


Speaking skills

Part 1: Talking about familiar topics

Exam information

In Part 1 of the Speaking test the examiner will ask you questions on familiar topics such as your home town, your family, your studies and interests.

1  **1.5–1.10** Listen to six candidates answering questions from Part 1 of the Speaking test. What question do you think the examiner asked in each case? Complete the examiner's questions.

- a How _____ ?
- b What _____ ?
- c Do _____ ?
- d Do _____ ?
- e How _____ ?
- f Do _____ ?

Technique

Listen carefully to how the examiner starts the question. This will help you decide what type of answer you should give, e.g. if a question starts with *Why ...?*, you will be expected to give a reason.

2 The candidates in 1 use linking expressions (e.g. *and, so, because*) to link ideas and sentences together and help them give extended answers. Complete Candidate 1's answer below with linking expressions, then listen again to check your answers.

I came by bus. **1** I had to take two different buses **2** my home is on the other side of the city and the whole journey took about 45 minutes. I like travelling by bus **3** I don't do it very often **4** I usually walk or cycle to school, **5** is really near my home. I only use it if I want to go on a longer journey **6** into the city centre. Today I had quite a long distance to travel and **7** I came by bus.

3 Which items in 2 have the following functions?

- a to give a reason _____
- b to give an example _____
- c to add extra information _____
- d to give a consequence _____
- e to show contrast _____

Technique

Always try to give extended answers by giving reasons, examples and any other extra information that is relevant. Do not memorize long speeches as this will sound unnatural and will lose you marks.

- 4** Look at the audio script and find other examples of linking words.
Add the examples to the list in 3.
- 5** With a partner, ask and answer the questions in 1.
Make sure you give extended answers.

Giving extended answers

- 6** Write 10 questions using the prompts, one for each of the topics below.

Examples

Who do you live with? (accommodation)

How often do you eat in a restaurant? (food)

accommodation ■ daily routines ■ entertainment ■ family
food ■ holidays ■ interests ■ shopping ■ studies ■ work

- a Who _____ ?
- b How long _____ ?
- c Do _____ ?
- d Have _____ ?
- e When _____ ?
- f What _____ ?
- g How often _____ ?
- h Which _____ ?
- i Why _____ ?
- j Would _____ ?

- 7** Look at the possible questions in 6. Match the extended answers below to four of the questions.
Then mark the linking words.

- 1 I like going to the cinema if it's a new film or a film that has special effects because it's much better to see it on a large screen and going with friends means we can talk about it afterwards. I live in a small village 30 km from the nearest cinema though, so going to the cinema is quite expensive. I also have to go in the early evening as the last bus to my village leaves the town at 10.30 pm. And watching at home is much cheaper than going to the cinema! _____
- 2 I'm a student so most of my time is spent at lectures and in the library. But I have a job in a local café near the university to help pay for things. I work three evenings a week serving customers and I also help out in the kitchen. I can eat there on the evenings I work, which also helps with my finances! I sometimes work on Saturday too, but I like to keep the weekend free if I can. _____
- 3 I play badminton and I'm a member of my college team – we play against other college teams and we're quite good. As a spectator I enjoy going to see my local football team and watching bigger matches on television. I like watching tennis tournaments too – it's really interesting to see players who play very well on one surface but not necessarily on another. _____
- 4 I like going shopping with my sister. There's a big shopping centre in the town where we live and we often go there at the weekend to look around the shops and have coffee. There's an ice rink there too, so we sometimes take my little brother, but he doesn't like shopping! If I need to buy something expensive like new shoes then I'll go with my mum, because she can pay for them! _____

- 8** With a partner, ask and answer the questions you made in 6.
Give extended answers using the words and phrases from 4.