



JetBlok Studio

PTE ACADEMIC 2026

Listening Guide

All 8 listening tasks, including a full Write from Dictation method.

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33 pages · Chapter 4 of the PTE Complete Guide

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How to use this guide

PTE Academic changed in a big way in August 2025, and plenty of guides online still teach the old version. If you're sitting the test in 2026, you need to know the 22 question types, how the AI and human scoring fit together, which tasks carry the most weight, and the new Australian visa scores that catch a lot of people out. I've checked the official facts here against Pearson's own score guide and the Home Affairs rules. Where a tip comes from PTE coaches and teachers rather than Pearson, I say so.

What's official and what's coach advice

Official rules come from Pearson. Tips marked **Coach tip** come from PTE teachers and coaches, not Pearson. Percentages labelled as coach estimates are not published by Pearson.

PEARSON RULE

Rules from Pearson's score guide and test format pages.

COACH TIP

Advice from PTE teachers and coaches, not Pearson.

What's in this guide

- **Chapter 4, Listening:** All 8 listening tasks, including a full Write from Dictation method.

Underlined links open the full articles on jetblok.com.au, and everything in the contents is tappable. PTE Listening Guide · Version 1.0 · Last updated 10 October 2026 · jetblok.com.au/guides/pte-listening

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What is PTE Academic?

PTE Academic (Pearson Test of English Academic) is a computer-based English test accepted by universities and governments in Australia, New Zealand, Canada, the UK, the USA and many other places. It tests Speaking, Writing, Reading and Listening in one sitting of about **2 hours** at a Pearson test centre (or at home, if you book the PTE Academic Online version and your purpose accepts it). Pearson’s test taker handbook says results are typically ready within 48 hours, but can take up to 5 days. That’s a lot faster than many other tests.

What makes PTE different is that **AI scores every answer**. Pearson’s scoring engine checks pronunciation, fluency, grammar, vocabulary, spelling and content. On top of that, Pearson’s score guide says humans review the content of seven longer tasks before the score is final. So it’s consistent, and it’s harder to game with memorised scripts.

2026 PTE Test Structure: 3 Parts, 22 Question Types

The test runs for **about 2 hours** and has three parts with **22 question types**, up from 20 before August 2025. The two tasks added for tests taken from 7 August 2025 are Summarize Group Discussion and Respond to a Situation. Pearson says the part timings below don’t add up exactly because each test version is balanced for total length.

Part	Time (Pearson)	Question types	Tasks
Part 1: Speaking & Writing	about 76 to 84 minutes	9 scored types, plus an unscored Personal Introduction	Read Aloud, Repeat Sentence, Describe Image, Retell Lecture, Answer Short Question, Summarize Group Discussion (added Aug 2025), Respond to a Situation (added Aug 2025), Summarize Written Text, Write Essay



Part	Time (Pearson)	Question types	Tasks
Part 2: Reading	about 23 to 30 minutes	5 types	Fill in the Blanks (Dropdown), Multiple Choice Multiple Answers, Reorder Paragraphs, Fill in the Blanks (Drag and Drop), Multiple Choice Single Answer
Part 3: Listening	about 31 to 39 minutes	8 types	Summarize Spoken Text, Multiple Choice Multiple Answers, Fill in the Blanks (Type In), Highlight Correct Summary, Multiple Choice Single Answer, Select Missing Word, Highlight Incorrect Words, Write from Dictation

Pearson’s 2025 update also raised the number of questions: the July 2025 institution score guide says you’ll answer 65 to 75 questions across the 22 types. Coaches often compare this with about 52 before the update.

There are no scheduled breaks. Pearson’s July 2025 test taker handbook says you can ask the test administrator for an unscheduled break, but **the test clock keeps running** while you’re away. So treat the whole test as one continuous block and plan your water and bathroom stop before you start.

What changed in August 2025

PTE Academic changed in a big way in August 2025, and plenty of guides online still teach the old version. These changes apply to tests taken from 7 August 2025.

22 question types
Up from 20. Summarize Group Discussion and Respond to a Situation were added. The test runs for about 2 hours.

65 to 75 questions
Pearson's July 2025 institution score guide. Coaches often compare this with about 52 before the update.

Read Aloud is Speaking only
Since August 2025, Pearson lists Read Aloud as a Speaking task only.

New visa scores
Each skill has its own minimum and must be met separately. You can't average them.

English level	Listening	Reading	Writing	Speaking	Skilled visa points
Vocational	33	36	29	24	n/a
Competent	47	48	51	54	0
Proficient	58	59	69	76	10
Superior	69	70	85	88	20

Home Affairs PTE Academic scores for tests taken from 7 August 2025, in Pearson's order. Functional English is an overall 24 with no minimum for each skill. Results from tests taken on or before 6 August 2025 use the old bands, and can be used until 6 August 2028 depending on the visa. Checked October 2026. Confirm current numbers with Home Affairs and Pearson before you book.

Visa rules, student visa scores and IELTS conversion

[Read the full article](#)

The Scoring System: AI First, Humans on Content

This is the part most people get wrong. Here's how it works, using Pearson's own score guide.

How AI scoring works

AI scores **every response**. Depending on the task, it looks at traits like:

- **Pronunciation:** clear sounds, word stress and natural intonation
- **Oral Fluency:** smooth rhythm and phrasing, without long hesitations or restarts
- **Content:** how well you answered the actual prompt
- **Grammar, vocabulary and spelling:** on the written tasks
- **Form:** things like word count and, for Summarize Written Text, writing one sentence

Where humans come in

Pearson's score guide lists **seven tasks** where a trained human also reviews the **content** before the score is final:

- 1 Describe Image
- 2 Retell Lecture
- 3 Respond to a Situation
- 4 Summarize Group Discussion
- 5 Summarize Written Text
- 6 Write Essay (humans also review structure, coherence and language range here)
- 7 Summarize Spoken Text



Humans don't score your accent or pronunciation. That stays with the AI, and it's built to handle a wide range of accents. What matters is being easy to understand.

TEMPLATES WARNING

Pearson's score guide says a response that relies on large amounts of pre-prepared or memorised material can get **zero for content**, and zero content means zero for that answer. Coaches often say the engine "flags rhythmic monotony". Pearson doesn't use that phrase, but the advice behind it holds: use a flexible structure, not a word-for-word script.

Your Overall Score is NOT the Average of Your Four Skills

Most people assume $\text{Overall} = (\text{Speaking} + \text{Writing} + \text{Reading} + \text{Listening}) \div 4$. **It isn't.** Pearson says it directly: the overall score is not an average of the four skill scores.

Pearson works out the overall score from your performance on all the items, and each skill score is calculated on its own from overlapping sets of tasks. One task can feed two skills. Repeat Sentence counts for Listening and Speaking. Write from Dictation counts for Listening and Writing.

So a weak task can pull down more than one skill, and getting good at the high-weight tasks lifts several scores at once.



Partial Credit and Negative Marking: Know the Rules

Most PTE tasks use partial credit, so every correct part earns points even if the whole answer isn't perfect. But Pearson's score guide lists **three tasks with negative marking**, where a wrong pick costs a point (the item can't go below zero):

- Multiple Choice, Multiple Answers (Reading)
- Multiple Choice, Multiple Answers (Listening)
- Highlight Incorrect Words (Listening)

The rule: on these three, **only choose what you're sure of**. A wrong pick cancels out a right one.



04

CHAPTER 4

Listening

All 8 listening tasks, including a full Write from Dictation method.

Listening is the last part of PTE Academic, and it's where a lot of people quietly lose points. You're tired after more than 90 minutes of speaking, writing and reading, the audio plays only once, and several tasks feed other skills too. Write from Dictation and Summarize Spoken Text count for Writing. Highlight Incorrect Words and Highlight Correct Summary count for Reading. So a good Listening part lifts more than your Listening score.

This chapter covers all 8 Listening tasks: what each one looks like, how Pearson scores it and what to do, followed by a deep dive on Write from Dictation. The official rules (timings, item counts, scoring) come from Pearson's PTE Academic score guide. The percentages and many of the tactics come from PTE coaches and teachers, and they're labelled that way.



The Listening Part at a Glance

Part 3 runs for **about 31 to 39 minutes** depending on your test version. Here's the line-up, with item counts and scoring from Pearson's score guide:

Task	Items	Audio length (Pearson)	Scoring	Skills it feeds
Summarize Spoken Text	1	60 to 90 seconds	Partial credit (content, form, grammar, vocabulary, spelling)	Listening, Writing
Multiple Choice, Multiple Answers	2 to 3	80 to 120 seconds	Partial credit, minus 1 per wrong pick	Listening
Fill in the Blanks (Type In)	2 to 3	30 to 60 seconds	1 point per correctly spelled word	Listening
Highlight Correct Summary	2 to 3	30 to 90 seconds	Right or wrong	Listening, Reading
Multiple Choice, Single Answer	2 to 3	30 to 60 seconds	Right or wrong	Listening
Select Missing Word	1 to 2	20 to 70 seconds	Right or wrong	Listening
Highlight Incorrect Words	2 to 3	15 to 50 seconds	1 point per correct word, minus 1 per wrong click	Listening, Reading
Write from Dictation	3 to 4	3 to 5 seconds	1 point per correctly spelled word	Listening, Writing

Item counts and scoring come from Pearson's score guide. Audio lengths come from Pearson's Listening format page.

Two things to know before you start:

- **Every recording plays once.** No replays. Note-taking matters.

- **You get a few seconds before most clips start** (Pearson: about 7 seconds for Multiple Answers and Fill in the Blanks, 5 for Single Answer, 10 for Highlight Incorrect Words). Use them to read the question or skim the text, every time.
- **Summarize Spoken Text has its own 10-minute timer.** The rest of the part shares one timer, so keep an eye on the clock in the top corner.

Where Your Listening Score Really Comes From

Here's the surprise: a big chunk of your Listening score comes from tasks in **Part 1**. Pearson's score guide lists Repeat Sentence, Retell Lecture, Answer Short Question and Summarize Group Discussion as feeding Listening as well as Speaking.

Using the weighting table coaches quote from Pearson's teacher document, here's roughly how Listening breaks down. These are averages, not a formula.

Task	Where it is	Approx. share of Listening
Summarize Group Discussion	Part 1	20%
Repeat Sentence	Part 1	17%
Retell Lecture	Part 1	13%
Write from Dictation	Part 3	13%
Summarize Spoken Text	Part 3	10%
Highlight Incorrect Words	Part 3	8%
Fill in the Blanks (Type In)	Part 3	8%
Answer Short Question	Part 1	4%
Multiple Choice, Multiple Answers	Part 3	3%
Highlight Correct Summary	Part 3	2%



Task	Where it is	Approx. share of Listening
Multiple Choice, Single Answer	Part 3	2%
Select Missing Word	Part 3	1%

On those numbers, **more than half of your Listening score is decided in Part 1**, before the Listening part even starts. If your Listening score is stuck, practise Repeat Sentence and Summarize Group Discussion first. The [PTE Speaking guide](#) covers both.

CHAPTER 4 • LISTENING • TASK 1

Summarize Spoken Text (SST)

WHAT IT IS	You hear a short lecture (Pearson says about 60 to 90 seconds) and type a summary in 10 minutes . You get one of these.
HOW PEARSON SCORES IT	five traits, all scored by AI, with a human expert also reviewing content.

Trait	Scale	What Pearson looks for
Content	0 to 4	All the key points, without misrepresenting the topic or purpose. Get the topic or purpose wrong and Pearson says you get no points for the whole summary
Form	0 to 2	50 to 70 words = 2. 40 to 49 or 71 to 100 = 1. Under 40, over 100, all capitals, no punctuation or just bullet points = 0, which means no points
Grammar	0 to 2	Correct basic sentence structure. Short, clear sentences beat long, tangled ones
Vocabulary	0 to 2	Words that fit the lecture and an academic setting. Pearson says using words from the lecture appropriately is fine
Spelling	0 to 2	2 for no errors, 1 for one error, 0 for more than one. Every slip counts here

Coaches estimate SST is about 10% of Listening and about 18% of Writing, so it matters for both.

STRATEGY

- 1 Take keyword notes as you listen.** Topic, 2 or 3 main points, and the conclusion or example at the end.
- 2 Use a simple structure.** One sentence for the topic, one or two for the main points, one for the conclusion. Three or four sentences in total.
- 3 Aim for 55 to 65 words.** That leaves a buffer on both sides of 50 to 70.
- 4 Use your own words where you can,** but key terms from the lecture are fine. You can't paraphrase "photosynthesis".
- 5 Save 1 or 2 minutes to check** spelling, subject-verb agreement and the on-screen word count. Pearson itself suggests this.
- 6 Write proper sentences.** Bullet points or no punctuation can zero your form score.

A flexible structure (not a script):

EXAMPLE

"The speaker talked about [topic]. They explained that [main point 1], and that [main point 2]. They also noted [detail or example]. Overall, the speaker suggested that [conclusion]."

Change the wording every time. Pearson's score guide says answers built on memorised material can score zero for content.

Multiple Choice, Multiple Answers

WHAT IT IS	You hear a recording and pick all the correct answers from a list. You get 2 or 3.
HOW PEARSON SCORES IT	1 point per correct pick, minus 1 per wrong pick , and the item can't go below zero. That makes it one of three Listening and Reading tasks with negative marking. The other two are Highlight Incorrect Words and the Reading version of this task.
STRATEGY	■ Read the question and options before the audio starts. You get about 7 seconds. Know what you're listening for. ■ Choose for meaning, not matching words. Pearson warns that several options may use words from the recording without matching what was said. ■ Note keywords against each option as you hear them. ■ Only pick what you're sure of. Many coaches tell students to choose one confident answer and stop. A second answer you're unsure of can wipe out the first. ■ Don't spend long here. Coaches estimate it's only about 3% of Listening.

Fill in the Blanks (Type In)

WHAT IT IS	You see a transcript with gaps. As the audio plays, you type the missing words. You get 2 or 3.
HOW PEARSON SCORES IT	1 point for each correct word, spelled correctly . A misspelled word scores nothing.
STRATEGY	■ Skim the transcript in the 7 seconds before the audio. Pearson suggests ignoring the gaps and getting the gist first, then guessing what kind of word each gap needs (noun, verb, plural). ■ Type as you hear it. If you can't keep up, jot the first few letters and finish after. ■ Check grammar fit: "a number of " <i>needs a plural</i>; "has" needs a past participle. ■ Fix spelling at the end. Check plurals and endings ("-ed", "-s") carefully.

Coaches estimate this is about 8% of Listening, and it's a good place to pick up easy points if your spelling is solid.

Highlight Correct Summary

WHAT IT IS	You hear a recording, then choose the paragraph that best summarises it. You get 2 or 3.
HOW PEARSON SCORES IT	right or wrong, 1 point. It feeds Listening and Reading.
STRATEGY	■ Take quick notes on the main idea, not every detail. ■ Read the options after the audio and rule out any that: ■ add something the speaker never said ■ focus on a minor detail as if it were the main point ■ get the speaker's view backwards ■ Pick the one that covers the whole talk, not just part of it. ■ Don't overthink it. Coaches estimate it's only about 2% of Listening. Give it a minute and move on.



Multiple Choice, Single Answer

WHAT IT IS	You hear a recording and pick the one correct answer. You get 2 or 3.
HOW PEARSON SCORES IT	right or wrong, 1 point, no penalty.
STRATEGY	■ Read the question before the audio ■ Listen for the main idea or the specific detail asked ■ Watch for distractors: options that use the speaker’s exact words but say something different ■ Always answer. There’s no negative marking here

Select Missing Word

WHAT IT IS	A recording plays, and the last word or phrase is replaced by a beep. You choose what comes next. You get 1 or 2.
HOW PEARSON SCORES IT	right or wrong, 1 point.
STRATEGY	■ Read the topic line on screen before the audio starts ■ Follow the argument, not just the words. The missing bit usually finishes the speaker's point ■ Pay attention to the last sentence before the beep. It often signals what comes next ("as a result..."; "on the other hand...") ■ Pick, then move on. It's worth about 1% of Listening by coach estimates

Highlight Incorrect Words (HIW)

WHAT IT IS	You read a transcript while the audio plays. Some words on screen are different from what the speaker says. You click those words. You get 2 or 3.
HOW PEARSON SCORES IT	1 point per correct click, minus 1 per wrong click, minimum zero. It feeds Listening and Reading. Coaches estimate it's about 8% of Listening and about 13% of Reading, which makes it one of the most valuable tasks in this part.
STRATEGY	■ Use the 10 seconds before the audio to skim the content words (nouns, verbs, adjectives). Pearson suggests this so odd words stand out. ■ Put your mouse pointer on the text and follow along word by word. Pearson suggests this too. Move it with the speaker so you never lose your place. ■ Click as soon as you hear a mismatch. Don't wait until the end, you'll forget. ■ Expect swaps that look similar: "increase" for "decrease", "rarely" for "regularly". ■ Only click when you're sure. If you missed a bit, leave it. A wrong click costs as much as a right one earns. ■ Coaches generally say most items have a handful of changed words, so if you've clicked half the paragraph, something's gone wrong.

Write from Dictation (WFD)

WHAT IT IS	You hear a short sentence and type it exactly. You get 3 or 4, at the very end of the test.
HOW PEARSON SCORES IT	1 point for each correct word, spelled correctly. Coaches estimate WFD is about 13% of Listening and about 23% of Writing, so it's one of the most valuable tasks in the whole test.
STRATEGY (PHRASE MAPPING)	1 As you listen, jot the first letter of each word 2 Note 2 or 3 anchor words (long or unusual words) 3 Rebuild straight away while it's still in your head 4 Check spelling, plurals and verb endings before you move on. Sound-alikes (affect/effect, there/their) are a classic trap 5 Capitals and full stops: Pearson scores correctly spelled words and doesn't mention punctuation, but coaches like E2Language and Language Academy still suggest a capital at the start and a full stop at the end, to be safe 6 Extra words: Pearson only takes points off on three tasks, and WFD isn't one of them. So if you're unsure between two words, coaches suggest picking the one that fits the grammar rather than writing both

The full method is in the article: [PTE Write from Dictation strategy](#).

Write from Dictation deep dive

If there's ONE task to master in PTE, it's **Write from Dictation (WFD)**. Pearson's score guide confirms it feeds both Listening and Writing, and coaches estimate it's about **23% of your Writing score** and **13% of your Listening score**, based on a weighting table they quote from Pearson. Get it right and you've locked in a big part of your result.

Why WFD Matters So Much

Do the maths:

- Pearson's score guide says you'll get **3 or 4** WFD sentences
- Each correctly spelled word earns 1 point
- Pearson says each sentence plays for just 3 to 5 seconds, and a typical sentence is about 10 to 14 words
- So there are roughly 35 to 50 points on offer across the test

Very few tasks give you that many chances to pick up points with nothing but listening and spelling.

How WFD Is Scored

Pearson's rule is simple, and strict:

- **Each correct word, spelled correctly, = 1 point**
- A misspelled word = 0 for that word
- A missing word = 0 for that word
- Pearson doesn't take points off for extra words, but they earn nothing

- Pearson's scoring counts correctly spelled words. It doesn't mention capitals or punctuation, but many coaches (E2Language, Language Academy) still suggest a capital at the start and a full stop at the end, just to be safe
- Plurals, verb endings and sound-alikes are where most points go: "study" isn't "studies", and "affect" isn't "effect"

The Phrase Mapping Technique

You can't hold 12 words in your head by brute force. **Phrase mapping** uses your short-term memory much better.

Step 1: First-letter capture

As you hear the sentence, jot down the **first letter of each word**:

EXAMPLE

Sentence: "The library will be closed for renovations next month" Notes: T l w b c f r n m

Step 2: Anchor words

While you're doing that, also note 2 or 3 **anchor words**: longer or unusual words that are easy to lose:

EXAMPLE

First letters: T l w b c f r n m Anchors: library, renovations

Step 3: Rebuild straight away

As soon as the audio stops, use your letters and anchors to rebuild the sentence:

- T = The



- l = library
- w = will
- b = be
- c = closed
- f = for
- r = renovations
- n = next
- m = month

Type it while it's still echoing in your head.

Common Spelling Traps

These words often get misspelled in WFD:

Word	Common mistake	Correct spelling
necessary	neccessary	necessary
government	goverment	government
environment	enviroment	environment
immediately	immediatly	immediately
occurred	occured	occurred
successful	succesful	successful
accommodation	accomodation	accommodation
beginning	begining	beginning
definitely	definately	definitely
professional	proffesional	professional



Sentence Patterns to Recognise

WFD sentences tend to follow familiar academic patterns. Spotting them helps you rebuild:

Pattern 1: Subject + verb + object

EXAMPLE

"Students must submit their assignments before the deadline."

Pattern 2: There is/are + noun

EXAMPLE

"There are several factors that contribute to climate change."

Pattern 3: It is + adjective + to + verb

EXAMPLE

"It is important to maintain a healthy work-life balance."

Pattern 4: The + noun + of + noun

EXAMPLE

"The purpose of this study is to examine student performance."



Practice Strategy

- 1 **Daily dictation:** at least 10 to 15 sentences a day
- 2 **Use an AI-scored platform** such as APEUni or PTE Tools for quick feedback
- 3 **Review your mistakes:** keep a list of words you keep misspelling
- 4 **Type faster:** you only get a short window after the audio ends
- 5 **Train your ear:** academic podcasts, lectures and talks

Test Day Tips

- **Check the volume** before the Listening part starts
- **Don't panic** if you miss a word. Write what you have
- **Check your spelling** before you move on
- **Use American OR British spelling** and stick to one. Both are accepted

The Golden Rule

Every word counts. Getting 8 of 10 words right is far better than giving up because you missed 2. Partial credit adds up across all your WFD sentences.

Keep going:

- All 8 Listening tasks, including WFD: [PTE Listening complete guide](#)
- How WFD fits into your Writing score: [PTE Writing guide](#)
- Back to the hub: [PTE Academic 2026 complete guide](#)
- Traps to avoid: [10 Critical PTE Mistakes](#)

Write from Dictation: the full article on jetblok.com.au

[Read the full article](#)



Note-Taking That Works in Listening

You can't replay anything, so notes are your memory. Keep it simple:

- **Use the erasable notepad** you're given. Practise with one at home
- **Write keywords, not sentences:** nouns, numbers, names and linking words ("but", "because", "so")
- **Use symbols:** ↑ for rise, ↓ for fall, → for leads to, ≠ for disagrees
- **Mark the structure:** many lectures follow topic, point, point, conclusion. Draw a line between each part
- **Listen hardest at the start and end.** The topic usually comes first and the conclusion last

Your Listening Time Plan

The Listening part runs for about 31 to 39 minutes, and by then you've been at it for well over an hour. Here's how to stay sharp:

- **SST (10 minutes, timed separately):** 1 minute to plan, 6 to 7 to write, 2 to check
- **Multiple Choice tasks:** answer soon after the audio ends and move on. Don't let them eat the shared timer
- **FIB, HCS, SMW, HIW:** these move with the audio, so focus is everything
- **Save energy for WFD at the end.** Sit up, breathe, reset before the first sentence

A tip many coaches give: stay alert after SST. People relax after the long writing task and lose focus on the quick tasks that follow.

Common Listening Mistakes

- **Guessing on Multiple Answers or HIW.** Wrong picks cost points
- **Going outside 50 to 70 words in SST.** You lose form marks, and under 40 or over 100 scores nothing
- **Spelling slips in FIB and WFD.** A misspelled word scores zero, every time
- **Losing your place in HIW.** Use the mouse pointer to track the speaker
- **Fading at the end.** WFD is worth a lot and it comes last. Don't coast
- **Ignoring the Part 1 tasks.** Repeat Sentence and SGD are a big part of your Listening score

Mistakes to avoid

From Pearson's score guide and what PTE coaches warn about most.

MISTAKE #6

Miscounting Summarize Spoken Text

THE PROBLEM	Landing just outside 50 to 70 words.
WHY IT HURTS	Pearson gives full form marks for 50 to 70 words. At 40 to 49 or 71 to 100 you drop to part marks for form. Under 40 or over 100 is zero for form, and so no points.
THE FIX	Aim for 55 to 65 words for a safe buffer. Count before you submit.

MISTAKE #7

Guessing on Highlight Incorrect Words

THE PROBLEM	Clicking words you're not sure about.
WHY IT HURTS	Pearson uses negative marking here: each wrong click takes off a point (the item can't go below zero). The same goes for Multiple Choice, Multiple Answers in Reading and Listening.
THE FIX	Only click words you're sure are different. If in doubt, leave it.

A 4-Week Listening Plan

Week 1: Foundations

- Daily: 10 WFD sentences and 10 Repeat Sentences
- 2 SST practice answers, counting words each time
- Start a list of words you misspell

Week 2: Accuracy

- Daily: 15 WFD and 5 HIW
- 3 FIB (Type In) sets, checking spelling carefully
- Practise 3-column notes on SGD-style discussions

Week 3: Speed

- Daily: 15 WFD, 5 HIW, 5 FIB
- Timed SSTs at 10 minutes, aiming for 55 to 65 words



- Mix in Multiple Choice and HCS sets with strict timing

Week 4: Full simulations

- 2 full mock tests, or at least full Listening parts after a long Part 1
- Review every mistake: spelling, wrong picks or lost focus?
- Light review only in the last 2 days

Quick answers

How long is the PTE Listening section?

Pearson gives about 31 to 39 minutes for Part 3 (Listening), depending on your test version. It has 8 task types.

Can I replay the audio in PTE Listening?

No. Every recording plays once, so take notes as you listen.

How is Summarize Spoken Text scored?

On content (0 to 4), form (0 to 2), grammar, vocabulary and spelling (0 to 2 each). AI scores everything and a human also reviews content. Getting the topic wrong, or writing under 40 or over 100 words, means no points.

Which PTE Listening tasks have negative marking?

Multiple Choice, Multiple Answers and Highlight Incorrect Words. Each wrong pick costs a point, but no item goes below zero.

How many words should my Summarize Spoken Text be?

Pearson gives full form marks for 50 to 70 words. Aim for 55 to 65 to stay safe. Under 40 or over 100 words scores zero.



Why is my PTE Listening score low when I did well in the Listening part?

Because a big part of your Listening score comes from Part 1 tasks: Summarize Group Discussion, Repeat Sentence, Retell Lecture and Answer Short Question. Coaches estimate they make up more than half of Listening together.

How many Write from Dictation questions are in PTE?

Pearson's score guide says 3 or 4. They come at the very end of the Listening part.

Does Write from Dictation affect my Writing score?

Yes. Pearson lists it under Listening and Writing. Coaches estimate it's about 23% of Writing and 13% of Listening.

Are capital letters and punctuation marked in WFD?

Pearson scores each correctly spelled word and doesn't mention capitals or punctuation. Many coaches still suggest a capital at the start and a full stop at the end to be safe. Spelling, plurals and word endings definitely count.

Listening: the full article on jetblok.com.au

[Read the full article](#)



Sources

Official rules in this guide come from these Pearson and Australian Government sources, checked 10 October 2026:

- Pearson, PTE Academic Test Taker Score Guide (current edition)
- Pearson, PTE Academic Institution Score Guide (July 2025)
- Pearson, Test Taker Handbook, PTE Academic (July 2025)
- Pearson, PTE Academic updates 2025 (pearsonpte.com/pte-updates-2025)
- Pearson, Speaking and Writing test format page
- Pearson articles: Respond to a Situation; Summarize Group Discussion; New DHA visa requirements
- Department of Home Affairs, English language requirements pages

Tips labelled **Coach tip** and percentages labelled **coach estimate** come from PTE teachers and coaching sites, not Pearson. Pearson does not publish task percentages in its score guides.

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