

VersantTM for English Test Instructions (Read this first)

The Versant for English test is presented by computer over the telephone using the Ordinate® testing system. It tests your ability to speak English and to understand spoken English at a conversational pace. You will need to read aloud, repeat sentences, answer questions, and build sentences.

Procedure. First, take time to read the whole test paper. If there are words or sentences that you don't understand, you may use a dictionary or ask a friend or a teacher for help. When you are ready to begin the test, use an appropriate telephone to call the telephone number printed on the test paper. When asked, you will enter the Test Identification Number using the buttons on your telephone keypad. You will take the test on your own by following the directions given over the telephone. Relax, concentrate, and do your best. If you do not know how to respond to a test item, just be silent or say “*I don't know.*”

Test Sections. The test has five sections (Part A, B, C, D and E) as follows:

- Part A:** Follow the instructions to read some sentences from among those printed in Part A. Read the sentences in the order requested, which may be different from the order shown. Read aloud as smoothly and naturally as you can.
- Part B:** Repeat each sentence you hear – exactly as you hear it. Repeat as much of each sentence as you can.
- Part C:** Answer the questions that are asked with a single word or a short phrase of two or three words.
- Part D:** You will hear three word groups. Say a reasonable sentence built from these three word groups.
- Part E:** You will hear each question twice. After you hear a tone, speak your opinion as fully and clearly as you can using the 20 seconds provided until you hear the next tone. Express your opinion and supporting reasons in clear, coherent English. Any opinion is acceptable. Speak for the whole 20 second period.

When you hear: “*Thank you for calling the Ordinate Testing System.*” the test is complete; you may hang up.

Criteria. Versant for English test scores are based on the exact words that you speak, as well as the pace, fluency, and pronunciation of those words as combined in phrases and sentences. Give quick, smooth, loud responses. Note that some test items have more than one correct answer.

Suggestions. Place your call to the Ordinate testing system on a good telephone in a suitable location. Choose a location that is quiet and where you will not be interrupted. At the beginning of your call, the Ordinate testing system will tell you if you are speaking too loudly or too quietly. Hold the phone as shown in the figure below and speak in a loud, steady voice. Use a push-button telephone in good working order that is set to “tone” (not “pulse”). Newer phones are generally better than older phones. Do not use a cordless, cellular phone, or VOIP phones. If you do not know how to respond to a test item, then remain silent or say “*I don't know.*”

