

# Speech Test

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## Outline

1. Lecture 1: Introduction to the Speech Test
2. Demonstration tests
3. Lecture 2: Further discussion
4. Q and A

## Part 1

### Lecture 1: Introduction to the Speech Test

- What is the Speech Test?
- How does it work?

## Introduction

- Kumamoto City BOE initiative
- Adds an oral component to English assessment
- ALTs concerned about the emphasis on English communication
- Introduced in November 2012
- Junior High Schools in Kumamoto City

## Aims of the Speech Test

1. To improve the overall test scores of students.
2. To give students an opportunity to converse with an ALT about a topic of their choice, allowing them to use their English to communicate and express themselves.

## How does it work?

- Students prepare a short speech in advance.
- On the day, a group of ALTs come to the school and receive a class schedule for their rotation.
- The ALTs go to a class and introduce themselves.
- Students are tested one-on-one by an ALT. They give their speech and answer questions.
- The class is given feedback by the ALTs.

## The Speech

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- Students prepare the first draft of a short speech based on 1 of 5 given topics.
- **1<sup>st</sup> grade** students must prepare at least **5 sentences...**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> grade 7 sentences**  
**3<sup>rd</sup> grade 10 sentences**  
 (Students are given 5 minutes to complete testing.)
- ALTs correct the draft and the students redo their speech.



## The Speech

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Speech topics include:

### 1<sup>st</sup> Grade

My Family  
My School  
My Friend  
Hobbies  
Famous Person

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade

My Hobbies  
School Memories  
My Favorite Person  
My Favorite Event  
My Future

### 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade

My Daily Life  
My Favorite...  
Sports Day  
School Club Memories  
My Future



## The Test

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### Section A: The Speech

- Students give their speech and are assessed on it.
- They **must memorize** their speech.
- They cannot bring a copy of the speech into the test room, but a 10 word hint sheet is allowed.

### Section B: Q&A

- 1 question from the student.
- 3 questions from the ALT (question list).
- 1 question from the ALT (based on speech).
- If time allows the ALT (or student) can ask more questions.



## Assessment

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### Section A: The Speech

- Students start with **20** points.
- How points will be deducted:
  - 1 point if student isn't understandable.
  - 2 points for a missing sentence.



## Assessment

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### Section B: Q&A

- Up to **20** points available.
- **4** points for the student's question.
- **4** points for each of the ALT's 4 questions:
  - **2** points if the student understands the question.
  - **2** points if the ALT understands the answer.



## Part 2

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### Demonstration Tests

1. 1<sup>st</sup> grade student: How to grade the test
2. 2<sup>nd</sup> grade student: A slow learner
3. 3<sup>rd</sup> grade student: An advanced student



1<sup>st</sup> Grade Demonstration Test

Speech topic "My Friend."

**Prepared Speech:**

1. My friend's name is Sakura.
2. She goes to Kita Junior High School.
3. She plays basketball.
4. She is on the basketball team.
5. I like her.

1<sup>st</sup> Grade Demonstration Test**Speech Given:**

1. My friend's name is Sakura.
2. She **go** to Kita Junior High School.
3. She plays basketball.
4. She is on the ... team. (-1)
5. I ... (-2)

**Section A: 17/20**1<sup>st</sup> Grade Demonstration Test**Student's Question:**

- **Do you like basketball?**  
Yes, I do. (4)

1<sup>st</sup> Grade Demonstration Test**ALT's Questions:**

- **What is your friend's name?**  
Her name is Sakura. (4)
- **Which school does she go to?**  
... One more time please.  
**Which school does she go to?**  
She goes to Kita Junior High School. (4)

1<sup>st</sup> Grade Demonstration Test

- **What subject does she like?**  
**Yes, she does.** (0)  
...with prompting... She likes PE. (1)
- **Do you like basketball?**  
Yes, I do. (4)

**Section B: 17/20****Total: 17 + 17 = 34/40**2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Demonstration Test

Speech topic "My Hobbies."

**Prepared Speech:**

1. My hobbies are playing game
2. I like play games every day
3. Games are fun
4. My favorite game is Mario
5. I also like Puzzle dora because it is interesting
6. I like watching TV too
7. Watching TV is fun
8. Thank you for listening



## 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Demonstration Test

### Speech Given:

1. My hobbies are play... game
2. I like play games every day
3. ...
4. My favorite ... is Mario
5. (long pause) I also like Puzzle dora because it is interesting
6. (long pause) I like watching TV too
7. (long pause) (prompt) Watching TV is fun
8. Thank you for listening



## 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Demonstration Test

### ALT's Questions:

- **What is your hobby?**  
Play games
- **How often do you play games?**  
...  
**How often do you play games?**  
分からないです。
- **What are your other hobbies?**  
分からないです。



## 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Demonstration Test

### Speech topic "My Future."

1. In the future, I want to be an English teacher.
2. I like English very much.
3. I want to help students to learn English.
4. To be an English teacher, I must study English hard.
5. I will study English at university.
6. Last summer, I did a homestay in Australia.
7. It was fun.
8. Speaking English wasn't easy, but I did my best.
9. I learned many things.
10. I want to study abroad in Australia in my future too.



## 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Demonstration Test

**Section B:** The ALT goes off topic and challenges the student!

**ALT:** Wow! You did a homestay in Australia! Where did you live?

**Student:** I lived in Sydney. I went to the beach every day! I love swimming. Do you like swimming?

...

...



## Part 3

### Lecture 2: Further Discussion

- Giving feedback
- Tips on the Speech Test
- How to apply for the Speech Test



## Feedback

- While speech is being conducted, students are asked to fill out a feedback form.
- Panel of ALTs give feedback to each class after the test.
  - ALTs discuss challenges, praise good points and highlight exceptional students.
  - If time allows, students can ask the ALTs questions.



## Assessment Tips

- Create tally marks to track the sentence count.
- Reread a question (if time is given) to allow for a better answer.
- Don't be too harsh when deducting points, the aim is to boost students' confidence.
- Very, very few students will score 20 or below (maybe 1-2 student(s) per class...)

## Testimonial

“The speaking tests provide an excellent opportunity for the students to converse in natural English with a foreigner they haven't met before, which is a very useful skill. They build confidence and, most importantly, are fun! Students may be nervous and shy at first but usually the tests result in a lot of laughter and interesting discussion. The tests turn English from an abstract set of grammatical rules that need to be memorised into a useful, real-world tool with positive effects.”

-ALT

## Tips on Student Levels

### Slow Learners

- Allow extra time for questions.
- Speak slowly.
- Rephrase sentences.
- Reread questions.
- Be patient.
- Support their words.
- Let them recall their speech outside.

### Advanced Learners

- Ask many questions.
- Challenge them with harder questions.
- Give them the full time to express themselves- don't finish early!
- Go off topic.

## Timeline and Applying for Speech Test

- JTEs of City Schools please request ALTs from BOE about 2 months before the test (see pages 16-17).
- 注意！① 必要なALTの人数の決定 ② テスト時間割とALT派遣依頼書の教育委員会への提出
- JTEs ask teachers of other years to see if they would like to participate.
- JTEs make a schedule. Schedule example is in the manual.
- JTEs and ALTs introduce the speech test to students about one month before testing.

## Tips for Applying for Speech Test

- Decide when is the best time for students to take the test.
  - **Third years** are busy after December, so earlier is better. 3年生のスピーチテストは、生徒や先生が高校入試の準備等で多用になる前に、11月または12月に実施できるように計画することが望ましいでしょう。
  - Third semester is easier for **first and second years**. 1年生および2年生のスピーチテストは、3学期に実施できるように計画することがよいでしょう。生徒は冬休みの課題としてスピーチテスト原稿を書くことができます。
- To request ALTs for speech tests in the second semester, please submit by **August 1<sup>st</sup>**. 2学期のスピーチテストでALTを派遣依頼するためには、**8月1日**までに派遣依頼書を提出してください。
- To request ALTs for speech tests in the third semester, please submit by **December 1<sup>st</sup>**. 3学期にスピーチテストでALTを派遣依頼するためには、**12月1日**までに派遣依頼書を提出してください。

## Speech Test Manual

<http://kumamotojet.com/documents/speechtestmanual.pdf>

Part 4

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**Q and A**

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