

# **EXAMPLES OF SPEAKING PERFORMANCE AT CEFR LEVELS A2 TO C2**

**(Taken from Cambridge ESOL's Main Suite  
exams)**

## **CEFR LEVEL AND COMMENTARIES**

**MANSOUR: LEVEL A2  
ARVIDS: LEVEL A2**

# Foreword

This document accompanies the recorded speaking performances of Mansour (CEF level A2) and Arvids (CEF level A2). The two candidates are taking a Cambridge ESOL Key English Test (KET). This speaking test performance was originally recorded for examiner training purposes, and is here used to provide speaking exemplars of CEF levels. The speaking exemplars used here are an additional resource (to the existing one on the Council's website) that Cambridge ESOL would like to share with other language testing and teaching professionals.

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Further information on the content and exams exemplified in these sample tests is available in the Exam Handbooks, reports, and past papers, which can be obtained via the Cambridge ESOL website, <http://www.cambridgeesol.org/>

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## Mansour (level A2) and Arvids (level A2)

The two candidates selected at level A2, Mansour (from Saudi Arabia) and Arvids (from Latvia), are taking a KET exam. The KET Speaking paper consists of two parts, each with a different format.

Part	Response format
1	<i>Interview</i> In Part 1, each candidate interacts with the interlocutor, using the language normally associated with meeting people for the first time, and giving factual information of a personal kind, for example, name, place of origin, occupation, family etc. Candidates are also expected to be able to talk about their daily life, interests, likes, etc.
2	<i>Candidate-Candidate Question and Answer using prompt material</i> In Part 2, the two candidates interact with each other. This involves asking and answering questions about factual information of a non-personal kind. Prompt cards are used to stimulate questions and answers which will be related to daily life, leisure activities and social life (including references to places, times, services, where to go, how to get there, what to eat, etc.).

### Mansour: Level A2

Mansour can exchange information on familiar topics using simple phrases which include some correct structures. The noticeable systematic basic errors and pauses throughout the sample are characteristic of communication at A2 level. He uses more than the isolated words and pre-packaged utterances associated with A1, but could not be considered to have control of a wide enough repertoire of language to communicate at B1 level.

#### Range (A2):

Mansour uses some basic structures (*"I'm a lawyer. I like it. Because help people and er meeting [all] new people, and er it's good business. It's a lovely city...nice...and good ...better...for learning English.*). In the description of Riyadh he is able to communicate information but the lack of range of structures is very evident.

#### Accuracy (A2):

Some structures are accurate (*"It's a big city in Saudi Arabia"*, *"Where is the library?"* *"Is the library free for the people?"*) but there are very frequent basic errors, for example with verbs (*"His name Tom Cooper"* *"He teach..... he start..."* *"Does the library has.....?"*), and with articles and pronouns. The talk about Saudi Arabia demonstrates Mansour's limited control.

#### Fluency (A2):

Mansour generally makes himself understood, although some effort is required from the listener when he tries to extend his turn (about Riyadh), partly because of very frequent hesitation and reformulation.

#### Interaction (A2):

Mansour answers the personal questions promptly in Part 1, and in Part 2 he deals effectively with the interaction task, despite the language errors mentioned above. Despite his lack of language resources, he tries to give a full answer to the question about his city in Part 1.

#### Coherence (A2):

Mansour uses some simple connectors (*"I like because I help people"*, *"It's a big city in Saudia Arabia and it has 4 million people and it has better govern...."*).

**Arvids: Level A2**

Arvids uses basic language to communicate simple information, although there is marked hesitation when he attempts longer utterances, and his speech is characterised by frequent systematic errors. Although the interlocutor intervenes to support him on one occasion, he does not need the frequent support associated with A1 performance. However, his limited control of linguistic resources prevents him communicating at B1 level.

**Range (A2):**

Arvids uses basic sentence structures to exchange simple information, (*"I am married", "I been in Russia.....", "Estonia? I usually in winter go to Estonia fishing."*). His attempt to express why he wants to visit the USA demonstrates his lack of range beyond A2 level.

**Accuracy (A2):**

There are a few accurate phrases, (*"What is his name?", "The son is ten years old"*), but his language is generally characterised by very frequent systematic errors. (*"I am border guard, it's very interesting job", "I want visit...I think is very beautiful country", "Where is from?"*)

**Fluency (A2):**

Arvids can make himself understood in short utterances, although there are very frequent pauses (for example during the questions/answer activity with his partner). There are also instances of reformulation in Arvids' contributions (*"I every day meet new peoples....students."*)

**Interaction (A2):**

Arvids is able to ask and answer simple questions appropriately despite the lack of control of the language mentioned above: the interlocutor supports him on one occasion, but he is then able to complete the question effectively.

**Coherence (A2):**

Arvids is able to link ideas simply (*"...very interesting job. Every day I meet new people", "I have two childrens, one son and one daughter. The son is ten years old and the daughter is eight years old."*).