PTE SPEAKING PRACTICE PAPER

READ ALOUD

Look at the text below. In 40 seconds, you must read this text aloud as naturally and clearly as possible. You have 40 seconds to read aloud.

1. Legal writing is usually less discursive than writing in other humanities subjects, and precision is more important than variety. Sentence structure should not be too complex; it is usually unnecessary to make extensive use of adjectives or adverbs, and consistency of terms is often required.
2. First-year university students have designed and built a ground-breaking electric car that recharges itself. Fifty students from the University of Sydney's Faculty of Engineering spent five months cobbling together bits of plywood, foam and fibreglass to build the ManGo concept car. They developed the specifications and hand-built the car. It's a pretty radical design: a four-wheel drive with a motor in each wheel.
3. Blue is the most popular colour. Food researchers disagree – when humans searched for food, they learned to avoid toxic or spoiled objects, which were often blue, black, or purple. When food dyed blue is served to study subjects, they lose their appetite.
4. Hundreds of millions of people eat fast food every day without giving it much thought. They just unwrap their hamburgers and dig in. An hour or so later, when the burger's all gone and the wrapper's been tossed into the garbage, the whole meal has already been forgotten.
5. This year the National Environmental Science Competition received excellent undergraduate and postgraduate entries from all across the country, with a wide range of projects. We are delighted that our awards are encouraging exciting and valuable projects that go beyond research and analysis to develop solutions for a number of key problems. Information about the shortlisted projects will be posted on our website in the first week of June.

REPEAT SENTENCE

You will hear a sentence. Please repeat the sentence exactly as you hear it. You will hear the sentence only once.

1. This lecture was meant to start at 10.
2. All sources of materials must be included in your bibliography.
3. The new English classes will start next Monday morning.
4. There's a range of healthy options near the university.
5. Our school of Arts and Technology accepts applications that all points throughout the year.
6. The rules on breaks in lunch hour vary from company to company.
7. Every living thing begins as a single cell.
8. It is argued that students can learn more in collaborative rather than individual tasks.
9. All our university buildings are still in use.
10. Children are not allowed to be in the lab at any time.

DESCRIBE IMAGE

Look at graph below. In 25 seconds, please speak into the microphone and describe in detail what the graph is showing. You will have 40 seconds to give your response.

1.

Teaching as a career	
Final year students who want to be a teacher	1%
Graduate students working in teaching	7%
Employed in teaching field	95%

2.

Teaching as a career	
Final year students who want to be a teacher	1%
Graduate students working in teaching	7%
Employed in teaching field	95%

3.

Teaching as a career	
Final year students who want to be a teacher	1%
Graduate students working in teaching	7%
Employed in teaching field	95%

4.

Teaching as a career	
Final year students who want to be a teacher	1%
Graduate students working in teaching	7%
Employed in teaching field	95%

5.

Teaching as a career	
Final year students who want to be a teacher	1%
Graduate students working in teaching	7%
Employed in teaching field	95%

RE-TELL LECTURE

You will hear a lecture. After listening to the lecture, in 6 seconds, please speak into the microphone and retell what you have just heard from the lecture in your own words. You will have 40 seconds to give your response.

1. China is notorious for its heavy smog. "It's incredibly bad." Denise Mauzerall, an atmospheric scientist at Princeton. "The air pollution in eastern China can be so bad you can't clearly see across the street. It can feel like you're walking through a heavy fog that's burning your lungs." But smog has other damaging effects too. Mauzerall and her team have found that in winter months the smog in China's northeastern provinces is so severe that it blocks more than 20 percent of sunlight from reaching the region's solar panels. The findings, based on satellite data and photovoltaic performance models, are in the proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences. One solution to the problem might be installing even more solar. "There's this virtuous cycle—whereas if you use more solar electricity, you can reduce your use of coal. And that will reduce the air pollution levels, and that will then allow you to generate more solar electricity." China hopes to harvest 10 percent of its electricity from solar by 2030. They'll need 400 gigawatts, or about 10 times what we have installed in the U.S. today. It's an optimistic forecast for solar and hopefully, for China's air quality, too.
2. For 4,500 years, the Great Pyramid, or Khufu's Pyramid, has kept watch over the Egyptian desert. In that time, it's suffered the indignities of tomb raiders and gunpowder-toting archaeologists, a la Indiana Jones. But the latest investigation of the pyramid's mysteries is far more sophisticated—and takes a page from particle physics. Scientists used muons, a by-product of the cosmic rays constantly raining down on our planet, to image the interior of the pyramid. The particles interact differently with stone than with empty space—and that fact led the scientists to discover a previously unknown 100-foot-long void, sitting somewhere above the pyramid's Grand Gallery. "The good news is the void is there, the other good news is that this void is very big. Now what is it? We need the help of other people." Mehdi Tayoubi, of the Heritage Innovation Preservation Institute, and an author of a paper detailing the findings in the journal Nature. "Maybe Egyptologists and specialists in ancient Egyptian architecture will provide us with some hypotheses we can use for simulation and to compare with the data we have to find some sort of architectural explanation for this void." Until then—the newly discovered space will be just one of many enduring mysteries of this very old wonder of the world.
3. The goal for a lot of tech companies today: figure out what you, their customer, want next, before you even ask. It's driven by something called similarity search. "If you go to YouTube and you watch a video they're going to suggest similar videos to the one you're watching. That's similarity search. If you go to Amazon and look for similar products to the one you're going to buy, that's similarity search." Saket Navlakha, a

computer scientist at the Salk Institute. He says… we do similarity searches, too, for example, when we scan faces in a crowd for the one we know. And even fruit files do a version, related to smell: "So the fly is having to solve a similar problem, of kind of searching through its database of previous experiences and previous odors that it has smelled, to determine what should be the most appropriate behavioral response to that odor." But flies tag incoming odors differently from the way modern search algorithms parse similarity. A small group of neurons makes an initial evaluation of the smell. Then a much larger set of neurons is activated to make a final decision about the smell. Rather than the way a computer similarity search does it, taking something with many dimensions, and simplifying it down to a few. So Navlakha and his colleagues tweaked computer similarity search functions to do it fly style. And then pitted the fly-inspired algorithms against conventional ones. And the biologically inspired code won out, better at telling "like" from "unlike" on an image-similarity test. "You know evolution figured it out, it figured out a very elegant solution to this very important problem." The report is in the journal Science. Navlakha says he and his team are looking to partner with tech companies now, in hopes of endowing machines with the time-tested problem-solving abilities of the brain. Even if it's a fruit fly brain.

4. Happy New Year! And if you've been away from work for a few days, you deserve some time off. After all, you've traveled far. Even if you just stayed at home. According to NASA, just by being on the planet Earth in the last year, you've zipped about 584 million miles around the sun. At an average speed of about 67,000 miles per hour. [Siren sound.] Hey, I wasn't speeding—in my inertial reference frame. Of course, the trip was not a perfect circle. As Kepler showed, the Earth's orbit is an ellipse, with the sun at one of the two focal points. He also figured out the planet goes faster when it's at perihelion, nearer the sun, than when it's at aphelion, its farthest distance. Which would explain why summer seems to zip by, except that the seasons are a function of the tilt of the Earth's axis, not its different distances from the sun. And the Earth rotated 365 and a quarter times during its sweep around the sun. The trip took 8,766 hours or 525,960 minutes or 31,557,600 seconds.
5. The more astronomers study the heavens, the more they realize: our solar system is weird. "There are a few things that make the solar system kind of strange." Lauren Weiss, an astrophysicist at the University of Montreal. "One of which is we have a giant planet. Only about 10 percent of sun like stars has a giant planet. And there are probably even fewer that have two giant planets." In addition to giant Jupiter and lesser giant Saturn, we have tiny Mercury—just a bit bigger than Earth's moon. So if

we’re weird, what does a typical solar system look like? Weiss and her team trained their telescopes on 355 star systems known to host a handful of small exoplanets. And they found that most of the planets within individual star systems tended to be similar in size. "So if I'm a planet, and I'm, say, two times the size of Earth, my neighbor, the next planet over, is also likely to be two times the size of Earth, give or take a little bit." And they were strung out at similar distances from each other too…like peas in a pod, she says. Compared to that orderly array, our system looks more like, "Uh let's see, if I stick with food…I don't know…like a whole Thanksgiving dinner or something?" The results are in The Astronomical Journal. As for hunting for habitable worlds: "If we're trying to find an Earth-sized planet in the habitable zone”—not too close to the star but not too far away either—"and we find an Earth-sized planet closer in, it might be worthwhile to continue searching for planets around that star." Because there might just be a few more peas in the pod.

ANSWER SHORT QUESTIONS

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

1. What type of shape has four corners, four lines that are equal in length?
2. What is the fluid that pumped from the organ related to cardiology?
3. In the word ‘postgraduate’, what does the ‘post’ mean?
4. How do you describe the type of magazine that is published four times a year?
5. If you want to read tragedies or comedies, what kind of book do you read?