

OET 2.0 PRACTICE
TESTS
NURSING - SPEAKING



Practice Test 1.

OET Speaking Role-play

EXAMINER CARD NO. 1 | NURSING

SETTING	Hospital Casualty Ward
PATIENT	You are in hospital following a road accident. You are not seriously injured but have lost blood and have been told that you need a blood transfusion. You have no idea what the procedure will involve. You are anxious about the procedure and the danger of receiving infected blood. You have read that patients have contracted HIV through blood transfusions.
TASK	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Seek an explanation from the nurse about the procedure and the risks involved. Express your fear of contracting HIV.• You are anxious and upset. Respond to the nurse's reassurances accordingly.• Eventually agree to have the transfusion.

OET Speaking Role-play

CANDIDATE CARD NO. 1 | NURSING

SETTING	Hospital Casualty Ward
NURSE	The patient is in hospital following a road accident. The patient's condition is stable, but he/she has lost blood and needs a blood transfusion. The patient does not understand what will happen. The patient is anxious about the procedure and the danger of receiving infected blood, and for example, contracting HIV.
TASK	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Explain the procedure for a blood transfusion (e.g., sterile conditions, new syringes, nurses watch closely, etc.).• Reassure the patient that the possibility of infection is very small (as care is taken to screen donors and test donated blood for possible infection).• Stress that the patient really needs the transfusion in order to recover fully.

OET Speaking Role-play

EXAMINER CARD NO. 2 | NURSING

SETTING	Community Health Centre
PATIENT	Your six year-old son has just cut his finger on his right hand with a kitchen knife that was left on the kitchen bench. The finger won't stop bleeding, and you are panicking about it. Your child is afraid of doctors and you have to weigh this consideration against your concern about his finger. You are also worried about possible scarring.
TASK	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Outline what happened. Explain that the cut looks deep to you, your child is in pain and you are very worried. Shouldn't your son have stitches?• Convey your anxiety and uncertainty to the nurse. Ask how long the finger will take to heal and if it will scar. Ask when your son, who is right-handed, will be able to use this hand properly again.• Ask the nurse what to do about your son's finger.• If the question of your responsibility for the injury comes up, be defensive. You're a busy person and can't spend every minute of your day watching him.

OET Speaking Role-play

CANDIDATE CARD NO. 2 | NURSING

SETTING	Community Health Centre
NURSE	A parent's six-year-old son has cut his finger, which is bleeding freely. You examine the cut, which is not too serious, and you don't think he needs stitches.
TASK	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Find out how the cut happened.• Reassure the parent. Answer his/her questions about length of time for healing, scarring, whether stitches are necessary, etc.• Explain how to clean, apply antiseptic, and dress the cut suitably. Point out the need to keep the finger clean and dry.• Tactfully warn the parent about keeping sharp objects out of reach of children.

Practice Test 2.

OET Speaking Role-play

EXAMINER CARD NO. 1 | NURSING

SETTING Community Health Centre

PATIENT You are visiting your local health centre to obtain information about your mother's most recent health report. Your mother is now eighty years old and is becoming somewhat vague. She is a very independent person and does not like your interfering in her personal affairs. However, she told you recently that when she had her three-monthly check-up, the doctor said her cholesterol level was fairly high. The purpose of your visit is to learn more about cholesterol and how best to reduce it.

- TASK**
- Find out what cholesterol is.
 - Ask what the doctor meant by a fairly high level of cholesterol.
 - Ask what the nurse considers your mother's cholesterol level should be.
 - Ask for advice about what your mother should do to lower her cholesterol level.

OET Speaking Role-play

CANDIDATE CARD NO. 1 | NURSING

SETTING Hospital Casualty Ward

NURSE The son/daughter of an eighty-year-old woman has come to ask for information about cholesterol. He/she wants information about his/her mother's current cholesterol level and how best to reduce it.

- TASK**
- Be prepared to inform the visitor about what cholesterol is (fat-like material present in the blood and most tissues) and about the types of cholesterol (high density lipoproteins (HDL) – good, low density lipoproteins (LDL) – bad).
 - Explain that if the fatty deposits are lodged in the arteries, this can lead to heart disease or stroke.
 - Explain what the doctor meant by a fairly high level of cholesterol (i.e., elevated about 5.5 mmols/litre in the blood).
 - Advise your visitor how his/her mother can best deal with her cholesterol (e.g., avoid saturated fats and eat more fibre, etc.).

OET Speaking Role-play

EXAMINER CARD NO. 2 | NURSING

SETTING	Emergency Department
PATIENT	You are 35. You were involved in a car accident earlier today and are suffering from whiplash and a headache. You are feeling sorry for yourself and are impatient to be better.
TASK	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ask why you have been kept in hospital for so long, given there are no signs of broken bones, cuts or bruises.• Ask why you are being given medication.• Ask if physiotherapy would help and ask about the length of treatment. How long before you are better?• Ask if there is anything else you need to know. Stress that you want to recover as soon as possible.• Ask if there could be 'after effects' or on-going problems as a result of your accident.

OET Speaking Role-play

CANDIDATE CARD NO. 2 | NURSING

SETTING	Emergency Department
NURSE	This 35-year-old patient was involved in a car accident earlier today and is now suffering from a headache and whiplash (an injury to the cervical spine). He/she is being kept in the hospital for observation but is expected to be discharged later in the day.
TASK	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Explain to the patient why he/she is being kept in the hospital.• Advise the patient on the reason for taking and continuing to take medication, and ways of managing the pain once he/she returns home (e.g., with head/ice, analgesics, a collar etc.).• Discuss the benefits of consulting a physiotherapist about exercise and relaxation exercises to loosen up the joints.• Explain that you cannot be sure how long the patient will take to recover fully.• Stress the importance of the treatment and exercise program.• Stress the importance of seeking medical advice if there is any increased pain or discomfort, nausea, vomiting, or vision problems.

Practice Test 3.

OET Speaking Role-play

EXAMINER CARD NO. 1 | NURSING

SETTING Hospital Ward

PATIENT Last night, following an acute attack of asthma, your family brought you into the emergency department of your local hospital for treatment. You have never had an asthma attack prior to this one. Currently you are being held in the hospital for observation purposes. You anticipate that you will be discharged within 2-3 hours and you realise that you know little about asthma, e.g., what causes it, how it is treated, and possible long-term effects.

- TASK**
- Express concern about your condition.
 - Find out about asthma, its causes and how it can be treated. You have heard stories about people dying from asthma attacks.
 - Be anxious about the proposal to use a Ventolin inhaler – people have told you about its misuse.
 - Ask about your long-term prospects now that you have had an asthma attack and been held in hospital overnight for observation.

OET Speaking Role-play

CANDIDATE CARD NO. 1 | NURSING

SETTING Hospital Ward

NURSE This patient was brought into the emergency department of your hospital late last night suffering from an acute asthma attack. He/she is currently being held for observation. The patient has had a fright and is very concerned about his/her condition.

- TASK**
- Explain what asthma is (e.g., a chronic disease of the airways, etc.)
 - Discuss the causes, such as environmental factors and an inherited predisposition.
 - Explain the treatment, for example, a Ventolin (salbutamol) inhaler, and how to use such an inhaler.
 - Discuss the prognosis for asthma patients.
 - Deal with the patient's anxiety about the problem, emphasising that asthma can be controlled.

OET Speaking Role-play

EXAMINER CARD NO. 2 | NURSING

SETTING Reception Centre at a Public Hospital

PATIENT You are visiting a nearby public hospital with your 81-year old father. Your father has recently been diagnosed as suffering from kidney failure. Consequently, he is to undergo a tri-weekly dialysis program. Today is 'day one' of your father's dialysis treatment, and while you are waiting for him to have his personal details taken by the charge nurse, you decide to ask another nurse, who is on the reception deck, for information about your father's medical condition and the proposed treatment.

- TASK**
- Briefly explain the reason for your visit to the hospital.
 - Ask the nurse for some detailed information about your father's condition. What does kidney failure really mean?
 - You would like to know more about dialysis. What is it exactly? Why does your father have to come three times a week?
 - Ask if the dialysis will improve your father's condition.
 - Ask if the dialysis treatment is painful and if there are any side effects.
 - Explain that your father is 81 years old and then ask what could happen were he to decide not to continue his treatment.

OET Speaking Role-play

CANDIDATE CARD NO. 2 | NURSING

SETTING Reception Centre at a Public Hospital

NURSE You are working at the reception deck of a public hospital. The son/daughter of an 81-year-old man, who has recently been diagnosed as suffering from kidney failure and who is to undergo a tri-weekly dialysis program, has approached you to ask questions about his/her father's medical condition and proposed treatment.

- TASK**
- Explain what kidney failure is. Explain that the kidneys are no longer working, and what this means.
 - Describe what dialysis is (e.g., machine which cleans the blood, etc.)
 - Explain why his/her father's treatment is to happen three times a week.
 - Explain that his/her father's medical is unlikely to improve (i.e., it is very unlikely his kidneys will start working again).
 - Give details about whether the treatment is painful or has any side effects (fatigue, low blood pressure, muscle cramps, etc.)
 - Warn what could happen if dialysis treatment does not continue.

Practice Test 4.

OET Speaking Role-play

EXAMINER CARD NO. 1 | NURSING

SETTING Home Visit

PATIENT You have been diabetic for a number of years and have managed your diabetes with diet and tablets. However, your doctor wants you to start having insulin injections and has asked the district nurse to visit you at home to teach you how to give yourself these injections. You don't really understand why you have to have insulin injections. Also, you are very nervous about the procedure of injecting yourself.

- TASK**
- When asked by the nurse, stress that you feel you have been managing your diabetes well and don't want to commence insulin injections. Ask if there is another way to manage your diabetes.
 - When the nurse is explaining the procedure for giving the insulin injections, show that you are anxious about it.

OET Speaking Role-play

CANDIDATE CARD NO. 1 | NURSING

SETTING Home Visit

NURSE A general practitioner has asked you to visit a patient who has diabetes. Until recently the diabetes has been moderately well controlled by diet and oral medication. However, recently the patient's blood sugars have been high and the doctor has decided to commence insulin injections. The doctor wants you to show the patient how to give himself/herself the insulin injections.

- TASK**
- Find out how the patient feels about insulin injections.
 - Explain slowly and clearly the whole process of giving the injection (including using clean needles, administering the injection, sits for injection etc.).
 - Try to reassure the patient that he/she will be able to manage the injections.
 - Emphasise the importance of safe needle disposal (suitable containers, proper care and handling).

OET Speaking Role-play

EXAMINER CARD NO. 2 | NURSING

SETTING Children's Hospital

PATIENT Your three-year-old has been brought to hospital suffering from chest tightness, wheezing and difficulty breathing. You are extremely anxious as you fear your child has asthma. You have been waiting to see a doctor. A nurse is asking you questions about your child and you become agitated as all you want is a doctor to see your child immediately.

- TASK**
- Complain to the nurse that you have been waiting for the past hour and not seen a doctor.
 - Briefly explain your child's condition and that you are concerned your child has asthma.
 - Demand the nurse to tell you if your child is suffering from asthma.
 - Agitatedly tell the nurse you want the doctor to see your child immediately.
 - Reluctantly agree to allow the nurse to take observations of your child.

OET Speaking Role-play

CANDIDATE CARD NO. 2 | NURSING

SETTING Children's Hospital

NURSE A three-year-old child has been brought to hospital suffering from chest tightness, wheezing and dyspnoea. You suspect the child has asthma. The parent is anxious and becomes agitated whilst the child is waiting to see a doctor. You are the nurse taking the child's vital signs.

- TASK**
- Explain to the parent that the emergency department has been busy and as soon as a doctor becomes available, he/she will be over to see the child.
 - Ask the parent to briefly explain his/her condition.
 - Explain what the doctor will do (e.g., provide a diagnosis after a thorough medical assessment, etc.).
 - Reassure the parent that you are doing everything possible to take care of the child who is stable. A doctor will attend shortly.
 - Encourage the parent to relax and to allow you to attend to the child.
 - Explain that you need to continue taking the child's vital signs.

Practice Test 5.

OET Speaking Role-play

EXAMINER CARD NO. 1 | NURSING

SETTING Emergency Department

PATIENT You have been waiting at the Emergency Department for three hours with what you believe to be a cancerous lump on your neck. You have a family history of cancer, and you are concerned that you could have inherited cancer genes. The longer you have been waiting, the more time you have had to think about this, and you are becoming increasingly distressed.

- TASK**
- Explain your family history and the likelihood of having cancerous genes.
 - Refuse to accept the nurse's explanation for the lump and demand to see someone more qualified immediately.
 - React angrily and question how a cancer patient is not urgent.
 - Reluctantly accept to wait for longer.

OET Speaking Role-play

CANDIDATE CARD NO. 1 | NURSING

SETTING Emergency Department

NURSE A patient has been waiting at the Emergency Department for three hours with a large lump on their neck. They are distressed because they believe it could be cancerous. However, upon your initial examination, you believe a more likely cause is a bacterial infection. They are becoming increasingly distressed.

- TASK**
- Find out why the patient is feeling distressed.
 - Reassure the patient that you believe the cause for the lump is most likely to be a bacterial infection rather than cancer.
 - Explain tactfully that there are more urgent cases in the Emergency Department who require immediate attention.
 - Calm the patient and convince them to wait patiently for their turn.

OET Speaking Role-play

EXAMINER CARD NO. 2 | NURSING

SETTING GP Practice

PATIENT Your child has just turned two months old and you have arrived at the GP surgery for his/her first vaccinations. You have been dreading this day because the thought of someone putting a needle into your little baby is unthinkable.

- TASK**
- You are concerned. Ask the nurse how the vaccines will be administered.
 - You are increasingly anxious that this will be too much for your baby to handle. Tell the nurse that you can't imagine letting your baby be hurt and you aren't sure if you can go through with the vaccinations.
 - Agree that vaccinations are important. Ask what you can do to comfort your baby during the procedure

OET Speaking Role-play

CANDIDATE CARD NO. 2 | NURSING

SETTING GP Practice

NURSE You are carrying out routine immunisations for babies and children. A parent has brought their two-month-old baby in to get their first vaccinations, but they seem quite anxious.

- TASK**
- Explain which vaccinations the baby will be given today (e.g., a 6 in 1 vaccine including diphtheria, tetanus, whooping cough, polio, Hib and hepatitis B, the rotavirus vaccine and the meningitis vaccine)
 - Explain that the injections will be two small pricks on each thigh and an oral vaccine.
 - Stress the importance of giving vaccinations to a baby (e.g., young babies are vulnerable to infections which could be life-threatening or have life-long effects)
 - Reassure the parent that whilst the baby may initially cry, they can be soothed quickly (e.g., by giving Calpol, breastfeeding/giving a bottle)

Practice Test 6.

OET Speaking Role-play

EXAMINER CARD NO. 1 | NURSING

SETTING Nursing Home

PATIENT Your father is 75 years old and is in the late stages of dementia. Until now, he has been receiving assistance from home carers each day, but he is becoming increasingly incontinent. As a result, you have had to admit him to a nursing home for 24-hour care and you want to discuss your father's incontinence with the nurse.

- TASK**
- Explain that your father has been experiencing incontinence for the last 3 weeks. It used to happen once every so often but now it happens most days. You don't know the exact cause, but your father is confused quite easily and he often gets lost, even in his own house.
 - Once you realise that your father is confused to the point of not being able to find a bathroom, you feel upset. You tell the nurse that you can't imagine how embarrassed he must feel.
 - Ask the nurse about how the nursing home can help your father with this issue.

OET Speaking Role-play

CANDIDATE CARD NO. 1 | NURSING

SETTING Nursing Home

NURSE A 75-year-old man with advanced dementia has recently been admitted to your nursing home. The patient's son/daughter is concerned that the patient has been experiencing frequent incidents of incontinence and they want to talk to you about this issue.

- TASK**
- Find out more information on these incidents (e.g., when did they start, any known causes etc.)
 - Explain that it is likely that the patient suffers from functional incontinence (e.g., when someone becomes confused, and the patient is unable to find the bathroom and use the toilet)
 - Reassure the relative that their father is in the best place possible and that your nursing home is extremely well-equipped for patients with incontinence.
 - Discuss the solutions that will help with the patient's incontinence (e.g., having a brightly coloured bathroom door with a large image of a toilet on it, nurses create a bathroom schedule and remind patients regularly, toilets are in each bedroom to help with bathroom visits at night)

OET Speaking Role-play

EXAMINER CARD NO. 2 | NURSING

SETTING GP Surgery

PATIENT You require an FBC (Full Blood Count) blood test to check for an iron deficiency. You are extremely nervous and have a needle phobia. You are reluctant to have your blood taken.

- TASK**
- Act embarrassed but explain to the nurse that you can't stand needles. Ask the nurse if it will hurt and how long it will take.
 - You spot the needle on the side bench, and you start to panic. You really don't want to get the blood test.
 - You appreciate the techniques, but you want to know if the test is necessary. Surely there can be another way to test for iron deficiency.
 - Reluctantly agree and have the blood test.

OET Speaking Role-play

CANDIDATE CARD NO. 2 | NURSING

SETTING GP Surgery

NURSE A patient requires an FBC (Full Blood Count) blood test to check for an iron deficiency. The patient is extremely nervous and believes that they have a needle phobia. They are quite reluctant to have their blood taken.

- TASK**
- Explain the procedure for taking blood (e.g., tight band put around the arm, a needle attached to a syringe is inserted into a vein, etc.)
 - Reassure the patient and answer their questions (e.g., they should only feel a scratch, it only lasts a few seconds)
 - Discuss coping strategies with the patient (e.g., deep breathing, not looking at the needle, distractions, etc.)
 - Convince the patient to have the blood test (e.g., it is the quickest and most reliable method available)

Practice Test 7.

OET Speaking Role-play

EXAMINER CARD NO. 1 | NURSING

SETTING Emergency Department

PATIENT Your 15-year-old son was playing in a rugby match yesterday when he was injured from an illegal high tackle. He wanted to continue playing immediately after the incident and claimed that he was fine. However, later that day when he arrived home, he was nauseous and complaining of a sore head. You have brought him to the Emergency Department because you are afraid his injury is more severe than you thought.

- TASK**
- Explain that your son was playing in a rugby match, and he was running with the ball when another player illegally tackled him, and they had a clash of heads.
 - You become frustrated with the nurse because you don't think it is 'just a minor head injury'. You challenge the nurse to explain her diagnosis.
 - You become confused. Surely a child with a head injury should be kept in hospital for observations and proper care.
 - Reluctantly agree to take the boy home to recover but ask about when you should seek medical advice again.

OET Speaking Role-play

CANDIDATE CARD NO. 1 | NURSING

SETTING Emergency Department

NURSE A parent has brought their 15-year-old son to the Emergency Department with concerns that they have a concussion following an injury in a rugby game earlier that day. They seem quite anxious to be seen by a doctor.

- TASK**
- Find out details about the incident.
 - Check the boy's vital signs and reassure the patient it seems to only be a minor head injury.
 - Explain the difference between a minor head injury and a severe head injury (e.g., symptoms are mild and tend to not last long such as mild nausea, dizziness, or headaches) Tell the parent that they can return home.
 - Convince the parent that the boy will be much more comfortable recovering at home.
 - Explain how to manage the symptoms (e.g., ensure he rests often, avoids sports, takes paracetamol for pain relief, when necessary, etc.)
 - Advise the parent to return to the Emergency Department if the boy's symptoms do not improve in two weeks or if they get increasingly worse over the next 48 hours (e.g., vomiting, fainting, unconsciousness etc.)

OET Speaking Role-play

EXAMINER CARD NO. 2 | NURSING

SETTING Immunology Unit at Local Hospital

PATIENT You are 21 years old and have had several recent incidents where you ate foods which made you immediately vomit. You spoke to your GP who referred you to an immunologist to find out the cause for this reaction. You are nervous about the skin prick test and what it involves.

- TASK**
- Explain that the most recent incidents involved green pesto on a pizza and a chocolate hazelnut milkshake.
 - You don't understand how a skin prick test could pick up an allergy. Ask how the results are determined.
 - You are concerned that you will have a major reaction to one of the liquids put on your arm. Ask the nurse what might happen if you are allergic to one of them.
 - You still aren't convinced about having the skin prick test, ask if there are any other ways to have this allergen tested.

OET Speaking Role-play

CANDIDATE CARD NO. 2 | NURSING

SETTING Immunology Unit at Local Hospital

NURSE A 21-year-old patient has presented with complaints of vomiting immediately after eating certain foods. The GP referred them to your unit with suspicions of a nut allergy. The consultant has requested that you carry out a skin-prick test. The patient seems quite nervous about the process.

- TASK**
- Find out which foods have been causing the patient to vomit.
 - Explain to the patient the process of a skin prick test (e.g., dropping a liquid onto the forearm that contains an allergen, the skin is then pricked, and result given after 15 minutes)
 - Confirm how the results will be determined (e.g., if patient is allergic, red rash will appear on the arm and be measured to know the extent of the allergy)
 - Reassure the patient that the process only involves a small concentration of the allergen and should only produce a small red rash.
 - Persuade the patient to go through with the skin prick test.

Practice Test 8.

OET Speaking Role-play

EXAMINER CARD NO. 1 | NURSING

SETTING Home Visit

PATIENT You are 69 years old, and you have recently undergone hip replacement surgery. You have been able to return home, which is a relief, but it has been two weeks now since your surgery and you are becoming impatient at how long recovery is taking. Your hip is still sore from time to time, and you can hardly move which is becoming extremely frustrating.

- TASK**
- Tell the nurse that you struggle to get out of bed most mornings and it is a real struggle to carry on with your daily activities. Ask the nurse if this is normal.
 - Tell the nurse that you've always been an independent person, the one who looks after others when they're ill, and you hate the feeling of depending on others to do simple tasks for you.
 - Ask the nurse if the process can be sped up.
 - Repeat again that you want to recover as quickly as possible, you're getting impatient. You want to do all the things you used to do.

OET Speaking Role-play

EXAMINER CARD NO. 2 | NURSING CANDIDATE CARD NO. 1 | NURSING

SETTING Home Visit

PATIENT You are 24 years old and have recently been diagnosed with coeliac disease. You had always suffered from indigestion and frequent bouts of constipation, so you are relieved to finally have a diagnosis. None of your friends or family have had coeliac disease so you don't know very much about it. You are worried that there will be no enjoyable foods left to eat once you remove wheat and barley from your diet.

NURSE A 69-year-old man has recently undergone hip replacement surgery and is now receiving post-operative care at home. The patient is becoming frustrated as his mobility is still very poor and she is unable to pick up heavy objects. She is afraid that she is going to lose her independence.

- TASK**
- Find out how the patient is recovering.
 - Confess to the nurse that you don't fully understand what coeliac disease is the cause of health issues and explain that recovery times vary from patient to patient (depending on this, time etc.)
 - Ask the patient how his independent activities are affected by the removal of foods that you love that you will no longer be able to eat. Ask in a frustrated tone if there are any foods that you actually can eat.
 - Give advice on how to cope with the diet (e.g. use walking aids to prevent falls, ensure you'll be able to follow this diet well, complete exercises as instructed etc.).

- Tactfully warn the patient that she won't be able to move exactly like she used to, she will have to be careful with her new hip (e.g., take small steps, don't cross legs, don't sit on low seats)

OET Speaking Role-play

CANDIDATE CARD NO. 2 | NURSING

SETTING GP Surgery

NURSE A 24-year-old has recently been diagnosed with coeliac disease and has come to the surgery to create a diet plan with you. They know very little about the condition and need your help to understand the condition more.

TASK

- Explain what coeliac disease is (e.g., an autoimmune condition where the body mistakes substances found inside gluten such as wheat, barley and rye, and mistakenly attacks them.)
- Reassure the patient that the condition can be well controlled by eating a gluten-free diet (e.g., avoiding any foods that contain wheat, barley or rye such as pasta, bread or cereal)
- Discuss the various types of food the patient can eat (e.g., gluten-free substitutes for pasta, bread and cereal, potatoes, meat, fruit and vegetables, even chocolate and sweets)
- Warn about foods that may not obviously contain gluten such as certain sauces, ready meals or fast food.
- Reassure the patient of your support and offer a follow-up appointment to review how his diet plan is going in 1 month's time.