

## Chapter 2: Fluency and Coherence (FC)

(Suggested Answers)

### Part I. What does Fluency and Coherence (FC) mean?

#### Activity 1. Filled pause and silent pause

Go to the corpus and use the 'Browse' function. Take a look at the FC performance of [Speaker 72](#) (Band 9.0). Can you find any filled pause and silent pause (duration  $\geq 0.4s$ )?

Answer:

13 filled pauses and 57 silent pauses (duration  $\geq 0.4s$ ) can be found.

#### Activity 2. Which is a better answer?

Question: Tell me about the place you are living. (On Length)

Answer:

A is better because the length is more appropriate (i.e., not too short and not too long).

#### Activity 3. Repetition and Self-correction

Go to the corpus and take a look at the performance of any Band 5.0 speaker. Can you list at least one repetition and self-correction?

Suggested answer: [Speaker 1](#) (Band 5.0)

Repetition:

I'm a, I'm, I'm an undergraduate student studying in XX university and major in Business English.

Self-correction:

I'm a, I'm, I'm an undergraduate student studying in XX university and major in Business English.

### Part II. What are the features of a high-band performance?

#### Activity 4. Searching the corpus

Question 1: In [Speaker 9](#), how many discourse markers and connectives have been identified? Can you give two examples?

Answer:

14 discourse markers and connectives are identified, e.g., *because* and *absolutely*.

Question 2: In [Speaker 56](#), how many discourse markers and connectives have been identified? Can you give two examples?

Answer:

20 discourse markers and connectives are identified, e.g., *for example* and *I don't think*.

*Activity 5. How fast do they speak?*

Go to the corpus and use the 'Browse' function. Look at the general comments for any two speakers (one should be from Band 5.0 / 5.5 and another one should be from Band 8.0 / 8.5). Can you tell how fast they speak?

Suggested answer:

	<b>Speech rate</b>
<a href="#">Speaker 71</a> (Band 8.5)	256.28 syllables/minute (max: 326.85 syllables/minute; min: 182.19 syllables/minute)
<a href="#">Speaker 11</a> (Band 5.0)	63.01 syllables/minute (max: 100.84 syllables/minute; min: 39.44 syllables/minute)

### **Teaching corner: Justify their levels**

Go to the corpus and listen to the performances by the two speakers below. Can you give some justifications for the levels they get based on the key indicators of Fluency and Coherence (FC)?

Speaker A (Band 5.5)

[Part 2](#)

Speaker B (Band 6.5)

[Part 2](#)

Answer:

Speaker A got Band 5.5 because she had only employed 24 discourse markers and connectives. There were quite a lot of repetitions as well. She had also produced some long silent pause (1.0s and 1.2s) and her overall speech rate was quite slow which made her speech less natural.

<b>Key indicators</b>	<b>Occurrences</b>
Repetitions	14
Self-corrections	4
Discourse markers & connectives	24
Length	120.74s
Speech rate	115.79 syllables/minute
Pausing	105

Speaker B got Band 6.5 because he had employed 41 discourse markers and connectives. The number of repetitions was minimum. Although he had produced some long silent pauses (1.3s and 1.7s), his speech rate was faster which contributed to a more natural speech.

<b>Key indicators</b>	<b>Occurrences</b>
Repetitions	6
Self-corrections	1
Discourse markers & connectives	41
Length	description – 118.22s; question – 4.78s
Speech rate	description – 166.47 syllables/minute;



	question – 225.94 syllables/minute
Pausing	100

For sample comments from professional English teacher, please visit: <https://ielts.s.eduhk.hk/>

[https://corpus.eduhk.hk/english\\_speech\\_corpus/](https://corpus.eduhk.hk/english_speech_corpus/)