



Elementary English A2.2

Speaking

We have designed these speaking activities for you to practise alone without an English teacher. You will not receive feedback for our open-ended questions, unless you book a private class with one of our English teachers.

QUESTION 1

Describe the following pictures using as much detail as possible.

IMAGE 1



IMAGE 2



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IMAGE 3

































IMAGE 4



QUESTION 2

Look at the school timetable below of Harley. Describe this routine in conversation.

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
9-10					
10-11					
11-12					
12-1					
1-2					
2-3					
3-4					

QUESTION 3

Read the following sentence. Do you agree or disagree with this statement? Express your opinion very clearly. The examiner will oppose your opinion. Continue a debate with your examiner and provide supporting arguments for your opinion.

Ebooks are better than paperback books.

QUESTION 4

Answer the following conversation questions.

At The Doctor's

- 1) Do you go to the doctor's often?
- 2) Have you ever been inside an ambulance? Describe your experience.
- 3) Do you know how to put a bandage on?
- 4) Do you bruise easily?
- 5) Have you ever broken a bone and needed a cast? Describe your experience.
- 6) Have you had chickenpox? How old were you?
- 7) What should you do if you feel dizzy?
- 8) Are you fit and healthy? What do you do to achieve this?
- 9) Do you get infections often?
- 10) What should you do if your hand becomes inflamed?
- 11) Do you like injections or are you scared of them?
- 12) When was the last time you had an injection?
- 13) Name some situations you might need some ointment.
- 14) Name some situations you might need painkillers.
- 15) Do you know how to feel for a pulse? Where should you feel for this?
- 16) Have you ever tried using a stethoscope before?
- 17) Have you ever needed stitches before? Describe your experience.
- 18) Have you ever been interested in becoming a nurse/doctor/surgeon?
- 19) Have you ever needed surgery? Describe your experience.
- 20) What should you do if you have a high temperature?
- 21) Have you ever needed a wheelchair before? Describe your experience.
- 22) Do you have a thermometer in your home?
- 23) What are some typical problems you might need to go to the doctor's for?
- 24) Have you ever saved somebody's life? Describe the experience.
- 25) Have you ever had a really close call? Describe the experience.

School

- 1) What was your school called? Where was it?
- 2) Did you enjoy school? Why/why not?
- 3) What was your favourite subject at school? Why?
- 4) What was your least favourite subject at school? Why?
- 5) Did you like your teachers at school?
- 6) What do you think are the most important things a child should learn at school?
- 7) How does the school system work in your country?
- 8) Did you have a school uniform? If not, what did you wear?

- 9) What is your favourite memory from school?
- 10) What advice would you give your child about school?
- 11) What were some of your school rules? Were they strict?
- 12) Did you do any extracurricular activities at school? What were they?
- 13) What kinds of subjects did you study at school? Did you enjoy them?
Why/not?
- 14) Were you a good or bad student?
- 15) Did you used to receive good or bad grades at school?
- 16) Are you still in touch with your school friends? Why/not?
- 17) Tell me about your favourite teacher.
- 18) What did you do during your school breaks?
- 19) Did you ever skip school? Why? What did you do?
- 20) Do you think schools teach the right subjects to children? Why/not?

Jobs

- 1) What do you think is the best job in the world? Why?
- 2) What do you think is the worst job in the world? Why?
- 3) Have you always wanted to work in your industry?
- 4) It is better to be an employee or self-employed?
- 5) Do you think university qualifications are relevant for getting a job? Why/not?
- 6) What is the most dangerous job in the world? Why?
- 7) Is it easy or difficult to get a job in your country?
- 8) What is the best company to work for? Why?
- 9) What is a good age to retire? Why?
- 10) At what age do people usually start working in your country?
- 11) Are there good working conditions in your country? Provide examples.
- 12) If you could change jobs, what would you do? Why?
- 13) What did you want to be when you were younger?
- 14) What are the advantages and disadvantages of being self-employed?
- 15) What qualities are needed for your job?
- 16) Would you ever consider being a politician? Why/not?
- 17) Would you ever consider being an emergency worker? Why/not?
- 18) What is your dream job? Why?
- 19) Do jobs need interviews in your country?
- 20) Talk about your job.

Technology

- 1) Do you use technology much? Provide examples of the technology in your life.
- 2) Could you live without technology? Explain why or why not.
- 3) How has technology changed in your life?
- 4) Do you think the progress of technology is a positive or a negative thing?
- 5) Name the advantages and disadvantages of using technology in your life.
- 6) How has technology helped with your work/studies?
- 7) What do you think the future of technology holds? Why?
- 8) What kind of technological inventions would you like to see in the future?
- 9) In your opinion, what has been the biggest technological advancement over the past 100 years?
- 10) Can you explain how technology might have made the world a worse place?
- 11) Are you good at learning how to use new technology?
- 12) Do you think new technology is ageist?
- 13) Do you think technology will advance even quicker in the future?
- 14) Have you ever been interested in working with technology?
- 15) What are your favourite technological brands? Do you always use the same brands?
- 16) Are you optimistic or pessimistic about the future of technology?

Nature

- 1) Are you interested in nature? Do you like nature?
- 2) Is there a lot of nature where you live?
- 3) What are the biggest issues that nature is confronting nowadays?
- 4) Where is the best place to visit in your country to experience nature?
- 5) Do you think nature will be different 100 years from now? Why/not?
- 6) Do you enjoy visiting the beach? Do you like going in the sea? Do you like walking in the sand?
- 7) Do you go camping regularly?
- 8) Have you ever been interested in space exploration?
- 9) Have you ever visited a castle? Where was it? What was it like?
- 10) Do you find caves claustrophobic?
- 11) What can we do to better protect the environment?
- 12) Would you say you are an “explorer”? Why/not?
- 13) Have you ever worked on a farm? Do you have many farms around you?
- 14) What 3 items would you take with you to be stranded on an island?
- 15) Do you have many mountains in your country?
- 16) Do you enjoy having picnics? What food do you typically have at picnics?
When was the last time you had a picnic?

- 17) If you could visit any one planet other than Earth, which one would you choose and why?
- 18) Do you have many plants in your house/garden? Are you good at looking after plants?
- 19) Can you see lots of stars in the sky where you live?
- 20) Do you like the sun? Or do you prefer other weather?

The Olympics

- 1) Are you a fan of the Olympics? Do you watch it?
- 2) Which sports is your country good at?
- 3) Do you watch the opening and closing ceremonies of the Olympics?
- 4) Do you think more sports should be included in the Olympics?
- 5) What is your favourite sport at the Olympics? Why?
- 6) What is your least favourite sport at the Olympics? Why?
- 7) Have you ever visited an olympic stadium before?
- 8) Has your country hosted the Olympics before? When?
- 9) How many Olympic sports can you name off-by-heart?
- 10) Do you prefer the summer or the winter Olympics? Why?

Music

- 1) What kind of music do you like? Why?
- 2) How do you usually listen to music?
- 3) Who are your favourite bands/musicians?
- 4) Which music did you used to listen to/like when you were younger?
- 5) Do you think the music is better or worse now than during your childhood?
- 6) What is the traditional music from your country?
- 7) Would you be able to live a life without music? Explain.
- 8) Does the type of music you listen to change depending on your mood?
- 9) Who is the greatest band of all time? Why?
- 10) Do you think it's possible to concentrate whilst listening to music?
- 11) Do you use music to help you learn English? In what way?
- 12) Do you like clubbing music?
- 13) Do you spend a lot of money on music?
- 14) Do you still listen to the radio? Is the radio popular in your country?
- 15) Which song has the best lyrics for you?
- 16) What do you focus on more - the lyrics or the melody?
- 17) Do you like karaoke?
- 18) Do you go to music concerts or festivals regularly? Which ones?
- 19) Do you think the image of musicians is important? Explain.
- 20) Do you listen to music in foreign languages? Which ones?

Cooking

- 1) Are you good at cooking?
- 2) What's your favourite recipe to cook?
- 3) How did you learn how to cook?
- 4) Do you think we should learn more cooking at school?
- 5) Are cooking shows popular in your country? Do you watch any? Which ones?
- 6) Do you enjoy baking? Why/not?
- 7) Do you prefer cooking homemade meals or eating out? Why?
- 8) Who are the famous chefs from your country?
- 9) Who is the best cook/ worst cook that you know?
- 10) Why is cooking always different at home to cooking in a restaurant?
- 11) What is the worst/ the best thing about cooking?
- 12) Are you cutting down on anything at the moment? Why?
- 13) Do you ever eat readymade meals or takeout? Why/not?
- 14) Do you think cooking is a social activity?
- 15) Have you ever taken professional cooking classes? Would you like to?
- 16) Have you ever tried cooking traditional food from another culture?
- 17) Do you usually use recipes when you cook?
- 18) How do you choose what to cook each day?
- 19) Do you have lots of kitchen utensils in your house? Do you use them?
- 20) Is there a kitchen utensil that you need?

QUESTION 4

Read the following text out loud focusing on sentence stress.

Do you think it's necessary to learn a language before travelling to a country?

Pointing at things and acting out sentences can be a great way to communicate if you don't have a common language with someone but this can only get you so far! Similarly, Google Translate and the variety of new language translation apps can also help you string sentences together but you can end up saying something completely different (TOP TIP- don't always trust Google Translate!)

It's true that millions of people around the world speak at least the basics of the English language. It is a vital language for travel being found at the airport, on public transport signs around cosmopolitan cities, at hotel reception desks and at most tourist attractions. I understand the necessity of English for travel and I feel unbelievably lucky to have this as my native language.

Native English speakers are often stereotyped as being pretty lazy when it comes to learning foreign languages and, on the most part, this is probably true. Knowing that the majority of holiday destinations will allow you to communicate perfectly well in English means native speakers have become frustratingly lazy.

But what if you travel to a remote area of a country that doesn't speak a word of English? How would you communicate with these people? Would you and should you learn their native language? Even if it's just for a few days?

I'm a very keen linguist. I have studied French since I was 4 years old, started German when I was 13 and added Spanish to my list when I was 21 years old. I feel relatively confident speaking in these languages when I go on holiday and, despite making numerous mistakes, I always try to speak the language of the country I'm

visiting. I always tell my students to not be afraid to make mistakes and use travel as a free opportunity to speak – I have to practise what I preach! It's such a good feeling after all those years of grammar and vocabulary practise when you can hold a basic conversation in the target language.

However, I'm always surprised at how many times I order something in a restaurant in French, Spanish or German and the waiter responds in English! Is my speaking really that bad? Or do they simply want to save you the trouble and that's why they "do you the favour" of speaking in English.

I love going sightseeing and taking short city breaks and I always try to learn the basic phrases in the language "please", "thank you", "I'd like .." "can we get the bill?" I'm also one of those annoying people who asks native speakers, such as receptionists at the hotel or waiters in bars how to say phrases in their language. I think it's really important to respect the culture and the language of the place you're visiting and try to speak their language, plus learning a language keeps the brain active! But many think it's a waste of time learning basic phrases for a short weekend and the majority of people speak the basics of English anyway.

QUESTION 5

Read the following words with consonant clusters.

- 1) Sixth
- 2) Twelfth
- 3) Desks
- 4) Crisps
- 5) French
- 6) Deaths
- 7) Laughs
- 8) Self
- 9) Change
- 10) Switch
- 11) Streets
- 12) Friends
- 13) Throws
- 14) Scratches
- 15) Tempts
- 16) Tests
- 17) Health
- 18) Fifth
- 19) Stops
- 20) Worlds