

Exploring Skills for English Tests

Speaking Part 3: B1 to C2

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.

In Part 3, candidates are presented with a role card with 5 prompts. Candidates have 1 minute to read through the role card and think about their response. They then have time to address the prompts in the role card (4 minutes at B1 and 5 minutes at B2 to C2).

Topics include giving advice to a friend, exploring a local or global issue, describing their own plans and aspirations.

Skills/functions being elicited

The aim of Part 3 is to allow candidates to speak at length about a given topic. The 5 prompts provide candidates with elements to include in their talk as well as telling them how to address each element. Examples of skills being elicited include:

- Explaining
- Describing
- Recommending
- Advising
- Justifying

Note that these are adapted to suit each level, B1 to C2.

Tips for teachers

Provide candidates with:

- Explore topics in groups and talk about their opinions and ideas
- Research and prepare short talks
- Record themselves giving a short talk and then listening and correcting any errors

Tips for learners

- Read, think about and discuss topics of general interest with your friends and family in English
- Practise talking about concrete and abstract issues
- Practise making notes and talking from notes to your class
- Think about how a short talk should be organised and structured

Sample B1 Speaking Part 3 Task

In this part of the test, you are going to talk about the importance of young people learning to cook.

- Describe the kinds of healthy food you think everyone should eat
- Say whether you think young people where you live can make healthy foods
- Say whether you think cooking should be taught in schools and why
- Explain what the impact of poor-quality food has on health
- Say what governments can do to encourage people to eat more healthily

The topic of the talk is always given at the beginning of Part 3.

Some prompts may have an extension question such as 'why'.

Candidates should think carefully about the command word used at the beginning of each prompt: describing, explaining and so on

Sample Speaking Part 3 Response

I think it's important that we all eat healthily. So I think we should eat more fruit and vegetables every day. In fact, where I live, we are lucky as we have a great fruit and vegetable market and can buy fresh produce every week, straight from the farm

Candidates can add to their response.

Candidates should structure their talk using cohesive devices.

However, in my city, I don't think many young people know how to cook, which is a pity. Most are more interested in eating fast foods like burgers and these are not good for health. Eating a poor diet can have a negative impact on our health when we are older. We are more likely to put on weight and have things like high blood pressure which can lead to other health problems. As for children, they can be less energetic and not pay enough attention in school if they don't have a good breakfast for example.

Candidates can address the prompts in any order.

Candidates can provide examples to support their ideas.

It would be a good thing if cooking was taught in schools. When I was young, we could take cooking lessons in school but nowadays not many schools have the space or the rooms to do this. One way governments could encourage people to eat healthily is to introduce cooking skills in schools, but also help farmers so that the price of fruit and vegetables is cheaper for everyone.

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/>