

Answer short question

Expert Strategy 3.2

In this part of the speaking section, you will hear a question which you need to answer. The answer will be short (usually one or a very small number of words) and you will have ten seconds to answer it. You will do 10–12 *Answer short question* tasks.

The screenshot shows the Pearson Test of English Academic interface. At the top, it says 'Pearson Test of English Academic - Katherine Marie Garcia' and 'Time Remaining 00:11:36'. Below this, there are instructions: 'You will hear a question. Please give a simple and short answer. Often just one or a few words is enough.' To the right of the instructions, there is a label 'Instructions'. Below the instructions, there is an audio status box with 'Status: Playing' and a volume control slider. To the right of this box, there is a label 'Audio Status box and volume control'. Below the audio status box, there is a recording status box with 'Recorded Answer' and 'Current Status: Beginning in 8 seconds.' To the right of this box, there is a label 'Recording Status box that tells you when the microphone opens and when it closes'. At the bottom right of the interface, there is a 'Next' button.

EXPERT STRATEGIES

While you listen

- 1 Listen carefully to the question and decide what kind of information you need (e.g. a word to match a definition, an opposite, a phrase).

While you speak

- 2 Speak when the status bar changes to 'Recording'. This is not indicated by a tone.
- 3 Speak clearly, at normal speed and volume. If you speak too quickly or too quietly, it may be difficult to assess your answer.
- 4 Just give one word or one phrase as an answer. There is no need to say anything more.

Notes from the test developers

- Do not pause for more than two seconds. After three seconds, the recording stops and you cannot re-open the microphone.
- Save time on the test: once you have given an answer, click on 'Next' and move on to the next question.
- Do not waste time giving full answers. If the answer is *cat*, then *a cat*, *the cat*, *a cat does* or *it's a cat* will all be considered correct answers and will score the same.
- You do not need any special knowledge for these questions – they test your English, not your general knowledge.
- These tasks contribute to your listening and speaking scores. Pronunciation is not scored here.