

CHAPTER NINE ORAL ASSESSMENT



ASSESSMENT

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ORAL ASSESSMENT

- Assessing students' spoken language is a key component of evaluating their overall language performance, as oral communication is crucial in language learning.
- Speaking is a complex skill that involves mastering language elements like pronunciation, vocabulary, and grammar, as well as the ability to effectively convey ideas.
- Oral assessments should evaluate both accuracy and fluency (ease and speed of speech) alongside comprehension.

General Characteristics of oral assessment:

1. The test is very time-consuming
2. They are subjectively scored.
3. There are serious doubts about their reliability.
4. They are considered valid tests.

Suggestions for conducting oral assessment tests

Oral assessment is based upon personal interaction between examiner and examinee at a particular place and time. When arranging the oral interaction, the examiner has to establish a friendly, encouraging atmosphere. The students must be put at ease.

Phases of oral assessment

Warm up – to make acquaintance of each student and encouraging him to perform well by starting asking him some social questions about his health, studies and the like.

Main task – to present some task to the students and assess his oral ability to comprehend and respond in English.

Round up – to tie up an end by encouraging the student to contribute his own individual views on the topics discussed and giving him the feeling that the interview was a pleasant experience for both him and the examiner.

Methods of oral assessment tests:

Tests can be divided into three categories

1. **Direct speaking tests:** including the procedures in which the examinee is asked to engage in face to face communicative exchange with the examiner.
2. **Indirect test** –which do not acquire any active speech production on the examinee's part.
3. **Semi- direct tests-** elicit active speech by the examinee, do this by means of pictures, printed materials or tape recordings.

Techniques for assessing oral skills

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| 1. Dialogue | 2. General conversation | 3. Interview |
| 4. Picture based questions | 5. Reading aloud | 6. Pronunciation |

The latter two techniques might be together, since the reading test evaluates correct pronunciation of single words as well as handling stress, intonation and rhythm.

COMPLETED

THANK YOU

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