

Speak Now 1–4 Placement Test

Instructions

The list of interview questions below is representative of the range of lexical, grammatical, and functional speaking items presented in the *Speak Now* series. The questions have been divided up among three of the four levels of *Speak Now*, beginning with the lowest and moving up to the higher levels of book 3. The interviewer should use the list as a guide to assess incoming students and to find the level of *Speak Now* best suited to each learner's abilities.

This list is intended as a guide, and teacher or administrators may wish to add to or change some of the questions, or to engage learners in longer discussions about one or more of the topics during the interview, rather than staying strictly on the list.

After greeting a student, interviewers should begin by asking some of the lowest level questions from the *Speak Now 1* page. If the interviewee consistently gives strong responses, interviewers may wish to skip to the questions from *Speak Now 2* or *Speak Now 3* early in the process. The goal is to gradually move through the list and find the point at which the learner begins to have more difficulty responding, either in terms of accuracy or fluency, or both. The questions in that section indicate the ideal level for the learner: the one where the learner can already respond to some degree, but which still offers a level of challenge. If the student can answer the questions from *Speak Now 3* comfortably, place the student in *Speak Now 4*. If a student is struggling, the interviewer should move back in the list to a slightly more comfortable range of questions for the interviewee before finishing up the interview.

The interview should take a conversational form as much as possible, and put the learner at ease. It is not intended to be read as a straight list of questions. Language learners have a high tendency to feel nervous or anxious when taking speaking tests, and putting them more at ease may allow the interviewer to get a better sense of the interviewee's true abilities and the find the most appropriate level.

Speak Now 1

- Hello. My name is [interviewer's name]. I'd like to ask you some questions.
Are you ready? / OK?
- What's your name?
Can I have your email address?
Sorry, can you repeat that, please? / Can you say it again?
- Do you like [hip-hop/rock/classical/jazz] music?
What kind of music do you like?
- What's your favorite movie?
What's your favorite TV show?
- Do you have any brothers or sisters? How old are they?
- What color is [my shirt, or a nearby classroom object]?
- What time do you [get up/go to bed/go to work/go to class]?
- What do you do first in the morning? Then what do you do?
- What's your home like?
- Is there a [post office/restaurant/drugstore] near here? Is it far?
- How often do you buy [magazines/newspapers/candy/gum]?
- What do you usually have for [breakfast/lunch/dinner]?
Do you eat [many vegetables/much fruit]?
- What's your favorite food?
What's in it?
- What did you do last night?
- What are you doing this weekend?

Speak Now 2

- What does your [mother/father/sister/brother/best friend] look like?
- How would you describe your [mother/father/sister/brother/best friend]?
What's he/she like?
- Have you ever had [Japanese/Thai/Mexican/Korean/Indian/Turkish] food?
What dishes have you tried?
- How do you make your favorite dish? Tell me the steps.
- Do you know any good restaurants near here? Tell me about one.
- Which is more interesting to play—soccer or tennis?
Which is more interesting to watch?
- What kind of job would you like to have?
Why would you be good at that job?
What are the good things about that kind of job?
What are the bad things about that kind of job?
- What do you like to do in your free time?
Would you like to see a movie tonight?
- How long does it take to get here from your home?
- How do [teachers/students/your colleagues] tend to dress at [your school/your workplace]?
- Do you have a [computer/laptop/cell phone]?
What do you use it for?
- How would you feel if you [lost your bag/forgot a friend's birthday]?
- Did you watch the news yesterday? Tell me about something that happened.

Speak Now 3

- Do you have a large family?
Tell me about the people in your extended family.
- Would you describe yourself as an optimist, or a pessimist?
- What are some of the rules at your [school/workplace]?
- Can you tell me if there's a [bus stop/train station/taxi stand] near here?
Do you know if [how late they run/it's easy to get a taxi there]?
Do you know how much it costs to get to [destination]?
- I'm feeling really stressed lately. What do you think I should do?
What else could I do?
- What do you remember about your childhood?
What games did you use to play as a kid?
- Tell me about something interesting you saw on TV recently.
- Do you know when [a famous couple] got married?
- What's important to you in a friend?
What's the most important quality a friend should have?
- A lot of [bookstores/language schools/banks/music stores] are closing nowadays.
Why do think that is?
- What do you need to run a successful [café/restaurant/shop]?
- What are some of the special customs in your country?
- Do you believe in superstitions? Tell me about a superstition in your country.
- What do you think the cars of the future will be like?
- What are your goals for learning English?