



Test Format | Part 2 (Long Turn)

- 3 to 4 minutes (including 1-minute preparation time)
- you will be given a task card: you will have 1 minute to write notes down and get ready, then you will have 2 minutes to speak about the subject without interruption
- the examiner will ask a follow up question or two after your talk

Criteria

Each of the four criteria counts equally. Around the beginning of Part 1, the examiner will write down a band score for each of the four criteria (*it means that the examiner already has an idea of what your band score more or less is*).

Then those numbers will be marked up or down during the test.

All the criteria count EQUALLY and are judged throughout all 3 parts of the speaking test.

The examiner then uses well defined criteria to assess your ability in the following areas:

Fluency and Coherence

Lexical Resource (Vocabulary)

Grammatical Range and Accuracy

Pronunciation

At the end of the test, the interviewer calculates the average of the four scores and that number will represent your final speaking band score.

example:

Grammatical Range and Accuracy	7	
Lexical Resource (Vocabulary)	7	
Pronunciation	6	= 24, which divided by 4 equals 6
Fluency and Coherence	4	Band Score 6

Improving Band Score

Fluency and Coherence

Mark Up for...

- + speaking naturally
(try copying the speed of your examiner)
but **ONLY** if the pronunciation is good
- + expanding answers with relevant information/details and using correct tenses and connectors
- + answering the questions directly

Mark Down for...

- long, awkward pauses
- not answering the question completely/correctly

Lexical Resource (Vocabulary)

Mark Up for...

- + using a wide range of vocabulary
- + using appropriate words
- + correct usage of collocations and phrasal verbs

Mark Down for...

- using unfamiliar vocabulary words or using words incorrectly
- always using common and simple vocabulary

Grammar

Mark Up for...

- + knowing how to use the basic verb tenses well
- + making complex sentences, using conjunctions and connectors
- + making complex structures

Mark Down for...

- inconsistent tenses
- always using simple sentences
- constructing complex sentences incorrectly

Pronunciation

Mark Up for...

- + easy to understand pronunciation
- + speaking CLEARLY so that every word can be understood
- + proper intonation to emphasize a certain meaning or idea
- + basic word pronunciation
- + linked sounds and connected speech
(not pronounced sound for sound)

Mark Down for...

- repeatedly mispronounced words
- very fast or very long answers
(poor pronunciation or no coherence)

NO NEED FOR "American" OR "British" ACCENT

REMINDERS

- There are no 'right' answers to the questions asked, concentrate on how you deliver your answer.
 - Practice answering the questions, but do not learn or memorize the answers.
Examiners can tell if you have memorized your answers.
 - Use the 1 minute of preparation time wisely. Write down all the important keywords and phrases.
Organize your thoughts, make sure you have prepared your signposting so that you can move from one topic to another easily.
 - Follow the flow of the questions. It will show how well you can change from one topic to another.
 - You are given two uninterrupted minutes to talk about the topic. Try to consume the whole two minutes.
It's better to go over the two minutes than below.
 - If you are not sure how to do it:
 - ▶ once you have spoken about one topic, check the next topic to discuss
 - ▶ take a short pause, relax and think about what to say next
 - ▶ look up at the examiner, make eye contact
 - ▶ signpost so that the examiner knows you will be talking about a new topic
 - Make sure you elaborate and give the necessary details.
for example:
*"One of my many hobbies is taking pictures. (Don't stop here! Add more details/information!)
I find taking pictures fun and challenging. It is also a great way of keeping precious memories."*
 - ALWAYS offer examples to help you explain a statement.
for example:
*"I need it for my studies. (Don't stop here! Add more details/information!) I've been offered
a place at a university in New York to continue my studies on Business Management, but I need to prove my level
of English is good enough."*
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Questions

1.) Describe your favorite family tradition.

You should say:

- what the tradition is
- when it occurs
- what you do
- why it is your favorite tradition.

2.) Describe a restaurant that you enjoyed going to.

You should say:

- where the restaurant was
- why you chose this restaurant
- what type of food you ate at this restaurant
- why you enjoyed eating at this restaurant.

3.) Describe something (*special*) that you saved money to buy.

You should say:

- what it was
- how long it took you to save enough money to buy it
- why you wanted to buy this thing
- how you got/earned the money
- how you felt when/after you bought it.

4.) Describe a journey, e.g. by car, plane, boat, that you remember well.

You should say:

- where you went
- how you travelled
- why you went on that journey
- why you remember this journey well.

Answers

1.) Describe your favorite family tradition.

You should say:

- what the tradition is
 - when it occurs
 - what you do
 - why it is your favorite tradition.
-

Words and Phrases:

<i>big meal</i>	<i>"My favorite family tradition is most certainly Christmas, which is <u>celebrated</u> on the 25th of December. Christmas is such a great holiday.</i>
<i>leftovers</i>	<i>The <u>essence</u> of the holiday is just to give <u>wholeheartedly</u>. My family loves to <u>celebrate</u> this holiday.</i>
<i>catch up</i>	<i>It is a <u>yearly tradition</u> for our family to gather at my grandfather's house three days before Christmas. I always look forward to this event. My cousins and other family members that I do not get to see often are there. We really go crazy over the decorations. The lights, wreaths, garlands, stockings and figurines, are all <u>homemade</u>. My grandma and aunts always <u>prepare</u> a <u>big meal</u>. There is always plenty for everyone. The main thing is, of course, my grandmother's famous glazed ham. It is so good, tender and juicy!</i>
<i>celebrate</i>	<i>My grandmother is always the one who cooks it. We also love her mashed potatoes.</i>
<i>entertainment</i>	<i>There's so much food that there would be <u>leftovers</u> for three days. We also have eggnog, pumpkin pie, Christmas pudding, and candy cane. Then, for dessert we have fresh pumpkin and pecan pie with whipped cream. During dinners we talk, laugh and <u>catch up</u> with what is going on with our lives. Usually when a relative has a special announcement to make, they usually say it during dinner.</i>
<i>essence</i>	<i>Christmas dinner is so exciting because it's when we find out something new and exciting about our family members. After a sumptuous meal, for <u>entertainment</u> we all get together in the living room drink eggnog and sing Christmas carols.</i>
<i>bonding</i>	<i>Christmas is the perfect time for <u>bonding</u> for my family. After a whole year of barely seeing each other, it's the right time to update each other on our lives. You can see why this is a favorite tradition for me and my family. I hope our family tradition will continue."</i>
<i>wholeheartedly</i>	
<i>prepare</i>	
<i>homemade</i>	
<i>yearly tradition</i>	

2.) Describe a restaurant that you enjoyed going to.

You should say:

- where the restaurant was
- why you chose this restaurant
- what type of food you ate at this restaurant
- why you enjoyed eating at this restaurant.

Words and Phrases:

definitely be

recommending

superb quality

plenty of variety

beautiful view of

excellent service

cater

menu

good company

ambience

served quickly

local

"Just last week, I was invited by a friend of mine, Ana, to go for brunch at a local restaurant. She actually chose it, not me, but it was very good and it is one of the best that I've ever eaten at. Everything was exceptional: we received excellent service, the ambience, the food, and obviously the good company made for a great meal.

The restaurant was maybe about 25 miles outside of the city where we lived. It was in the country and situated next to a lake with a beautiful view of the surrounding countryside. Like I said, it was actually Ana who chose the restaurant. I didn't even know about it, although I had heard several people mention its name before. It truly was quite a breathtaking location. As soon as we arrived there, I immediately understood why so many people would drive a long way to go to the place.

The food they offered is what would be classed as traditional food or 'home cooking' but it's of very high standard and superb quality. The menu was varied and included something for everyone. There are traditional meat dishes, different types of fish and they cater for vegetarians too with plenty of variety available for those who don't want to eat meat or fish.

I decided to have one of the local salmon, which was supposedly caught from the lake in front of the restaurant. My friend had a steak. The food was divine; I couldn't fault it for anything. It was served quickly and was delicious. It's a place I will definitely be recommending to other people now that I've been there and tried it for myself.

The whole experience was very good, from the food, the scenery and of course having an opportunity to catch up with my friend, so there were many reasons why I enjoyed eating there, and it was actually better than I thought it would be."

3.) Describe something (*special*) that you saved money to buy.

You should say:

- what it was
- how long it took you to save enough money to buy it
- why you wanted to buy this thing
- how you got/earned the money
- how you felt when/after you bought it.

Words and Phrases:

<i>purchase</i>	<i>"My first dog, Buster. I bought my adorable dachshund when I was 12 years old and it left a special mark on my life. <u>Considering</u> that I really had no idea what I wanted to be in the</i>
<i>check ... out</i>	<i>future, well, Buster showed me the way.</i>
<i>regret</i>	<i>I honestly thought having a pet was just a past time. Little did I know, my little pup was going to inspire me into becoming the competent veterinarian I am now. Buster was really a</i>
<i>earn</i>	<i>spur of the moment decision. I was really <u>laying aside</u> money to buy a new bicycle. At that time, I was working as an errand boy. Neighbors would call me up and ask me to do some</i>
<i>end up</i>	<i>errands for them. Pick up their laundry, mow their lawn, clean their pool or basement, whatever odd jobs they didn't have time for. During school days, I would only have about</i>
<i>grateful</i>	<i>three errands to do. It took me almost nine months to save up because I always <u>ended up</u></i>
<i>consider</i>	<i>spending my <u>hard-earned</u> money.</i>
<i>made enough money</i>	<i>When I finally <u>made enough</u> money to buy the bike of my dreams, on the way to the store, I saw Buster in a pet shop. His cage was near the window and he was barking. I couldn't</i>
<i>lay aside money</i>	<i>stop marveling how hyper and cheerful he was. So I went in to <u>check him out</u>, and <u>ended up</u></i>
<i>change ... mind</i>	<i><u>purchasing</u> him. I don't know, when I saw Buster, something inside of me just changed my</i>
<i>spur of the moment</i>	<i><u>mind</u> and told me to get him. At first I was hesitant, almost <u>regretting</u> my decision, but it all changed as Buster and I got to know each other. Unfortunately, my best friend Buster died as a young adult. It was really painful for me to lose him so early. But he made me realize how much I actually loved animals.</i>
	<i>I guess when I was saving up money for my bike, I didn't know that I was really saving up for my career. I'll always be <u>grateful</u> to Buster for making me realize what I wanted to be one day."</i>

4.) Describe a journey, e.g. by car, plane, boat, that you remember well.

You should say:

- where you went
- how you travelled
- why you went on that journey
- why you remember this journey well.

Words and Phrases:

<i>spontaneous</i>	<i>"I'll <u>never forget</u> when my four friends and I <u>took a trip</u> to this mountain resort by car. It was three years ago, but it was the most fun trip I ever had. We honestly did not do any</i>
<i>took a trip</i>	<i><u>planning</u> at all. In fact, it was just a sudden decision by my friend who said we needed to get</i>
<i>affect</i>	<i>out of the city. He wanted to go somewhere cool and quiet, so we all decided to go to go camping at Cool Mountains.</i>
<i>turn for the worse</i>	<i>We all took turns driving. During our drive we were all excited and kept talking about all the</i>
<i>nevertheless</i>	<i>things we were going to do when we got there. Like taking a hike, jogging, having a grill</i>
<i>plan</i>	<i>and a small bonfire. Well, unfortunately for us, we forgot the bag that had all of the things</i>
<i>never forget</i>	<i>we needed. Our flashlights, knives, matches and mugs, basically all our <u>necessities</u> were in</i>
<i>high spirits</i>	<i>there. You can only imagine our exasperation when we realized we didn't have that bag. It</i>
<i>despite</i>	<i>was a good thing there was a convenience store, although it was an hour drive away. Things</i>
<i>necessity</i>	<i>took a <u>turn for the worse</u> when my friend got bitten by a squirrel, another burned the food,</i>
	<i>and the other two got sick from the water. As for me, well, I sprained my ankle while taking</i>
	<i>a hike. But <u>despite</u> the bloopers and all other things that went wrong, it truly was a great</i>
	<i>trip, one that I'm sure my friends and I will remember for a long time. In fact, we still laugh</i>
	<i>like crazy when we talk about it now.</i>
	<i>Like I said, since the trip was just a <u>spontaneous</u> decision, well, I think the lesson for us was</i>
	<i>not to get too excited and to do at least a little bit of planning. I mean everything that could</i>
	<i>go wrong, went wrong. <u>Nevertheless</u>, since we were in such</i>
	<i><u>high spirits</u>, it didn't <u>affect</u> us at all. In fact, there wasn't a moment during the three days</i>
	<i>we were there we weren't laughing.</i>
	<i>Until now, the whole memory makes me laugh. There wasn't a single moment wasted</i>
	<i>during that trip. It was all fun, laughter and making due with whatever we had. It really</i>
	<i>made us creative and innovative. The whole experience was just hilariously amazing!"</i>