



Pre-Intermediate English B1.1

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

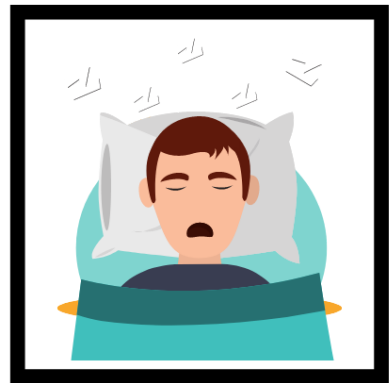
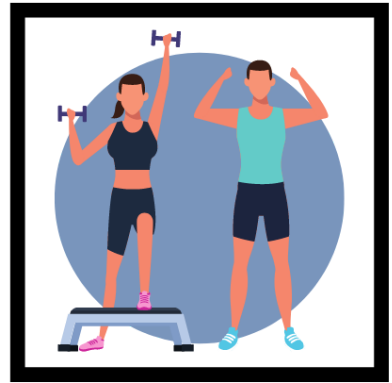


IMAGE 3



QUESTION 2

What is the best way to become fit and healthy? Choose the best option and support your argument.



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.

**Fashion magazines shouldn't have
overweight people in their magazines as
it promotes obesity.**

QUESTION 4

Answer the following conversation questions.

Films

- 1) What is your favourite film of all time? Why?
- 2) Do you like watching films? Why/not?
- 3) Which language do you typically watch films in?
- 4) What is your favourite / least favourite film genre? Why/not?
- 5) Who is your favourite film star? Why?
- 6) Which film star would you like to meet and interview? Why?
- 7) Would you ever like to be a film star? Why/not?
- 8) Do you ever watch films more than once? Why/not?
- 9) What is the worst film you've ever seen? Why was it so bad?
- 10) Do you usually watch films in the cinema/ on streaming platforms / on DVD?
- 11) Do you think film stars get paid too much? Why/not?
- 12) Which genre of film is the most popular in your country? Why?
- 13) Are there many films made in your country?
- 14) Have you ever seen a film set/ been recorded?
- 15) Do you like watching horror films / thrillers? Why/not?
- 16) Which is your favourite film soundtrack?
- 17) Do you think films are too long nowadays?
- 18) Which film do you think is the best for learning English?
- 19) How can you use films to learn English?
- 20) If you could make a film, what would the plot be?

Restaurants

- 1) Do you eat out at restaurants often?
- 2) What is your favourite restaurant and why?
- 3) Do you try new restaurants that open in your town/city? Why/not?
- 4) Which cuisine do you prefer?
- 5) What is the worst restaurant you've ever visited?
- 6) What qualities do you look for in a restaurant when you go on holiday?
- 7) Do you research restaurants online before you visit them?
- 8) What do you think is more important in a restaurant - good customer service or good price? Explain your answer.
- 9) Have you ever had food poisoning from a restaurant? What happened?
- 10) Do you think some restaurants are too expensive for the food they offer?
- 11) What is the most delicious dish you've ever eaten at a restaurant?

- 12) Do you usually eat three courses when you go out?
- 13) Do you think restaurants are overpriced in tourist areas?
- 14) Have you ever managed to host a surprise party at a restaurant before?
Would you like to?
- 15) Have you ever worked with waiters/waitresses for a surprise event, such as a birthday cake or an engagement ring in a glass?
- 16) Would you ever like to work in a restaurant? Have you ever worked in a restaurant before? How was it?

Cinema

- 1) Do you like going to the cinema? Why/not?
- 2) When was the last time you went to the cinema? What did you see? Was it any good?
- 3) Do you think online streaming will overtake cinemas?
- 4) Do you usually get popcorn/ snacks/ drinks when you go to the cinema?
- 5) Is it expensive to visit the cinema in your country? How much is a single ticket?
- 6) How often do you go to the cinema?
- 7) Do you choose films at the cinema based on their critics?
- 8) What's the difference between watching a film at the cinema and watching a film at home? Which do you prefer? Why?
- 9) Do you think cinemas will be successful forever?
- 10) Have you ever watched a 3D or 4D film at the cinema? What was it? Was it any good?
- 11) Do you have any plans to go to the cinema soon?
- 12) Do you think going to the cinema is a good first date? Why/not?
- 13) Do you always watch films at the cinema in your own language?
- 14) Have you ever seen a dubbed film? If so, did you like it? What was it?
- 15) Have you ever watched a film at the cinema in English? If so, what was it? Did you understand everything?
- 16) Going to the cinema is a family activity, not an activity to do with friends - do you agree or disagree? Why?

Culture

- 1) How would you define "culture"?
- 2) How important is culture?
- 3) How would you describe your culture?
- 4) What one thing defines your culture?
- 5) Do you think stereotypes are good or bad? Why?
- 6) Do you think there is some truth in stereotypes?
- 7) What are the stereotypes of your culture?

- 8) Do you know much about other cultures?
- 9) Do you think it's important that there are numerous cultures around the world?
- 10) Have you ever experienced culture shock? Explain.
- 11) Do you think it's important to experience different cultures?
- 12) Do you agree or disagree with the sentence "*when in Rome, do as the Romans do*"?
- 13) What do you like most /least about your culture?
- 14) Have you ever experienced a cultural barrier? If so, how did you overcome it?
- 15) How can companies prepare their employees to overcome cultural barriers?
- 16) What do you think defines a global culture?
- 17) What are the important values, beliefs and traits of your culture?
- 18) What are the cultural celebrations in your country?
- 19) What advice would you give to somebody moving to your country?
- 20) Do you believe culture shock and culture barriers can cause serious difficulty? Why/not?

Fashion

- 1) Are you a fashionable person?
- 2) Is it important to you to be à la mode?
- 3) Do you enjoy window shopping?
- 4) What is the typical fashion in your country? Do you have any traditional outfits? If so, what are they?
- 5) Who is your favourite designer / brand / model?
- 6) Who are the famous designers and models from your country?
- 7) Do you read fashion magazines? If so, which ones?
- 8) What are the most popular brands in your country? Do you shop here? Why/not?
- 9) Do you like dressing up? Why/not?
- 10) Do you normally try things on in the shop? Why/not?
- 11) What do you wear around the house to dress down?
- 12) Do you hit the shops regularly? Do you enjoy it? Why/not?
- 13) Have you ever been a fashion victim before? If so, explain.
- 14) Who are the fashion influencers in your country? Do you follow them? Why/not?
- 15) What is your fashion style?
- 16) Have you ever visited a fashion show before? If so, describe your experience. If not, would you like to visit a fashion show?
- 17) What are the famous fashion shows in your country? Which brands are here?

- 18) Do you prefer high-street brands or luxury brands? Why?
- 19) Have you ever bought something bespoke? If so, explain.
- 20) What outfit do you have on now?

Health

- 1) Would you consider yourself healthy? Why/not?
- 2) Is there any food or drink you want to cut down on? Why/not?
- 3) If you had to give up one thing in your diet, what would it be? Why?
- 4) Do you think you have a balanced diet? Why/not?
- 5) How many portions of fruit or vegetables do you eat per day? Which ones?
- 6) Have you ever been on a diet before? Explain.
- 7) Do you drink fizzy drinks? Alcohol? Water? How much?
- 8) How regularly do you workout? What kind of exercise do you prefer?
- 9) Are you a good sleeper? Why/not?
- 10) What things make it very difficult/easy for you to sleep?
- 11) Do you get the right amount of sleep for your age? Why/not?
- 12) Do you think you have good personal hygiene?
- 13) Do you smoke? If so, have you ever tried quitting?
- 14) Do you regularly take vaccinations? Why/not?
- 15) Do you regularly have medical check-ups? Why/not?
- 16) Do you get stressed very easily?
- 17) What do you do to de-stress?
- 18) How important is mental health to you? Why?
- 19) Do you think you have a good social life? Is social life important for you? Why/not?
- 20) What do you like to do in order to relax?

The Gym

- 1) Do you go to the gym often? Why/not?
- 2) What do you think is the essential equipment for a gym?
- 3) What equipment does your local gym have?
- 4) What exercises do you typically do?
- 5) Do you have a home gym? If so, what does it have? If not, if you created a home gym, what equipment would you put in it?
- 6) Are there any exercises that you really don't like?
- 7) Do you enjoy working out? Why/not?
- 8) Have you ever given something up?
- 9) Have you ever bulked up?

- 10) Do you think gym equipment (such as a treadmill or rowing machine) is too expensive?
- 11) Do you prefer cardio or toning exercises? Why?
- 12) Do you always warm up and cool down? Why/not?
- 13) What weight could you lift right now?
- 14) Are you any good at pull-ups? Sit-ups? Push-ups?
- 15) How long can you hold the plank for?
- 16) Can you use a resistance band well?
- 17) Have you ever owned a trampoline?
- 18) Have you ever tried a rowing machine? A treadmill? A cross-trainer?

The Office

- 1) Do you work in an office? What do you like / dislike about it?
- 2) Do you have a home office? If so, what equipment do you have? If not, what would you put in an ideal home office?
- 3) What are your top tips for working in a home office?
- 4) Do you think offices should have relaxation spaces? Why/not?
- 5) Do you think offices should have shared desks or individual desks per employee? Why?
- 6) Do you think more people should work from home now? Why/not?
- 7) How have office spaces changed from the 1920's? Is this for the better or for the worse?
- 8) Do you think job performance is reflected in office space?
- 9) Do you think employees should be able to design their own work spaces in the office?
- 10) What are some typical distractions for people in the office?
- 11) Do you think people who work at home shouldn't earn as much as people who commute to the office? Why/not?

QUESTION 4

Read the following minimal pairs.

Sound 1	Sound 2	Examples
/ɪ/	/i:/	<i>bit - beat, fill - feel, it - eat, sit - seat, his - he's</i>
/æ/	/ʌ/	<i>cap - cup, fan - fun, hat - hut, ran - run, sang - sung</i>
/æ/	/e/	<i>bad - bed, man - men, pan - pen, bag - beg, dad - dead</i>
/æ/	/ɑ:/	<i>cat - cart, hat - heart, pack - park, back - bark</i>
/əʊ/	/ɔ:/	<i>bowl - ball, so - saw, show - sure, boat - bought</i>
/ɒ/	/ɔ:/	<i>cot - court, spot - sport, shot - short, pot - port</i>
/w/	/g/	<i>wood - good, weight - gate, won - gun, wave - gave</i>
/b/	/v/	<i>ban - van, boat - vote, berry - very, bet - vet</i>
/d/	/dʒ/	<i>dog - jog, door - jaw, bad - badge, paid - page</i>
/d/	/ð/	<i>day - they, dare - their, den - then, sudden - southern</i>
/n/	/ŋ/	<i>sin - sing, thin - thing, win - wing, ban - bang</i>
/ŋk/	/ŋ/	<i>think - thing, sink - sing, bank - bang, brink - bring</i>
/f/	/v/	<i>fan - van, leaf - leave, off - of, safe - save, ferry - very</i>
/f/	/θ/	<i>free - three, first - thirst, deaf - death</i>
/k/	/g/	<i>back - bag, duck - dug, pick - pig, frock - frog</i>
/dʒ/	/j/	<i>jewel - you'll, jaw - your, juice - use, gel - yell</i>
/s/ (end)	/z/ (end)	<i>ice - eyes, place - plays, bus - buzz, piece - peas</i>
/t/	/d/	<i>town - down, two - do, hat - had, write - ride</i>
/t/	/θ/	<i>tree - three, mats - maths, fort - fourth, tie - thigh</i>
/v/	/w/	<i>veil - whale, vest - west, vet- wet, vine - wine</i>

QUESTION 5

Read the following minimal pairs.

Catenation

- 1) Do you want an ice cream?
- 2) I live in Yorkshire.
- 3) I'll have an egg and some beans.
- 4) She stole a phone
- 5) Can you get a banana at the shops?
- 6) He gave a great speech!
- 7) Do you think this car is big enough?
- 8) Both of my sisters are younger than me.
- 9) Have you reached the end of the book?
- 10) I'd like an apple and an orange, please.

Assimilation

- 1) That car is black.
- 2) There are ten pens on the desk.
- 3) This shoe is too big.
- 4) It is an open book exam.
- 5) Did you close the door?
- 6) Of course you passed!
- 7) I was in the right place at the right time!
- 8) There's only one girl in my class.
- 9) I'll be there in one minute!
- 10) This is a really good game!

Liaison

- 1) Take care of yourself!
- 2) See you again later!
- 3) You can do it yourself.
- 4) Finally, they are here!
- 5) The exam is three hours long.
- 6) Do we agree on the price?
- 7) My favourite subjects are drama and music.
- 8) I am sad today.
- 9) Do you watch the series law and order?
- 10) Please just do it!

Elision

- 1) Can I have some mashed potatoes, please?
- 2) What have you done today?
- 3) You musttalk to her.
- 4) Why did you tell him my secret?
- 5) Why don't t we go to the cinema - you and u me?
- 6) Shall we have some fish and u chips?
- 7) We are a family of four.
- 8) I really love chocolate.
- 9) Are you studying history at school?
- 10) What's the temperature today?

QUESTION 6

Read the following minimal pairs.

1. You **should** be happy!
2. What is **it for** tea?
3. We **must** leave now.
4. **Were you** happy when you **were a** child?
5. What **do you** want?
6. I **could** dance when I was younger.
7. **Do you** like **my** new watch?
8. I'll see **you at** 4!
9. **Does** she love **him**?
10. I want **a** piece **of** cake.
11. What is **his** name?
12. I **have been to** France before.
13. I like France, **but** England is better.
14. **There are** some sweets in **the** cupboard.
15. I'm better **than** you.
16. We **should have** brought **an** umbrella.
17. **Are there any** apples?
18. I'm **from** Germany..
19. What **should** we do?
20. **We'll** see **you** there!