A2 Key · Speaking: the interview and the discussion

A2 Key strategy notes; invented examples, not official Cambridge items.

A conversation, not an interrogation

> Part 1 is a **friendly chat**; Part 2 is chatting about a photo album with a classmate. Both are conversations you already have — just in English, with marks.

- Eight to ten minutes, with a partner and two examiners.
- The examiners want clear answers and interaction, not speeches.

The A2 Key Speaking test

two examiners: one asks, one only listens and marks

Part 1: interview 3–4 min	**Part 2**: discussion with your partner 5–6 min
examiner asks each of you about yourself	talk about the picture sheet together, then the examiner asks you both

About ten minutes in all

The answer sandwich

1. **The question** Where do you live?
2. **The thin answer — no marks to speak of** Beijing.
3. **The sandwich** I live in Beijing, in an apartment near the park. I like it because it's quiet.

Decision

Answer + detail + reason. Every time.

Your turn: build the sandwich

Your turn

What do you do at the weekend?

A. Basketball.

B. I play basketball with my classmates. It's fun, and I'm getting taller.

C. At the weekend, yes.

D. I am playing basketball now.

Talk to each other

the monologue — no interaction marks

I like the camera. The camera is good. The book is good.

One voice, zero interaction.

the discussion — the marks live here

I like the camera — what about you?

Really? I don't like it, because...

Your turn: the interaction

Your turn

Your partner says: I don't like the book. It's boring. The best reply:

A. Yes. (silence)

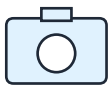
B. Really? I like it, because I read every night. What about the bike?

C. The book is a book.

D. Next question, please.

A Part 2 card

Your friend has a birthday. Which present is the best?



a camera



a book



a bike



a watch



headphones

Then agree on the best

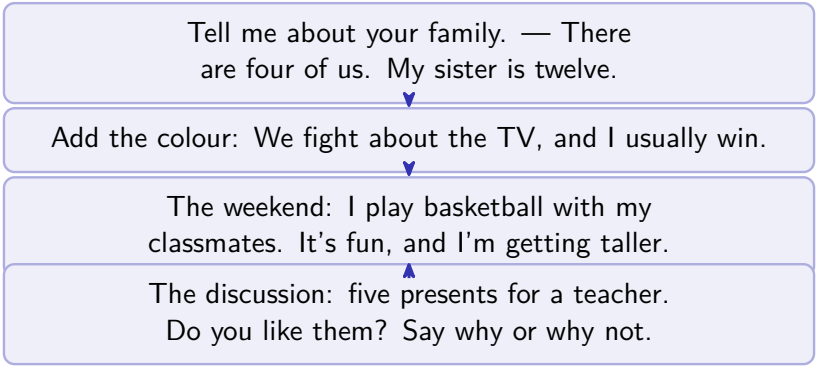
Blocks, not speeches

The recitation trap

A memorised two-minute speech gets redirected instantly.

Unknown word? Describe around it: a thing for... you use it to...

Say it aloud


Tell me about your family. — There are four of us. My sister is twelve.
Add the colour: We fight about the TV, and I usually win.
The weekend: I play basketball with my classmates. It's fun, and I'm getting taller.
The discussion: five presents for a teacher. Do you like them? Say why or why not.

Check yourself

- Where do you live? — answer, detail, reason: the **sandwich**.
- Part 2: likes and reasons, no joint choice; respond to your partner.
- Unknown word: **describe around it** — a green thing for your desk.
- Blocks, not speeches — and speak up.