

What to expect from a Cambridge English Speaking test

Here are some helpful things to remember during your test.

Remember

In the test, one examiner (the interlocutor) will speak to you and your partner whilst the other (the assessor) will just listen and won't talk or interact with you.

The interlocutor will use your first name. To ensure that the test is fair for all candidates, the interlocutor follows a script to help guide you through the test. Therefore, conversation during the test may not always feel normal or natural. You will take the Speaking test with another candidate (or sometimes two other candidates) and both you and your partner will be given an equal opportunity to speak.

The test will have set time limits. If the interlocutor interrupts you, don't worry. This shows you have spoken enough within that part of the test.

Do...

- ✓ listen carefully to the instructions and questions during the test
- ✓ speak clearly so that both the interlocutor and assessor can hear you
- ✓ make sure you take every opportunity to speak. Don't only give simple answers – the examiners want to hear you communicate in English to the best of your ability
- ✓ be prepared to start a discussion with your partner, as well as respond to what they have to say.

Don't...

- ✗ practise or learn long answers or speeches in advance, and then attempt to use these in the test
- ✗ interrupt your partner when they are speaking – it is important to let them finish
- ✗ leave long or frequent pauses
- ✗ be afraid to ask if you don't understand something.

Good luck with your test!