PTE Speaking Strategy Sheet

Describe Image (S·C·A·N) and Retell Lecture (N·O·T·E) · timings, templates, phrases

Task	Prepare	Speak	Scored on
Describe Image	25 seconds	40 seconds	Content, oral fluency, pronunciation
Retell Lecture	Lecture up to ~90 s, then 10 s	40 seconds	Content, oral fluency, pronunciation

Describe Image: S·C·A·N

- **S**pot the topic: title, labels, axes, units (0–5 s).
- **C**hoose key points: highest, lowest, overall trend (5–15 s).
- **A**rrange: introduction, 2–3 details, conclusion (15–25 s).
- **N**arrate non-stop from the tone; start the conclusion at ~35 s.

Model: "This bar chart shows the number of students enrolled in online courses from 2019 to 2023. The figure rose every year, from 120 thousand in 2019 to 700 thousand in 2023. The biggest jump happened in 2020. In conclusion, online learning has grown rapidly and is likely to keep expanding."

Image	Useful phrases
Bar / line graph	rose steadily · peaked at · fell sharply · remained stable
Pie chart	the largest share · accounts for · a quarter
Table	the highest figure · in contrast · compared with
Process	first · after that · then · finally
Map / picture	in the foreground · on the left · appears to be

Retell Lecture: N·O·T·E

- **N**ote keywords only: nouns, numbers, names.
- **O**rganise: topic → 1 → 2 → 3 → conclusion.
- **T**ell with a template: "The lecture was about… The speaker explained that… She also mentioned… In conclusion…"
- **E**nd with the speaker's conclusion, never your own opinion.

Shorthand	Means
→	leads to, causes
↑ ↓	increase, decrease
&	and, also
≠	different from, but
w/	with

Content in Describe Image and Retell Lecture is also checked by human reviewers. Use the structure, but fill it with what the image or lecture actually contains. Memorised filler scores poorly.

Want a teacher to check your work? Live online IELTS, PTE, OET and TOEFL classes with personal feedback from Mudasser Iqbal (15+ years teaching). WhatsApp **0300 6107060** · Free mock tests: englishlearningpoint.com/mock-tests