

Technical Requirements

Hardware

Component	Minimum Requirement	Recommended Specification
Processor	Intel Core i3 (10th Gen+), AMD Ryzen 3, Apple M1 at 2.0 GHz+	Intel Core i7+, Ryzen 5+, Apple M1+ at 2.5 GHz+
Free CPU Cores	Minimum 2 cores available	3-4 cores available
CPU Idle Usage	Below 30% before test launch	Below 15%
RAM	4 GB (at least 2 GB free before launch)	8 GB (at least 4 GB free)
Disk Space	10 GB free or 10% of total capacity	20 GB free
Graphics	512 MB internal / 1 GB external graphics memory	1 GB internal / 1.5 GB external graphics memory
Headphones	Over-ear closed-back with good padding. Noise cancelling recommended with a microphone on a boom. See below.	
Microphone	Attached to headset via a boom (flexible stalk) Noise-cancelling or directional (minimum) USB or standard stereo connection (Bluetooth not supported) Do not use built-in computer microphones	
Webcam	640x480 Required on all computers and laptops used by candidates	

Software

Operating System	Windows 10 (64-bit) supported until 15 October 2025 Windows 11 Apple Macs running macOS 13 (Ventura) and later
Browser	The Talview Secure Browser must be installed on all candidate computers when used. https://pages.talview.com/securebrowser/ The Secure Browser cannot be used with Chromebooks.

Network


Internet bandwidth	5 - 10 Mbps upload and download per candidate (local network speed)
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Speaking Test Set up

The Linguaskill speaking test uses HTML5 so a compatible browser must be used to run the test.

Web Browser	Linguaskill Compatible Browser?
Google Chrome	✓
Newer versions of Microsoft Edge (version 93+)	✓

You must only have one headset enabled on your computer. Follow the instructions below to disable other devices:

Windows 10/11	Apple Mac OS
In the Windows task bar, click the sound icon  and select Open sound settings . Open the Sound Control Panel .	Open Settings then the Sound option. Select any microphones that will not be used for the test and mute them by sliding the Input volume to the left.
In the Playback tab, right click on any devices that are not the headset you will use and click Disable .	Select the headset you will use for the test and set the Input volume to maximum.
Click on the Recording tab and disable any other recording devices, apart from the one that will be used for the test.	

Adjust both your PC/laptop's volume setting and the setting of the headset.

Run the [Technical Check](#) in Metrica to check audio and microphone settings are correct.

There is a further check at the start of the Speaking test to ensure the audio is working and responses are recorded. **Do not proceed with the test if you cannot hear yourself clearly on the test recording.**

- Ensure you only have one headset enabled
- Ensure you are using a HTML compatible browser
- Ensure your Internet is connected throughout
- Adjust PC and headset Volume
- Ensure the headset is not muted
- Check the headset can record
- Ensure the microphone is neither too close nor too far from your mouth
- The settings in any third-party Sound Controller applications are correct, or the application is disabled.

If you are still unable to get the recording to work after checking the above, please contact your centre.