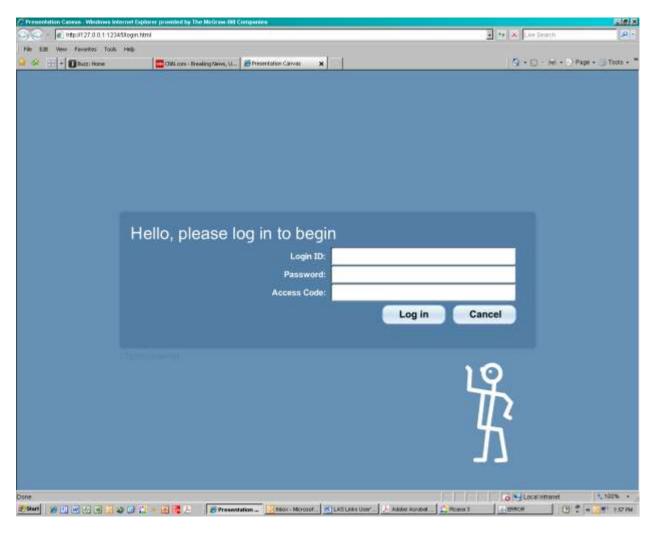
# LAS Links Online User's Manual 2011

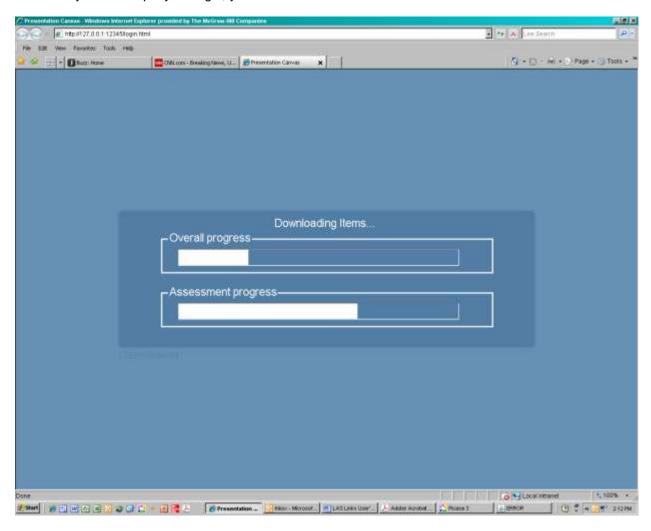




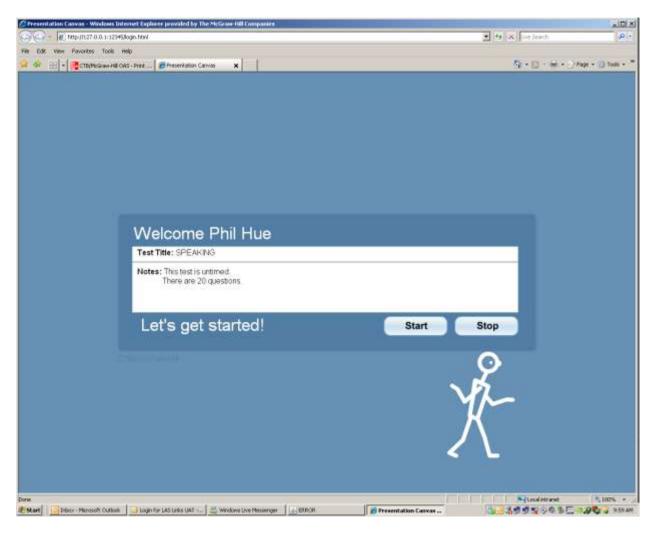
# To Log in as a student:

- 1. Use your teacher-assigned Student Login ID (something like Phil-Hue-0101[zero 1 zero 1]
- 2. Use your teacher-assigned password (6 characters usually a word and some number[s])
- 3. Use your teacher-assigned Test Access Code (10 characters usually a word and some number[s])
- 4. Click "Log In"
- 5. If you make a mistake, you will get an error message indicating the error. Please try again.

After the system accepts your login, you will see the download screen.



When this finishes, you will see the Welcome screen.



There are four (4) sections of the test – Speaking, Listening, Reading and Writing in that order.

There are audio files accompanying this test. To hear these audio files you will need **earphones**. During the Speaking portion of the test, you will also need a **microphone**. We tested several headsets for this purpose.

## Headset #1



Both are GigaWare sets costing less than \$20. We recommend a headset with earphone so students do not distract other students. Additionally,

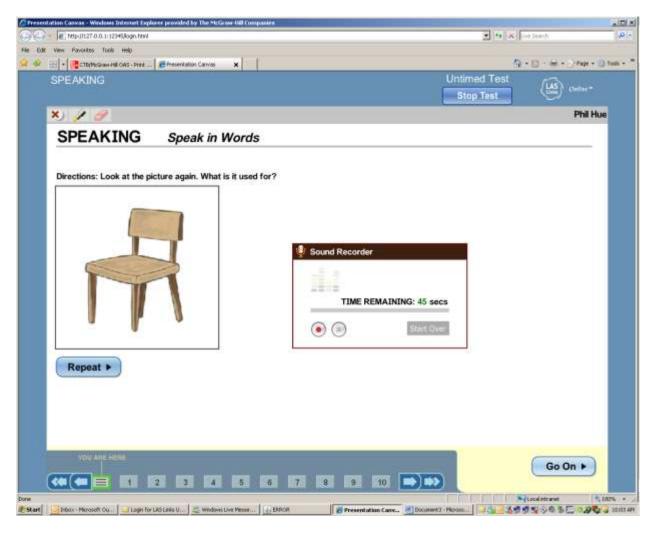
## Headset #2



having the microphone too far away or muffled by clothing makes it difficult to hear and understand spoken responses. If the students can mute the microphone, this may cause problems as the students may inadvertently mute the microphone. It would be wise to test several types of microphones and listen to responses to determine which works best in your environment.





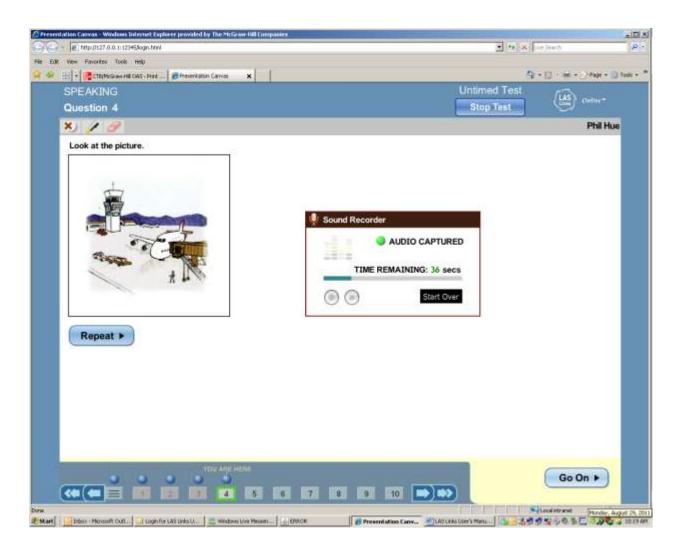


## Instructions for the Proctor

- 1. Use the Go on to move to the next item
- 2. The arrows at the bottom of the screen are for reference and not navigation
- 3. The boxes with the lines are sample items.
- 4. The individual numbers refer to questions and are for reference only.
- 5. Become familiar with the test by reviewing a few items
- 6. Ensure the microphone is plugged in and the system received the signal of the recording (you may want to test this ahead of time).
- 7. The test has no time limit, but make sure students understand they should not linger in one question for a long time, as this may not be the way they wish to invest their time.

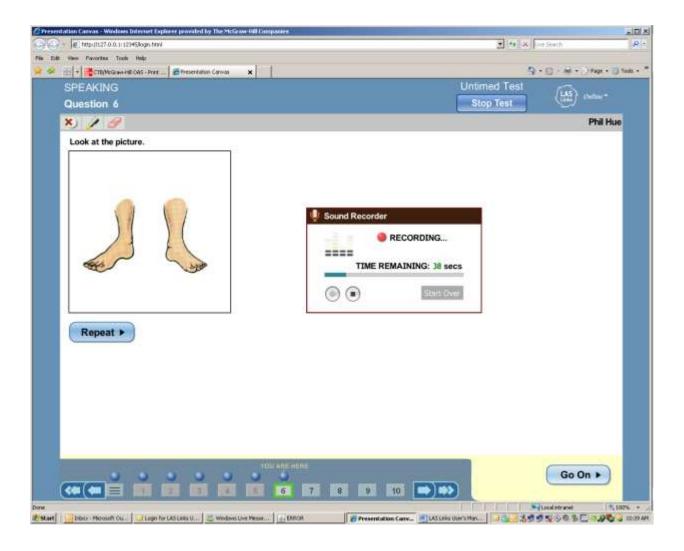
## Instructions for the Student

- 1. Caution: Make sure you listen to each direction entirely
- 2. Think carefully about your response
- 3. Click the red button to record your response.
- 4. You may repeat the directions by clicking the "Repeat" button
- 5. If you wish to re-record your response, you may click the "STOP" button (with the black square). Then click the "Start Over" indicator (large black oblong) and your new response will overwrite your previous response
- 6. "Start Over" only works after the "STOP" button is clicked
- 7. Repeatedly re-recording will probably not help very much and may frustrate you in the process
- 8. Once you are done, click Go On to do the next question
- 9. You cannot go back to the questions once you click Go On.
- 10. Start recording only when the directions are complete. Otherwise, the directions and your response may overlap.
- 11. Make sure you speak clearly and directly into the microphone
- 12. Time indicator in the Sound Recorder box shows how much time is remaining to capture your response



# **General Directions to Students (Continued):**

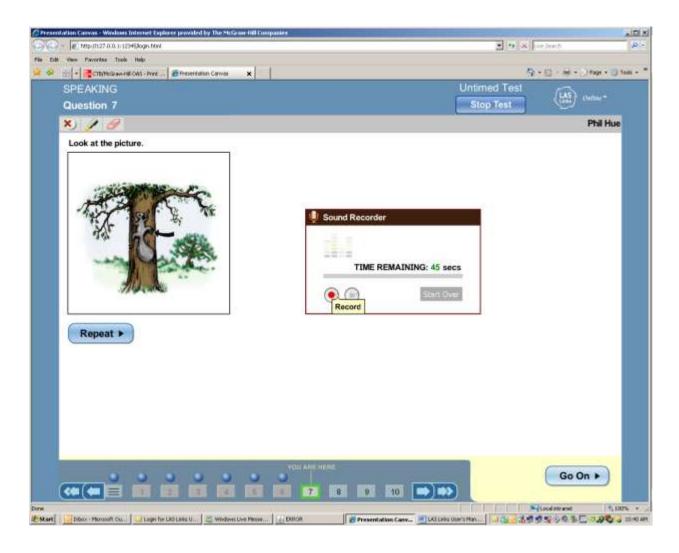
- 1. You will see a blue ball above each box at the bottom of the screen as you progress. This indicates your progress and is for reference only
- 2. The red ball and the "RECORDING" indicator show the test is capturing your response
- 3. When you plug in the microphone, the computer recognizes this. The computer also knows when you click the "Record" button. If you inadvertently mute the microphone, the computer cannot recognize this and you may give a brilliant response that goes unrecorded. Therefore, be wary of the mute potential of the microphone.



# **General Directions to Students (Continued):**

## On screen indicators:

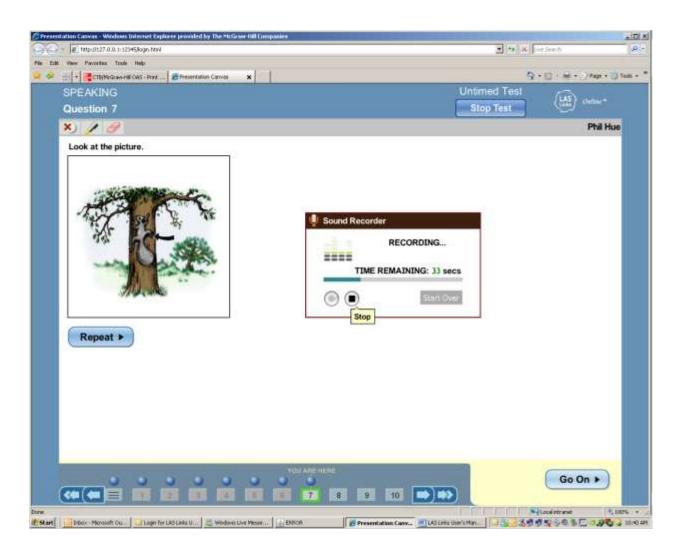
- 1. By hovering the mouse over the buttons, the button's name appears (see "Record" below)
- 2. The "STOP" button's name in show on the following page
- 3. Additionally, there may be indicators in the graphic as shown with the arrow below.



# **General Directions to Students (Continued):**

## On screen indicators:

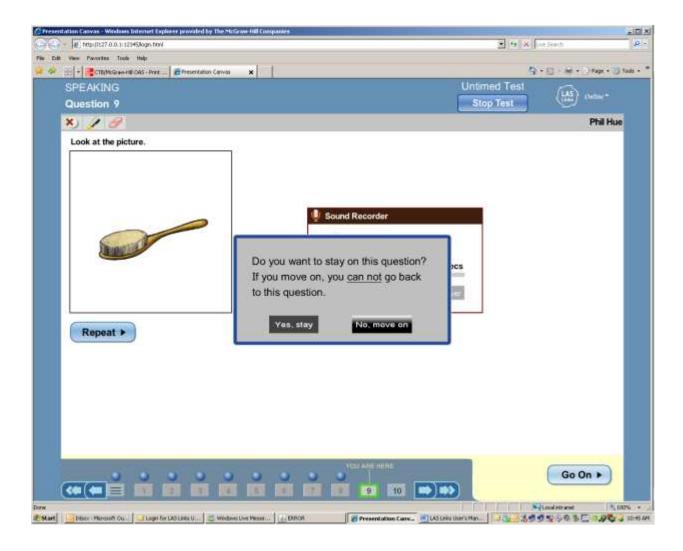
1. The "STOP" button name is shown below



## **General Directions to Students (Continued):**

## Not Answering a Question

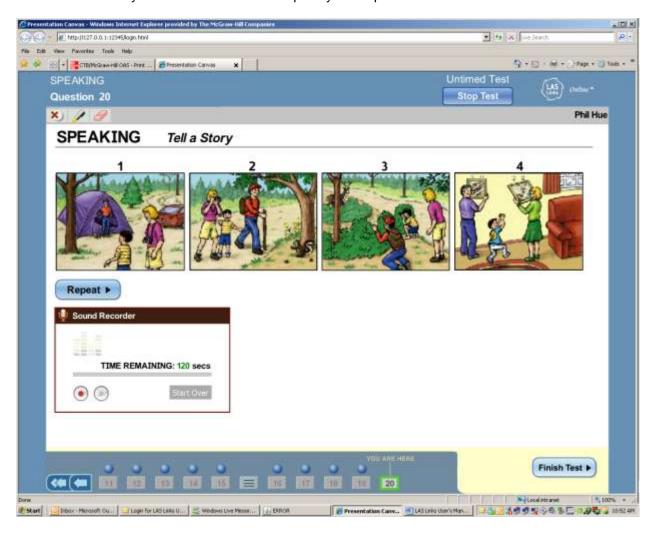
- 1. If you intentionally want to skip a question, you may click the "Go On" without answering.
- 2. The screen below appears, to ensure you realize you have not yet answered the question.
- 3. At this point, you may answer or you may chose not to answer
- 4. In this test, it is better to guess an answer rather than not answer because you may guess correctly.



# **General Directions to Students (Continued):**

# **Telling a Story Question:**

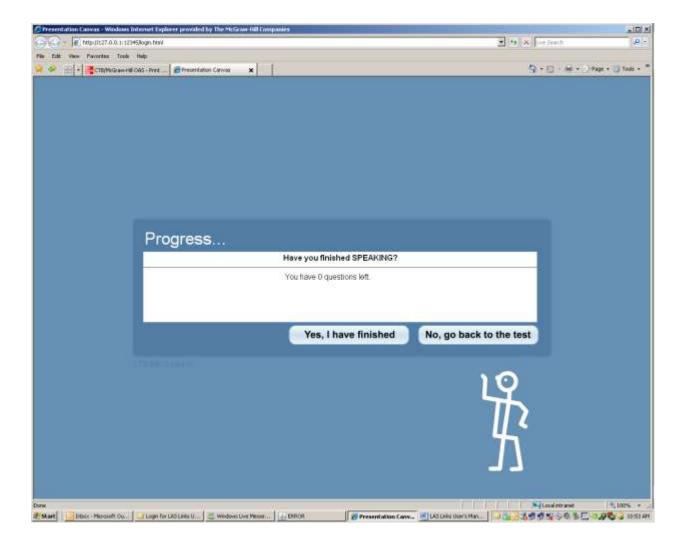
- 1. Think carefully about your answer before you click "Record"
- 2. You will only have 120 seconds to complete your response



# **General Directions to Students (Continued):**

# Finishing a Section of the Test (Speaking, Listening, Reading or Writing):

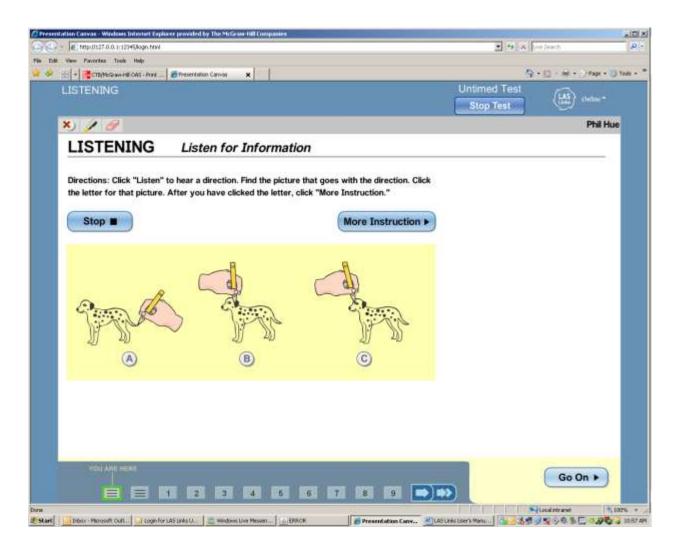
- 1. When you have answered the last question in the section you will get the screen below
- 2. If you have not answered the last question (only the last) question in the section, you may return to it at this point by clicking "No, go back to the test"
- 3. If you click, "Yes, I have finished", you will be guided to the next portion of the test (Listening, Reading or Writing)



# **General Directions to Students (Continued):**

## Listening:

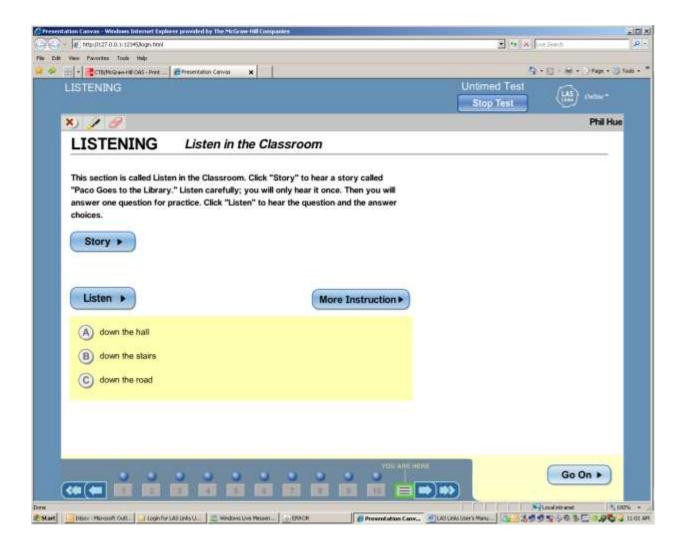
- 1. Directions are automatic for the sample items in a group.
- 2. When the directions are complete, the "STOP" button will become a "Listen" button.
- 3. Clicking the "Listen" button will give the background and the question
- 4. For the sample questions only, the "More Instruction" button will indicate the correct response
- 5. Click "Go On" to hear the next question.
- 6. Always click "Listen" for the background and the question



## **General Directions to Students (Continued):**

## Listen in the Classroom:

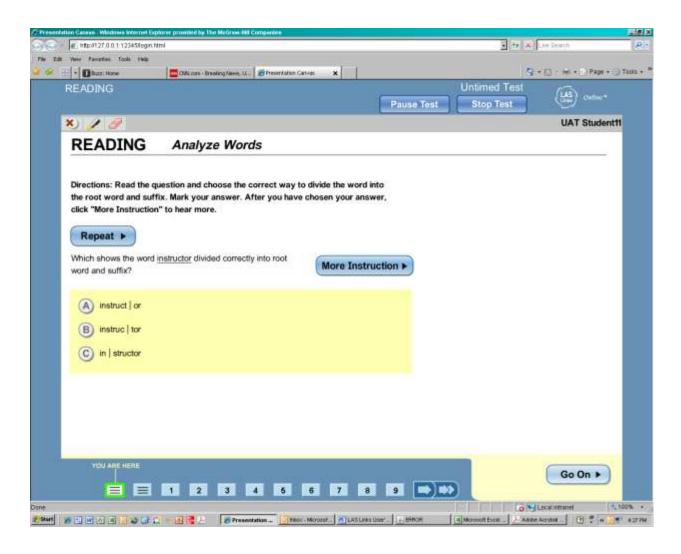
- 1. The directions are given automatically with the sample questions
- 2. Click the "Story" button to hear the story for the next few questions. You will hear the story only once.
- 3. After the story, click the "Listen" button to hear the guestion. Choose your answer
- 4. In the sample questions, the "More Instruction" button will indicate the correct answer



## **General Directions to Students (Continued):**

# Reading - Analyze words:

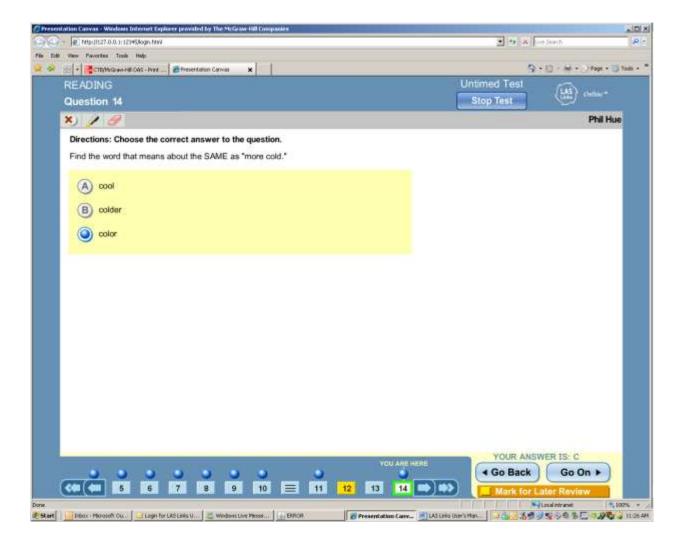
- The directions are given automatically for the sample questions
  The "Repeat" button is originally a "STOP" button to stop the directions
- 3. Read the instructions and choose your answer.
- 4. In the sample questions, the "More Instruction" button will indicate the correct answer



## **General Directions to Students (Continued):**

## Reading - Analyze words:

- 1. Read the question
- 2. Mark you answer
- 3. Click "Go On" to continue.
- 4. In the Reading and Writing portions of the test, you may go back and review questions you have already seen.
- 5. You may skip ahead and come back to questions for further review.



## **General Directions to Students (Continued)**

## Writing:

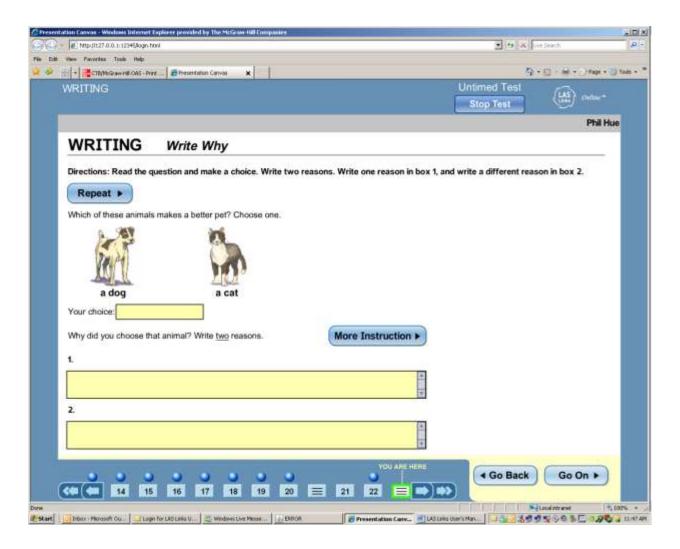
- 1. In the Writing portion of the test, you will have a chance to write an answer to questions
- Always write in the space provided. The space will expand to allow you to write as much as you want.
- 3. Always write in full, complete sentences.
- 4. The directions are given automatically for the sample questions
- 5. The "STOP" button becomes a "Repeat" button once the directions have finished
- 6. Read the instructions and choose your answer.
- 7. In the sample questions, the "More Instruction" button will indicate the correct answer
- 8. The keyboard is a standard computer keyboard. It will not accommodate accent marks or special characters.



## **General Directions to Students (Continued)**

## Writing - Write Why:

- 1. In this Writing portion of the test, you explain why you made the choice you made.
- 2. You enter the choice you made in the top box
- 3. Then you write two complete sentences explaining the choice you made.
- 4. Each sentence must be full and complete



## Instructions for the Administrator

## **General Directions:**

# The Network Utility is a suite of tools for confirming that:

- Student workstations are properly connected and configured to connect to the CTB servers.
- 2. Your network has the capacity to support all workstations scheduled to be used for testing at the same time.
- 3. Workstations to be used for students with "read aloud" testing accommodations can successfully convert text to speech.

The utility can be run by anyone, requires no network knowledge, and takes just a couple of minutes to complete. It lets you test your system for the number of workstations you plan to use and save the results from each test for troubleshooting the system if necessary.

You do not need to install the software on all workstations at your site before you run the Network Utility. It can be installed on a single workstation to give you useful information on connectivity and bandwidth.

There are three tabs in the Network Utility, each with a separate testing purpose:

- 1. The **Network Connectivity Test** confirms that the workstation can connect to the CTB servers to conduct online testing.
- The Bandwidth Simulation confirms that your internet capacity is big enough for the number of test workstations you plan to use simultaneously. This test simulates the bandwidth used by your workstations and indicates the likelihood of interruption-free service.
- The Text to Speech Test confirms that the workstation can run a complete conversion session with the CTB text-to-speech (TTS) server, for those students with "Read Aloud" testing accommodations.

## When to run the tests

First, be sure you have configured your network settings and your student workstation according to the current configuration checklists provided by CTB and that your network is up and functioning normally.

While running tests with this tool ahead of time cannot predict your network traffic at the time of testing, running this utility does help assure that the workstation is properly configured to connect with the CTB application servers.

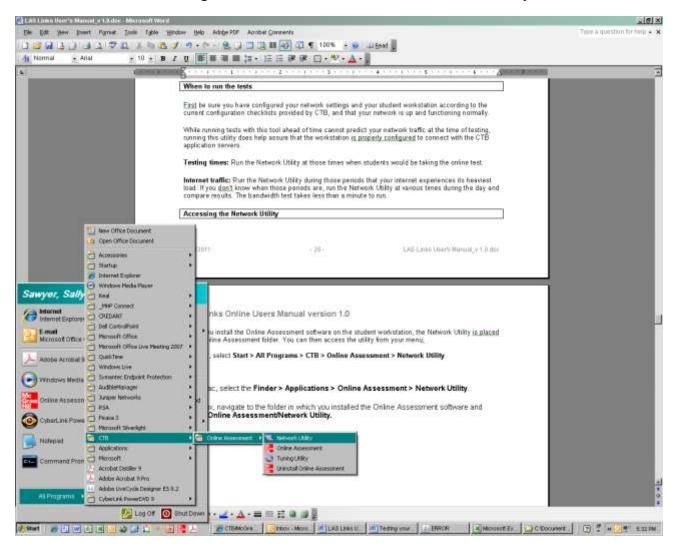
Testing times: Run the Network Utility at those times when students would be taking the online test.

**Internet traffic:** Run the Network Utility during those periods that your internet experiences its heaviest load. If you don't know when those periods are, run the Network Utility at various times during the day and compare results. The bandwidth test takes less than a minute to run.

## **Accessing the Network Utility**

When you install the Online Assessment software on the student workstation, the Network Utility is placed in the Online Assessment folder. You can then access the utility from your menu:

On a PC, select Start > All Programs > CTB > Online Assessment > Network Utility.

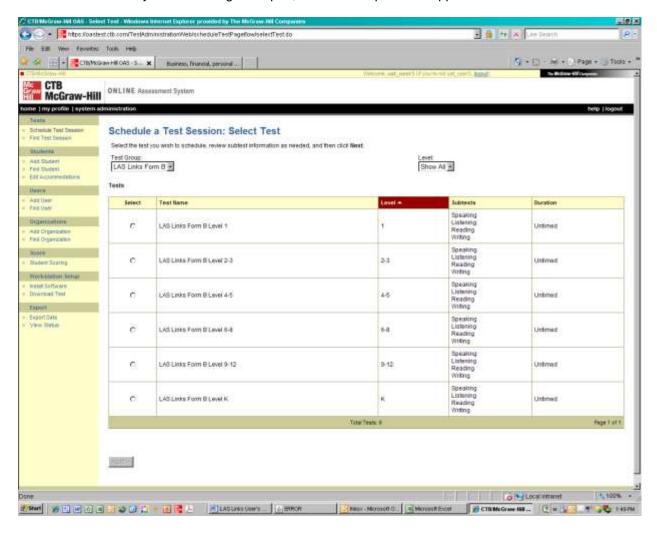


On a Mac, select the Finder > Applications > Online Assessment > Network Utility.

On Linux, navigate to the folder in which you installed the Online Assessment software and select /Online Assessment/Network Utility.

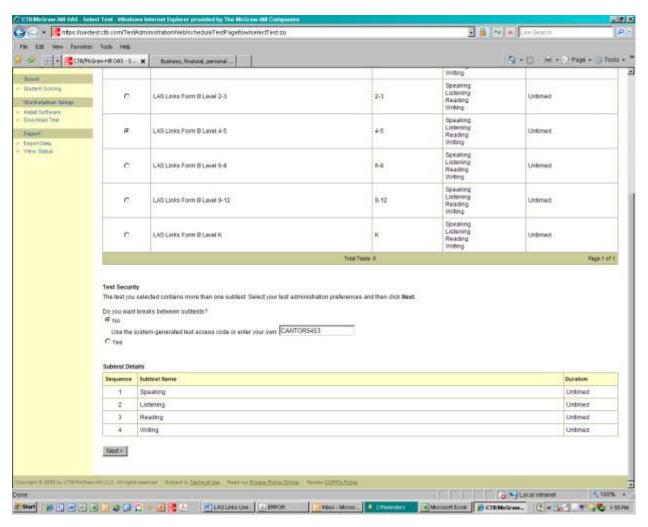
## **Test Administration Features**

- 1. To create a Test Session:
  - a. Click on Schedule Test Session in the Left Menu Bar
  - b. When the screen appears, choose LAS Links Form A or B
  - c. By default all grade levels appear. Choose the grade span that you wish to test.
  - d. One you choose a grade span, some other questions appear.



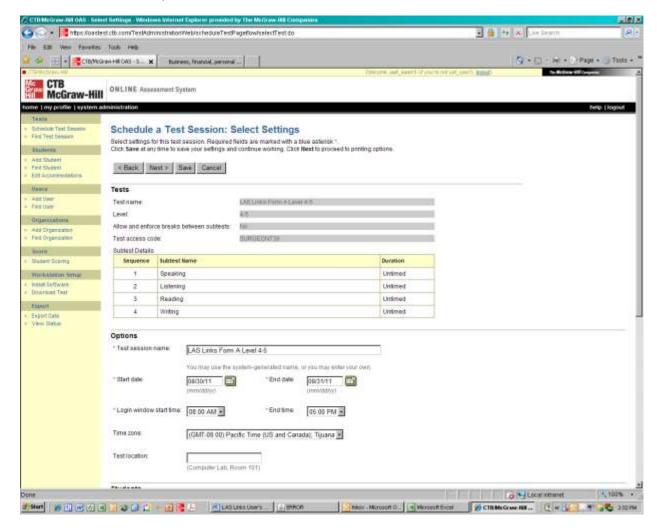
## **Test Administration Features**

- 1. To finish creating a Test Session: Test Security
  - a. For test Security, you may create your own test access code or use the computer generated one. Either is fine.
  - b. Then you can decide if you want to test all four subtests (Speaking, Listening, Reading and Writing) or fewer.
  - c. If you decide to test fewer than all subtests, you may choose the subtests to include.



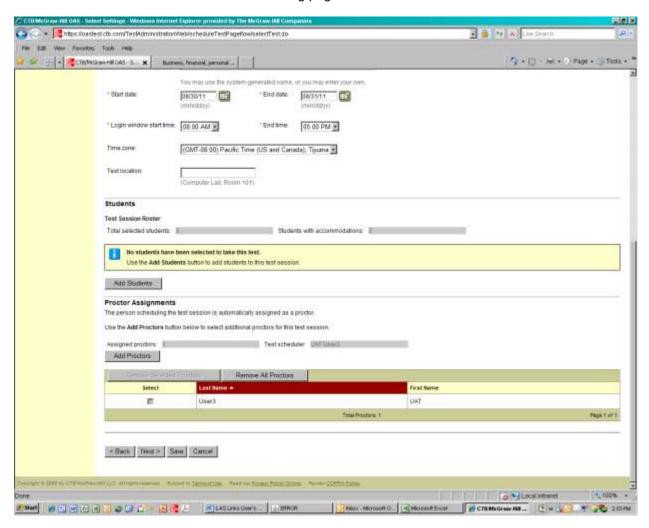
## **Test Administration Features**

- 1. To finish creating a Test Session: Add Time, Date and Location
  - a. Click Next button at the bottom
  - b. The screen below will appear
  - c. You may indicate the date, time and location for the test session



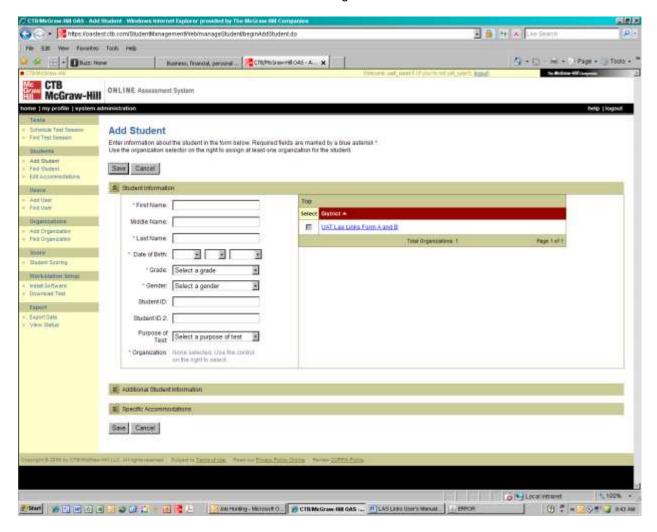
## **Test Administration Features**

- 1. To finish create a Test Session: Add Students
  - a. You may add Students to the test session
  - b. Click on Add Student button
  - c. Follow directions on the following page



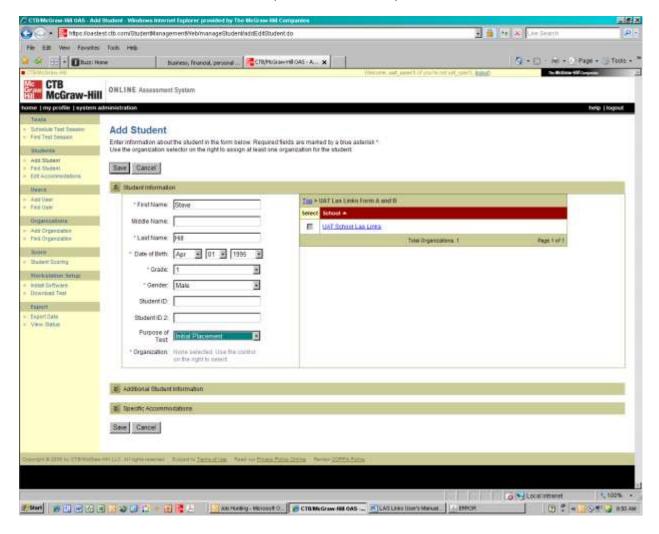
## **Test Administration Features**

- 1. To Add a Student to a Test Session
  - a. Click on Add Student in the left-hand menu bar
  - b. The screen below will appear
  - c. Enter the Student Name, Date of Birth, Grade and Gender in the form below. Middle Name, Student ID, Student ID2, Purpose of Test are optional.
  - d. To choose an organization, the organization must already be entered into the System.
  - e. Click on the Name of the Test on the right



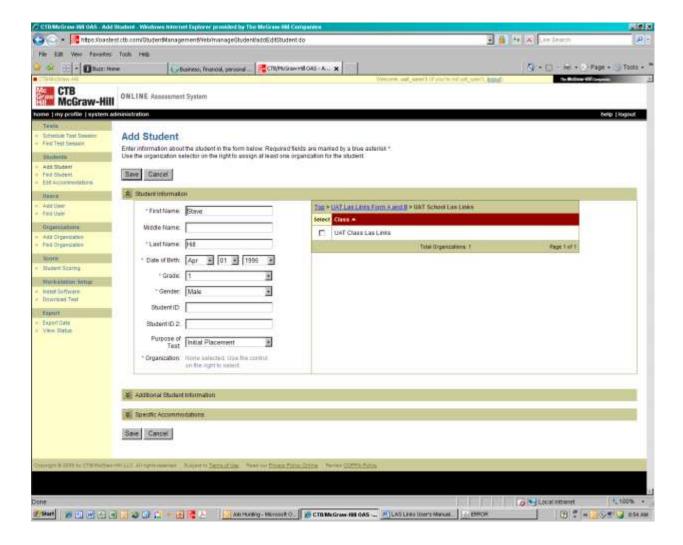
## **Test Administration Features**

- 1. To Add a Student to a Test Session (Continued)
  - a. The School name will appear (must already be in the system)
  - b. Click on the School Name (not in the check box)



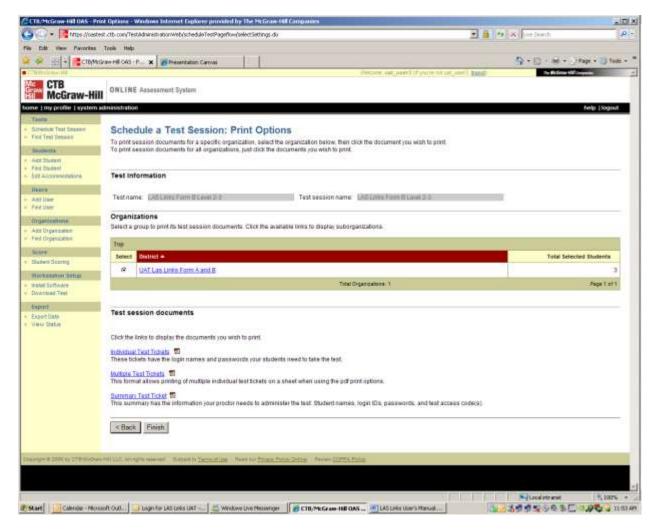
## **Test Administration Features**

- 1. To Add a Student to a Test Session (Continued)
  - a. The Class Name will appear (must already have been added)
  - b. Click in the check box



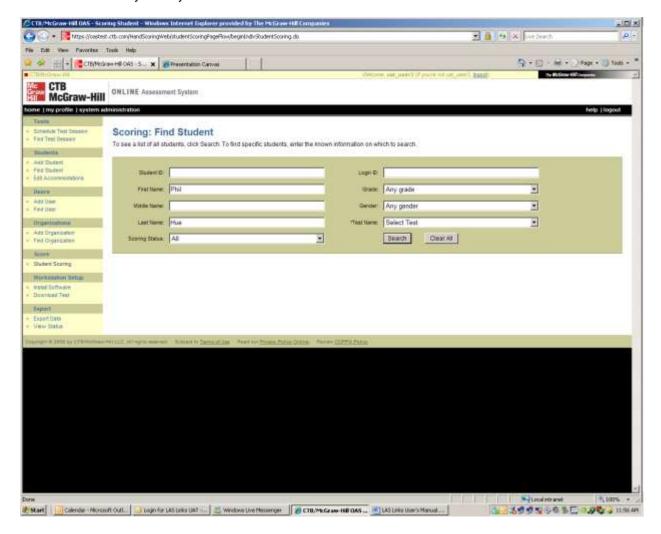
## **Test Administration Features**

- 1. Print test tickets for students participating
- Depending on level of security desired, you may print Individual Tickets, Group Tickets or Summary Ticket



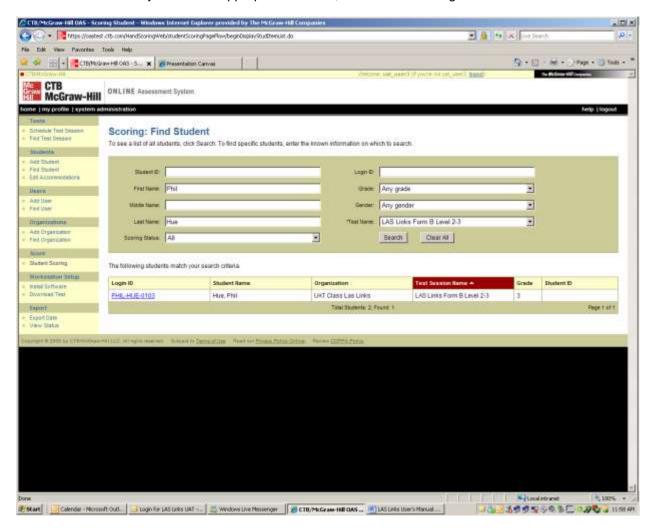
## **Test Administration Features**

- 1. Speaking Scoring
  - a. The proctor will score the Speaking and Writing portions of the test
  - b. Choose "Student Scoring" from the left-hand menu bar
  - c. You will see the screen below
  - d. You may enter the Student's Name and click "Search"
  - e. Or you may do a broader search



## **Test Administration Features**

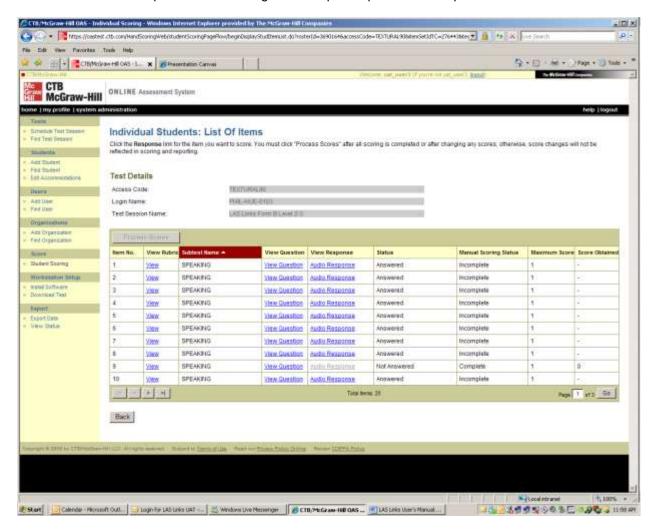
- 1. Speaking Scoring (Continued)
  - a. You may enter the Grade and search all the Students who sat for the test in that grade
  - b. You may find the Test name and search through everyone who took the test
  - c. Once you find the appropriate student, click on his/her Login ID



#### **Test Administration Features**

#### **General Directions:**

- 1. Speaking Scoring (Continued)
  - a. Once you find the appropriate student
  - b. His/Her results appear. The Item number is in the left column, the Rubric for that item is in the next column. The subtest is the next column, followed by "View Question".
     Clicking here allows the proctor to see the Question. The next column contains the Student response.
  - c. To access the response, you must click on "Audio Response. You will be able to heat=r the response either through the computer speakers or earphones.



#### **Hand-entering scores**

This feature is currently available only to LAS Links customers with Constructed Response and listening/speaking questions in their test.

There are several approaches to hand-entering scores, depending on the situation. You can elect to <u>score responses for individual students</u> whose scoring needs to be completed or modified by clicking the Student Scoring link on the main menu. Alternatively, you can <u>score by test session</u> and then elect to score all of each student's responses for the entire test session, one student at a time, or to score one item for all students before scoring the next item.

Once scoring has been completed, you can **Export Data Reports** for the test session.

## Scoring one student at a time

- 1. From the Score menu, click Student Scoring.
- 2. Find a student whose results you want to score:
  - -To find a list of all students, select the test name and click **Search**.
  - -To find a specific student or a list of students with similar criteria (all students with the last name "Smith" or all students with Incomplete scores, for example) select or enter the criteria on which to search and click **Search**.
- 3. From the list of students returned, click the **Login ID** of he student to score. This opens the Individual Student Scoring page. The student's test status for the test session must be Completed in order to enter scores for the student.
- 4. Click **Audio Response** to score a question with an audio (recorded) response, or click **Text Response** to score the text of a written response.

For each test question, you can click a link to view the rubric, view the question, and view the response to score. If a response has already been scored, you can rescore the response if needed..

- 5. A separate scoring window opens in front of the list of item. Read or listen to the response, select a score from the list, and click **Save**.
- 6. When you have finished scoring or changing scores for a student, click **Back** to return to the list of students to select another and continue scoring.

# Scoring the test session by student or by item

- 1. From the Test menu, click **Find Test Session**.
- 2. Select the test session to score and click either Score by Student or Score by Item.
- 3. If you select to **Score by Student**, a Find Student page displays a list of all students assigned to the test session whose test status is **Completed**.

Follow the steps above for <u>Scoring one student at a time</u>, beginning with step 3, until all student scoring is finished for the test session.

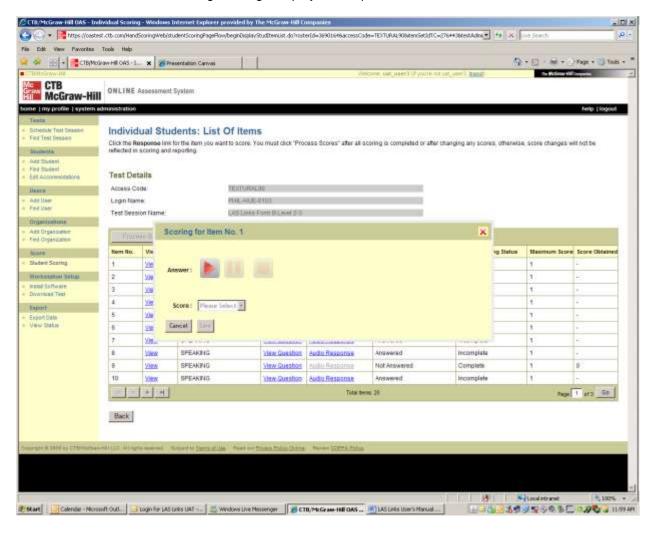
4. If you select to **Score by Item**, a List of Items page opens. It lists all items by Item Number, Subtest Name, Item Type, and Maximum Score possible.

Click an **Item No.** link to open a new page that summarizes the test session and item information at the top, and lists all students in the test session whose test status is **Completed**. There are links at the top that allow you to **View Item** and **View Rubric** for the item.

- 5. Click a **Student ID** to open a scoring window in front of the list. Read or listen to the response, select a score from the list, and click **Save**.
- 6. Continue selecting students by **Student ID** from the list until all student responses for the item have been scored.
- 7. Click **Back** to return to the List of Items page.
- 8. Click another **Item No**. to score by student. Repeat from step 4 until all items have been scored for all students.
- 9. When scoring has been completed for the test session, click **Home** or select another task from the menu.

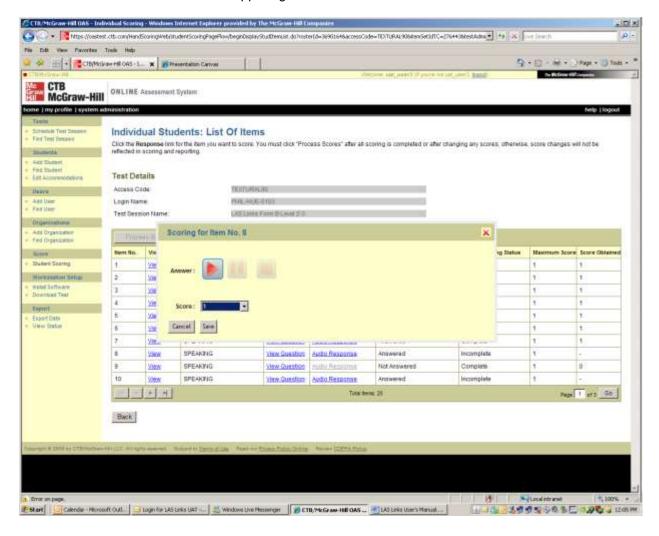
## **Test Administration Features**

- 1. Speaking Scoring (Continued)
  - a. After choosing response to hear, you will see the screen below
  - b. Click on the Orange Triangle to play the response.



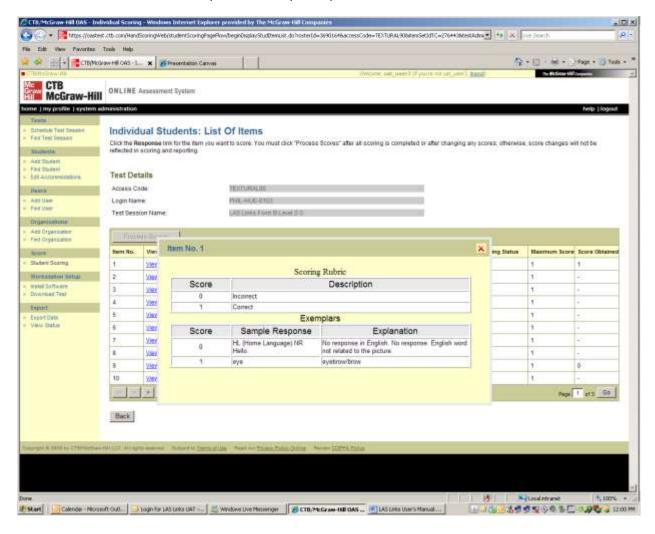
## **Test Administration Features**

- 1. Speaking Scoring (Continued)
  - a. Choose the appropriate score from the drop-down box. (You may refer to the rubrics at the same time.)
  - b. Click Save
  - c. Click the red X in the upper right-hand corner of the Audio window to close this item.



## **Test Administration Features**

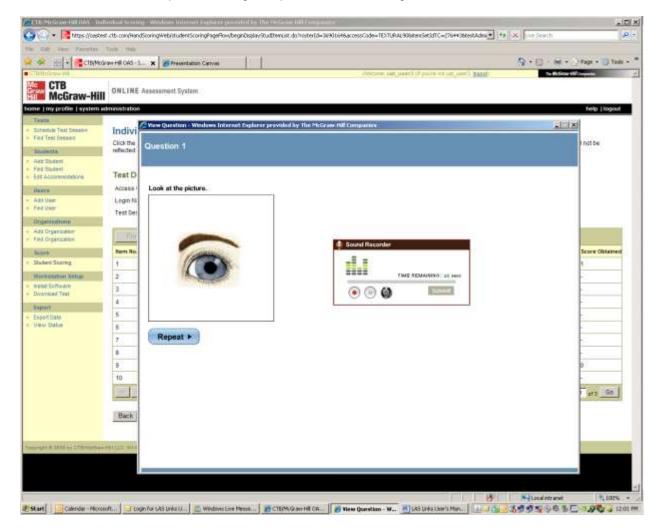
- 1. Speaking Scoring (Continued)
  - a. An example of displaying the rubric while listening to the response
  - b. The Rubric also presents sample responses



## **Test Administration Features**

## **General Directions:**

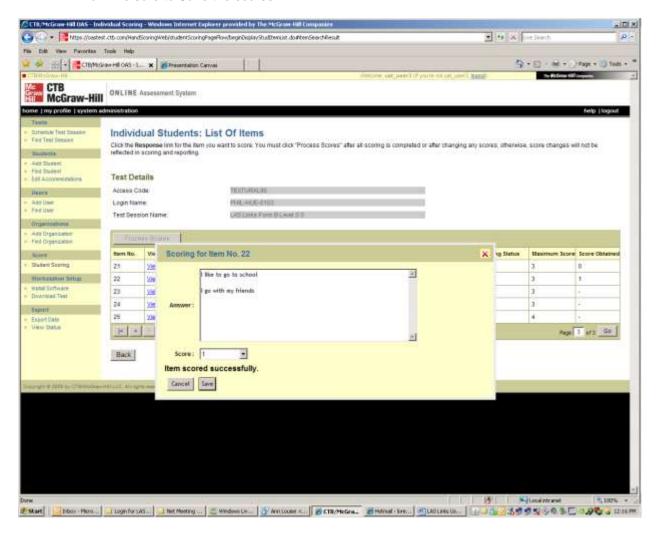
- 2. Speaking Scoring (Continued)
  - a. An example of viewing the question while scoring



Talk about view question

#### **Test Administration Features**

- 2. Writing Scoring (Continued)
  - a. Writing follows the Speaking portion of the test
  - b. To access the response, you must click on "Response. You will be able to see the response the student entered
  - c. You may score the response in a manner similar to the Speaking subtest
  - d. Be sure to Save the scores



## **Test Administration Features**

## **General Directions:**

3. Exporting Scores

