

2.4 Language assessment

Activities

Activity 1: Your views on assessment

Think about your own experience as a teacher of English, focusing on why and how you usually assess your learners.

- To what extent do you agree with the statements below and why?

In the table below, indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with each of the statements and then provide one or two reasons explaining your views.

	Strongly disagree (1)	Disagree (2)	Neither agree nor disagree (3)	Agree (4)	Strongly agree (5)
a) Learners should sound like native speakers when speaking.					
b) Tests and grades are important to evaluate success in the classroom.					
c) Written/oral feedback is an important part of the learning process.					
d) My learners use self-assessment in language tasks.					
e) The primary goal of speaking tasks is communication.					

Write your views in the text box below.

Activity 2: Your assessment practices

- What informs your assessment practices the most?

From the list below, select up to 3 items depending on what you most frequently have in mind while assessing your learners.

- a) International high-stakes tests: meeting the needs of tests such as the TOEFL, IELTS or Cambridge Exam
- b) National tests: meeting the needs of the national tests
- c) Local tests: meeting the needs of tests for a local school, city or region
- d) Classroom assessment: demonstrating progress throughout a course
- e) Curriculum aims: meeting the needs of government/school set curriculum aims
- f) A high standard of British English: training my students to a very high standard, as close as possible to perfect British English
- g) A high standard of native English: training my students to a very high standard, accepting both British and North American forms
- h) A high proficiency of a non-native variety: accepting non-native variances and encouraging their use
- i) Communicative ability: demonstrating communicative competences through interactive activities

Activity 3: Reviewing textbook and learning activities

Think about your own experience as a teacher of English and the issues discussed in the video of this section.

- Review part of the textbook or learning materials used in your classroom and consider the following questions:
 - Are native speaker norms used to measure oral skills?
 - Are formative or alternative assessment practices included?
 - Is communication the goal or linguistic perfection?
- On this basis, how could you adapt one of the assessment strategy or technique in your textbook or even create an ELF-aware one? Provide an example.

Write your views in the text box below.

Activity 4: Observation form

Review the observation form discussed in the video. You can find it in the “Supplementary Materials” part of this Section.

Think about your own experience as a teacher of English and the issues discussed in the video of this section.

- Would it be possible to observe your learners while engaged in an oral activity in the classroom?
- Could you use this form in your classroom to assess learners’ oral skills?
- How would you want to adapt this observation form for your local context?

Write your views in the text box below.

