

Glossary

abstract (adj.)	relating to ideas rather than things; the opposite of concrete
abstract (n.)	summary of an academic text or document
audio progress indicator	bar within the audio status box showing the elapsed time of the audio
audio status box	box controlling audio functions for item types with audio recordings
authentic	taken from real situations
automated scoring system	computer-based speech recognition and essay-scoring engines
beep	sound used to indicate the missing word(s) in the item type <i>Select missing word</i>
biometrics	measurement of physical or behavioral characteristics as a means of verifying personal identity
blanks	gaps in text
blue box	word bank in the item type <i>Reading: Fill in the blanks</i>
breach	an action that breaks a rule, or agreement
checkbox	box featured next to a response option for selecting more than one response option as in the item type <i>Multiple-choice, choose multiple answers</i> ; the response option can be selected or deselected by clicking on the checkbox.
checkmark	symbol used inside a checkbox or radio button to show that the response option has been selected
cliché	overused expression or idea that has lost its impact
coherence	logic, or overall sense of being clear and easy to understand
colloquialism	informal expression often used in conversation
communicative skills	key language skills required to interact in social situations: listening, reading, speaking, writing
concordance	agreement with
concrete (adj.)	relating to real or actual things
connotation	the implied meaning of a word or expression; the meanings associated with a word

denotation	the direct or actual meaning of a word or expression
deselect	undo or remove a selection made in a checkbox or radio button
discourse	written or spoken communication
discourse marker	a word or phrase used to organize or fulfil a function within written or spoken language. For example, “anyway” is a discourse marker to change topic.
drop down arrow	clickable button positioned to the right of a blank in the item type <i>Reading & writing: Fill in the blanks</i> , used to display the drop down list
drop down list	list that displays in the blanks of the item type <i>Reading & writing: Fill in the blanks</i>
enabling skills	skills contributing to communicative ability: grammar, oral fluency, pronunciation, spelling, vocabulary, written discourse
Erasable Noteboard Booklet	writing surface provided for note taking
exchange	the act of giving and receiving information in communication
explicit	clearly and fully expressed
false starts	occasions when a speaker stops in the middle of speaking to reformulate the message and then starts again
headset	headphones and microphone
hesitation	pause or unsteadiness in speech
idiom	expression with a meaning that differs from the meaning of the actual words
image	visual input for the item type <i>Describe image</i>
implicit	implied rather than expressed; the opposite of explicit
increment	the amount by which a number, value or amount increases
infringe	break or exceed the limits of
integrated skills item type	item type that assesses more than one skill, for example, listening and speaking, reading and writing
item	task in the test consisting of instructions, question or prompt, answer opportunities, and scoring rules

item type	form of an item defined by the presentation, the nature of the task, the skills addressed and the scoring rules
lecture	talk or presentation
long-answer item type	item type that requires an extended response
“Next” button	button on the test screen that allows you to move to the next screen
non-verbal	not involving words
palm vein scans	a means of verifying identity using technology that recognizes palm vein patterns
partial credit	score on an item that is more than zero but less than the maximum score points available for the item
passage	text
pen	writing tool provided for note taking on an Erasable Noteboard Booklet
prompt	stimulus to an item or a task
radio button	button featured next to a response option for selecting a single response option as in the item type <i>Multiple-choice, choose single answer</i> ; the response option can be selected or deselected by clicking on the radio button
register	the style of language used to communicate in particular contexts for specific purposes
response	answer
response box	typing area for item types that require written responses
response option	answer choice
score (v.)	assign points to responses
score (n.)	points assigned to responses
select text	choose text in the response box
short-answer item type	item type that requires a brief (one word or phrase) response
synonym	word with the same meaning, or similar meaning, as another word

test administrator	a member of staff at a test center
test delivery workstation or workstation	computer terminal used to take PTE Academic
test taker	examinee, candidate
testing room	place where PTE Academic is taken
timer	clock featured on screen that counts down the remaining time
tone	sound used to indicate the end of preparation time for some speaking item types
topic sentence	sentence that explains what a paragraph or passage is about
transcript	written copy of audio material
turn-taking	the convention that people follow in oral communication, in which participants respond or volunteer information one by one
utterance	speech that people produce for oral communication
verbal	involving spoken words