SPEAKING TEST!



On this lesson, you will find useful phrases and tips for each speaking part!

PART 1: INTRODUCTION AND PERSONAL INFORMATION.

It is expected that the examiner will introduce him/herself first and ask your name and then ask you to confirm your identity.

The questions in this part include familiar topics such as home, family, friends, habits, work, studies and interests. Part 1 of the test will last 3 to 5 minutes.

Read the following responses and choose the one you consider appropiate.

Do you have many friends? (Why/Why not?)

I have 10 friends and I am not sure if I should say this is many friends! I had 30 friends in my school days. With the passage of time, the number got low. If I count my Facebook friends as real friends, the number would go high!

I have a few close friends that I consider my inner circle, but I wouldn't say that I have a large number of friends. I value quality over quantity when it comes to friendships. Developing meaningful connections and maintaining strong bonds require time. I prefer investing my energy in a few deep friendships.

Who normally does the cooking in your home?

My mother does the cooking in our house and she is a magnificent cook. I often compliment her and inspire her to start a restaurant in the city and she always laughs hearing this. Sometimes, my elder sister Emma assists my mother in the kitchen. I, on the contrary, am in charge of the grocery and daily shopping.

In the home of my mom, cooking responsibilities are shared with my brothers. My sister, my brother and metake turns preparing meals based on the ability and we like to prefer. It's a collaborative work, and we all work to creating delicious meals. We enjoy experimenting with different receipts and techniques, and cooking together also gives an opportunity for quality time and bond.

Which is more important to you, friends or family? (Why?)

It's difficult for me to choose between friends and family as both hold immense significance in my life. Family provides a strong foundation of love, support, and shared history. They have been there for me through thick and thin, offering unconditional love and guidance. Family bonds are deeply rooted, and the connections forged with relatives can be lifelong. On the other hand, friends are the family we choose. They offer companionship, understanding, and a different perspective on life. Friends can become our support system outside of the familial realm and bring joy, laughter, and shared experiences. Ultimately, both friends and family play unique roles in my life, and I value and cherish the relationships I have with both.

To be honest, family comes first. However, there are some friends who become our family members. The bond between family members is often stronger but this does not mean that we do not have friends who are less important in our life. Being with the family makes us who we really are and friends make our life worth living.

What games are popular in your country?

People in my country are crazy about football. You will find most of the youths playing football in the evening. Among the indoor games, people love to play chess and cards most of the time. Finally, computer games are highly popular among the young generation.

People in my country are crazy about football. You will find most of the youths playing football in the evening. Football was, and still is my favourite sports, but I can't manage time to practice football in the evening.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

PART 2: PICTURES DESCRIPTION AND COMPARISON

This is an example question for the B2 First (First Certificate Exam), Speaking Section Part 2. You will have one minute to compare the photos and answer the question.

"Here are your two photographs. They show people riding on bicycles. I'd like you to compare the photographs and say which person you believe is having more fun."



After your speaking practice, read the samples below. Which one do you find more appropiate and why?

Both of these photos were taken outdoors. In the photo on the left, we can see a man riding a mountain bike in a forest, whereas the photo on the right shows us a man riding his bicycle in a city. I imagine the man in the city is going to work because he is dressed nicely and is wearing a tie. The man in the forest is dressed more informally. He's definitely using more energy. I highly doubt he is going to work given he is riding through a small stream. As to who is having more fun, I'd say the man on the left. Though the man on the right is smiling, it's still a workday for him. Since the man on the left choose to ride his mountain bike, most likely as a hobby, I think he is having more fun.

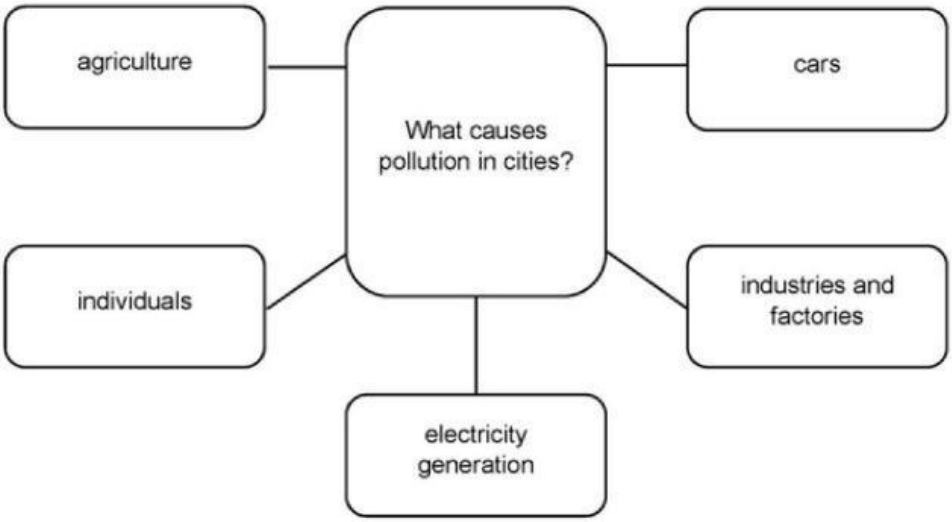
The photo on the left shows a man riding his bicycle in the forest, while the man on the right is riding in what looks like a city. The man in the forest is more sportive and looks like he is mountain biking for fun. On the other hand, the man on the right looks like he could be a business man heading home from work. He's dressed more formally, and his bike is likely less expensive. In terms of who is having more fun, I'd say that it is the man in the forest. Obviously he is doing this sport in his free time, so that ought to mean he really likes it. On the contrary, the guy on the right is most likely riding home from work. Though he is smiling, I imagine he'd prefer to be out in nature.

Here, there's no wrong answer. Both are correct! Pay attention to the way in which the candidates talk about the pictures. They do not describe the photos in detail, BUT COMPARE the photos and then answer the question. After you have finished, the examiner will ask your speaking partner a short question about these photos.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

PART 3: COLLABORATIVE TASKS

In Part 3, you speak about a topic together with your partner for about three minutes. First, the examiner will introduce the topic, hand you a diagram and give you some time to look at the task. This is followed by a two-minute discussion about the topic, using the diagram to guide the conversation. Finally, the examiner will ask you to make a decision about the best, worst, or most important aspect of the task.



Read the useful phrases below and select in which section of the speaking part you can use them:

1. *You've mentioned..., which is interesting because...*
2. *With all due respect, I can't agree/I have to disagree*
3. *I'd rather you went first, if that's okay with you.*
4. *Would it be okay with you if I started this?*
5. *I'm not sure if that is really important, however...*
6. *I'm with you on that one...*
7. *Would you please share your thoughts on this matter?*
8. *Let's not forget about...*

LIVEWORKSHEETS

PART 4: INTERACTION

Further discussion with the other candidate, guided by speaking questions from the examiner, about the topics or issues raised in the task in Part 3.

- **Always give as full an answer as possible.**
- **Remember there are no right answers to any speaking questions, so you only get judged on your use of language, not your opinions themselves.**
- **If you honestly do not know much about a particular question, you will not lose marks by being honest with the examiner and telling him/her so; however, always show off your English as much as possible when you have got something to say.**

Taking into consideration the topics from Part 3, some of the question that may come up in Part 4 are:

- *Air travel is very bad for the environment; so, is it wrong to fly abroad for a holiday?*
- *Many plants and animals are going extinct. Is this a problem?*
- *Do you think individual action can save the environment?*
- *How is the climate likely to change in the future due to global warming?*

After your speaking practice, read the samples below. Again, there is no right or wrong, they are just opinions following the format.

Examiner: *Now I would like you to discuss the following question: Do you think individual action can save the environment?*
Candidate 1: *I'd like to express my own opinion if you don't mind?*
Candidate 2: *Of course, go ahead.*
Candidate 1: *Thank you. I totally support this notion –taking action for protecting the enviroment should come from each individual. Raising awareness on that would allow people to get better places to live and it will promote collaborative work as regards this problem.*
Candidate 2: *You do make some valid points – it would be fair to support individuals who are keen to get re-educated to have a more relevant skill-set in the ever-changing world. However, I believe that this system is ruled by less conscientious individuals – people who don't notice the damage they are causing and if they do, they prefer to focus on their business and economic interests. It is something that can't be tracked easily.*
Candidate 1: *It doesn't have to be so negative, though! But I totally see what you mean, and indeed, such a possibility definitely exists. Raising awareness must reach every single individual. I guess it's not easy to find the middle ground in this matter, neither impossible.*
Examiner: *Thank you. That is the end of your Speaking test.*

LIVEWORKSHEETS