



OXFORD TEST OF ENGLISH *for Schools*

B2 Practice Test 2

Audioscript

Speaking Part 1 Interview Page 3

▶1.01

You are going to answer eight questions. You have 10 seconds per question for questions 1 and 2, and 20 seconds per question for questions 3–8. Start speaking when you hear the tone. Try to speak for the full amount of time.

- 1 What's your name?
- 2 Which country do you come from?
- 3 I'm going to ask you some questions about shopping. What was the last thing you bought?
- 4 Where do people go shopping in your town?
- 5 What do you prefer: buying things online or buying things from a shop?
- 6 I'm going to ask you some questions about public transport. Tell me about the last time you used public transport.
- 7 Which do you prefer: travelling by bus or travelling by train?
- 8 How do you spend your time on a long car journey?

Speaking Part 2 Voice message 1 Page 3

▶1.02

You are going to leave a voice message. First read and listen to the task, then decide what you want to say. You have 40 seconds to leave your voice message. Start speaking when you hear the tone.

Every Saturday you help clean the local park with your neighbour. You are unable to help this week. Leave a voice message for your neighbour. In your message, you should:

- say who you are
- explain why you cannot help this week
- suggest another time to help.

You now have 20 seconds to think about what you want to say.

Speaking Part 2 Voice message 2 Page 3

1.03

You are going to reply to a voice message. First read and listen to the task, then decide what you want to say. You have 40 seconds to leave your voice message. Start speaking when you hear the tone.

Listen to the message from your friend about a book club. Then leave a voice message for your friend. In your message, you should:

- respond to your friend's news
- ask some questions about the club
- say what you think your friend should do.

Now listen to the message.

M Hi. It's Jake! I have some news. I've finally started a book club with some school friends. The only problem is we don't have a big enough space to meet in. We could do it online, but it would be great to meet face to face. What do you think we should do?

You now have 20 seconds to think about what you want to say.

Speaking Part 3 Talk Page 4

1.04

You are going to give a talk. Read and listen to the task. You have 60 seconds to give your talk. Start speaking when you hear the tone.

You are going to give a talk to your English class about different types of jobs. Choose two photographs. Tell your class what the advantages and disadvantages would be of doing these different types of jobs.

You now have 30 seconds to think about what you want to say.

Speaking Part 4 Follow-up questions Page 4

1.05

You are going to answer six questions about your talk. You have 30 seconds to answer each question. Start speaking when you hear the tone.

- 1 Your talk was about jobs. What jobs do young people typically do in your country?
- 2 What would be your ideal job?
- 3 How important is it for teenagers to know what they want to do before they leave school?
- 4 What do you think are the advantages and disadvantages of working in a shop?
- 5 What is more important: having a job that's exciting or having a job that pays you a lot of money?
- 6 Many people want a job that makes them famous. Why do you think this is?

Listening Part 1 Page 5

Ⓟ2.01

1 Two students are discussing what sports to have at their school. Which activity is unsuitable for the new sports timetable?

M Mr Hughes wants our suggestions for the sports timetable.

F Some students said they want more individualized sports where participation and not competitive spirit is the most important thing – like long-distance running.

M Yes, let's emphasize that aspect. We should also tell him that some students want activities with an element of risk – some students talked about gymnastics.

F That's rather impractical. After all, our teachers have to consider our safety above all. And don't forget that a lot of students still enjoy traditional sports and support our school football team, so I don't think we should do away with those.

Now listen again.

2 A teacher is talking about how to improve your English. Which method is best for extending your vocabulary?

M Try watching TV shows with subtitles – great if you learn effectively by combining images with the written word. Watch different genres of programmes to build up particular word sets. Partner up with a classmate and message each other in English. You'll inevitably end up using a lot of text speak and emojis, but at least you'll get more confident with communicating in English. Podcasts are ideal for those who absorb information through the spoken word. You'll hear a wide range of words and phrases, and through this process you learn what sounds right and what doesn't.

Now listen again.

3 Two friends are talking about a party. Why didn't the woman go to the party?

M Why didn't you come to Jenny's party last Saturday? I thought you two were really good friends.

F Oh, we are, it's just that ...

M Have you fallen out?

F Kind of. I mean, we have now. She's upset that I didn't go to the party.

M That's understandable.

F No, what happened was I had a really important exam on Monday, so I just didn't have time for the party.

M Fair enough.

F Despite that I was still planning to go. And if the bus hadn't left early, I would have caught it!

M That's a real shame.

Now listen again.

4 A woman is talking about mental health. What does she suggest is the best way to overcome anxiety?

F There are a lot of ways to deal with anxiety. Talking about your problems really puts them into perspective. Additionally, you may be able to provide emotional support, as well as receive it, and that's vital for reducing stress. Many people find that running is a great way to deal with it. The only downside is that it can be difficult to stick to an exercise routine in the long term. Another method is to practise mindfulness where you focus on your breathing and the sounds around you. Some studies show though that this can cause us to focus too keenly on our problems.

Now listen again.

5 A boy is talking to his mother on the phone. What is his mother going to buy today?

M Hi Mum. Would you mind grabbing some crisps on the way back? We're out.

F Have you checked the back of the top cupboard?

M No, sorry. I should have checked before asking you. Did you get my cereal, too?

F Oh, yes, you did put that on the list, didn't you? I'm making an omelette for breakfast tomorrow though. By the way, can you just check we've got enough eggs?

M Let me see ... Just under a dozen.

F Oh, that's loads then. Right, see you in a bit!

Now listen again.

Listening Part 2 Page 6

Ⓟ2.02

Listen to a young author talking about a writing competition. Choose the correct answers to complete the notes. The first one has been done for you. You now have 30 seconds to look at the task.

F I'm Anita Vasquez, and it's an honour to be invited to your creative writing class to talk to you about the Young Writers Competition. When I entered two years ago, I was runner-up and even though I didn't win, the publicity really gave my literary career a boost. I've also had some contact with the people who choose the winner, so I know what they're looking for.

So, I'd been uploading short stories to a blog. Mostly scary stuff, the type of story you tell around the campfire. I wasn't getting many readers, so I decided to switch genres: I created a whole world with its own society and language! It brought a lot of pleasure to my readers, and it does to me, too. Lately, I've been thinking of bringing to life some of the amusing things that have happened to me, so I'll tell you all about that next time!

Now, for this year's competition ... you can choose any topic you want. My entry was a work of fiction, but you can also write about a real-life incident or something which is important to you, such as climate change or homelessness. It can be laugh-out-loud funny or heartbreakingly sad. One thing that I can't emphasize enough is that if you submit something which isn't original, your work will not be considered.

How do you know if it's any good? How can you get better? Well, competitions like this one are a great motivation. I set myself that goal and I came close to achieving it. I think most successful writers will tell you the same – just get started! Write something every day – little by little you'll start to see progress. If you read about your favourite authors, you'll discover that even they had to work hard to produce their great works.

Before I hear you say, 'I'm not good enough', let me tell you something. Every one of you has value and the right to find your voice and use it. There's nothing wrong with being ambitious and competitions like this serve a really important purpose. That said, winning is not the goal here. Just participating is going to help you find out more about who you are and what you want to say.

Finally – some practical information. The winner will be announced at a prize-giving ceremony in June. Should you receive a letter from the organizers, you are expected to attend. This means that you've won or that you're one of the runners-up! If you have any financial difficulties relating to the trip, please contact the organizers. Having said that, even if you do not receive an official letter, you are welcome to attend.

Now listen again.

Listening Part 3 Page 7

Ⓟ2.03

Listen to two classmates talking about fashion and the environment. Match the people (the girl, the boy, or both) to the opinions below. The first one has been done for you. You now have 30 seconds to look at the task.

F I was reading this fashion blog about greenwashing. Have you heard about it?

M That's when fashion companies try to present a green image but aren't really environmentally friendly in practice, right?

F Yeah, that's it. And when you start reading what these major fashion businesses claim on their sites, you find that it isn't exactly truthful.

M Most of them just seem to draw attention to the little things to distract from the big issues. They know how to hide things well.

F Personally, I think the government should have stricter laws controlling what you can and can't say on these commercial websites.

M To be honest, they've got better things to do than to check clothes' websites. It's up to us, the consumers, to put pressure on companies to be more open about what they're doing to protect the planet.

F The problem is that the majority of people aren't really aware of how bad the clothes industry actually is for the environment. They know that air travel, for example, is contributing to the climate emergency, but they don't know how many toxic chemicals and thousands of litres of water are used to manufacture clothes.

M That may once have been true, but there have been so many programmes and news stories about all that, that lack of awareness is not an issue anymore.

F But the question is – what can be done?

M It's a tough one. Because the cost of clothes is ridiculously low, people can afford to just buy stuff and wear it once or twice. Fashion brands really need to make better-quality clothes that last longer to break the fast fashion cycle. I guess the price would have to reflect that.

F And then how would young people be able to afford to buy clothes? Any product in the world has options which are more or less affordable, and clothes shouldn't be the exception. What has to change is our attitude to clothes.

M What do you mean?

F We need to start by taking a long hard look at our own consumer habits. Let's face it – the stuff just piles up until you don't know what you have and haven't got half the time!

M Every time I open my cupboard I can't help thinking – when was the last time I wore any of these things? Actually, I've been looking at my shopping habits in a new way recently. I try and buy fewer clothes, but if something really takes my fancy, then another item has to go.

F You mean, you throw your things away?

M No! I exchange items with friends, or through an app. That way I don't have to spend money on new stuff.

F Not a bad idea. For myself, I prefer to give my clothes away to a good cause. Local groups sometimes organize sales to raise money and they're always glad to receive good quality items. That way you're not only giving your clothes a new life but also helping others. But what's the app called? I might give it a go!

Now listen again.

Listening Part 4 Page 8

▶ 2.04

1 A boy and a girl are talking about an app. What does the girl think of the app?

- A She finds it easier to navigate.
- B She prefers the new design.
- C She worries about her personal information.

M Have you downloaded the updates for the revision app?

F Yes. I was quite surprised – the colours and icons are so different, I thought I'd downloaded the wrong one! That doesn't make any difference to the functions – they're pretty much the same. They've enhanced their data protection – it's password protected. To be honest, if somebody steals my revision notes, I won't be that bothered! [laughs] Actually, the only real improvement is the menu. You used to have to close each window before opening another one. Well, now you can easily switch between checklists, diagrams and your revision notes.

Now listen again.

2 A boy is giving a class presentation about a book. What is his main criticism of the book?

- A The characters were dull.
- B The ending was predictable.
- C The story was unconvincing.

M *Lost on Palm Island* is an adventure story about some teenagers who are shipwrecked on a Pacific Island. It was fun reading how they used what they found in nature to survive, although sometimes this was slightly silly. I mean, how likely is it that you would find a rope in the jungle? The people had really flat personalities, and that spoiled the whole thing for me because it stopped me from becoming absorbed in the story. Obviously, they finally get rescued, but I guess I wouldn't have liked it if something horrible had happened to them!

Now listen again.

3 A girl has left a voice message for her friend. How is the girl feeling?

- A surprised
- B embarrassed
- C angry

F I know you don't want to talk to me right now. I totally understand, but I wanted to explain myself. You said you'd never seen me so annoyed. If it's any comfort to you, that doesn't accurately reflect how I feel. It's just that I wasn't expecting news like that and ... well, I didn't know what hit me and I reacted badly. What I said just came out the wrong way. I really made a fool of myself and I feel pretty stupid now, I must admit. When you get this, give me a ring.

Now listen again.

4 A school administrator is leaving a voice message for a student. Why is he leaving the message?

- A to offer academic support
- B to wish him a quick recovery
- C to try and resolve a problem

M Hello Jack. You missed yesterday's exam, which is a problem because the teacher cannot give you a mark. We'll need to reschedule it to be able to sign off your end-of-term report. You attended all the extra revision classes, so I don't believe the delay will have any overall negative effect. If you are worried about this aspect, come by the office next week. I hope you're feeling a bit better soon. Actually, a lot of your classmates are off with the flu so you're not the only one! Take care of yourself.

Now listen again.

5 A boy and a girl are talking about his job. Why is the boy going to leave?

- A He doesn't get on with his colleague.
- B He isn't paid well enough.
- C He can't work the new shift.

M I'm quitting my job at the newsagent's, so they'll be looking for someone else if you're interested.

F You've only been there two weeks.

M Well, I was working mornings, and another guy was doing afternoons. I didn't like him much, but I didn't see him that often, so it wasn't a big deal.

F And?

M They want us to switch and ...

F ... you have revision classes. Hmm. I see. So, what's the money like?

M The usual. You can't expect to earn much selling newspapers. You're certainly not going to make a fortune if that's what you're thinking!

Now listen again.