



TAKE YOUR SPEAKING TEST LIKE A
PRO

WHAT TO DO IN THE SPEAKING EXAM WHEN...

Useful expressions to study for your
language exam



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It's a problem when you study words instead of complete expressions or sentences.

When you study only single words, you have to think hard to put together a correct English sentence. But when you study complete English sentences, in a stressful exam situation you only have to change the small details to yours and the sentences will fly out of your mouth.

In this worksheet, I bring you the most useful sentences to study for different situations. Print it out and write the meaning of the sentences next to the English versions in your own language. Then put them into sentence cards and study them by heart.





WHAT TO DO IN THE SPEAKING EXAM WHEN ...

1. **you don't understand what the examiner asked you:**

Could you repeat that, please?

Can you say it again, please?

2. **you understand what the examiner asked you, but you don't know the answer to the question:**

I'm sorry, I don't know much about astrophysics.

I must admit that I don't know very much about astrophysics.





3. you want to think over quickly what to tell the examiner:

Well, let me think about that for a moment.

I'll have to think about it.

4. you want to answer a simple question with more sentences (without only saying yes / no):

'Do you like coffee'

'Yes, I do. I love coffee. I drink 3 or 4 a day. I drink it with sugar and milk.'





5. you want to complain about something in the Situation task:

I'd like to complain about the Internet connection.

I'd like to make a complaint about the service.

6. you don't want to list all the little details in the Picture Description task.



In this picture I can see a young man taking notes at a meeting.

The people are talking about their business.





I think they **might be talking** about how they can be more successful. Or **maybe** they are arguing about their plans.

Relaxed atmosphere is one of the most important **working conditions**.

These people can express their opinion at meetings and they can **come up with creative ideas**.

Apart from a relaxed atmosphere, a reasonable salary is also a very important working condition. Higher salary can motivate employees to work harder and be more loyal to the company.

I also would like to work for a company like this where I can talk about my views, ideas and plans in a relaxed way.





7. you want to organise a free time activity with your friend.

Do you fancy going to a restaurant tomorrow?

8. you give advice to somebody.

Take my advice and study harder.

If I were you, I'd study much harder.

9. you want to change the topic of the conversation because you can't answer the examiner's question:

I'm afraid this topic is not my cup of tea, but last year I was travelling to Spain by plain when ...





10. you want to talk about a 'boring' topic. How to make a 'boring' topic like reading interesting.

'What do you do in your free time?'

'In my free time, I like reading fantasy books. It may sound boring, but reading these kinds of books takes me to another world. I can forget about my problems and keep laughing while reading Terry Pratchett's books. I have all his novels on my bookshelf and I have some English versions as well. I usually start reading in the evening, and sometimes I have to force myself to sleep 4 hours later. I can get lost in his books.'

11. you don't know the word in English, and you don't want to sit silently in front of the examiner:

It's on the tip of my tongue.





Let me describe it with other words.

Oh, It's on the tip of my tongue. It's a thing which you open a door with. (key)

I'm afraid I can't remember this word which you use to open a door. (key)

12. you would like to do something or go somewhere with your friend (examiner) in the Situation task.

What about going to the cinema?

Why don't we go to see a film this evening?





Why not play computer games tonight?

13. you want to disagree in a polite way in the Discussion task:

I agree with much of what you say, but I think...

Yes, but on the other hand we shouldn't forget about ...

You have a point there, but...

