



CAMBRIDGE

How to teach speaking for Cambridge YL exams

27th March 2026

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Akcent

Where your world grows



Agenda

- Which activities can we use to develop their speaking skills generally?
- How can we best prepare for the speaking tasks in the Cambridge Young Learner Exams?
- Which speaking skills are relevant and attainable at Pre-A1 Starters, A1 Movers and A2 Flyers levels?



Assessment criteria in Pre-A1 Starters, A1 Movers and A2 Flyers

A2 Flyers

VOCABULARY AND GRAMMAR	PRONUNCIATION	INTERACTION
Range Control	Extent Cohesion	Individual sounds Stress Intonation
		Reception/Responding Support required Fluency/Promptness

A1 Movers

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Pre-A1 Starters

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Pre-A1 Starters

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Vocabulary at Pre-A1 Starters

Pre-A1 Starters Vocabulary

1	<p>Has the vocabulary required to attempt <u>some</u> test tasks.</p> <p>May attempt a few simple utterances but <u>basic mistakes and lack of language prevent communication.</u></p> <p>Responds <u>only at single word level,</u> or does not respond.</p>
0	<i>Perform</i>

3	<p>Uses the vocabulary required to deal with <u>most</u> test tasks.</p> <p>Attempts <u>a few</u> simple utterances but <u>makes some basic mistakes which may obscure meaning.</u></p> <p>Generally responds at word level but <u>may also produce phrases.</u></p>
2	<i>Some features of 3.0</i>

VOCABULARY	
	Range Control Extent
5	<p>Uses the vocabulary required to deal with <u>all</u> test tasks.</p> <p>Produces simple utterances but <u>makes occasional mistakes.</u></p> <p>Generally responds at word or <u>phrase</u> level but may also produce <u>some longer utterances.</u></p>
4	<i>Some features of 3.0 c</i>

Where and how can Pre-A1 Starters produce longer utterances?





Open Candidate booklet and point to the café in **Scene** picture.

Point to the window in **Scene** picture.

Look at this. This is a café.
STARTERS SPEAKING - Scene picture (candidate's copy)
The family are talking.

Here's the window.

Where's the door?

Where are the bags?

Points to items in picture.

Is this the door?

Are these the bags?



Learners can say:
'This is/Here's the door.'
'The bags are under the green table.'



<p>2 Remove Object cards and point to the blue balloon in Scene picture.</p>	<p>Now, *, what's this? What colour is it? How many balloons are there?</p>	<p>(a) balloon blue three</p>	<p>Is it a balloon? Is it white? Blue? Are there two? Three?</p>
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Questions always the same.
'It's a/an ...'
'It's blue.'
'There are three balloons.'

STARTERS SPEAKING – Scene picture (candidate’s copy)



Point to the man with the notebook.

What's the man doing?

writing

Is he writing?

Learners can say:
'He's writing, looking at the girl and standing.'



Point to the red table.

Tell me about this table.

(variations possible)
It's red.

There are some drinks on it.

What colour is the table?
What's on the table?

Train learners to say **3 things**:

1. colour/position *It's red. It's next to the elephant.*
2. size/adjective *It's big/small. It's clean.*
3. has/have got and/or There is/are *There are some pink flowers on the table.*



Find a different:
What's this? What colour is it? How many ... are there?

What's the ... doing?

Tell me about this ...





Children create a good impression when they use greetings and other social formulae confidently. Make sure they are happy using *Hello*, *Goodbye* and *Thank you*, and that they have plenty of practice at using *Sorry*, or *I don't understand* whenever this is appropriate.



Asking for support

At all levels,
being able to
ask for help is
rewarded!

*Sorry. I don't
understand*

*Can you say
that again,
please?*

*I can't
remember
the word for
this.*

*How do you
say this in
English?*

*I can't see
which one is
different!*

Which speaking skills are relevant and attainable at Pre-A1 Starters?

- Understanding and following simple instructions
- Answering simple questions about big and small pictures of objects and people
- Answering simple personal questions (*have got, like, favourite, there is/are*) Wh- questions (*How, How many, How old, What, Where, Which, Who, Whose*)
- Greetings and social language
- Asking for support

Vocabulary at A1 Movers

A1 Movers Vocabulary

1 Uses the vocabulary required to attempt some test tasks.
Attempts a few simple utterances but makes some basic mistakes which may obscure meaning.
Generally responds at word level but may also produce phrases.
Can join words with simple linkers (e.g. *and*).

3 Uses the vocabulary required to deal with most test tasks.
Produces some simple structures but makes some basic mistakes which may obscure meaning.
Generally responds at word or phrase level but may also produce some longer utterances.
Can join ideas with a few simple linkers (e.g. *and*).

5 Uses the vocabulary required to deal with all test tasks.
Uses some simple structures correctly but makes some mistakes, although meaning is generally clear.
Responds at word, phrase or longer utterance level.
Can join ideas with some simple linkers (e.g. *and, but, then, when*).

Where can A1 Movers join ideas?

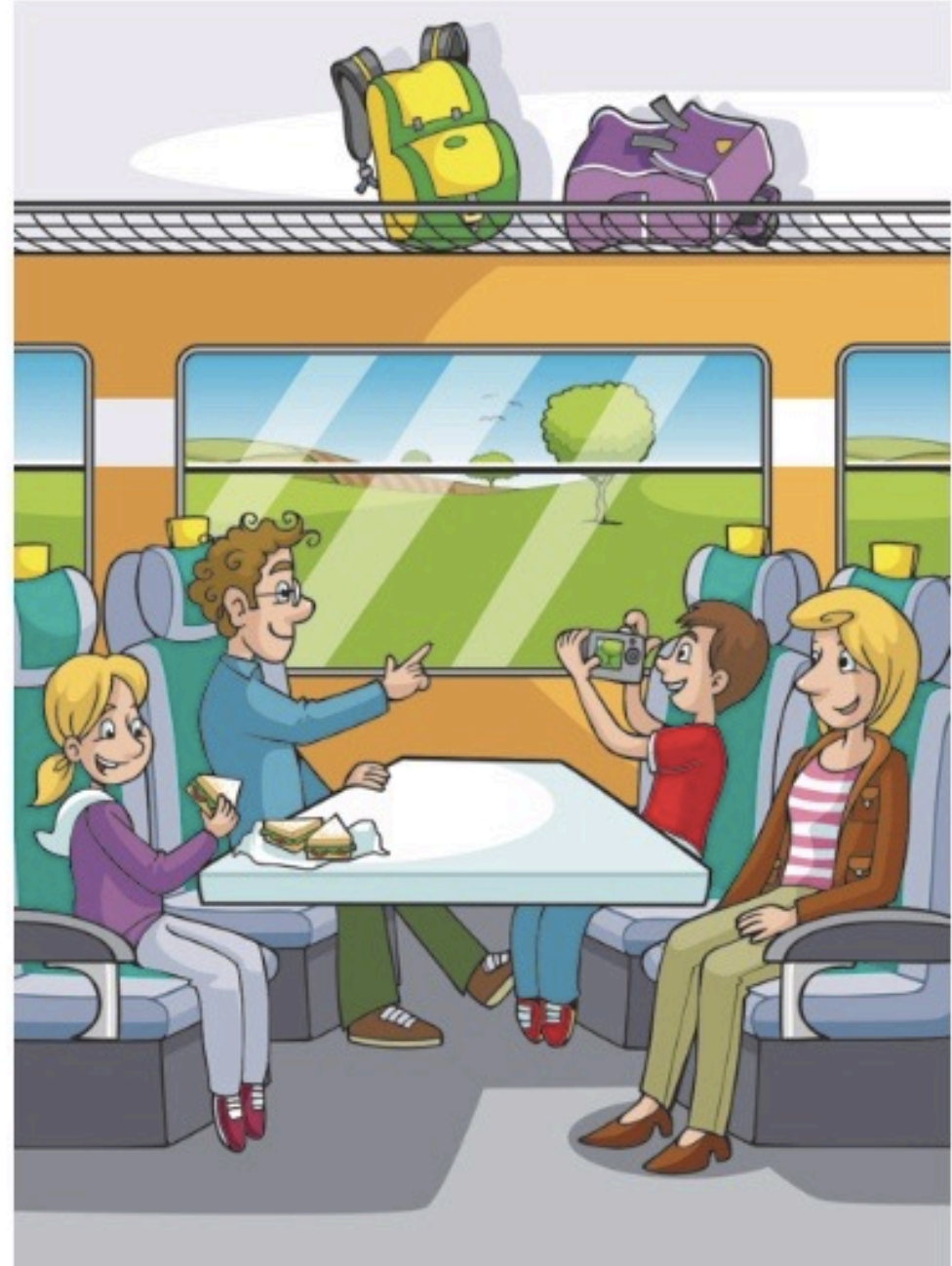


A1 Movers Part 1

- ▶ For Part 1, candidates should practise describing differences between two similar pictures. The differences may be related to colour, size, number, position, appearance, activity, etc. For example: *Here it is sunny, but here it is cloudy. Here there are four fish, but here there are five. The bottles are behind the rock here, but in front of the rock here. The girl is playing with a ball in this picture, but in this one she is playing with a boat.* Although the above represent examples of ideal responses, something much simpler is acceptable. For example: *Here red and here yellow. This is boy and this is girl.*

Practising A1 Movers Part 1

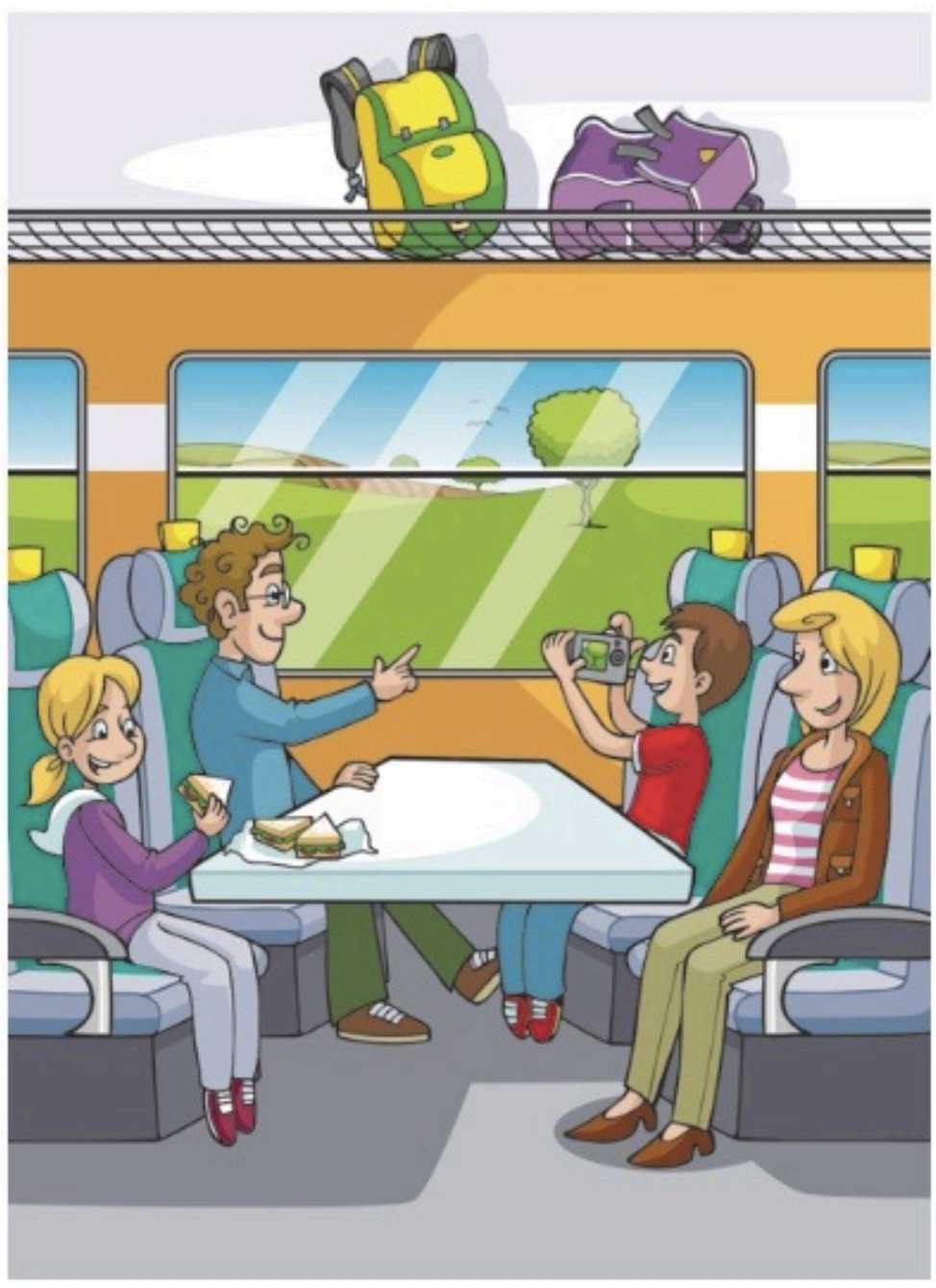
Look and remember!



Practising A1 Movers Part 1

How many differences can you see?





A1 Movers
Grammar and
Intonation

Here ... ,
but here,



MOVERS SPEAKING – Find the differences (candidate's copy)

In your coursebook - 2 pictures of ...



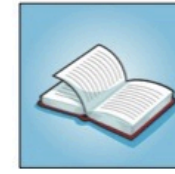
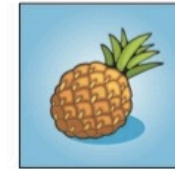
A1 Movers Grammar and Intonation



Story: *after that, before that, then, when*



MOVER'S SPEAKING – The baby and the comic (candidate's copy)



Picture differences: *and, but, because*

A lemon, a pineapple and an orange are fruit ... ,

Which speaking skills are relevant and attainable at A1 Movers?

- Joining ideas with simple linkers
- Describing things and people
- Telling a story
- Answering personal questions
- Greetings and social language
- Asking for support
- Rising and falling intonation
- Contrastive stress (e.g. *sandwiches / salad*)

Where
does your
question
go?

Theme questions

Choose 4 questions for each box and write them on the lines.

Birthdays

Now, let's talk about birthdays.

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4

Mornings

Now, let's talk about mornings.

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4

Food

Now, let's talk about the things you eat.

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4

Clothes

Now, let's talk about clothes.

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4

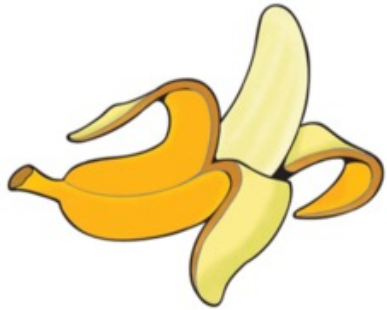
Computers

Now, let's talk about computers.

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4

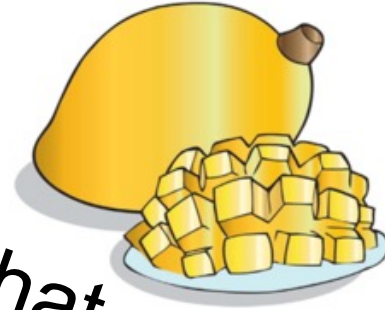
Are you more like...

Peel your banana!



Are bananas better when they're soft or hard?

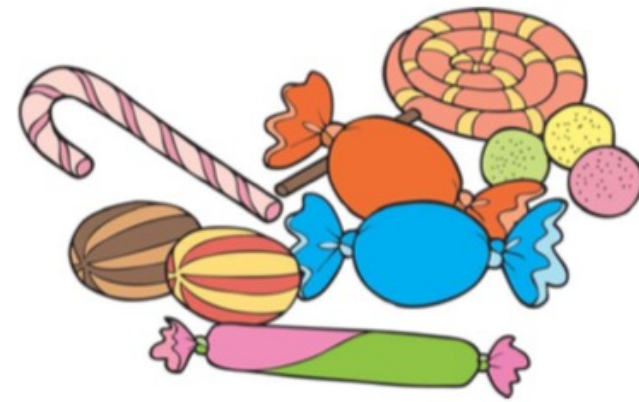
Make juice from your mango!



What can you use mango for?

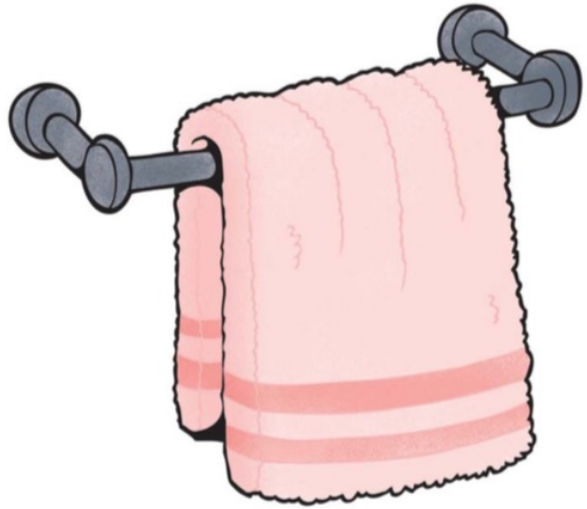
* Inspired by Gonoodle.com

Are you more like...



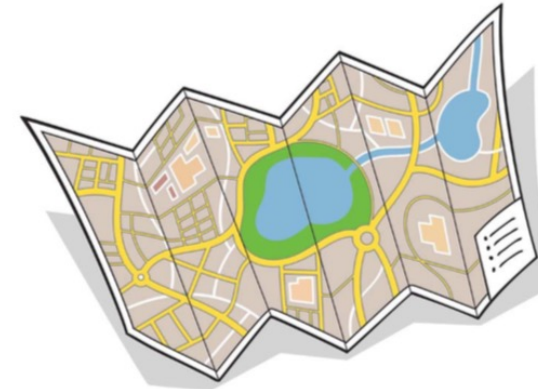
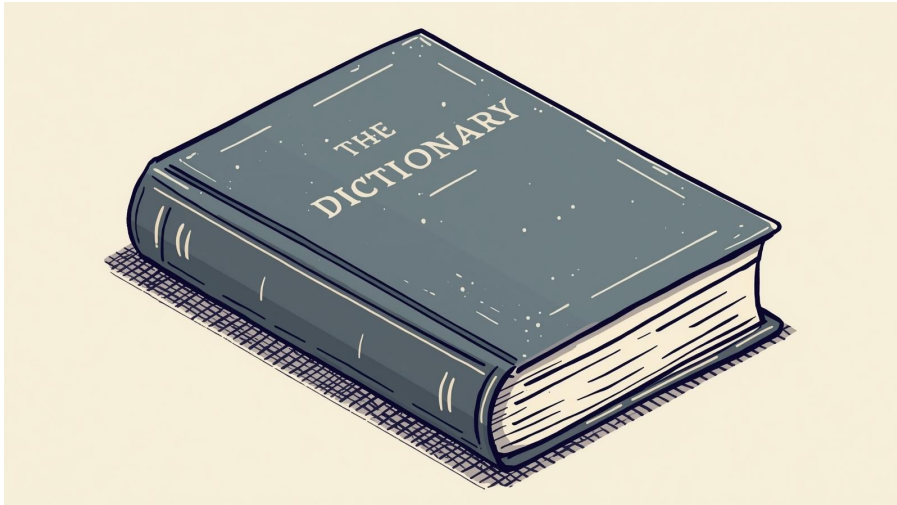
* Inspired by Gonoodle.com

Are you more like...



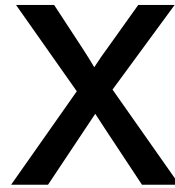
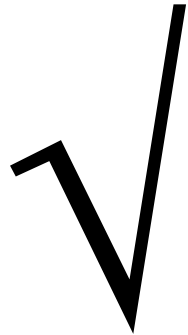
* Inspired by Gonoodle.com

Are you more like...



* Inspired by Gonoodle.com

Are you more like...



* Inspired by [Gonoodle.com](https://gonoodle.com)

Pre-A1 Starters
Are you more like?


'or' questions	Action	Questions
a balloon or a kite?	Blow up a big balloon!	What's a good colour for a balloon?
	Fly like a kite!	Where can you fly a kite?
an arm or a leg?	Wave your arm!	How many arms have you got?
	Wave your leg!	How many legs has a spider got?
an eye or an ear?	Close your eyes!	What colour are your eyes?
	Put your hands on your ears!	What's between your ears?
an apple or a banana!	Eat your fruit!	What colour is your favourite fruit?
rice or chips?	Eat your rice or eat your chips!	What do you eat for lunch?
an alien or a monster?	Talk like an alien!	What's a good name for an alien or a monster?
	Talk like a monster!	
an armchair or the floor?	Sit in an armchair!	How many armchairs are there in your house?
	Sit on the floor!	What colour is the floor in your bedroom?
boots or shoes?	Put on your boots or shoes!	What do you wear on your feet at school?
a number or a letter?	Write your letter or number!	What's your favourite letter/number?
a tick or a cross?	Draw big tick or a big cross!	What does your teacher put on your writing – ticks or crosses?
a plane or a train?	Fly like a plane!	How do you go to school?
	Sing like a train!	
basketball or football?	Bounce your basketball!	What sports do you do at school?
	Kick your football!	
a giraffe or an elephant?	Stretch your neck like a giraffe!	What's your favourite animal?
	Swing like an elephant!	

<https://www.cambridge.org/elt/blog/2021/05/27/fun-ideas-to-get-young-learners-to-respond/>



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