

A2 Key for Schools Speaking test

Watch **the video of Asia and Vittoria** doing an A2 Key for Schools Speaking test and read the examiner comments below.

The Speaking test lasts 8 to 10 minutes. You will take the test with another student. There are two examiners.

Part 1 (3–4 minutes)

The examiner will ask you and your partner some questions. These questions will be about your daily life, free-time activities, likes and dislikes, past experience and future plans. For example, you may have to speak about your school, family, hobbies or home. The examiner will also ask you a 'Tell me something about ...' question (for example, 'Tell me something about the food you like'), and you should give a longer answer (say two or three things about the topic) with some detail if you can.

Part 2 (5–6 minutes)

In Part 2, Phase 1, you and your partner will talk to each other. The examiner will give you a task with five pictures on it related to one particular topic and will ask you to discuss these activities, things or places. You and your partner should talk about the different activities, things or places, saying what you like or don't like about them, and giving reasons for your opinions. You can also ask and answer questions of each other. Then the examiner will ask you one or more questions about the activities, things or places.

In Part 2, Phase 2, the examiner will ask two more questions on the same topic that you talked about in Phase 1.

How the examiners assess your speaking

There are two examiners in the room. The **interlocutor** speaks to you, and the **assessor** just listens.

As you do the test, the **assessor** listens to you and thinks about:

Grammar and Vocabulary

How well you can use grammar and vocabulary in the tasks.

Pronunciation

How clear your pronunciation of English is and how easy it is to understand you.

Interactive Communication

How well you communicate with the examiner and your partner by asking and answering questions.

The **interlocutor** focuses on your **Global Achievement**. This is about your speaking in general: how well you can communicate in everyday situations and how clear you are.

When your test is complete, the examiners give you marks for each of these things: Grammar and Vocabulary, Pronunciation, Interactive Communication and Global Achievement. The marks are for what you do over the whole Speaking test, not for each part of the test. The examiners give you marks for your own performance – they don't compare you with the other candidate.

Comments on the test video

Part 1	
<p>Asia</p> <p>Asia gives good, clear answers to all the questions she is asked; her answers are almost all complete sentences.</p> <p>When the examiner asks, <i>'Please tell me something about what you like to eat with friends'</i> she gives only one complete sentence: <i>'With my friends I like eat the pasta and the fish.'</i> The examiner asks her another question so that she can show she can give more detail, and she answers it very well: <i>'Yes, I eat sweets with my friends because is funny and I eat the sweets once a week.'</i> It is good to say two or three different things in this part.</p> <p>Generally her grammar and vocabulary are correct, but there a few errors: <i>'I have 12 years old'</i> (it should be, <i>'I am 12 years old'</i>), <i>'Yesterday I eat meat'</i> (it should be, <i>'Yesterday I ate meat'</i>).</p> <p>Her pronunciation is generally clear.</p>	<p>Vittoria</p> <p>Vittoria gives good, full answers to everything she is asked: <i>'I live in Buccinasco a little town near Milan.'</i> <i>'After school I usually eat pasta or meat.'</i></p> <p>However, she does make some minor mistakes with word order: <i>'At home cooks my sister or my mother.'</i> (It should be, <i>'At home my sister or my mother cooks.'</i>)</p> <p>When the examiner asks, <i>'Please tell me something about the clothes you like to buy,'</i> Vittoria gives a good answer: <i>'I like to buy jeans and T-shirt and usually I really like to buy jumper'</i> but she could have said a little bit more.</p> <p>Generally her grammar and vocabulary are accurate.</p> <p>Her pronunciation is clear.</p>
<p>Part 1 tips</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Practise giving information about yourself (your name, where you come from). • Practise giving longer answers about your daily life, your interests, etc. • Try to answer the examiner's questions with more than one word. • You can give short answers, but it is good to give some longer answers too. • When answering the 'Tell me something about' question, try to add more information or give reasons. Imagine you have been asked 'Why?' 	

Part 2	
Asia	Vittoria
<p>Asia starts the interaction by asking Vittoria questions. She continues to ask Vittoria questions until Vittoria asks her a question, which she answers very well. She says, <i>'No, I don't like going to the concerts'</i> and explains why she doesn't like going to concerts, <i>'because is very boring'</i>. This is good; her answer is clear and she shows how much English she knows.</p>	<p>Vittoria answers her partner's questions well. She also asks some questions: <i>'Do you like going to concerts?'</i>, <i>'What's your favourite outdoor activities?'</i></p> <p>Most of her questions are grammatically correct. She also gives complete answers to the examiner at the end of this part.</p>
<p>Part 2 tips</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Think about why you like certain food, places, music etc. • Practise by asking your friends and family what they like, and why, about a range of familiar topics. • Remember the examiner does not know how much English you know, so you have to show him or her by speaking a lot. 	

Overall	
Asia	Vittoria
<p>Grammar and Vocabulary</p> <p>Asia's use of grammar and vocabulary is generally correct and although there are a few errors, what she says is clear.</p> <p>Pronunciation</p> <p>Asia speaks clearly and is generally easy to understand.</p> <p>Interactive Communication</p> <p>Asia interacts well throughout the test with both her partner and the examiner.</p> <p>Global Achievement</p> <p>Asia communicates well during the whole test, giving a lot of detail in her answers with little hesitation.</p>	<p>Grammar and Vocabulary</p> <p>Vittoria's use of grammar and vocabulary is generally correct and although there are a few errors, what she says is always clear.</p> <p>Pronunciation</p> <p>Vittoria speaks very clearly and is easy to understand at all times.</p> <p>Interactive Communication</p> <p>Vittoria interacts very well, asking and answering her partner's questions. She also interacts very well with the examiner.</p> <p>Global Achievement</p> <p>Vittoria communicates well using complete sentences during the whole test.</p>

Scores

	Asia	Vittoria
Grammar and Vocabulary	3.5	4
Pronunciation	4	5
Interactive Communication	5	5
Global Achievement	4	5