

Exploring Skills for English Tests

Speaking Part 2: A1 and A2

Format of the task

There are three parts to the Speaking tests. **Part 1** of the Speaking test is NOT assessed but allows the candidates to familiarise themselves with the test and the system.

In Part 2, candidates hear questions on two topics related to personal and everyday life. There are five questions per topic, 10 questions in total in Part 2.

Candidates hear each question and are given 15 seconds to give each answer. The topics and the language of the questions are accessible and appropriate to A1 and A2 candidates.

Topics include family, likes and dislikes, daily routines and leisure activities, homes and where you live, things you can and cannot do, describing people, talking about future plans, the weather and so on.

Skills/functions being elicited

In Part 2 of the Speaking tests, candidates are assessed on their ability to talk about themselves using simple, basic English. Questions will focus on aspects of everyday life, such as:

- Describing what they do and where they live in simple terms
- Describing simple aspects of daily life
- Giving simple descriptions of people, places and possessions
- Talking simply about likes and dislikes
- Talking simply about free time, weekend plans or holidays

Tips for teachers

Provide candidates with:

- plenty of opportunities to practise talking about themselves, their routines, their families and everyday life
- examples of vocabulary and phrases needed to talk about their everyday life
- practise talking about their likes and dislikes, hobbies and free time activities
- opportunities for practising asking and answering questions, through pair-work activities
- strategies to expand on their responses where appropriate

Tips for learners

- Learn words and phrases needed to talk about your everyday life: your family, where you live, your hobbies, likes and dislikes
- Practise describing yourself and your family, what you do, places you know and things you have
- Remember, you can just answer the question or say more things if you like

Sample Speaking Part 2 Response

Now I am going to ask you some questions about your family.

1. Do you have a large or a small family?
2. How many people are there in your family?
3. Do you live with your family or do you live alone?
4. Describe one person in your family.
5. Do you think it is important to spend time with your family?

The first 1 or 2 questions generally ask for factual information.

Later questions ask for more detail and may ask for candidate's opinion.

Sample Speaking Part 2 Response

1. I have a large family.
2. There are 7 people in my family, my wife, my two children, mother, father. I have two sisters and one brother.
3. I live with my wife and children. My mother and father live in Bahrain and my sisters are in America.
4. My sister is very kind. She is 25 years old. She is a teacher. She has long hair and brown eyes.
5. Yes, it is important to spend time with your family. I spend my free time with my children, playing games or going to the park. I talk to my mother every week on the phone.

Questions 1 and 2: It's good to respond in full sentences where possible.

Fuller answers show how much the candidate is able to say.

This answer shows that the candidate can describe someone in different ways.

The extra information here allows the candidate to give their opinion and say how they spend time with family.

Note: this sample task is for guidance purposes only. For examples of level-specific listening tasks, please refer to the Skills for English Practice Tests available through the Skills for English website: <https://skillsforenglish.com/language-learning/>