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## CAMBRIDGE BENCHMARKING TEST

### TEST INFORMATION

#### SPEAKING

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##### TEST OVERVIEW

The Speaking Test is taken using a computer with a microphone and headphones. Questions are presented to the candidate through the computer screen and headphones, and candidate responses are recorded. The test has 4 parts. In each part, the candidate will see and hear the instructions.

The Speaking Test assesses candidates across all levels from below A1 to C1.

The table below gives the test details for each age group.

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##### Cambridge Benchmarking Speaking Test (11-13)

Candidates respond to a variety of questions and prompts.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Approximately 20 minutes</li><li>▪ Reporting from 'Below A1' to 'B2 or above'</li></ul>
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##### Cambridge Benchmarking Speaking Test (14-17)

Candidates respond to a variety of questions and prompts.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Approximately 20 minutes</li><li>▪ Reporting from 'Below A1' to 'C1 or above'</li></ul>
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##### Cambridge Benchmarking Speaking Test (adult)

Candidates respond to a variety of questions and prompts.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Approximately 20 minutes</li><li>▪ Reporting from 'Below A1' to 'C1 or above'</li></ul>
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##### TEST CONTENT

The table below gives details for each part.

##### Part 1 – Talking about yourself

Candidates answer questions about themselves, giving information about personal experience and plans in the past, present and future, along with giving and justifying opinions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ 8 questions (3 not assessed)</li><li>▪ Speaking time per question – 10-30 seconds</li><li>▪ Total speaking time – 120 seconds</li></ul>
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##### Part 2 – Telling a story

Candidates tell a story using a sequence of pictures and then speculate or give advice on a story-related theme.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ 1 sequence of story pictures</li><li>▪ 1 follow-up question</li><li>▪ Total speaking time – 105 seconds</li></ul>
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##### Part 3 – Talking about pictures

Candidates answer questions about two pictures, comparing and speculating, giving and justifying their opinion.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ 2 pictures &amp; 3 questions</li><li>▪ Speaking time per question – 35-50 seconds</li><li>▪ Total speaking time – 120 seconds</li></ul>
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**Part 4 – Talking about a topic**

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Candidates talk about a topic, giving and justifying their opinion, evaluate their ideas and speculate further on the topic.

- 1 diagram & 3 questions
- Speaking time per question – 40-50 seconds
- Total speaking time – 130 seconds

**SAMPLE TEST**

The Sample Test can be found here. [Speaking Sample Test](#)

(If you close the test, it will reopen at the same place. If you have any issues reopening the test once it has been finished, clear the computer's cache and try again.)

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**SPEAKING TEST ADVICE FOR CANDIDATES****Before the Speaking Test**

- Review the Sample Test so you understand the parts of the test and how to move through them.

**During the Speaking Test**

- Make sure you keep the microphone the same distance from your mouth throughout the test.
- Try not to touch the microphone part of your headset (this can create noise).
- Try to keep your voice at the same volume level throughout the test.
- Wait until you hear the beep before you start speaking.
- Try to speak for all the time available. Give examples, expand on your points and, where possible, use a variety of language (e.g. structures, vocabulary, etc.).
- Don't worry if you get interrupted before the end of your answers. (The green bar shows you how long you have remaining to speak.)
- Some test parts have preparation time. Use this time to think about what you're going to say. (The blue bar shows you how long you have remaining to prepare).

**Advice for Part 1**

- The first three questions in the test are not assessed. They are an opportunity to practise.

**Advice for Part 2**

- Describe the pictures and say what you think is happening. Be confident – there is no right or wrong answer! When answering the follow-up question, again, be confident about your ideas.

**Advice for Part 3**

- Describe and then give your own opinion about the pictures. Answer the questions using any and all the ideas you want to. Remember – there is no right or wrong answer!

**Advice for Part 4**

- Give and explain your opinion. Be confident in your ideas – there is no right or wrong answer!
  - Don't worry about talking about everything on the diagram for the same amount of time – you can choose the things you think are the most important.
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**SPEAKING PRACTICE**

*Speak and Improve* is a great way to practise your speaking skills and get used to the online experience. <https://speakandimprove.com/>