

Description of English Proficiency Test

The computerized oral English Proficiency Test is an evaluation of your speaking and pronunciation of English. The test takes about 15 minutes and is conducted on a computer with a microphone on the headset. Test-takers are expected to present themselves at an assigned computer lab on WPI campus by appointment and sit for the relatively short test.

The English Proficiency Test has six different tasks that the test-taker has to complete; all tasks are oral and will be recorded and scored electronically. The tasks are described below. Test-takers are expected to speak loud and clearly and complete the following six (6) kinds of exercises:

- In the very beginning of the test, the test taker will be instructed to read aloud 12 sentences. The challenge is to pronounce the words clearly and to use the correct intonation and enunciation.
- Next, the test taker will be asked to listen to and repeat sentences verbatim.
- Third, the test taker is asked questions, such as “Would you get water from a bottle or a newspaper?” A simple answer would be “from a bottle.”
- The fourth task is to build sentences by listening to word groups (e.g., “through the hall,” “was walking,” and “my teacher”) and then re-arranging each set of word groups into a coherent sentence, such as “My teacher was walking through the hall.”
- Then the test-taker will listen to one of three stories which must be re-told with as many details from the story as possible, including the situation, the characters, action and ending.
- Finally, the test-taker will hear two questions about family or personal choices. Each question will be spoken twice. At the appropriate time, the test-taker will have 40 seconds to answer the first questions before moving to the second one.