

Speaking 1 (Read aloud; Answer short question)

Discussion


Pronunciation: Word stress and rhythm

Test practice 1:
Read aloud


► EXPERT STRATEGIES Lesson 3.1


- 1 How many languages is it possible for one person to learn, do you think? 2? 3? 10? 50?

To do well on speaking tasks, including *Read aloud*, you need to put stress in the appropriate places, for example, on the appropriate syllables of the main words. Doing this should produce a smooth rhythm.

- 2a  02 Listen to someone reading the text. As you listen, follow along, using a pen or pencil to point at the words.


Emil Krebs was a German translator and interpreter who worked in the early twentieth century. It has been said that he knew sixty to sixty-five languages, many of which he taught himself. Many scientists have wondered whether his brain was wired differently from other people's.

- b Did you move your pen/pencil smoothly across all words, or did you jump from main word to main word?
- 3a  02 Listen again and underline the syllables that the speaker stresses.
- b What do you notice about most of the words in which you underlined a syllable? What parts of speech are they?
- c How is the pronunciation of the unstressed syllables different from the stressed ones?
- 4 Work in pairs. Take turns to read the text in Exercise 2a aloud. Focus on stressing the syllables you underlined.
- 5 Do you believe what the text in Exercise 2a says?
- 6 Complete the task in pairs. Remember to stress the important words.

 35 secs. Look at the text below. In 35 seconds, you must read this text aloud as naturally and clearly as possible. You have 35 seconds to read aloud.

When they examined the brain of someone who understood many languages, scientists found that the area that governed speech did not have the same form as in most monolingual speakers' brains. What scientists don't know is whether language learning changes the brain or whether some people are born with this quality.

Task analysis


- 7a  03 Look at the text in Exercise 6 again and underline the syllables you stressed. Then listen to someone reading the text. Did he stress the same syllables as you?
- b Will you approach the task differently next time? If so, how?


Discussion

- 8 Look again at the last sentence of the text in Exercise 6. What is your opinion? Do you think talent is something that we are born with or something that we develop?

Test practice 2:
Answer short question

► EXPERT STRATEGIES Lesson 3.2

- 9  04 Complete the task in pairs. You will hear six questions.

 10 secs. You will hear a question. Please give a simple and short answer. Often just one or a few words is enough.