

IELTS Writing & Speaking Band Descriptor — Teacher Matrix

A teacher-facing summary of the four assessment criteria for IELTS Writing and Speaking. Use it to give targeted feedback. Always confirm against the official public descriptors.

Writing (Task 2) — four criteria

Criterion	What it rewards
Task Response	Fully addresses all parts of the task with a clear position and developed ideas.
Coherence & Cohesion	Logical organisation, paragraphing, and well-managed linking devices.
Lexical Resource	Range and precision of vocabulary; natural collocation; few errors.
Grammatical Range & Accuracy	Variety of structures used accurately and flexibly.

Speaking — four criteria

Criterion	What it rewards
Fluency & Coherence	Speaks at length without noticeable effort; coherent, well-linked speech.
Lexical Resource	Flexible vocabulary to discuss a range of topics; paraphrase when needed.
Grammatical Range & Accuracy	Range of structures with accuracy and appropriate flexibility.
Pronunciation	Wide range of features; easy to understand throughout.

Important: the overall band is reported in whole and half bands. IELTS band scores are **not** a direct equivalent of CEFR levels — treat any mapping as approximate guidance only.

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