Speaking: Worked Classroom Practice

Original worked Speaking practice on the preserved notes; reading scripts silently cannot certify pronunciation or delivery.

The clock: about 8 minutes, about 11 items

Task kind	What you do
Listen and Repeat	Hear a sentence and say it back
Take an Interview	Answer a series of spoken questions conversationally

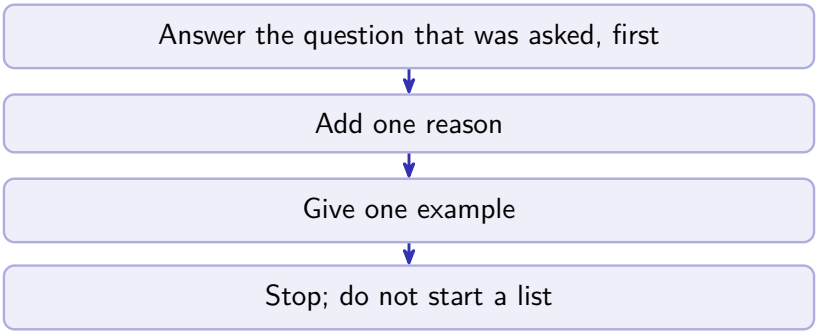
Use the evidence

You speak into a **microphone** at a computer; no examiner reacts to what you say.

Listen and Repeat: scored on what you say

- This belongs to Speaking and is scored on what you say — not a listening warm-up.
- You are heard on **pronunciation**, on **stress**, and on reproducing the whole sentence.
- Say it at normal speed: slowing down breaks the **rhythm**, and rhythm is part of what is judged.
- If you miss a word, keep going and finish the sentence.

Take an Interview: answer, reason, example



Silence, reciting, and repair

> A silence is worse than an imperfect sentence — and repairing out loud keeps the answer going.

- Natural fillers buy a moment: "well", "I suppose", "that's an interesting one".
- A memorised answer is audible and often misses the question.
- Lose your way? "Sorry, what I mean is" — and carry on.

Your turn: shape the answer

Your turn

"Do you prefer studying in the morning or the evening?" — which opening serves you best?

A. Both times have advantages and disadvantages depending on several factors

B. Morning, I think — then a reason, then an example

C. Let me list every study place I have used

D. Silence while composing the perfect sentence

What the marker is listening for

Criterion	What it means here
Fluency	You keep going, at a natural speed, without long silences
Pronunciation	You can be understood without effort — not that you sound American
Vocabulary	The right word for the idea, used naturally
Grammar	Accurate, with enough variety to sound like speech rather than a list

Stress: word, sentence, family

- **Word stress** matters more than individual sounds: PHOtograph, phoTOGrapher, photoGRAPHic.
- The vowels change with the **stress**, and a listener tracks the stress first.
- **Sentence stress** carries meaning: "I didn't say she stole it" means six different things.
- Practise the sounds Chinese does not use: final consonants, /th/ and /dh/, the /l/-/n/-/r/ distinctions.

Speaking with nobody in the room

- Record yourself and **listen back** — the single most useful thing you can do.
- Practise with a timer running, answering aloud, into a **microphone**.
- Talk to yourself in English during ordinary tasks: describe, argue, explain.
- A typed answer always flatters you: no hesitation, no silence, unlimited time.

Exam tips for speaking

- Start within one second of the prompt ending; a slow start costs more than a poor sentence.
- Finish your sentences: an abandoned sentence reads as a breakdown.
- Warm your voice up — read aloud for five minutes before the test.
- Use the right word, not the difficult word; markers hear straight through decoration.

What this supplement adds

> One sentence was held in the head long enough to repeat; the other was not. Speaking practice trains that holding — on real mouths, not on paper.

- Original worked practice for both current task families.
- Say every line aloud, ideally into a recording, before reading its notes.

Set A: short sentences, exact rhythm

Five lines, said at normal speed

The lab closes at five. My cousin studies engineering. These seats are reserved today.

I printed the form yesterday. The north entrance is closed.

Sets B and C: hold the shape, chunk by meaning

1. **Set B carries structure** A reason clause, a contrast, a comparison: "The workshop moved to Room 21 because the projector is being repaired."
2. **Set C is chunked** "The study-support desk / keeps morning appointments in Room 4 / while afternoon appointments / move to the library annex."
3. **The training rule** Start where you succeed, then add one clause; lengthen as you improve.
4. **The recovery rule** If a sentence collapses, say it once more and move on — five sentences repeated well beat one repeated thirty times.

Decision

Hold the whole shape, not the first four words plus a guess.

Worked interview: where do you usually study?

Strong

"Somewhere else, usually the library. Because at home I start checking my phone, and in the library everyone around me is working. For example, last week I finished a full lab report there in one evening."

Weak

"Both places are good. Home is comfortable and the library is quiet and also the cafe sometimes and my friend studies at home too and it depends."

Worked interviews: preference and advice

1. **Morning or evening?** "Morning, I think. I suppose my head is clearest before lunch, and there are fewer messages arriving. For instance, I write my essays between eight and ten."
2. **The fillers are doing work** "I think", "I suppose" buy a moment and sound like speech; they fit an opinion question exactly.
3. **Advice for a friend?** "Practise a little every day rather than a lot once a week. Well, because small daily sessions stay in your memory. When I learned to type, fifteen minutes a day worked better than a two-hour class."
4. **What to avoid** Reciting, silence, and decoration: the right word beats the difficult word.

Decision

Start within a second; answer first; one reason; one example; stop.

Your turn: name the behaviour

Your turn

A candidate pauses for six seconds, then delivers a perfect memorised paragraph on a slightly different topic. What went wrong first?

A. The paragraph quality

B. The silence: a slow start costs more than a poor sentence, and reciting is discounted

C. The topic choice

D. Nothing; this is the ideal strategy

Pronunciation that changes meaning

Family	Practice pairs and chains
Final consonants	cost / cos; asked / ask; fifths / fits; worked / work
th sounds	think (air) / sink; this (voiced) / dis
l, n, r	light / night / right; "red lorry, yellow lorry"
Word stress	PHOtograph / phoTOGrapher / photoGRAPHic

Use the evidence

Being understood is the standard; an **accent** is not an error, but sounds that change a word's meaning are.

A practice routine you can keep

- One interview question per day, recorded, then listened back.
- Repeat-sentence drill: five sentences from any recording, growing length.
- Talk to yourself in English during ordinary tasks.
- Practise with a timer running — the format is free to rehearse.

Check yourself

Your turn

Which pair is right? (1) Is slowing down a kindness to your pronunciation in Listen and Repeat? (2) Which is the error: an accent, or a sound that changes a word's meaning?

A. (1) yes; (2) the accent
B. (1) no; (2) the sound that changes meaning
C. (1) yes; (2) the sound
D. (1) no; (2) the accent