



## Academic English

# Speaking Test

This free worksheet accompanies a YouTube video:

<https://youtu.be/PTP-e34CxPU>

More speaking worksheets:

[www.academic-englishuk.com/academic-speaking-tests/](http://www.academic-englishuk.com/academic-speaking-tests/)

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## Teacher's Notes

**Aim:** To help students be able to speak more fluently and confidently.

**Time:** 20 minutes per test.

**Students:** 2-3 students per test.

**Delivery:** This lesson can be delivered face-to-face or online. For online delivery, each worksheet could be placed in a class document on OneDrive or OneNote.

### Section 1

2 minutes

- Section 1 is a general speaking activity. It focuses on two specific areas of general and university life. This is an individual activity and each student is asked a number of these questions over 2 minutes. Students should answer the questions and show development using examples.

### Section 2

2 minutes

- Section 2 is a photograph comparison activity. It focuses on comparing and contrasting two photographs and answering a specific question. Students should describe each photograph using comparison and contrast language and answer the question all within 2 minutes. There are three sets of photographs.
- **Bigger images in the appendix.**

### Section 3

4-5 minutes

- Section 3 is a task-based activity. It focuses on discussing a range of ideas and collectively choosing the best one(s). Students work together and spend 5 minutes discussing the choices and evaluating their effectiveness. They then collectively decide which one(s) would be more appropriate and why.
- **Bigger task image in appendix.**

### Section 4

4-5 minutes

- Section 4 is an opinion-based activity. It focuses on asking a range of opinion-based questions around the topic of section 3. Students answer the questions individually presenting their opinion and developing their answers with clear examples.

### Marking Criteria

- The Cambridge Assessing Speaking Performance – Level B2:  
<https://www.cambridgeenglish.org/images/168619-assessing-speaking-performance-at-level-b2.pdf>

### Alternative speaking lesson:

These worksheets can also be used as speaking lesson practice.

- Give out 1 speaking test per group of 2-3 students.
- Students work through the test together following the timing.
- Section 1 the students take turns to answer the questions.
- Section 2 all the students compare the photos in 2 minutes.
- Section 3 the students work collectively to complete the task.
- Section 4 the students take it in turns to answer the question.

More academic speaking tests: <https://academic-englishuk.com/academic-speaking-tests/>

## Academic Speaking Skills 1

### Section 1: General Speaking

[2 minutes]

#### General

How do you spend your evenings?

Talk about your favourite restaurant.

Who do you look up to and why?

#### Studying and University Life

What do you need to buy at the moment to improve your studying?

What is your biggest distraction?

How do you get to class?

Which classes are you finding challenging? Why?

How are you coping with cooking for yourself?

### Section 2: Comparison

[2 minutes]

Student A: Look at the two photographs below. Compare and contrast the photos and state how collaborative work can strengthen understanding and learning.

Photograph 1

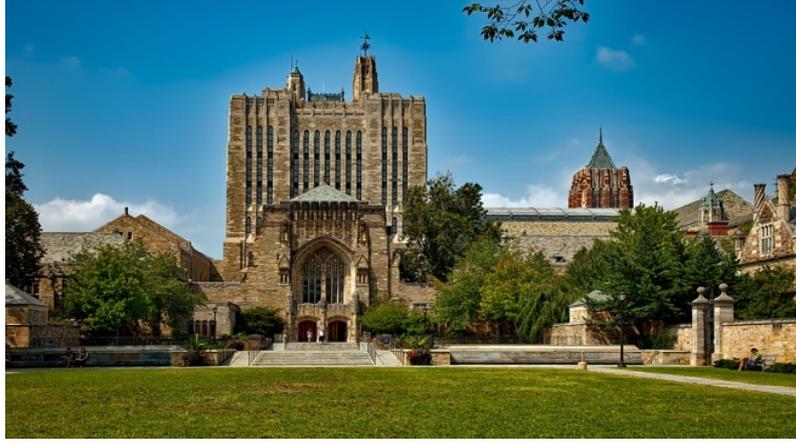


Photograph 2



Student B: Look at the two university campus photographs below. Compare and contrast the photos and state which one would be a better environment to learn in.

Photograph 1



Photograph 2



### Section 3: Task

[5 minutes]

Work in twos or threes to discuss something together.

Imagine that the university library has received a £50,000 funding grant that they can spend on improving the library. Look at the infographic below and decide collectively on what would be the best improvement(s) and why. You have 2 minutes preparation time.

 <p>Coffee Shop £50,000</p>	 <p>20 new study spaces £25,000</p>	 <p>More books £25,000</p>
 <p>10x computer and 20 x tablet hire £25,000</p>	 <p>2 new study rooms £50,000</p>	 <p>Two new librarians £50,000</p>

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### Section 4: Follow up questions

[4 minutes]

1. How often do you use the library?
2. What was the last book you borrowed from the library?
3. What are the main differences between a digital library and a physical library?
4. Have you or anyone you know ever had any problems using the library?
5. What would make your library experience better?
6. If you were going to buy a book today, what would you buy and why?
7. Some people believe libraries are becoming a thing of the past. Why do you think people believe this?
8. How do you think libraries will evolve in the future?



# APPENDIX

**Test 1 Section 2: Comparison**

Student A: Look at the two photographs below. Compare and contrast the photos and state how collaborative work can strengthen understanding and learning.

Photograph 1



Photograph 2



**Test 1 Section 2: Comparison**

Student B. Look at the two university campus photographs below. Compare and contrast the photos and state which one would be a better environment to learn in.

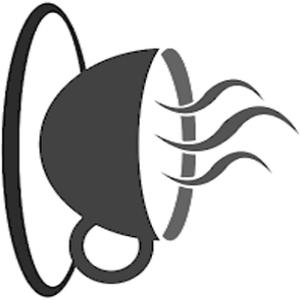
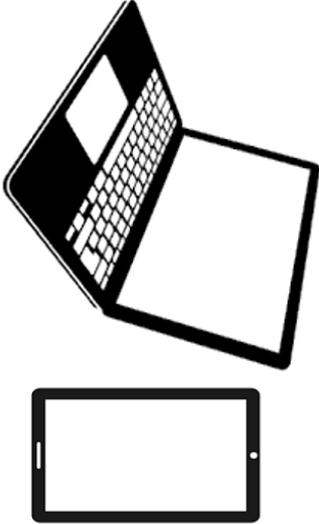
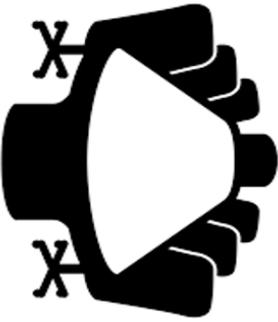
Photograph 1



Photograph 2



Imagine that the university library has received a £50,000 funding grant that they can spend on improving the library. Look at the infographic below and decide collectively on what would be the best improvement(s) and why.

 <p>Coffee Shop £50,000</p>	 <p>20 new study spaces £25,000</p>	 <p>More books £25,000</p>
 <p>10x computer and 20 x tablet hire £25,000</p>	 <p>2 new study rooms £50,000</p>	 <p>Two new librarians £50,000</p>

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