SPEAKING PART 2 | INDIVIDUAL LONG TURN

Comparing Photographs

Two original photo-comparison tasks, useful speaking language and model responses for B2 First.

2	1 min	30 sec
photographs to compare	your long turn	partner response

A reliable four-step approach

1 Introduce the topic

Both photographs show people learning in different ways.

2 Compare and contrast

In the first picture ..., whereas in the second ...

3 Speculate and explain

They might be doing this because ...

4 Answer the question

Overall, I think ... because ...

Useful expressions

Comparing: both photographs show; while; whereas; in contrast
Speculating: might be; could be; seem to; it looks as if
Giving reasons: because; perhaps; one advantage could be

Read the full photo-comparison lesson ›

TASK 1 | SPEAKING FOR ONE MINUTE

Why might the people find these different ways of learning useful?



PHOTO A



PHOTO B

Your turn - 1 minute

Compare the photographs and answer the question above. Do not describe each photograph separately. Try to give reasons and speculate where appropriate.

Partner response - about 30 seconds

Would you prefer to study alone or with other people? Why?

Optional preparation notes (for home practice only)

In the real exam, you speak straight away. For practice, think of one similarity, one difference and two possible reasons.

TASK 2 | SPEAKING FOR ONE MINUTE

What might the people enjoy about these different ways of spending time outdoors?



PHOTO A



PHOTO B

Your turn - 1 minute

Compare the photographs and answer the question above. Do not describe each photograph separately. Try to give reasons and speculate where appropriate.

Partner response - about 30 seconds

Which of these activities would you choose for a free afternoon? Why?

Optional preparation notes (for home practice only)

In the real exam, you speak straight away. For practice, think of one similarity, one difference and two possible reasons.

Language Builder

Choose expressions that help you compare the photographs, speculate and explain your ideas.

Exercise 1 | Complete the sentences

Word bank: both · whereas · might · while · seem · compared · overall · because

01 _____ photographs show people studying in different ways.

02 The first woman is on her own, _____ the other people are working in a group.

03 They _____ be preparing for an important test.

04 _____ the first scene looks quiet, the second seems more lively.

05 The group members _____ to be enjoying the discussion.

06 _____ with sitting in the park, hiking is probably more demanding.

07 _____, both activities could help people switch off from work.

08 They may prefer studying together _____ they can exchange ideas.

Exercise 2 | Make better comparisons

Rewrite each sentence using the word in brackets. More than one answer may be possible.

1. The woman studies alone. The group studies together. (whereas)

2. The hikers may feel proud. They have reached a beautiful place. (because)

Build Your One-minute Answer

Practise responding naturally rather than memorising a speech.

Exercise 3 | Choose the stronger sentence

Circle A or B. Think about which version compares, speculates or answers the question more effectively.

1. A She is studying for an exam. She must be.

B She might be preparing for an exam.

2. A The first situation looks quieter, whereas the second seems more sociable.

B I can see a laptop. I can see three people.

3. A The hikers have backpacks and jackets.

B Hiking might be rewarding because the people can explore new places.

4. A People probably enjoy picnics because they can relax and chat.

B These people are eating in a park.

A simple one-minute plan

0–10 sec Introduce what both photos show.
10–30 sec Compare the main difference and a similarity.
30–50 sec Speculate and explain possible reasons.
50–60 sec Return to the question and conclude.

Model Responses

Use these as examples of structure and language - not speeches to memorise.

Task 1 | Different ways of learning

Both photographs show people learning, but the situations are quite different. In the first picture, a woman is studying on her own at home, whereas in the second, several people are working together. Studying alone might help the woman concentrate because she can work at her own pace and avoid distractions. On the other hand, the group could find learning easier because they can exchange ideas and explain difficult points to one another. The group seems quite lively, while the woman's surroundings look more peaceful. Overall, I'd say both ways are useful, depending on the task. Working alone may be better for careful reading, but working with others could be more motivating when you need support or a fresh point of view.

Notice the language

Comparison: whereas, while, on the other hand **Speculation:** might, could, may **Focus:** why the approaches are useful

Task 2 | Spending time outdoors

Both photographs show people enjoying time outdoors, although they are doing very different activities. In the first picture, two people are walking through the countryside, whereas in the second, a group of friends are having a picnic in a park. The hikers might enjoy the challenge of reaching a beautiful viewpoint, and they may find being surrounded by nature refreshing. In contrast, the people at the picnic seem to be relaxing and having a good conversation. They could enjoy this activity because it gives them time to catch up without having to do anything particularly demanding. Personally, I think hiking would be more exciting, while a picnic would probably be better if you simply wanted to unwind.

Answer Key & Self-check

Speaking tasks have many good answers. Use the models as examples, not as the only correct responses.

Language Builder: Exercise 1

1 Both **2** whereas **3** might **4** While
5 seem **6** Compared **7** Overall **8** because

Language Builder: Exercise 2 - Suggested answers

1. The woman studies alone, whereas the group studies together.
2. The hikers may feel proud because they have reached a beautiful place.

Exercise 3

1 B - shows appropriate uncertainty; **2 A** - directly compares; **3 B** - answers why; **4 A** - explains a possible reason.

Check your one-minute response

- ☐ I mentioned what both photos have in common.
- ☐ I compared the most important difference.
- ☐ I used speculation rather than pretending to know every detail.
- ☐ I answered the question above the photographs.
- ☐ I spoke for approximately one minute without rushing.
- ☐ I could answer my partner's short question in about 30 seconds.

Study tip: Record your response on your phone and listen again. Notice whether you really compare the photos and whether your final sentence answers the task question.

Read the full B2 First Speaking Part 2 lesson ›