



SPEAKING PRACTICE

Speaking Bank 1

Future Plans and Ambitions | study choices and further education | 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 |
|--|--|
| <p>Personal / present What would you like to study or learn in the future?</p> | Use intentions and reasons: <i>I would like to study... / I am interested in... / This could help me...</i> |
| <p>Past experience Can you tell me about a subject or course that changed your plans?</p> | Describe influence: <i>I studied... / It made me realise... / After that, I decided...</i> |
| <p>Opinion / choice Should students choose subjects mainly for future careers?</p> | Balance interest and usefulness: <i>Career value matters because... / Personal interest helps... / A good choice should include...</i> |

Part 2: Short talk

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

Choosing a place to continue studying

You are considering where to continue your education. You are considering these options:

- studying close to home
- moving to another city for a wider choice of courses

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 places to continue my education...

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 some students find educational choices difficult?
2. Is moving away from home an important part of growing up?
3. Should higher education be available free to everyone?
4. How might education change during today's students' lifetimes?

Strategy: develop your ideas in Part 3

Answer: Give a clear first response:
I think... / For many students... / It depends on...

Support: Add a reason and example:
This is because... / For example... / A student who...

Extend: Add a different angle: *However... / Another consideration is... / In the future...*



SPEAKING PRACTICE

Speaking Bank 2

Future Plans and Ambitions | career ambitions and meaningful work | 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 would you like your future work to give you? | Use priorities and reasons: <i>I would like work that... / It is important for me to... / I would also value...</i> |
| Past experience Can you tell me about someone whose career interests you? | Describe role and influence: <i>They work as... / Their work involves... / It interests me because...</i> |
| Opinion / ambition Is it useful to have one clear career ambition? | Evaluate clarity and flexibility: <i>A clear goal can... / However, plans may... / It is useful to remain...</i> |

Part 2: Short talk

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

Preparing for a future career

You want to prepare for a career that interests you. You are considering these options:

- taking a specialist course connected to the career
- getting experience in several different workplaces

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 prepare for the career...

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. Should people choose work that benefits society?
2. How much should salary influence a career decision?
3. Can a person's dream job change as they get older?
4. What careers may become more important in the future?

Strategy: develop your ideas in Part 3

Priority: State what matters most:
The main priority should be... / Salary matters, but... / For me...

Explain: Develop the reason:
This is important because... / It allows people to... / The consequence may be...

Speculate: Talk about change carefully:
Careers may change because... / It is likely that... / We may need more...



SPEAKING PRACTICE

Speaking Bank 3

Future Plans and Ambitions | travel, gap years and experience | 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 |
|--|--|
| <p>Personal / present Would you like to spend time travelling or living somewhere new?</p> | Use willingness and purpose: <i>I would like to... / It would allow me to... / I might find it difficult to...</i> |
| <p>Past experience Can you tell me about a journey or experience that taught you something?</p> | Describe lesson and change: <i>During the experience... / I learned... / It changed the way I...</i> |
| <p>Opinion / gap year Is taking a gap year a good idea for school leavers?</p> | Evaluate benefit and risk: <i>A gap year can provide... / However, students may... / It is worthwhile if...</i> |

Part 2: Short talk

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

Planning a year before further study

You are considering how to spend a year before continuing your studies. You are considering these options:

- working and saving money at home
- travelling while volunteering on organised projects

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 spend the year...

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 young people learn from living away from home?
2. Should travel be considered an important form of education?
3. Can volunteering abroad sometimes create more problems than it solves?
4. Do all young people have equal access to valuable life experiences?

Strategy: develop your ideas in Part 3

Position: Choose a clear view:
I would say that... / Travel can be educational if... / I partly agree...

Example: Use a realistic case:
For example... / Someone living abroad may... / A volunteer project could...

Question: Challenge the simple answer:
However, we should ask whether... / The problem is... / This is not equally possible for...



SPEAKING PRACTICE

Speaking Bank 4

Future Plans and Ambitions | personal goals and new skills | 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 skill would you like to develop? | Use goal and method: <i>I would like to improve... / I could practise by... / This skill would help me...</i> |
| Past experience Can you tell me about a goal that took time to achieve? | Describe progress: <i>I started by... / The difficult part was... / Eventually...</i> |
| Opinion / planning Is careful planning necessary for achieving goals? | Evaluate planning and flexibility: <i>A plan helps people... / However, plans need to... / Success also requires...</i> |

Part 2: Short talk

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

Learning an ambitious new skill

You want to make real progress in a challenging new skill. You are considering these options:

- joining a structured course with an expert
- following a self-study plan using free resources

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 learn the new skill...

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 some goals remain wishes rather than real plans?
2. Is self-discipline more important than natural talent?
3. Should people share their goals with others?
4. How can people respond when their plans fail?

Strategy: develop your ideas in Part 3

Claim: Make one clear point:
The main reason is... / I believe self-discipline... / Sharing goals can...

Develop: Explain how or why:
This works because... / It helps people to... / Without it...

Alternative: Suggest another response:
If the plan fails... / Another approach is... / People could instead...



SPEAKING PRACTICE

Speaking Bank 5

Future Plans and Ambitions | uncertainty, change and long-term plans | 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 far ahead do you usually make plans? | Use time and flexibility: <i>I usually plan... / For important events... / I prefer to stay flexible because...</i> |
| Past experience Can you tell me about a plan that had to change? | Describe change and response: <i>I had planned to... / Then... / I adapted by...</i> |
| Opinion / uncertainty Is it possible to plan life too carefully? | Evaluate control and uncertainty: <i>Planning gives people... / Too much planning may... / Some uncertainty is...</i> |

Part 2: Short talk

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

Making a flexible five-year plan

You want to think about the next five years without making your plan too rigid. You are considering these options:

- setting several clear goals with target dates
- choosing one general direction and reviewing it each year

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 make a flexible long-term plan...

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 people's long-term plans often change?
2. Does uncertainty make life more exciting or more stressful?
3. Should young people worry about making the wrong future choice?
4. How can societies prepare young people for jobs and problems that do not yet exist?

Strategy: develop your ideas in Part 3

Respond: Give your immediate view:
I think plans change because... / For me, uncertainty is... / Young people should not...

Qualify: Show conditions and limits:
This depends on... / To some extent... / It becomes a problem when...

Broaden: Move to the wider implication:
More generally... / Schools and governments could... / In an uncertain future...