Student’s Notes

**Preliminary (PET): Speaking**

The speaking test lasts between 10 and 12 minutes and it is taken with a partner.

**Part 1:** The examiner asks you and your partner questions about yourselves.

Think about the sort of questions you could be asked, but do not learn long pre-prepared answers as they will probably not sound very natural. Be ready, however, to talk about your hobbies, job, where you live. In this part you are talking to the examiner and not your partner.

The examiner will also ask you to spell your name, so practise spelling all parts of your name and make sure you can do it perfectly.

**Part 2:** The examiner will ask you and your partner to look at some pictures showing a situation and talk about them together.

Listen carefully to the instructions. Are you going to be talking about yourself or somebody else?

Speak to your partner and not to the examiner in this part of the test. This is about turn-taking so listen to your partner and respond to what he/she says. Do not dominate the conversation, but rather seek your partner’s opinion, agree and disagree. Learn the ways to do this.

**Part 3:** You and your partner take it in turns to describe a photograph for about one minute. In this part you should speak directly to the examiner, not to your partner.

Think about WHERE, WHEN and WHO are in the picture. Do not jump from place to place but describe the picture logically. If you forget the name for an object, try not to worry as you will still get credit for paraphrasing the word, or explaining what its purpose is. For example, imagine you have a picture of a “teapot” but you have forgotten what it’s called in English. You could still say “it’s something used for making tea”. Remember that the main objective of the speaking paper is for you to communicate, so do not worry if you are not as precise as you would like to be.
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Part 4: You and your partner have a conversation about the subject of the photos in Part 3, which could be restaurants, markets, holidays, family meals, etc. You only have a few minutes for the task. The examiner will tell you what to talk about but will not ask any questions. In this part you should talk to your partner, not to the examiner.

Listen to what your partner says and respond appropriately, but do not talk for too long and remember to give your partner a chance to speak. Learn expressions such as ‘What do you think?’ ‘I agree with you but…’, etc.