

Exam-style task

PART 3

▶▶ Listen to the recording, or read out the interlocutor's script to your partner, and then talk about your photograph for about 1 minute.

INTERLOCUTOR: Now I'd like each of you to talk on your own about something. I'm going to give each of you a photograph of people celebrating a special event. (Student A), here's your photograph. Please show it to (Student B), but I'd like you to talk about it. (Student B), you just listen. I'll give you your photograph in a minute. (Student A), please tell us what you can see in your photograph.

Student A speaks for about 1 minute.

Thank you.

Now, (Student B), here's your photograph. It also shows people celebrating an important event. Please show it to (Student A) and tell us what you can see in the photograph.

Student B speaks for about 1 minute.

Thank you.

Photograph for Student A



Photograph for Student B



PART 4

▶▶ Listen to the recording, or read out the interlocutor's script, and then talk to your partner for 2–3 minutes.

INTERLOCUTOR: Your photographs showed people celebrating an important event. Now I'd like you to talk together about important events that you celebrate, and explain how you celebrate them.

Students A and B speak together for 2–3 minutes.

Thank you. That's the end of the test.

▶▶ Listen to the model answers for Parts 3 and 4 on the recording. Note that the language level is higher than that expected of candidates at PET level.

For Part 3, remember that there are many ways of describing a photo – everyone will describe it differently – and for Part 4, you need to interact with your partner, taking turns, asking questions and responding to what your partner says.

Hints and tips for Speaking Part 3

What you have to do

- You have to describe a colour photograph.
- The interlocutor will tell you the subject of the photo, but will not ask you any further questions. You have to speak on your own without prompting.
- You can describe the place, the people in the picture and what they are doing, any important objects and where they are.

How to approach it

- Imagine you are describing the picture to someone who can't see it. Include the names of objects, and describe colours, people's clothes, the weather, and so on.
- Talk about facts and impressions: *There's a ...*, *She looks ...*

- If you don't understand what is happening in the photo, just describe what you can see.
- Try to sound interested and curious about the subject of your photo; avoid giving the interlocutor a boring 'list' of things you can see.

How to prepare yourself

- Practise talking about a photo for 1 minute.
- Learn to describe the areas of a picture: *bottom right-hand corner, top left-hand corner, background, foreground, in the middle of the picture*, etc.
- Learn expressions to use when you don't know the word for something, e.g. *I don't know what it's called in English, but it's like / it's a kind of ...*

Hints and tips for Speaking Part 4

What you have to do

- You have to talk with your partner for 2–3 minutes on a subject given by the interlocutor.
- The subject will be connected with the photos you have just described, but the interlocutor will take the photos back. You don't need to refer to them in your conversation.

How to approach it

- Turn towards your partner so it's easier to talk together.
- Remember, the interlocutor will not join in this part: it is a conversation between you and your partner.
- Say what you think, but also take turns, ask questions and respond to what your partner says.

- If you don't understand something the interlocutor (or your speaking partner) says, it is all right to ask them to repeat it.
- Speak clearly at all times so the interlocutor and your partner can hear you.

How to prepare yourself

- Practise talking about your interests, your likes and dislikes, and your opinions. It's important that you can give *reasons* for these views.
- Practise short conversations with a partner (2–3 minutes) on common everyday topics. (Your teacher can advise you what these topics might be.)
- Practise expressions for agreement and *friendly disagreement*.