

B2 First Speaking Part 4

Develop your ideas • respond naturally • keep the discussion moving

A strong answer often follows: **OPINION** → **REASON** → **EXAMPLE**

Exercise 1 Develop the answer

Say each question aloud. Use the starter, then add a reason and an example. Aim for 3–4 natural sentences, not a memorised speech.

1. Do you think people spend too much time on their phones? Start: "Yes, definitely."
2. Is it better to work from home or in an office? Start: "I'd say working from home has some advantages."
3. Should schools give students less homework? Start: "In my view, it depends on the age of the students."
4. Do people exercise enough nowadays? Start: "Probably not."
5. Is travelling abroad important for young people? Start: "I think it can be very useful."
6. Will people read fewer books in the future? Start: "It's difficult to say, but..."
7. Should everyone learn how to cook? Start: "As far as I'm concerned, it's a very useful skill."
8. Is living in a city better than living in the countryside? Start: "I'm not sure there is one answer."

Exercise 2 Build your phrase bank

Complete each expression with one word. Then mark ✓ next to the six expressions you would genuinely use in the exam.

☐ 1. In my _____, ...	☐ 7. I completely _____.
☐ 2. As far as I'm _____, ...	☐ 8. I see what you mean, _____ ...
☐ 3. The main _____ is that ...	☐ 9. That's true to some _____, but ...
☐ 4. That's mainly _____ ...	☐ 10. It's difficult to _____, but ...
☐ 5. For _____, ...	☐ 11. I _____ that ...
☐ 6. A good example _____ this is ...	☐ 12. What do you _____?

Exercise 3 Turn a short answer into a B2 answer

The answers below stop too soon. Add one reason and one example aloud.

1. "Online shopping is convenient." Why? What is a clear real-life example?
2. "Hobbies are important." How do they help people? Give an example.
3. "Public transport is useful." Useful for whom and why?
4. "Technology can help students." How? Give one specific example.

Interaction: don't just answer — respond

Exercise 4 Choose the best response

Circle A, B or C. Choose the response that sounds natural, reacts to the speaker and develops the discussion.

1. "I think online lessons are more convenient."

A Yes. B I agree, and I'd also say they can save students a lot of travelling time. C Online lessons are lessons on the internet.

2. "Young people should spend less time on social media."

A I see what you mean, but it can also be a useful way to keep in touch. B No. C Social media is popular.

3. "Public transport should be free."

A I don't know. B That's interesting. C That's a good point. The main advantage would be that fewer people might use their cars.

4. "People will work fewer hours in the future."

A It's difficult to say, but automation may make that possible in some jobs. B Future work is interesting. C Yes, fewer.

5. "Schools should teach more practical skills."

A I completely agree, especially because students need skills such as managing money and communicating at work. B I agree completely yes. C School is important.

6. "Living in a big city is better than living in the countryside."

A That's true to some extent, but the countryside can offer a quieter and less stressful lifestyle. B Countryside. C I'm not sure.

7. "It is better to have a few close friends than lots of friends."

A Friends are nice. B I'd agree with that. A few close friends may give you more genuine support when you need it. C Yes, a few.

8. "People care too much about buying new things."

A Perhaps, but I think advertising and social media also put people under pressure to keep buying. B Buying is shopping. C Maybe.

Exercise 5 React to your partner

Respond aloud. Use a different strategy each time: agree + add, partial agreement, polite disagreement, or invite your partner to continue.

1. "Exams are the best way to measure students' ability."

2. "People buy too many things they do not need."

3. "It is easier to make friends online than face to face."

4. "Everyone should learn to cook."

5. "A high salary is the most important thing in a job."

6. "Tourism is always good for local communities."

7. "Young people have an easier life than their parents did."

8. "Watching films is a better way to relax than reading."

Exercise 6 Speculate when you are not sure

Choose any four questions. Use: *It may depend on... / I imagine that... / There's a good chance that... / I wouldn't be surprised if...*

1. Will people still go to offices in twenty years?
2. How might schools be different in the future?
3. Will people travel more or less in the future?
4. Could AI change the jobs people do?
5. Will cities become healthier places to live?
6. Will people have more free time in the future?

Exam-style Part 4 practice · Sets 1–5

Work with a partner. Take turns answering. Give 3–4 developed sentences where possible, then react to one thing your partner says. Do not prepare a speech.

Topic 1 · Technology

1. Do you think technology has made people's lives less stressful?
2. Are people too dependent on their phones?
3. Should children have limits on how much time they spend online?
4. What kinds of technology might become important in the future?

Topic 2 · Education

1. What makes a good teacher?
2. Do students learn more when lessons are enjoyable?
3. Should schools spend more time teaching practical skills?
4. How important is it for adults to continue learning new things?

Topic 3 · Health and lifestyle

1. Why do some people find it difficult to change unhealthy habits?
2. Do you think people are more interested in health nowadays?
3. Who should do more to encourage healthy living: individuals or governments?
4. Do you think people will live healthier lives in the future?

Topic 4 · Work

1. What makes a job satisfying?
2. Is working from home suitable for everyone?
3. How important is it to enjoy the people you work with?
4. Do you think people will change jobs more often in the future?

Topic 5 · Travel and tourism

1. Why do people enjoy visiting new places?
2. Can tourism cause problems for local people?
3. Is it better to spend holidays abroad or in your own country?
4. How might travel change in the future?

Partner challenge: After your partner answers, respond to one point before giving your own view. Try not to repeat the same phrase twice.

Exam-style Part 4 practice · Sets 6–10

Continue in pairs. If you are practising alone, record yourself and answer each question for about 20–30 seconds. Listen back: did you give a reason or example?

Topic 6 · The environment

1. How important is it for ordinary people to protect the environment?
2. Should people use public transport more often?
3. What can schools do to teach children about environmental issues?
4. Do you think people will live more sustainably in the future?

Topic 7 · Leisure

1. Why are hobbies important?
2. Do people have enough free time nowadays?
3. Has the internet improved the way people spend their leisure time?
4. Should schools encourage more creative activities?

Topic 8 · Family and friends

1. Is it better to have a large circle of friends or a few close ones?
2. How has technology changed the way families stay in touch?
3. Who influences young people more: friends or family?
4. Why are social events important for relationships?

Topic 9 · Shopping and consumerism

1. Do people buy more than they need?
2. How does advertising influence the choices people make?
3. Is online shopping better than shopping in stores?
4. What can people do to avoid unnecessary shopping?

Topic 10 · Community and city life

1. What makes a town or city a good place to live?
2. Should local communities organise more events for residents?
3. What are the advantages of knowing your neighbours?
4. How might cities change in the future?

30-second challenge One idea, one reason, one example

Choose any three questions from this page. Give yourself five seconds to think, then speak for 30 seconds without stopping. Keep your language simple and connected.

Useful rescue phrases: The main reason is that... • For example... • I see what you mean, but...
• It may depend on... • Going back to what you said...

Answer key, model language & self-check

Exercise 2 Answers

1 view • 2 concerned • 3 reason • 4 because • 5 example • 6 of • 7 agree • 8 but • 9 extent
• 10 say • 11 imagine • 12 think

Exercise 4 Answers

1 B • 2 A • 3 C • 4 A • 5 A • 6 A • 7 B • 8 A

Exercise 1 Possible developed answers

1. Yes, definitely. I think many people spend too much time on their phones because so much of daily life now happens on a screen. For example, you often see people checking messages even when they are having a meal with friends.
2. I'd say working from home has some advantages. The main one is that people do not have to spend time commuting. For instance, they can use that extra time for exercise, family or simply getting more sleep.
3. In my view, it depends on the age of the students. Some homework can help learners revise what they have done in class, but too much can be stressful. Younger students, for example, also need time to play and rest.
4. Probably not. A lot of people have busy jobs and spend much of the day sitting down, so exercise can easily be forgotten. For example, someone who works long hours may find it difficult to go to the gym regularly.
5. I think it can be very useful. Travelling gives young people a chance to experience different cultures and become more independent. For example, even a short trip abroad can make them more confident about communicating with new people.
6. It's difficult to say, but I imagine people will still read books, although the format may change. More people may choose e-books or audiobooks because they are convenient. However, I don't think printed books will disappear completely.

Quick phrase bank Natural language for Part 4

Opinion: In my view... / I'd say that...	Disagree politely: I see what you mean, but...
Reason: The main reason is that... / That's mainly because...	Partial agreement: That's true to some extent, but...
Example: For example... / A good example of this is...	Speculate: It's difficult to say, but... / I imagine that...
Agree + add: I agree, and I'd also say that...	Interact: That's a good point. / What do you think?

Final self-check: Did I develop my answers, give reasons or examples, react to my partner, disagree politely and keep speaking when I was unsure?