

B1 Preliminary · Speaking: description, decision and discussion

B1 Preliminary strategy notes; invented examples, not official Cambridge items.

The four-course meal

The speaking test is a meal: the appetiser (interview), the solo (photo), the cooking together (the decision), and the conversation over coffee (discussion).

The photo recipe

Place: In this photo, there's a kitchen.



People and action: A woman and a girl are cooking.



Detail: The girl is mixing something in a bowl.



Guess: They look like they're having fun.

Your turn: description or inventory

Your turn

Which is a description?

- A. There is a table. There is a bowl. There is a spoon.
- B. A woman and a girl are cooking; the girl is mixing something, and they look happy.
- C. This is a picture. It has colours.
- D. I like kitchens.

The mutual decision

steamrolling — scores worse

The library. Definitely the library. Done.

One voice, no partner.

the machinery — where the marks live

How about the library? — Good idea, but the gym...

So, we agree on the library. — OK, yours makes sense.

Your turn: the yes-person

Your turn

Your partner suggests the coding club. You prefer cooking. You say...

- A. Yes. Yes. Yes.
- B. I see what you mean, but the cooking club is tastier — and we could code the recipes.
- C. No. Wrong.
- D. (silence)

The restart button

When stuck, restart

What do you think about this one? — the question machine restarts the conversation.

Inviting your partner is itself marked: interaction management.

Say it aloud

Interview: What do you like doing after school? — sandwich answers.

Photo minute: any photo on your phone — place, people, action, detail, guess, sixty seconds.

The decision: one club for the class — music, coding, cooking, basketball, drama. Choose together.

Discussion: Do you prefer learning in groups or alone? — answer, detail, reason.

Check yourself

- The photo recipe: place, people, action, detail, guess.
- Speculate: look like, seem, maybe, probably.
- Invite your partner: interaction management is marked.
- Disagree politely: I see what you mean, but...