

Speaking First: Ten practice tests for the Cambridge B2 First

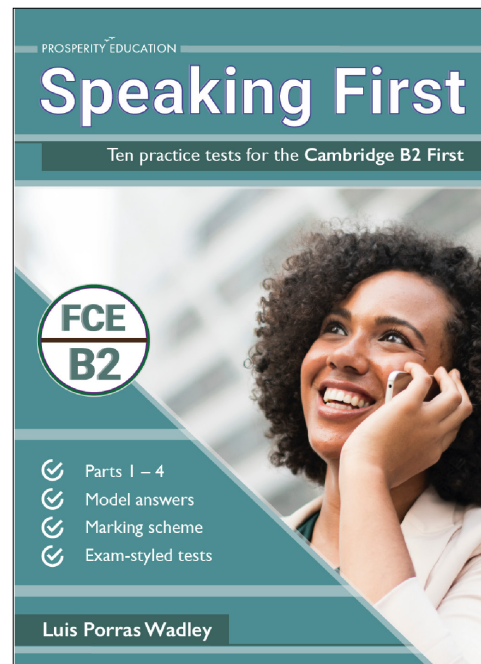
Cambridge B2 First | Parts 1–4

10 exam-styled practice tests

Model answers included

ISBN: 9781916129702

Publication: 2019



These sample tests have been written to closely replicate the Cambridge FCE Speaking exam experience and so each Speaking test follows the same structure and wording as official B2 First Speaking papers.

Because of this, candidates will become familiar with the topics, the structure, the timing and the level by the time they sit their B2 First exam.

In addition to the 10 complete practice tests for B2 First Speaking, this book also contains B2 Speaking model answers with examiner comments and ready-to-use speaking mark sheets.

This resource also includes an in-depth description of the B2 First Speaking paper, and so provides a large bank of high-quality practice material both for students wishing to take the Cambridge B2 First and for teachers preparing students for the exam.

About the author

Luis Porras Wadley is the owner and director of KSE Academy, an English academy and official Cambridge English Exam Preparation Centre based in Granada. As an English teacher, Luis has been preparing Cambridge candidates successfully for over 10 years. He is an author, EFL blogger, freelance writer and translator.



Test 1 – Part 1

2 minutes (3 minutes for groups of three)

Cambridge B2 First: Speaking

Candidates' background

Good morning/afternoon/evening. My name is and this is my colleague

And your names are?

Can I have your mark sheets, please?

Thank you.

- Where are you from, (*Candidate A*)?
- And you, (*Candidate B*)?

First, we'd like to know something about you.

Select one or more questions from any of the following categories, as appropriate.

Holidays and travelling

- **When was the last time that you went on holiday? (What did you do?)**
- **When you're on holiday, how do you like to travel? (Why?)**
- **How often do you travel abroad? (Would you like to travel more?) (Why?)**
- **Is there a country that you would really like to visit in the future? (Why? / Why not?)**

Free time

- **How do you like to spend your free time? (Why?)**
- **How much free time do you have? (Do you think it's enough?)**
- **Do you prefer to spend your free time alone or with friends? (Why?)**
- **Is there a new leisure-time activity you'd like to try? (Which one?) (Why?)**

Television

- **Do you enjoy watching TV? (Why? / Why not?)**
- **Do you think people spend too much time watching TV nowadays? (Why? / Why not?)**
- **Have you ever appeared on TV? (Tell us about it.)**
- **Is there a programme you particularly enjoy watching? (Tell us about it.)**

1 Spending time together

2 Eating out

Interlocutor In this part of the test, I'm going to give each of you two photographs. I'd like you to talk about your photographs on your own for about a minute, and also to answer a question about your partner's photographs.

(Candidate A), it's your turn first. Here are your photographs. They show **people spending time together**.

Place **Part 2 Task 1**, in front of *Candidate A*.

I'd like you to compare the photographs, and say **what you think the people are enjoying about spending time together**.

All right?

Candidate A



.....
1 minute

Interlocutor Thank you.

(Candidate B), **do you often spend time with your family? (Why? / Why not?)**

Candidate B



.....
Approximately 30 seconds

Interlocutor Thank you. (Can I have the booklet, please?) *Retrieve Part 2 Task 1.*

Now, *(Candidate B)*, here are your photographs. They show **people having lunch in different places**.

Place **Part 2 Task 2**, in front of *Candidate B*.

I'd like you to compare the photographs, and say **why you think the people have chosen to eat in these places**.

All right?

Candidate B



.....
1 minute

Interlocutor Thank you.

(Candidate A), **where do you usually eat with your friends? (Why?)**

Candidate A



.....
Approximately 30 seconds

Interlocutor Thank you. (Can I have the booklet, please?) *Retrieve Part 2 Task 2.*

What are the people enjoying about spending time together?



Why have the people chosen to eat in these places?



Test 1 – Part 3

4 minutes (5 minutes for groups of three)

Cambridge B2 First: Speaking

Choosing a place to study

Interlocutor Now, I'd like you to talk about something together for about two minutes (*3 minutes for groups of three*).

Here are some places where people sometimes choose to study and a question for you to discuss. First you have some time to look at the task.

Place **Part 3 Task 3**, in front of the candidates. Allow 15 seconds.

Now, talk to each other about **the advantages and disadvantages of studying in these places**.

Candidate A

.....
2 minutes (3 minutes for groups of three)

Interlocutor Thank you. Now you have about a minute to decide **what is the best place to study during the exam periods**.

Candidate B

.....
Approximately 30 seconds

Interlocutor Thank you. (Can I have the booklet, please?) Retrieve **Part 3 Task 3**.

Part 4

4 minutes (6 minutes for groups of three)

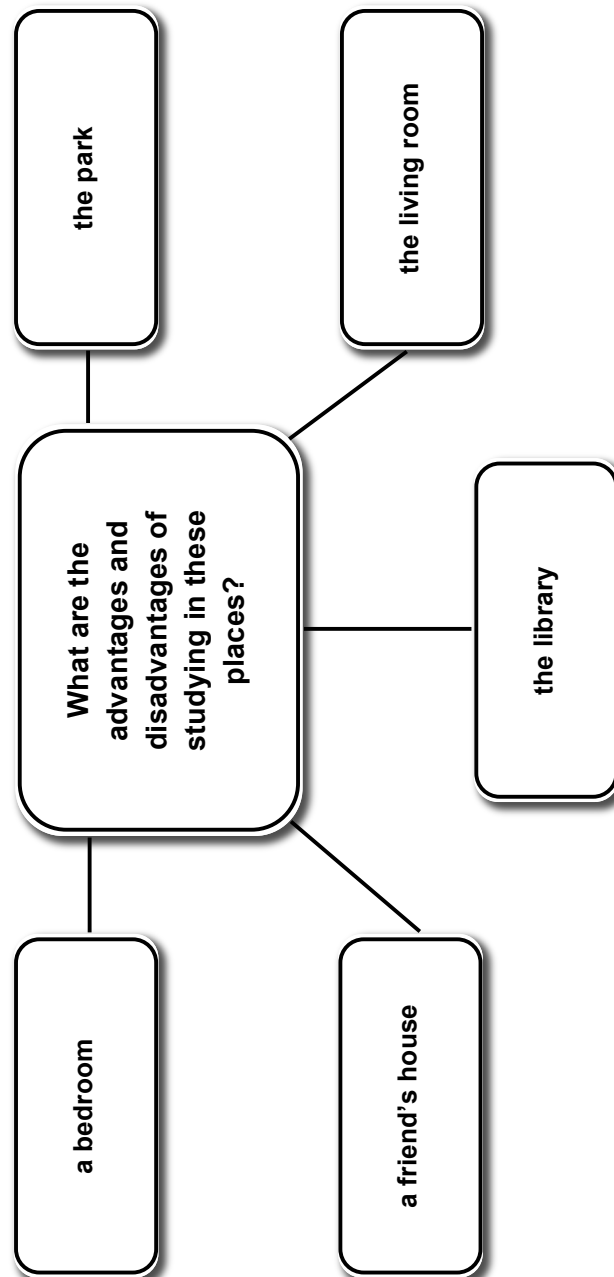
Interlocutor Use the following questions, in order, as appropriate:

- Do you think that we study the right subjects at school? (Why? / Why not?)
- Some people say it's more important to study science than history. What's your opinion?
- Some people believe that practical experience is more useful than studying theory. Do you agree? (Why? / Why not?)
- Do you believe teachers should be paid a higher salary than sportspeople? (Why? / Why not?)
- Some people say that teachers and children get too many holidays. What do you think?
- Do you think that parents and teachers have the same responsibility in children's education? (Why? / Why not?)

Select any of the following prompts, as appropriate:

- What do you think?
- Do you agree?
- And you?

Interlocutor Thank you. That is the end of the test.



DD	MM	YY

Candidate

Marks awarded

Grammar and vocabulary	0	1	1.5	2	2.5	3	3.5	4	4.5	5
Discourse management	0	1	1.5	2	2.5	3	3.5	4	4.5	5
Pronunciation	0	1	1.5	2	2.5	3	3.5	4	4.5	5
Interactive communication	0	1	1.5	2	2.5	3	3.5	4	4.5	5

Item descriptors

Grammar and vocabulary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Degree of control of grammatical forms.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Range of vocabulary used to give and exchange views.
Discourse management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stretches of language produced.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Relevance of contributions and organisation of ideas.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use of appropriate cohesive devices and discourse markers.
Pronunciation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Intelligibility
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Intonation
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Word stress
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Individual sounds
Interactive communication	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Initiating, responding and linking contributions to those of other speakers.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintaining and developing interaction, and negotiating.

Assessment notes

--

Test 1 – Part 1

2 minutes (3 minutes for groups of three)

Model answers

Holidays and travelling

- **When was the last time that you went on holiday?** *The last time I was on holiday was last summer. (What did you do?) I went to Scotland for three days with my parents and we had a really good time.*
- **When you're on holiday, how do you like to travel?** *When I'm on holiday, I love travelling by plane and by train. (Why?) The plane is really fast, so it's great, and the best thing about the train is that you can enjoy the landscape while you travel.*
- **How often do you travel abroad?** *Maybe once a year, because I spend most of my summer holidays abroad. (Would you like to travel more?) (Why?) Of course. I think travelling's the best way to spend your holidays and you can learn a lot from it.*
- **Is there a country that you would really like to visit in the future?** *Yes, definitely, I'd love to visit Australia some day. (Why?) I believe it's a beautiful country with lots of things to see.*

Free time

- **How do you like to spend your free time?** **(Why?)** *I spend most of my free time with friends or watching TV at home.*
- **How much free time do you have?** *Not very much at the moment: I'm studying and I have a part-time job at the weekends, so I'm usually quite busy. (Do you think it's enough?) Not really. I mean, I'm fine with it, but sometimes I feel a little stressed and I would like to take some time off.*
- **Do you prefer to spend your free time alone or with friends?** **(Why?)** *I'd rather spend my time with friends, honestly. I think it's a lot more fun and interesting to do things with friends than alone.*
- **Is there a new leisure-time activity you'd like to try?** **(Which one?)** *Oh, yes. I'd love to try skiing. I've never done it before and I think I would enjoy it. (Why?) Well, I like snow and I already do snowboarding, so I believe skiing could be fun too.*

Television

- **Do you enjoy watching TV?** **(Why? / Why not?)** *No, not very much. Nowadays, I only watch series and films on my computer, because most of what there is on TV is quite boring.*
- **Do you think people spend too much time watching TV nowadays?** **(Why? / Why not?)** *Yes, for sure. Most people watch too much TV, and I think there are better things to do than watch TV all day long.*
- **Have you ever appeared on TV? (Tell us about it.)** *When I was a kid, I appeared once on TV. It was fun. I think a local TV station came to my school and they recorded us for one of their programmes, but I don't remember exactly why.*
- **Is there a programme you particularly enjoy watching?** **(Tell us about it.)** *Well, as I said before, I don't watch much TV, but if I have to say something, I do enjoy watching some animal documentaries from time to time. I love animals, and some of these documentaries are really well made.*