



English Speaking Board

**ESB Entry Level Certificate in ESOL
International All Modes (Entry 3) - (B1)
500/3646/4**

B1 Speaking Test

EXAMINER PROMPTS

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**Not to be distributed until immediately prior to
the oral assessments.
For the examiner's eyes only.**

To be used in conjunction with documents from standardisation.

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Part 1 - Introduction

Interview to elicit personal information.

The interview consists of a number of short turns with candidates being invited to respond alternately. Candidates respond to the interlocutor and not to each other. **Part One** lasts for **two minutes** divided equally between both candidates. In the event of **three candidates**, allow **three minutes** divided equally between all candidates.

Candidates are shown in by one or other of the examiners and invited to sit down.

(Interlocutor) **Good morning/afternoon/hello.** *(Make a note of the time at this point as this is the official start of the test).* **I am** *(Interlocutor's name)* **and this is my colleague** *(Assessor's name)*. **S/He will just be listening.**

Assessor greets the candidates: **Good morning/afternoon/hello.**

(Interlocutor) **Can I have your mark sheets (and your ID) please?**

What's your name? *(to Candidate A)* **And what's your name?** *(to Candidate B)*
And what's your name? *(to Candidate C if necessary)*
Thank you.

First, I'm going to ask you some questions about yourselves.

Interlocutor asks Candidates A and B (and C) a selection of questions from those below.

Places

- **Tell me about an interesting place you have visited recently.**
- **Where would you most like to live?**
- **Which country would you most like to visit?**

People

- **Who do you most like to spend time with?**
- **Which famous person would you most like to meet?**
- **How important is it to meet friends regularly?**

Leisure

- **Is it important to have a hobby?**
- **Tell me about a book you have read recently.**
- **Do you prefer outdoor or indoor activities?**

Thank you.

Part 2 – Individual Turn

TOPICS 1 – 6

Candidate A has an individual turn of **one minute** to talk about the prompt. **Candidate B** is then invited to comment (**allow up to one minute**). The situation is then reversed, with **Candidate B** talking for **one minute** before **Candidate A** is invited to comment. In the event of three candidates taking the test, use the third prompt then follow the same procedure with **Candidate B** commenting on **Candidate A's** prompt, **Candidate C** commenting on **Candidate B's** prompt and **Candidate A** commenting on **Candidate C's** prompt. **Part Two** lasts for **four (six) minutes**.

(To Candidate A) Now I am going to give you each a topic to talk about. You will talk for about a minute after which I will stop you.

(To Candidate B) I'll ask you to comment on your partner's topic at the end of the minute.

(To Candidate A) Here is your topic. *(Give out prompt)* The topic is Please let *Candidate B* have a look. Can you please answer the questions?

(After one minute) Thank you.

(To Candidate B) How would you answer these questions?

(After one minute) Thank you. *(Retrieve prompt)*

(To Candidate B) Now, here is your topic. *(Give out prompt)* The topic is Please let *Candidate A* have a look. Can you please answer the questions?

(To Candidate A) I'll ask you to comment on your partner's topic at the end of the minute.

(After one minute) Thank you.

(To Candidate A) How would you answer these questions?

Thank you. *(Retrieve prompt)*

(Repeat the process with Candidate C)

Copy of Candidate Prompts – TOPIC 1 – Appearance and Personality (B1)

Part 2

Candidate A:

- What does your closest friend look like?
- Do you and your friends have similar personalities?

Candidate B:

- In your family, who do you most look like?
- Describe the personality of your closest friend.

Copy of Candidate Prompts – TOPIC 2 – Cinema (B1)

Part 2

Candidate A:

- How often do you go to the cinema?
- What type of films do you like to watch?

Candidate B:

- Do you prefer cinema or television?
- Would you like to be in a film? Why/ why not?

Copy of Candidate Prompts – TOPIC 3 – Games and Sports (B1)

Part 2

Candidate A:

- Describe a game you enjoy playing
- Tell me about the sports your family enjoys.

Candidate B:

- What is the most popular sport in your country?
- Do you prefer team sports or sports that you do on your own?

Copy of Candidate Prompts – TOPIC 4 – Learning (B1)

Part 2

Candidate A:

- Which subject at school do you think is the most useful and why?
- When and where do you like to study?

Candidate B:

- Have you got a good memory?
- Do you like to study listening to music or in silence?

Copy of Candidate Prompts – TOPIC 5 – Invitations (B1)

(Can be used with three candidates.)

Part 2

Candidate A:

- How important is it to invite friends to your home?
- What was the last event that you were invited to?

Candidate B:

- In your country, how do you make guests feel welcome?
- How do you like to celebrate a family event?

Candidate C: (if required)

- If you were invited to a friend's home, would you take them a gift?
- Do you prefer to go out with your friends or your family?

Copy of Candidate Prompts – TOPIC 6 – Time (B1)
(Can be used with three candidates.)

Part 2

Candidate A:

- What time do you like to get up in the morning and why?
- Is it important to always get enough sleep?

Candidate B:

- Are you more energetic in the morning or the evening?
- What time of day do you usually work the best?

Candidate C: (if required)

- What time do you usually go to bed and why?
- Are you good at organising your time?

Part 3 – Interactive Discussion

TOPIC 1: APPEARANCE AND PERSONALITY

Interlocutor puts prompt in front of the candidates and invites them to talk together for **two minutes**. At the end of this discussion, each candidate receives an additional question. Allow up to **one minute** per candidate. Part Three lasts for **four minutes**.

(Put the prompt on the table in front of both candidates, positioned so that they can both see it clearly)

I would now like you to talk together about the question in front of you. I will just listen to you. You only have about two minutes so don't worry if I stop you. The topic is 'Appearance and Personality'. You can start when you are ready.

Copy of Candidate Prompts – TOPIC 1 – Appearance and Personality (B1)

Part 3

Candidates A and B:

- Which of the following characteristics is the most important for a teacher to have?
Very intelligent
Always cheerful
Patient
A good sense of humour

(After two minutes) Thank you. (Retrieve prompt)

(Choose an additional question for Candidate A from the list below).

- **How important is it for you to look good?**
- **Is it always easy to get on with brothers and sisters?**
- **What makes a good friend?**
- **Are you good at keeping secrets?**

Thank you. (To the Candidate B) What do you think about this?

Thank you. (Choose a new question from the list above for Candidate B).

Thank you. (To the Candidate A) What do you think about this?

Thank you.

That is the end of the test.

Good bye. (Interlocutor and Assessor)

Part 3 – Interactive Discussion

TOPIC 2: CINEMA

Interlocutor puts prompt in front of the candidates and invites them to talk together for **two minutes**. At the end of this discussion, each candidate receives an additional question. Allow up to **one minute** per candidate. Part Three lasts for **four minutes**.

(Put the prompt on the table in front of both candidates, positioned so that they can both see it clearly)

I would now like you to talk together about the question in front of you. I will just listen to you. You only have about two minutes so don't worry if I stop you. The topic is 'Cinema'. You can start when you are ready.

Copy of Candidate Prompts – TOPIC 2 – Cinema (B1)

Part 3

Candidates A and B:

- Which of the following would make you watch a film and why?
A friend has recommended it
You have already read the book which it is based on
Your favourite film star is in the film
A television or magazine advertisement

(After two minutes) Thank you. (Retrieve prompt)

(Choose an additional question for Candidate A from the list below).

- **Do you ever watch video-sharing websites such as YouTube?**
- **Would you ever put a video on YouTube?**
- **Who is your favourite actor/actress?**
- **What kind of films do you never watch and why?**

Thank you. (To the Candidate B) What do you think about this?

Thank you. (Choose a new question from the list above for Candidate B)

Thank you. (To the Candidate A) What do you think about this?

Thank you.

That is the end of the test.

Good bye. (Interlocutor and Assessor)

Part 3 – Interactive Discussion

TOPIC 3: GAMES AND SPORTS

Interlocutor puts prompt in front of the candidates and invites them to talk together for **two minutes**. At the end of this discussion, each candidate receives an additional question. Allow up to **one minute** per candidate. Part Three lasts for **four minutes**.

(Put the prompt on the table in front of both candidates, positioned so that they can both see it clearly)

I would now like you to talk together about the question in front of you. I will just listen to you. You only have about two minutes so don't worry if I stop you. Your topic is 'Games and Sports'. You can start when you are ready.

Copy of Candidate Prompts – TOPIC 3 – Games and Sports (B1)

Part 3

Candidates A and B:

- If you wanted to start a new sport what would help you decide?
 - Not too expensive
 - Easy to learn
 - Meeting new people
 - Entering competitions

(After two minutes) Thank you. (Retrieve prompt)

(Choose an additional question for Candidate A from the list below).

- **Do you agree that there is too much sport on television?**
- **Would you like to be a famous sportsman/ woman?**
- **What makes a good team captain?**
- **Have you ever been in a sports team?**

Thank you. (To the Candidate B) What do you think about this?

Thank you. (Choose a new question from the list above for Candidate B)

Thank you. (To the Candidate A) What do you think about this?

Thank you.

That is the end of the test.

Good bye. (Interlocutor and Assessor)

Part 3 – Interactive Discussion

TOPIC 4: LEARNING

Interlocutor puts prompt in front of the candidates and invites them to talk together for **two minutes**. At the end of this discussion, each candidate receives an additional question. Allow up to **one minute** per candidate. Part Three lasts for **four minutes**.

(Put the prompt on the table in front of both candidates, positioned so that they can both see it clearly)

I would now like you to talk together about the question in front of you. I will just listen to you. You only have about two minutes so don't worry if I stop you. Your topic is 'Learning'. You can start when you are ready.

Copy of Candidate Prompts – TOPIC 4 – Learning (B1)

Part 3

Candidates A and B:

- What problems do you have when doing an exam?
Running out of time
Understanding instructions
Remembering information
Difficulty concentrating

(After two minutes) Thank you. (Retrieve prompt)

(Choose an additional question for Candidate A from the list below.)

- **How do you revise for exams?**
- **How useful is it to revise for exams with friends?**
- **When is the best time to start revising for an exam?**
- **Why is it important to work hard at school?**

Thank you. (To the Candidate B) What do you think about this?

Thank you. (Choose a new question from the list above for Candidate B)

Thank you. (To the Candidate A) What do you think about this?

Thank you.

That is the end of the test.

Good bye. (Interlocutor and Assessor)

Part 3 – Interactive Discussion

TOPIC 5: INVITATIONS (Can be used with three candidates)

Interlocutor puts prompt in front of the candidates and invites them to talk together for **two minutes**. In the event of three candidates, the discussion lasts for **three minutes**. At the end of this discussion, each candidate receives an additional question. Allow up to **one minute** per candidate. Part Three lasts for **four (six) minutes**.

(Put the prompt on the table in front of both (all) candidates, positioned so that they can both (all) see it clearly)

I would now like you to talk together about the question in front of you. I will just listen to you. You only have about two (three) minutes so don't worry if I stop you. The topic is 'Invitations'. You can start when you are ready.

Copy of Candidate Prompts – TOPIC 5 – Invitations (B1)
(Can be used with three candidates.)

Part 3

Candidates A, B and C:

- If you were inviting your friends out to celebrate a birthday, where would you go and why?
A restaurant
A theme park
A cinema
A beach
A museum

(After two (three) minutes) Thank you. (Retrieve prompt)

(Choose an additional question for Candidate A from the list below.)

- **Do you prefer parties with a few close friends or lots of friends?**
- **How friendly are people from your country to visitors?**
- **What is the best event you have ever been invited to?**
- **Tell me about a wedding you were invited to.**
- **Have you ever refused an invitation?**
- **Have you ever been invited to a formal event?**

Thank you. (To the Candidate B) What do you think about this?

Thank you. (Choose a new question from the list above for Candidate B)

Thank you. (To the Candidate A) What do you think about this?

(Follow the same procedure with three candidates.)

Thank you.
That is the end of the test.
Good bye. (*Interlocutor and Assessor*)

Part 3 – Interactive Discussion

TOPIC 6: TIME (Can be used with three candidates)

Interlocutor puts prompt in front of the candidates and invites them to talk together for **two minutes**. In the event of three candidates, the discussion lasts for **three minutes**. At the end of this discussion, each candidate receives an additional question. Allow up to **one minute** per candidate. Part Three lasts for **four (six) minutes**.

(Put the prompt on the table in front of both (all) candidates, positioned so that they can both (all) see it clearly)

I would now like you to talk together about the question in front of you. I will just listen to you. You only have about two (three) minutes so don't worry if I stop you. The topic is 'Time'. You can start when you are ready.

Copy of Candidate Prompts – TOPIC 6 – Time (B1)
(Can be used with three candidates.)

Part 3

Candidate A, B and C:

- What do you like about spending time in a town centre?
Going shopping
Going to cafes/ restaurants
Seeing lots of people
Spending time in a park
Going to museums/ art galleries

(After two (three) minutes) Thank you. (Retrieve prompt)

(Choose an additional question for Candidate A from the list below.)

- **Do you think that shops should stay open 24 hours a day?**
- **Why is it important to find time to relax?**
- **Does time seem to pass more quickly as you get older?**
- **How do you pass the time on long journeys?**
- **Would you like to have a job where you work at night?**
- **Do you ever feel that you waste time?**

Thank you. (To the Candidate B) What do you think about this?

Thank you. (Choose a new question from the list above for Candidate B).

Thank you. (To the Candidate A) What do you think about this?

(Follow the same procedure with three candidates.)

Thank you.
That is the end of the test.
Good bye. (*Interlocutor and Assessor*)

