



JetBlok Studio

PTE ACADEMIC 2026

Speaking Guide

All 7 speaking tasks, including Summarize Group Discussion and Respond to a Situation (added August 2025).

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30 pages · Chapter 1 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 1, Speaking:** All 7 speaking tasks, including Summarize Group Discussion and Respond to a Situation (added August 2025).

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

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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.



CHAPTER 1

Speaking

All 7 speaking tasks, including Summarize Group Discussion and Respond to a Situation (added August 2025).

Speaking is where a lot of people win or lose their PTE. Since August 2025 there are more speaking tasks, humans now check the content of the longer ones, and memorised scripts can get you a zero for content. Part 1 of the test (Speaking & Writing) has **9 scored question types**: 7 speaking tasks plus Summarize Written Text and Write Essay. This chapter covers the 7 speaking tasks. The two writing tasks are in the free PTE Writing Guide.

How Speaking Is Scored

Before the tasks, know what's being measured. Pearson's score guide uses these traits for most speaking tasks:

- **Content:** did you answer what was asked, and cover the key points?
- **Oral Fluency:** smooth rhythm and phrasing, without long hesitations, repeats or restarts
- **Pronunciation:** clear sounds and natural stress, so a listener understands you easily

AI scores all of it. For Describe Image, Retell Lecture, Respond to a Situation and Summarize Group Discussion, a human also reviews the content before the score is final. You'll see coaches quote a split like "content 40%, fluency 30%, pronunciation 30%". Pearson doesn't publish that, so take it as a rough idea, not a rule.

THE RULE THAT MATTERS MOST

pauses and restarts hurt more than small mistakes. A smooth answer with a slip usually beats a choppy "perfect" one.



Read Aloud (RA)

WHAT IT IS

Read a short text (up to about 60 words) aloud. You get about 30 to 40 seconds to prepare, depending on length. Expect 6 or 7 of these.

SCORE CONTRIBUTION

Since August 2025, Pearson lists Read Aloud as a **Speaking** task only. Coaches put it at about 9% of Speaking.

Strategy: meaning chunks, not word by word

Don't read word by word. Group words into **meaning chunks** of 3 to 5 words that belong together:

EXAMPLE

"The university library / has recently introduced / a new digital system / that lets students / access resources from home."

Pause slightly between chunks, not between words.

COACH TIP

Key tips

- Use the prep time to mark where the chunks break
- Never go back to fix a word. Keep moving
- Keep a steady pace
- Let your voice drop at full stops

Repeat Sentence (RS)

WHAT IT IS

Hear a sentence once and repeat it exactly. Expect 10 to 12 of these.

SCORE CONTRIBUTION

Counts for **Listening and Speaking**. Coaches estimate about 16% of Speaking and 17% of Listening, which makes it one of the highest-value tasks.

Strategy: chunk it

You can't hold 12 to 15 single words. Hold **3 or 4 meaning groups** instead:

EXAMPLE

Sentence: "The professor emphasised that students should complete their assignments before the deadline."

Chunks: [The professor emphasised] [that students should complete] [their assignments] [before the deadline]

COACH TIP

Key tips

- The start and end are easiest to remember
- If you miss a word, put in something close and keep going
- Copy the speaker's rhythm and stress
- Start speaking straight after the tone
- Practise with longer and longer sentences

Describe Image (DI)

WHAT IT IS

Describe a graph, chart, map, process or picture. You get 25 seconds to look and 40 seconds to speak. Expect 5 or 6.

SCORE CONTRIBUTION

Coaches estimate about **15% of your overall score** and about 31% of Speaking, based on a weighting table they quote from Pearson. Either way, it's the big one.

Strategy: relationships, not lists of numbers

Don't read out every number. Describe **trends and relationships**:

- What's the overall trend? (rising, falling, up and down)
- What are the highest and lowest points?
- Is there a pattern or something unusual?
- How do the parts compare?

Pearson's top content score asks you to describe the main features and how they relate, so a comparison or trend is worth more than a single figure.

Simple framework (not a rigid template)

EXAMPLE

"This [type of image] shows [topic]. Overall, [main trend]. The highest is [X], while the lowest is [Y]. Interestingly, [one observation]. Overall, it suggests [summary]."

Change the wording each time so it fits the image.

Respond to a Situation (RTS) ADDED AUG 2025

WHAT IT IS (PEARSON)	You read and hear a short description of an everyday university situation (up to about 60 words), then say what you'd say in it. You get 10 seconds to prepare and 40 seconds to speak . The audio plays once and you record once. Expect 2 or 3 of these.
SCORE CONTRIBUTION	It counts for Speaking only . Coaches estimate about 13% of Speaking and about 6% of your overall score.

PEARSON RULE

How Pearson scores it

Trait	Scale	What earns the top band (Pearson's score guide)
Content	0 to 6	Handles the situation effectively, achieves the main goal with full attention to the details in the prompt, and goes beyond the prompt's wording with clear, flexible, appropriate language
Pronunciation	0 to 5	Easy for most listeners to understand, with correct sounds and stress
Oral fluency	0 to 5	Smooth, natural pace and phrasing, without hesitations, repeats or false starts

AI scores all three, and a human expert also reviews the content. Two things to know:

- **Zero content means zero for the item.** Pearson's score guide says no points are given when content scores 0, so pronunciation and fluency can't rescue an answer that's off-topic, memorised or too short.



- **Details matter.** Pearson's own example: if the prompt says you need the slides by Friday and you say Sunday, that's a misinterpretation and costs content marks. Echoing the prompt's wording without adding anything also keeps you in the lower bands.

Example scenario

EXAMPLE

"A classmate who's been sick asks to copy your assignment. What do you say?"

Use your 10 seconds: situation, person, goal

Pearson and most coaches suggest pulling three things out of the prompt before you speak:

- 1 **The situation:** what's happening? (You're struggling with an essay.)
- 2 **The person:** who are you talking to? This sets your tone. A professor or library staff member needs a more formal register. A classmate or flatmate can be casual.
- 3 **The goal:** what do you need to achieve? (Ask for a meeting, say no politely, sort out a problem.)

A structure that works

Many coaches (PTE Classes among them) teach a five-step shape. It isn't a script, just an order to follow:

- 1 **Greeting** that fits the person: "Excuse me, Professor..." or "Hey, Sam..."
- 2 **Situation** in a sentence, in your own words
- 3 **Main request or answer, early:** say what you want or what you'll do in the first 10 seconds or so

- 4 Reason and a detail or two:** why, plus something relevant that wasn't in the prompt
- 5 Polite close:** a next step or a question ("Would tomorrow morning work?")

Speak in the first person, as if it's really happening. Aim to use most of the 40 seconds. A one-liner like "Sure, no problem" is relevant but too thin for a good content score.

Useful language

- **Polite requests (formal):** "Would it be possible to..."; "I was wondering if I could..."; "Could I possibly..."
- **Saying no kindly:** "I'd really like to help, but..."; "I'm not comfortable doing that because..."
- **Offering another option:** "What I can do is..."; "How about we..."
- **Apologising:** "I'm really sorry about..."; "I should have let you know earlier..."
- **Closing:** "Would that work for you?"; "Thanks so much for your time."

Sample response

EXAMPLE

"Hey, I'm really sorry you've been sick, that sounds rough. I can't share my assignment though, because if the uni thinks we copied, we could both get into trouble for academic misconduct. What I can do is send you my lecture notes tonight, and if you like, we could meet in the library tomorrow and I'll walk you through how I approached it. Would that help?"

Why it works: it greets the person in a fitting, casual tone, gives a clear answer early, explains why, offers two concrete alternatives that weren't in the prompt, and closes with a question. It's about 35 seconds at a natural pace.

COMMON MISTAKES

RTS mistakes coaches see most

- ✗ Describing the situation ("My classmate is asking me...") instead of speaking inside it
- ✗ Getting a detail wrong (day, time, place, person)
- ✗ The wrong tone, like slang with a professor
- ✗ An all-purpose memorised script that ignores the prompt
- ✗ Stopping after 15 seconds

CHAPTER 1 • SPEAKING • TASK 5

Retell Lecture (RL)

WHAT IT IS

Hear a lecture of up to about 90 seconds, then retell it. You get 10 seconds to prepare and 40 seconds to speak. Expect 2 or 3.

WHAT TO KNOW

A human reviews the content. Pearson's top content score asks you to paraphrase the main ideas in your own words. Repeating isolated words and phrases from the lecture scores low.

Strategy: paraphrase, don't parrot

- Take short notes (keywords only)
- Catch the topic, 2 or 3 key points and the conclusion
- **Say it in your own words**
- Don't try to include everything. Stick to the main ideas



Answer Short Question (ASQ)

WHAT IT IS

Answer a simple question with one word or a short phrase.
Expect 5 or 6.

**SCORE
CONTRIBUTION**

Coaches put it at about 4% of Listening and about 2% of the overall score.

Strategy: answer fast

- Answer straight away. No full sentences needed
- Common topics: science, geography, everyday knowledge
- If you're not sure, give your best guess clearly

Summarize Group Discussion (SGD)

ADDED AUG 2025

WHAT IT IS (PEARSON)	Three people discuss an academic topic for up to 3 minutes (most coaches say 2.5 to 3). It plays once, with no transcript, and you can take notes. You then get 10 seconds to prepare and up to 2 minutes to speak . Expect 2 or 3.
SCORE CONTRIBUTION	It counts for Listening and Speaking . Coaches estimate about 9% of your overall score, about 19% of Speaking and about 20% of Listening, which makes it the second biggest task in the test on their numbers.
TYPICAL TOPICS (PEARSON)	students discussing a lecture, a group struggling with an assignment or project, or a professor guiding students who raise concerns.

PEARSON RULE

How Pearson scores it

Trait	Scale	What earns the top band (Pearson's score guide)
Content	0 to 6	Paraphrases the main ideas in your own words, develops each speaker's contribution with specific detail, explores how their views relate and pulls them together, with varied language and a logical, well-connected order
Pronunciation	0 to 5	Easy for most listeners to understand
Oral fluency	0 to 5	Smooth, natural pace, without hesitations, repeats or restarts



AI scores all three, and a human expert also reviews the content. As with RTS, **zero content means zero for the item**, and Pearson says memorised or unoriginal responses get no credit.

Pearson’s test format page sums up what a strong answer does: start with the main topic, then cover the subtopics with details, **including which speaker said what**. Just retelling the discussion without paraphrasing hurts your score. Pearson’s SGD article adds that you need all three speakers’ views for full content marks.

Notes: the 3-column method

Set this up on your erasable noteboard **before** the audio starts:

Topic: _		
Speaker 1	Speaker 2	Speaker 3
view + reason	view + reason	view + reason
feeling?	feeling?	feeling?
Agree / disagree:	Outcome / next step:	

- Speakers won’t take neat turns, so jot each point in the right column as it comes
- Note keywords, not sentences
- Listen for feelings as well as facts ("stressed", "frustrated", "excited"). Pearson asks you to cover what people say, think and feel
- Mark where they agree or clash, and how it ends (a decision, a next step or no agreement)

A structure that works

Coaches (Next Step IELTS, EnglishWise, BandLadder) all teach roughly the same order:

- 1 Topic:** "The three speakers were discussing..."
- 2 Speaker 1:** main view plus a reason or example
- 3 Speaker 2:** main view plus a detail, linked to speaker 1 ("In contrast...", "Building on that...")
- 4 Speaker 3:** main view plus a detail
- 5 Connections:** where they agreed or disagreed
- 6 Outcome:** what they decided, or that no agreement was reached

One coaching timing guide for the 2 minutes: about 10 seconds for the topic, 20 to 25 seconds per speaker, 25 seconds on how their views connect, and 15 to 20 seconds on the outcome. Most coaches suggest using most of the 2 minutes, as long as you aren't padding. Covering everything clearly matters more than filling time.

Useful language

- **Opening:** "The discussion focused on..."; "The speakers debated whether..."
- **Attribution:** "The first speaker argued that..."; "The second speaker was worried about..."; "The third speaker suggested..."
- **Linking views:** "By contrast..."; "Building on this point..."; "Both the first and third speakers agreed that..., although..."
- **Feelings:** "She seemed frustrated by..."; "He was clearly enthusiastic about..."
- **Outcome:** "In the end, they agreed to..."; "They didn't reach a final decision, but..."

Short sample (based on Pearson's time management example)

EXAMPLE

"The three students were talking about how hard it is to manage time at university. The first speaker felt stressed by the workload and said she struggles to keep a consistent routine across different courses. The second speaker agreed, but said his main problem is procrastination, because he focuses on interesting tasks instead of urgent ones, and he compared this with high school, where teachers set the schedule. The third speaker shared the same procrastination issue and added that long-term planning and multitasking are hard for her too. In the end, she suggested they all attend a university seminar on time management, and the others seemed keen."

Why it works: topic first, every speaker covered with a detail, links between their views ("agreed", "shared the same issue"), and the outcome at the end, all in plain language.

COMMON MISTAKES

SGD mistakes coaches see most

- ✗ Leaving out a speaker or getting their view wrong
- ✗ Retelling the speakers one after another with no comparison
- ✗ Running out of time before the outcome
- ✗ Spending too long on one speaker's example
- ✗ Reading out keywords from your notes without joining them up
- ✗ A memorised template that doesn't match what was said

The #1 Rule: Flow Over Perfection

If you remember one thing, make it this: **smooth, steady speech matters more than perfect speech**. A continuous answer with a few small slips usually beats a choppy answer full of restarts, even if the choppy one has fewer mistakes.

Pearson's fluency scale rewards smooth phrasing and penalises hesitations, repetitions and false starts.

Coaches who've studied many high-scoring answers say the same thing: people scoring 85+ in Speaking still make small errors, but they don't stop.

The 3-second rule

In speaking tasks, if you go **silent for about 3 seconds, the microphone stops recording**. Anything you planned to say after that isn't captured, and if you haven't started speaking at all, you get nothing for that item. It doesn't wipe what you already said, but it can cost you a lot of content and fluency.

How to avoid it:

- Have a few linking phrases ready: "Also...", "On top of that...", "Another point is..."
- If you lose your place, rephrase what you just said while you think
- Practise speaking for the full time in every session
- Don't stop to think in silence. Think out loud

Microphone Setup: The Two-Finger Rule

Your setup matters more than you'd think:

- Put the mic about **level with your nose or chin, slightly to the side**
- Keep it about **two fingers' width** from your face
- This stops breath bursts on P, B and T sounds
- Do the sound check, and use the Personal Introduction to settle your volume



- Don't stay silent for 3 seconds. The mic stops recording

Practice Resources

Use platforms with AI scoring for feedback, but remember none of them is Pearson's engine:

- **APEUni:** popular for AI-scored speaking practice
- **PTE Tools:** good for Repeat Sentence drills
- **E2Language:** structured courses with feedback
- **Pearson's official practice tests:** scored with Pearson's own engine, good near test day

Mistakes to avoid

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

MISTAKE #2

Correcting Yourself While Speaking

THE PROBLEM	Stopping mid-sentence to fix a word or a sound.
WHY IT HURTS	Restarts and hesitations pull down your oral fluency score. Pearson's fluency scale rewards smooth phrasing and marks down hesitations, repeats and false starts.
THE FIX	Keep going. If you say "The student... the students are...", just carry on. A smooth answer with a small slip usually beats a choppy "correct" one.

MISTAKE #3

Going Silent for 3 Seconds

THE PROBLEM	Pausing for 3 seconds or more in a speaking task.
WHY IT HURTS	After about 3 seconds of silence, the microphone stops recording. Whatever you meant to say next isn't captured. If you hadn't started yet, you get nothing for that item. What you already said is still scored, but you've likely lost content and fluency marks.
THE FIX	Have a few linking phrases ready: "Also..."; "On top of that..."; "Another point is...". Keep sound coming, even while you think.

MISTAKE #9

Reading Out Numbers Instead of Trends (Describe Image)

THE PROBLEM	Listing every number: "In 2010 it was 23%, in 2011 it was 24%, in 2012..."
WHY IT HURTS	You burn time on low-value detail and run out before you say anything meaningful. Pearson's top content score asks you to describe the main features and how they relate.
THE FIX	Describe trends and relationships: "There was a steady rise of about 15% over five years, with the biggest jump between 2013 and 2014." More in the PTE Speaking guide .



MISTAKE #10

Bad Microphone Position

THE PROBLEM	The mic is too close to your mouth or at the wrong angle.
WHY IT HURTS	Breath bursts on P, B and T sounds make you harder to understand, and breathing noise can interrupt the flow.
THE FIX	Put the mic about level with your nose or chin, slightly to the side, about two fingers' width from your face.

Quick answers

How many speaking tasks are in PTE Academic now?

Seven speaking tasks: Read Aloud, Repeat Sentence, Describe Image, Retell Lecture, Answer Short Question, Summarize Group Discussion and Respond to a Situation. Together with Summarize Written Text and Write Essay, that's 9 scored question types in Part 1 (Speaking & Writing). There's also an unscored Personal Introduction.

When were Summarize Group Discussion and Respond to a Situation added?

Both apply to tests taken from 7 August 2025. They aren't new in 2026.

How long do I get to speak in Summarize Group Discussion?

Up to 2 minutes, after 10 seconds of prep. The discussion audio is up to 3 minutes and plays once.

What happens if I stop talking for 3 seconds?

The microphone stops recording. You won't lose what you already said, but nothing after that is captured, and if you never started, you score nothing for that item.



How are SGD and RTS scored?

Both are scored on content (0 to 6), pronunciation (0 to 5) and oral fluency (0 to 5). AI scores everything and a human also reviews content. If content scores 0, the whole item scores 0. SGD counts for Listening and Speaking. RTS counts for Speaking only.

Does my accent affect my PTE speaking score?

Not on its own. Pearson scores pronunciation on how easy you are to understand, not on sounding like a native speaker. Clear sounds, natural stress and smooth phrasing matter more than any accent.

Speaking: 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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