

SPEAKING

This section measures your ability to speak in English about a variety of topics.

There are six questions in this section. For each question, you will be given a short time to prepare your response. When the preparation time is up, answer the question as completely as possible in the time indicated for that question. You should record your responses so that you can review them later and compare them with the answer key and scoring rubrics.

1. You will now be asked to speak about a familiar topic. Give yourself 15 seconds to prepare your response. Then record yourself speaking for 45 seconds.

Listen to Track 97. 

Talk about a city or town you have visited in the past. Explain what you liked most about the city and why. Include specific reasons and examples in your response.

Preparation Time: 15 seconds

Response Time: 45 seconds

2. You will now be asked to give your opinion about a familiar topic. Give yourself 15 seconds to prepare your response. Then record yourself speaking for 45 seconds.

Listen to Track 98. 

Some people enjoy watching movies or television in their spare time. Others prefer reading books or magazines. State which you prefer and explain why.

Preparation Time: 15 seconds

Response Time: 45 seconds

3. You will now read a short passage and listen to a conversation on the same topic. You will then be asked a question about them. After you hear the question, give yourself 30 seconds to prepare your response. Then record yourself speaking for 60 seconds.

Listen to Track 99. 

Reading Time: 45 seconds

Plans for Campus Gym

The recreational services department will receive special funding from this year's budget to increase the number of exercise machines in the campus gym. The increase is in response to numerous student complaints regarding the insufficient number of machines available. Recreational services agrees that, due to an increase in university enrollment, more students are using the gym. They, therefore, welcomed the proposal, adding that it would encourage even more students to exercise and would help to promote a healthier lifestyle among students.

Listen to Track 100.



The woman expresses her opinion about the plan described in the announcement. Briefly summarize the plan. Then state her opinion about the plan and explain the reasons she gives for holding that opinion.

Preparation Time: 30 seconds

Response Time: 60 seconds

4. You will now read a short passage and listen to a lecture on the same topic. You will then be asked a question about them. After you hear the question, give yourself 30 seconds to prepare your response. Then record yourself speaking for 60 seconds.

Listen to Track 101.

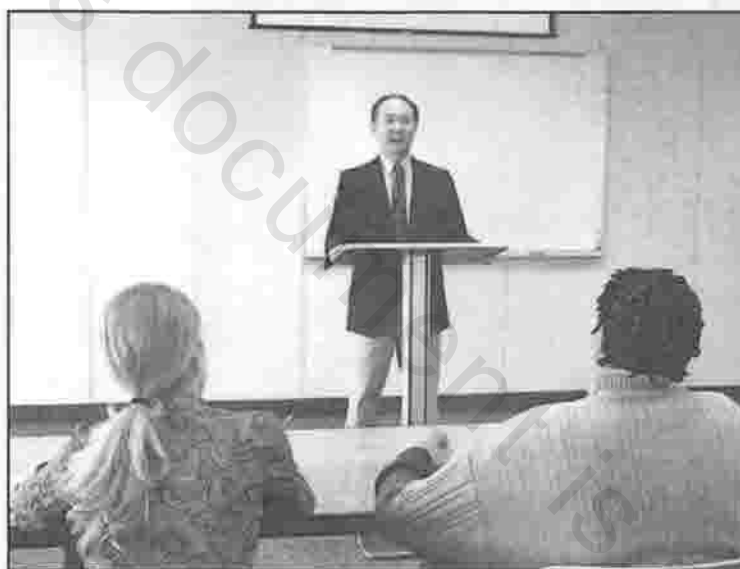


Reading Time: 50 seconds

Keystone Species

Within a habitat, each species depends on other species, and contributes to the overall stability of that ecosystem. However, some species do more than others by providing essential services. Without the influence of these key species, the habitat changes significantly. Scientists refer to these important players in an ecosystem as *keystone species*. When a keystone species disappears from its habitat, the habitat changes dramatically. Their disappearance can then trigger the loss of other species. As some species vanish, others move in or become more abundant. The new mix of species changes the habitat's appearance and character.

Listen to Track 102.



The professor gives examples of the effects of elephants on the African grasslands habitat. Using the examples from the talk, explain why elephants are considered a keystone species.

Preparation Time: 30 seconds

Response Time: 60 seconds

5. You will now listen to part of a conversation. You will then be asked a question about it. After you hear the question, give yourself 20 seconds to prepare your response. Then record yourself speaking for 60 seconds.

Listen to Track 103.





Briefly summarize the problem the speakers are discussing. Then state which of the two solutions from the conversation you would recommend. Explain the reasons for your recommendation.

Preparation Time: 20 seconds

Response Time: 60 seconds

6. You will now listen to part of a lecture. You will then be asked a question about it. After you hear the question, give yourself 20 seconds to prepare your response. Then record yourself speaking for 60 seconds.

Listen to Track 104. 



Using the examples mentioned by the professor, describe two ways that writers create emphasis when writing dialogue.

Preparation Time: 20 seconds

Response Time: 60 seconds

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