

A2 Key · Speaking: the interview and the discussion

A2 Key strategy notes; invented examples, not official Cambridge items.

A conversation, not an interrogation

Part 1 is a friendly chat; Part 2 is planning a trip with a classmate. Both are conversations you already have — just in English, with marks.

The answer sandwich

- 1 **The question** Where do you live?
- 2 **The thin answer — no marks to speak of** Beijing.
- 3 **The sandwich** I live in Beijing, in an apartment near the park. I like it because it's quiet.

Decision

Answer + detail + reason. Every time.

Your turn: build the sandwich

Your turn

What do you do at the weekend?

- A. Basketball.
- B. I play basketball with my classmates. It's fun, and I'm getting taller.
- C. At the weekend, yes.
- D. I am playing basketball now.

Talk to each other

the monologue — no interaction marks

I like the camera. The camera is good. I choose the camera.

One voice, zero interaction.

the discussion — the marks live here

I like the camera — what about you?

Really? I think the book is better, because...

Your turn: the interaction

Your turn

Your partner says the book is the best gift. The best reply:

- A. Yes. (silence)
- B. I see your point, but I'd choose the bike, because the teacher rides to school.
- C. The book is a book.
- D. Next question, please.

Blocks, not speeches

The recitation trap

A memorised two-minute speech gets redirected instantly.

Unknown word? Describe around it: a thing for... you use it to...

Say it aloud

Tell me about your family. — There are four of us. My sister is twelve.



Add the colour: We fight about the TV, and I usually win.



The weekend: I play basketball with my classmates. It's fun, and I'm getting taller.



The discussion: five gifts — a book, a bike, a camera, a game, a plant. Choose for your teacher, together.

Check yourself

- Where do you live? — answer, detail, reason: the sandwich.
- Part 2: respond to your partner — the interaction is the mark.
- Unknown word: describe around it — a green thing for your desk.
- Blocks, not speeches — and speak up.