

BEST Plus 3.0 Language Complexity Reference Sheet

Language Complexity refers to how the examinee organizes and elaborates the response. Different types of questions require different levels of linguistic complexity in their responses. Sometimes a one-word answer is appropriate. Sometime sentences, strings of sentences, or more complex language is needed to give an appropriate response. In rating this category, you will need to listen for several things. Is the response an appropriate word, phrase, sentence, or string of sentences? How complex is the grammar? Is the detail provided minimal or clearly beyond basic? Is the response organized and cohesive?

Score	Rubric Description	Examples	Notes
4	Sustains a variety of structures; develops an idea in detail (using reasons, examples, explanations, descriptions, etc.); vocabulary more precise; response cohesive and often organized.	Oh, I have no experience here in the United States, but from what I heard it's not easy to go to a doctor here because it is very expensive if you don't have any health insurance. Maybe I can compare it with Germany because I don't know a lot about Cameroon. So in Germany you just have to pay your insurance. So you pay monthly. It is not expensive at all, maybe 45 Euro, it's like \$50, and you access in all, at all branches in the medicine. And here I have my friend, she told me she went to see a doctor. It was last Saturday. She has to pay seventy, seventy dollars! It's like my, what I paid for the month, my monthly insurance in Germany. It's very expensive here.	Develops an idea in detail using reasons, examples, precise vocabulary, and complex grammatical structures; cohesive response
3	Uses strings of several sentences to provide additive detail , often through phrases and clauses (e.g., prepositional phrases, adverbial clauses, subordination); elaboration clearly beyond minimum	Umm... I think the best way to find a home is by asking to a neighbor, to friends. Em, where can we find a affordable house or apartment. [Tell me more] And uh... because sometimes in... some areas are very expensive. And we prefer to pay less than more. So, that's why when I need to move to another apartment for some reason, I ask first to my um friends and family. Umm... Here you can... If you want to see a doctor you call somebody first to make an appointment. And then you can wait for hours or for days. They can let you know when exactly you has to be, you has to see the doctor. In my country it is different because if you want to see the doctor right now, you can see it. So the only thing has to do is to go to the doctor and make a line and the doctor will see you. That's a big difference. So... right there we don't call the doctor first.	Strings of several sentences to provide additive detail; use of adverbial phrases and subordinate clauses; elaboration clearly beyond minimum Strings of several sentences to provide additive detail; use of prepositional phrases and subordinate clauses; elaboration clearly beyond minimum
2	Uses long strings of phrases or well-formed sentence(s) with emerging complexity (e.g., use of "because" "if," "but") to provide some additional detail that is minimal but beyond basic	No, in my country is more easy to go to the doctor. Yeah. Because they... there is very... plan for health for the, for the people. Here is very expensive to go to the doctor. Very expensive. It is different in that my country. My country no is very expensive visit the doctor. Umm... I decided to buy my food in the Spanish stores--well--to buy the same food I eat in my country.	Strings of multiple phrases; use of "because;" some additional detail but repeats and rephrases the same information A well-formed sentence. Use of complementation to add detail (i.e., "to buy the same food...")
1	Words, phrase(s), or simple sentence(s) (i.e., S-V-O) used to provide basic information with no elaboration; limited vocabulary	Em... For more... work more hours... more money... I think. I buy the food in Giant and Shopper and Safeway.	Words, phrases; no elaboration; limited vocabulary Simple sentence; no elaboration
0	No response, response incomprehensible, or response inappropriate		