><li>• Can follow films employing a considerable degree of slang and idiomatic usage.</li></ul>
Spoken Production	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Can give clear, detailed descriptions of complex subjects.</li><li>• Can deliver announcements fluently, almost effortlessly, using stress and intonation to convey finer shades of meaning precisely.</li><li>• Can handle interjections well, responding spontaneously and almost effortlessly.</li></ul>
Spoken Interaction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Can express him/herself fluently and spontaneously, almost effortlessly.</li><li>• Has a good command of a broad lexical repertoire allowing gaps to be readily overcome with circumlocutions. There is little obvious searching for expressions or avoidance strategies; only a conceptually difficult subject can hinder a natural, smooth flow of language.</li><li>• Can use language flexibly and effectively for social purposes, including emotional, allusive, and joking usage.</li><li>• Can argue a formal position convincingly, responding to questions and comments and answering complex lines of counterargument fluently, spontaneously, and appropriately.</li></ul>