

In this lesson we will:

- learn about Part 1 of the speaking portion of the FCE
- review adverbs of degree
- review prepositions after verbs of movement.

Speaking Part 1

In the Cambridge exams, the speaking portion is conducted with two candidates (because Part 3 of the exam is conversation). In Part 1 of the Speaking test, each candidate responds in turn to questions from the examiner. You are asked to give general information about yourself. **Listen to Pedro and Natalia doing Part 1 of the Speaking test. Tick the topics that the examiner asks each candidate about.**

Pedro



Family ☐ Special occasions ☐
 Future plans ☐ Likes and dislikes ☐

Natalia



Media ☐ Free time and leisure ☐
 Travel and holidays ☐
 Work and education ☐

Now, listen again. **I want you to evaluate their answers. Which person does the following things? Tick P for Pedro or N for Natalia.**

- gives relevant answers to the questions
- gives examples to support their answer
- uses a wide range of appropriate vocabulary
- corrects their pronunciation
- gives reasons to support their answer
- gives additional information about the topic
- gives an explanation for why they don't do something

P	N
☐	☐
☐	☐
☐	☐
☐	☐
☐	☐
☐	☐
☐	☐

Look at the words/phrases in the box to the right. You'll notice that they are connectors. Just like in writing, you should use connectors to link ideas in speech.

On the following page, you'll find sentences from Pedro and Natalie's answers. **Complete the sentences with words and phrases from the box at right using logic to guide you.** Then listen again and check your work.

Giving reasons and explanations *because ...*
because of ... the reason ...
so ... the reason for this is ...

Giving examples *for example ... for instance ...*
such as like

Giving additional information *and also*
what's more ... as well besides ... too

- a) It's very easy to meet up with all my friends nobody lives very far away.
- b) And there's a swimming pool, with a cafe and table football.
- c) it seems very different from my country.
- d) It has famous beaches, like Spain, but the middle is empty and enormous and, ... , I would love to see some of the typical animals, ... , koalas and crocodiles or kangaroos.
- e) , sometimes my best friend comes to my house.
- f) We watch a film on the computer and then eat food pizza or salad.

Choose the correct option in italics to complete each sentence below.

- a) I really enjoy going to the cinema ***because I because of*** I like going out, and I love films.
- b) I never go to the cinema. ***The reason I The reason for this is*** that it's expensive.
- c) I really like the parks in my town, and ***also I besides*** the museums.
- d) I spent the day with friends at the beach, and, ***what's more I as well as***, we had a picnic.
- e) I would like to see some famous Italian cities - Venice and Rome, ***such as I for instance***.
- f) I would really like to visit Thailand ***because I because of*** the beautiful beaches there.

Before moving on to another topic, I would like to give you one more tip for the speaking part of the exam: try not to give short answers to the examiner's questions. Expand your answers by giving examples, reasons and explanations and additional information. Think about why, when, how and where to help you give full answers.

Adverbs of Degree

Be careful with adverbs of degree—also known as intensifying adverbs—before adjectives. The *Cambridge Learner Corpus* shows that Spanish-speaking exam candidates often make mistakes with these. Remember:

- we use *very, really, extremely* with gradable adjectives, e.g. *interesting, healthy, worried*: *Some young people get **really worried** about their appearance.* (NOT *Some young people get completely worried about their appearance.*)
- we use *absolutely, totally, completely* with ungradable adjectives, e.g. *amazing, necessary, essential*: *I think it's **absolutely essential** to protect wildlife.* (NOT *I think it's very essential to protect wildlife.*)

Choose the correct adverb to complete each sentence.

- a) We were *absolutely I really* annoyed because when we got there, the cafe was closed.
- b) The man was *absolutely I very* furious and was shouting at the manager.
- c) We usually advise people to book in advance, but it's not *completely I very* necessary.
- d) She's over 70, but she keeps fit and she's still *absolutely I very* healthy.
- e) By the end of the day, we all felt *totally I really* tired.

Prepositions

Be careful with prepositions after movement verbs. The *Cambridge Learner Corpus* shows that Spanish-speaking exam candidates often make mistakes with these. Remember:

- we use *go/come/ travel to somewhere*: *I've never **been to** the USA.* (NOT *I've never been in the USA.*) or *I'll **come to** your house.* (NOT *I'll come at your house.*)
- after *arrive*, the preposition depends on the noun that follows: *I'll arrive **at the airport** at eight o'clock.* (NOT *I'll arrive to the airport at eight o'clock.*) or *When I arrived **in Barcelona** ...* (NOT *When I arrived to Barcelona ...*).

Complete the sentences with one preposition in each gap.

- a) A lot of tourists come the village in the summer.
- b) It's quicker to go school by bike or on foot.
- c) We were really tired by the time we arrived our hotel.
- d) The easiest way to travel the airport is by train.
- e) They only arrived Spain a month ago.
- f) They went on holiday Paris.
- g) We went a fantastic Italian restaurant.
- h) When we arrived Dublin, it was raining.