B1 Preliminary · Speaking: description, decision and discussion

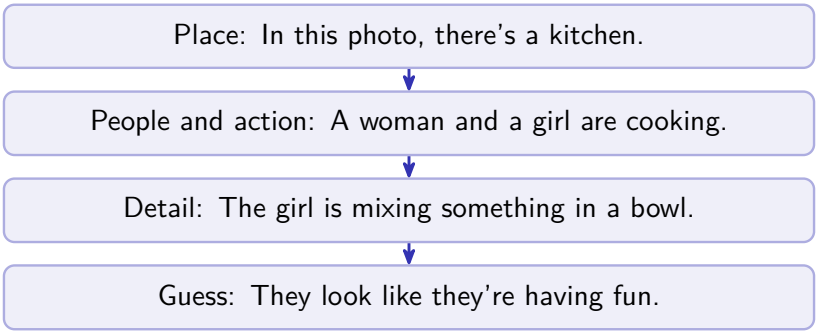
B1 Preliminary strategy notes; invented examples, not official Cambridge items.

The four-course meal

> The speaking test is a **meal**: the **appetiser** (interview), the **solo** (photo), the cooking together (the decision), and the conversation over coffee (discussion).

- Ten to twelve minutes, with a partner, four parts.
- Interview, photo description, a decision together, then a discussion.

The photo recipe



Your turn: description or inventory

Your turn

Which is a description?

A. There is a table. There is a bowl. There is a spoon.

B. A woman and a girl are cooking; the girl is mixing something, and they look happy.

C. This is a picture. It has colours.

D. I like kitchens.

The mutual decision

steamrolling — scores worse

The library. Definitely the library. Done.

One voice, no partner.

the machinery — where the marks live

How about the library? — Good idea, but the gym...

So, we agree on the library. — OK, yours makes sense.

Your turn: the yes-person

Your turn

Your partner suggests the coding club. You prefer cooking. You say…

A. Yes. Yes. Yes.

B. I see what you mean, but the cooking club is tastier — and we could code the recipes.

C. No. Wrong.

D. (silence)

The restart button

When stuck, restart

What do you think about this one? — the question machine restarts the conversation.

Inviting your partner is itself marked: Interactive Communication.

Say it aloud

Interview: What do you like doing after school? — sandwich answers.

Photo minute: any photo on your phone — place, people, action, detail, guess, sixty seconds.

The decision: one club for the class — music, coding, cooking, basketball, drama. Choose together.

Discussion: Do you prefer learning in groups or alone? — answer, detail, reason.

Check yourself

- The photo recipe: place, people, action, detail, guess.
- **Speculate**: look like, seem, maybe, probably.
- Invite your partner: **Interactive Communication** is marked.
- Disagree politely: I see what you mean, but...