BRITISH COUNCIL **Aptis**

# APTIS FOR TEACHERS: SPEAKING PRACTICE TEST 3

## ***Part One***

- **What do you after you finish work?**
- **Describe your classroom.**
- **Tell me about your colleagues.**

## ***Part Two***

- **Describe this picture.** ***(It shows six children sitting in a semi-circle in a colourful room which could be a theatre or a classroom. They're reading.)***



- **What type of books do children and young people in your country read?**
- **How have reading habits changed since you were a child?**

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## Part Three

- **Tell me what you see in these two pictures.** *(They both show children involved in games. The first shows a chess match, and the second a football match.)*





- **Which after-school activities are popular in your country?**
- **What are the benefits of after-school activities?**

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## ***Part Four***

- **Tell me about a time when you experienced a stressful situation with your students or colleagues.**
- **How did you feel about it?**
- **What are some of the ways you can deal with stress?**



(Remember, do *not describe the picture in this part; it's only there to set the scene.*)

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## *Part One* 30 seconds per answer

**Q1. What do you after you finish work?**

As soon as I get home from work I **kick off** my shoes, make myself a large cup of lemon and ginger tea and **get down to** any marking I've got to do. Then I go for a quick run, have a shower, make and eat dinner, and spend the rest of the evening **chilling out** with my family.

**Highlighted lexis: phrasal verbs**

- ***kick off – take off / remove quickly***
- ***get down to – start work on***
- ***chill out – relax***

**Q2. Describe your classroom.**

My classroom's on the first floor of the main building. I'm lucky, as it's very **light** and **airy** and we have plenty of space. I've put up a lot of students' work on the walls, which makes the room **colourful** too. The only **downside** is that it overlooks the playground, which can be a bit distracting.

**Highlighted lexis**

- ***light, airy, colourful*** *– useful adjectives for describing a room*
- ***downside*** *– synonym of 'disadvantage'*

**Q3. Tell me about your colleagues.**

My colleagues are **absolutely** fabulous. I've been working at the school for 18 months, and I can **honestly** say that I've never had a bad word to say about any of them. They're supportive and always ready to **lend a hand**. In my previous school that wasn't the case, and I'm so glad I left.

**Highlighted lexis**

- ***absolutely fabulous / I can honestly say*** *– use adverbs to raise the level of your answers*
- ***lend a hand*** *– synonym of 'help'*

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**Part Two** *45 seconds per answer*

**Q1. Describe this picture.**



There are six children sitting in a semi-circle in a very colourful room, with a young man who's **probably** their teacher. The seats are on different levels, like in a theatre. It **could be** a modern type of classroom. The kids **look** about eight or nine years old. Two of the girls are dressed exactly the same, so they **might be** sisters, or **maybe** twins. The girl on the left is engrossed in her book, and the others **look as if** they're discussing something they've read.

**Highlighted structures**

- ***probably / maybe*** *– adverbs of probability / possibility*
- ***could be / might be*** *– modal verbs of speculation*
- ***look + adjective or adjectival clause / look as if + clause***

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**Q2. What type of books do children and young people in your country read?**

That's an interesting question ... **I think** it depends on **their age and, of course, their interests. Younger children love picture books, especially ones with rhymes and beautiful artwork, while slightly older ones prefer books that are funny, or series that are based in fantasy worlds, like *Harry Potter* or *Lord of the Rings*. I've also noticed that in recent years older children and teenagers have been** getting into **graphic novels and manga-style books.**

**Highlighted language**

- ***That's an interesting question*** *– useful expression to give you time to think*
- ***it depends (on ...)*** *– a good way to start your answer and cover more than one aspect of the question*
- ***getting into*** *– synonym of 'becoming interested in'*

**Q3. How have reading habits changed since you were a child?**

Well, 20 years ago almost all books were made out of paper, and **you'd see** people reading books or newspapers on public transport. These days, when I look round, I notice fewer people reading – most of them are on their phones, scrolling through their social media feed or playing games. **I do see** some people using Kindles or other e-readers, but in general **I'd say** that there's been a sharp decline in the number of books being read.

**Highlighted structures**

- ***you'd see*** *– would + infinitive to describe past habits*
- ***I do see*** *– we use the auxiliary 'do' in statements to emphasise a point*
- ***I'd say*** *– second conditional structure to give an opinion*

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**Part Three** **45 seconds per answer**

**Q1. Tell me what you see in these two pictures.**





Both pictures show **young people involved in playing games – one's an individual game,** while **the other's a team sport. The first is a chess tournament, and** it looks like **some type of competition between adults and children, or a tournament that's open to all age-groups …** whereas **the second photo shows a group of seven or eight-year-olds playing football. There are both girls and boys playing, and** they look like **they're having a great time.**

**Highlighted structures**

- ***Both pictures show*** *– to highlight what the photos have in common*
- ***while / whereas*** *– conjunctions to compare and contrast*
- ***look like + noun or clause***

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**Q2. Which after-school activities are popular in your country?**

In the school where I work we offer lots of after-school activities. Many of them are focused on helping students to attain better test scores, and the one most **in demand** is English. Of course, those are more popular with parents than with students! Then there are the non-academic activities such as sports … the ones that have the biggest **uptake** are football, swimming and street dance, which has **proved so popular** that we even have a waiting list.

**Highlighted language**

- ***in demand*** *– needed or wanted by many people*
- ***uptake*** *– participation in a service provided*
- ***prove popular*** *– collocation: to be successful*

**Q3. What are the benefits of after-school activities?**

I think one of most positive aspects of after-school activities is that they give children a way to **connect with their peers** in a new setting. Getting to know each other out of class makes them feel more like a group of friends, which in turn helps **build confidence** in class. Arts options, such as drama and music, can help kids get interested in new fields. And even when the activities are academic **in nature**, they're often more fun than 'real' classes.

**Highlighted language**

- ***connect with their peers*** *– meet or get closer to those of the same age*
- ***build confidence*** *– collocation: to increase confidence gradually*
- ***in nature*** *– having such a quality*

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## *Part Four*

***One minute to think & take notes, two minutes to answer all three questions***

- **Tell me about a time when you experienced a stressful situation with your students or colleagues.**
- **How did you feel about it?**
- **What are some of the ways you can deal with stress?**



There are so many stressful situations that I've had to face during my teaching career that it's really difficult to choose just one. So I'll talk about my most recent experience, as it's still fresh in my mind. It was when I had to teach all my classes online due to the Covid situation. My school introduced this from one day to the next, and I was totally unprepared.

Stressed-out doesn't even begin to describe how I felt. Suddenly I had to learn how to use break-out rooms, share screens, find interactive online activities ... and on top of that, I had to teach the students how to do it too! I've never been that comfortable working with technology, and I felt completely overwhelmed. I often had to ask my colleagues for help.

One of the best ways to deal with stress is deep breathing. I learnt that in my yoga class. When you take deep breaths, it sends a message to your brain to calm down, reduces your heart-rate and lowers your blood pressure. I also find that listening to classical music can really help, so I play it **in the background** while my students are reading or writing.

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## Highlighted language

**Expressions:**

- *fresh in my mind – a clear recent memory*
- *from one day to the next – suddenly, without warning*
- *on top of that – additionally*
- *in the background – quietly, in addition to the main sound*

**Adjectives for feelings:**

- *stressed-out – adjective from phrasal verb 'to stress (someone) out'*
- *totally uprepared / completely overwhelmed – use adverbs to raise the level of your answer*

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# APTIS FOR TEACHERS: SPEAKING PRACTICE TEST 4

## ***Speaking Part One*** *30 seconds per answer.*

- **What do you like about your job?**
- **What did you do in your last lesson?**
- **Please tell me about a teacher you didn't like when you were at school.**

## ***Speaking Part Two*** ***45 seconds per answer.***

**Describe this picture.** ***(It shows five children dressed in period costumes, all looking at their mobile phones.)***



**What type of games do children in your country play?**

**How have children's games changed in the last fifty years?**

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## Speaking Part Three *45 seconds per answer.*

**Tell me what you see in these two pictures.** ***(They show two classrooms, one full of students with a teacher at the front, and the other showing one student with the teacher sitting next to them and helping.)***



**What would it be like to be a teacher in these two classes?**

**How important is it to keep class sizes small?**

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## ***Speaking Part Four***

***One minute to think & take notes,two minutes to answer all three questions.***

***Do not describe the picture in this part; it's only there to set the scene.***



**Tell me about a time when you observed or were observed by another teacher.**

**How did you feel about it?**

**How important is other colleagues' advice?**

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