

Exam speaking: Talk about yourself – tips

This is a very common task at the beginning of a speaking exam. It is something you can prepare at home and practise. If you know what to say, you will feel more relaxed and confident at the start of the exam.

Watch the video at

<http://learnenglishteens.britishcouncil.org/exams/exam-speaking/talk-about-yourself> and then read these top tips.

**Do:**

- Think about the types of topics and questions you may be asked before the exam. School, family, free time, daily routines and future plans are common topics.
- Practise answering simple questions about yourself. Work with a friend to practise or record yourself and listen to the recording.
- Listen carefully to the questions. If you don't understand the question, ask your teacher to repeat it.
- Give complete answers in full sentences.
- Look at the examiner. His/her face may tell you when you've said enough and he/she is ready for the next question.

Don't:

- Memorise your answers. It's good to have ideas ready, but it's better not to memorise long replies to typical questions.
- Just reply with 'yes' or 'no'.
- Panic if you are asked an unexpected question. Take a few seconds to think before you answer it.

Here are some examples of things you can say about yourself:

My name's ...

I'm from ... / I live in ...

I was born in ...

I'm ... years old.

I go to ... school.

I like ... because ...

I don't like ... because ...

In my free time / After school, I ...

My best friends are ... because ...

My favourite (school subject, actor, pop group, sport) is ... because ...

I have ... brothers and sisters.

In the future, I'd like to ... because ...