

Student's Notes

First (FCE): SPEAKING

You will take the speaking exam with a partner. Marks are given for your range and correct use of vocabulary, pronunciation, communication and successful completion of tasks. You will be given time to talk on your own and with your partner. If using the Macmillan **Ready for First** course book, there is a complete video of all four parts of the speaking exam. The video is a great way to see what an actual speaking test looks like, it makes entering that exam room a lot less intimidating.

Part 1 – Interview (3 minutes). The examiner will ask you questions about yourself. Talk directly to the examiner in this part of the exam.

Think about the sort of questions you could be asked, but do not memorize long pre-prepared answers as they will probably not sound very natural. Be ready with relevant vocabulary to use to talk about your hobbies, interests, etc. Vary your vocabulary, for example '*I am not very keen on*', '*I loathe*', '*I hate*', '*I can't stand...*'

Part 2 – Talking about photographs (4 minutes). You will have one minute to compare two photographs and add some further comment about them. You also have about 20 seconds to comment on your partner's photograph.

Remember you are not asked to describe but to compare the photographs, so use language such as '*In the first photo...however in the second one...*' Use expressions such as '*I imagine*', '*Perhaps*', '*She may/might*', and give reasons for your opinions.

Part 3 – Collaborative task (3 minutes). You and your partner will be given visual material and then asked to speak to each other about it in order to complete a task.

This is about turn-taking so do not dominate the conversation but rather seek your partner's opinion.

Talk to your partner, and not directly to the examiner.

Part 4 – Further discussion (4 minutes). The interviewer will lead a discussion which is related to the topic of Part 3.