





Common Features of Fluency and Coherence (FC) for Learners of Different Proficiency Levels



Band \ Key indicator	5.0 – 5.5	6.0 – 6.5	7.0 – 7.5	8.0 or above
Word number	Smallest among the four groups			Largest among the four groups
Repetition occurrence		Largest among the four groups	Smallest among the four groups	
Self-correction occurrence		Largest among the four groups		Smallest among the four groups
Mean speech rate	Smallest among the four groups		Largest among the four groups	
Maximum speech rate	Smallest among the four groups		Largest among the four groups	
Minimum speech rate	Smallest among the four groups			Largest among the four groups
Total number of pauses	Largest among the four groups			Smallest among the four groups
Total duration of pauses	Largest among the four groups		Smallest among the four groups	
Total number of filled pauses	Largest among the four groups			Smallest among the four groups
Total duration of filled pauses	Largest among the four groups			Smallest among the four groups
Maximum filled pause	Largest among the four groups			Smallest among the four groups
Minimum filled pause	Smallest among the four groups		Smallest among the four groups	Largest among the four groups
Total number of silent pauses (<0.4s)	Largest among the four groups			Smallest among the four groups
Total duration of silent pauses (<0.4s)	Largest among the four groups			Smallest among the four groups
Maximum silent pause (<0.4s)	Largest among the four groups		Largest among the four groups	
Minimum silent pause (<0.4s)				
Total number of silent pauses (>0.4s)	Largest among the four groups		Smallest among the four groups	

 Smallest among the four groups
 Largest among the four groups

Key indicator \ Band	5.0 – 5.5	6.0 – 6.5	7.0 – 7.5	8.0 or above
Total duration of silent pauses at the end of a phrase or sentence (>0.4s)				
Maximum silent pause at the end of a phrase or sentence (>0.4s)				
Minimum silent pause at the end of a phrase or sentence (>0.4s)				
Total number of silent pauses at the end of a phrase or sentence (<0.4s)				
Total duration of silent pauses at the end of a phrase or sentence (<0.4s)				
Maximum silent pause (<0.4s)				
Minimum silent pause (<0.4s)				
Total number of silent pauses (>0.4s)				
Total duration of silent pauses (>0.4s)				
Maximum silent pause (>0.4s)				
Minimum silent pause (>0.4s)				
Total number of discourse markers				
Number of discourse marker types				
Total number of discourse markers (connectives, i.e., and)				
Total number of discourse markers (order/sequence, i.e., first)				

 Smallest among the four groups
 Largest among the four groups

Band Key indicator	5.0 – 5.5	6.0 – 6.5	7.0 – 7.5	8.0 or above
Total number of discourse markers (monitor, i.e., what I mean is)				
Total number of discourse markers (response, i.e., OK)				
Total number of discourse markers (attitude, i.e., frankly)				
Total number of discourse markers (soften, i.e., probably)				
Total number of discourse markers (comparing & contrasting, i.e., instead of)				
Total number of discourse markers (examples, i.e., for instance)				
Total number of discourse markers (stalling, i.e., it's hard to say...)				
Total number of discourse markers (result, i.e., as a result)				
Total number of discourse markers (generalizing, i.e., broadly speaking)				
Total number of discourse markers (others, i.e., yippee)				

 Smallest among the four groups
 Largest among the four groups

How to understand this list?

- For the most frequent features found in groups with higher band scores (7.0 – 7.5 and 8.0 or above), they are either (a) positive features which may lead to higher band scores, or (b) negative features which may have minimal effect on the overall performance.
- For the most frequent features found in groups with lower band scores (5.0 – 5.5 and 6.0 – 6.5), they are either (a) negative features which may lead to lower band scores, or (b) positive features which may have minimal effect on the overall performance.