



SPEAKING PRACTICE

Speaking Bank 1

Culture and Traditions | celebrations and festivals | Cambridge IGCSE ESL 0511

Part 1: Interview

Take turns asking and answering. Each person should aim to speak for 2-3 minutes in total.

Question	Strategy
Personal / present What celebration is important in your community?	Use event and meaning: <i>People celebrate... / The event usually includes... / It is important because...</i>
Past experience Can you tell me about a celebration you enjoyed?	Describe activity and atmosphere: <i>I attended... / We took part in... / The atmosphere was...</i>
Opinion / change Should traditional celebrations change over time?	Discuss continuity and change: <i>Traditions should keep... / However, they can adapt by... / The important thing is...</i>

Part 2: Short talk

Prepare for 1 minute. Then speak on your own for up to 2 minutes.

Sharing a local celebration

Your school wants students to learn about a local celebration. You are considering these options:

- holding a small celebration at school
- creating a video explaining its traditions

Talk about the advantages and disadvantages of each option. Say which option you would prefer, and why.

Strategy: plan your short talk

Open: Briefly introduce the situation:
There are two possible ways to share the local celebration...

Compare: Give one advantage and one disadvantage for each option. Do not ignore either option.

Choose: Finish clearly:
I would prefer... because...

Part 3: Discussion

Discuss the questions. Each person should give reasons and examples, not just short answers.

Follow-up questions

1. Why do celebrations matter to communities?
2. Can large public festivals lose their original meaning?
3. Should people from outside a culture take part in its celebrations?
4. How can traditional events appeal to younger generations?

Strategy: develop your ideas in Part 3

Meaning: Explain community importance: *The celebration represents... / It brings people together by... / It reminds the community of...*

Respect: Discuss participation carefully: *Visitors should... / It is respectful to... / Problems occur when...*

Renew: Suggest thoughtful change: *Younger people may respond to... / Organisers could... / The tradition should still...*



SPEAKING PRACTICE

Speaking Bank 2

Culture and Traditions | languages and identity | Cambridge IGCSE ESL 0511

Part 1: Interview

Take turns asking and answering. Each person should aim to speak for 2-3 minutes in total.

Question	Strategy
Personal / present What languages are used around you?	Use context and purpose: <i>People use... / At home or school... / The language is useful for...</i>
Past experience Can you tell me about a time when language helped or limited communication?	Describe communication result: <i>I was trying to... / We understood each other by... / The difficulty was...</i>
Opinion / protection Should communities protect languages that fewer people speak?	Explain cultural value: <i>A language carries... / Protecting it helps... / However, it requires...</i>

Part 2: Short talk

Prepare for 1 minute. Then speak on your own for up to 2 minutes.

Encouraging language learning

Your school wants students to practise another language more often. You are considering these options:

- starting a lunchtime conversation club
- pairing students with online language partners

Talk about the advantages and disadvantages of each option. Say which option you would prefer, and why.

Strategy: plan your short talk

Open: Briefly introduce the situation:
There are two possible ways to practise another language...

Compare: Give one advantage and one disadvantage for each option. Do not ignore either option.

Choose: Finish clearly:
I would prefer... because...

Part 3: Discussion

Discuss the questions. Each person should give reasons and examples, not just short answers.

Follow-up questions

1. How does language influence a person's identity?
2. Should everyone learn an international language?
3. What is lost when a language disappears?
4. Will translation technology reduce the need to learn languages?

Strategy: develop your ideas in Part 3

Identity: Connect language and belonging: *Language expresses... / People feel connected to... / It forms part of...*

Loss: Explain cultural consequences: *When a language disappears... / Knowledge may be... / Future generations cannot...*

Technology: Make a balanced prediction: *Translation tools will... / However, they cannot fully... / People may still learn languages to...*



SPEAKING PRACTICE

Speaking Bank 3

Culture and Traditions | customs, food and everyday traditions | Cambridge IGCSE ESL 0511

Part 1: Interview

Take turns asking and answering. Each person should aim to speak for 2-3 minutes in total.

Question	Strategy
Personal / present Is there an everyday custom that is important in your family?	Describe behaviour and reason: <i>In my family, we... / This usually happens... / It shows...</i>
Past experience Can you tell me about a custom that was new to you?	Describe observation and learning: <i>I noticed that... / At first I... / Then I understood...</i>
Opinion / respect Should visitors always follow local customs?	Discuss respect and limits: <i>Visitors should try to... / This shows respect because... / However, they should not have to...</i>

Part 2: Short talk

Prepare for 1 minute. Then speak on your own for up to 2 minutes.

Teaching visitors about local customs

Your community wants visitors to understand local customs better. You are considering these options:

- making a short illustrated guide
- offering small cultural workshops led by local people

Talk about the advantages and disadvantages of each option. Say which option you would prefer, and why.

Strategy: plan your short talk

Open: Briefly introduce the situation:
There are two possible ways to explain local customs...

Compare: Give one advantage and one disadvantage for each option. Do not ignore either option.

Choose: Finish clearly:
I would prefer... because...

Part 3: Discussion

Discuss the questions. Each person should give reasons and examples, not just short answers.

Follow-up questions

1. Why can customs be difficult for outsiders to understand?
2. Is it disrespectful to change a traditional recipe or practice?
3. How can people ask about another culture without causing offence?
4. Are everyday customs more important than major celebrations?

Strategy: develop your ideas in Part 3

Context: Explain hidden meaning:
The custom developed because... / Local people understand... / Outsiders may not realise...

Respect: Use careful language:
A respectful approach is... / People should ask... / It may cause offence if...

Evaluate: Compare types of tradition:
Everyday customs shape... / Celebrations are more visible, but... / Both matter because...



SPEAKING PRACTICE

Speaking Bank 4

Culture and Traditions | cultural exchange and globalisation | Cambridge IGCSE ESL 0511

Part 1: Interview

Take turns asking and answering. Each person should aim to speak for 2-3 minutes in total.

Question	Strategy
Personal / present How do you learn about cultures different from your own?	Use sources and learning: <i>I learn through... / This shows me... / I would like to know more about...</i>
Past experience Can you tell me about something you enjoyed from another culture?	Describe item and response: <i>I tried or experienced... / It came from... / I enjoyed it because...</i>
Opinion / globalisation Does globalisation make cultures more similar?	Evaluate similarity and survival: <i>Global media spreads... / Cultures may become... / However, local traditions...</i>

Part 2: Short talk

Prepare for 1 minute. Then speak on your own for up to 2 minutes.

Planning a cultural exchange

Your school wants students to learn directly from another culture. You are considering these options:

- working online with a class in another country
- holding a cultural exchange day at school

Talk about the advantages and disadvantages of each option. Say which option you would prefer, and why.

Strategy: plan your short talk

Open: Briefly introduce the situation:
There are two possible ways to organise cultural exchange...

Compare: Give one advantage and one disadvantage for each option. Do not ignore either option.

Choose: Finish clearly:
I would prefer... because...

Part 3: Discussion

Discuss the questions. Each person should give reasons and examples, not just short answers.

Follow-up questions

1. What can people gain from cultural exchange?
2. Can global popular culture threaten local traditions?
3. Should cultural products be adapted for international audiences?
4. Is a world with more similar cultures necessarily a problem?

Strategy: develop your ideas in Part 3

Gain: Explain learning and empathy:
People discover... / This can challenge... / They may become more...

Threat: Explain cultural pressure:
Global culture may replace... / Young people can be influenced by... / Local creators may...

Nuance: Avoid a simple judgement:
Similarity can make... / However, diversity provides... / The key issue is...



SPEAKING PRACTICE

Speaking Bank 5

Culture and Traditions | heritage and preserving the past | Cambridge IGCSE ESL 0511

Part 1: Interview

Take turns asking and answering. Each person should aim to speak for 2-3 minutes in total.

Question	Strategy
Personal / present What historic place or tradition would you like to learn more about?	Use curiosity and value: <i>I would like to learn about... / It is connected to... / It may reveal...</i>
Past experience Can you tell me about an old place or object you saw?	Describe age and significance: <i>The place or object was... / It had been used for... / I found it interesting because...</i>
Opinion / preservation Should old buildings always be protected?	Balance heritage and modern need: <i>Old buildings preserve... / However, they may be... / Protection should depend on...</i>

Part 2: Short talk

Prepare for 1 minute. Then speak on your own for up to 2 minutes.

Preserving local heritage
 A historic local building needs a new purpose. You are considering these options:

- turning it into a small community museum
- using it as a centre for traditional skills and events

Talk about the advantages and disadvantages of each option. Say which option you would prefer, and why.

Strategy: plan your short talk		
Open: Briefly introduce the situation: <i>There are two possible new uses for the historic building...</i>	Compare: Give one advantage and one disadvantage for each option. Do not ignore either option.	Choose: Finish clearly: <i>I would prefer... because...</i>

Part 3: Discussion

Discuss the questions. Each person should give reasons and examples, not just short answers.

Follow-up questions
1. Who should pay to protect cultural heritage?
2. Can modern buildings become heritage in the future?
3. Should development be stopped if important history may be lost?
4. How can digital technology help preserve culture?

Strategy: develop your ideas in Part 3		
Value: Explain why heritage matters: <i>Heritage helps people... / The site represents... / Losing it would mean...</i>	Trade-off: Compare preservation and development: <i>Development may provide... / On the other hand, heritage... / A compromise might...</i>	Digital: Suggest modern preservation: <i>Technology can record... / Virtual access allows... / However, it cannot replace...</i>