**Welcome to this Understanding GETS: Speaking course. We hope it helps you achieve GETS success. On this step we’re going to ask you to think about speaking in English. How confident are you?**

**For further information visit GETS: Speaking familiarization:** [**http://www.getsworld.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/GETS-Higher-Speaking-Familiarisation.pdf**](http://www.getsworld.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/GETS-Higher-Speaking-Familiarisation.pdf)

This course is designed by GETS experts to look in detail at every part of the test. In the next three weeks of the course you’re going to find out everything you need to know about the Speaking test and how to get the GETS band score you need. Everything in the course will be connected to the test and designed to help you do well. On almost every step of this course you can share your thoughts and ideas with other learners. You don’t have to comment but it’s a great way to practice your English and to have a conversation with other learners all over the world.

First of all, think about your own spoken English. What are you good at, what do you want to get better at?

And these are the four assessment criteria your speaking will be measured on:

1. fluency and coherence
2. lexical resource
3. grammatical range and accuracy
4. pronunciation.

These are general questions on familiar topics such as:

1. family
2. where you live
3. what you do
4. your likes and dislikes
5. your habits, etc.

These are some typical Part 1 questions:

“Let’s talk about what you do. Do you work or are you a student?”  
“Do you like your work?”  
“Do you intend to keep this job for a long time?”

“Is money important?” “Do people in your country save their money?” “What sort of things do young people spend their money on?”

“What is your favorite meal, e.g. breakfast, lunch or dinner?” “How important do you think it is to have three meals a day?” “Who do you think enjoys cooking more, older or younger people?”

**Assessment criteria: fluency and coherence**

Fluency means being able to talk smoothly without too much hesitation, while coherence means making it easy for the listener to follow and understand what you’re saying. Here are some of the criteria for fluency and coherence:

**Fluency and coherence**

* A **Band 9** ‘*speaks fluently with only rare repetition or self-correction*’, ‘*develops topics fully and appropriately*’ and ‘*speaks coherently with fully appropriate cohesive features.*’
* A **Band 6** ‘*is willing to speak at length, though may lose coherence at times due to occasional repetition, self-correction or hesitation*’ and ‘*uses a range of connectives and discourse markers but not always appropriately*’.
* A **Band 3** ‘*speaks with long pauses*’ and ‘*gives only simple responses and is frequently unable to convey a basic message*’ and ‘*has limited ability to link simple sentences*’.

When your examiner gives you a band score it’s for your performance across the whole of the test. So we’re not going to give band scores here, but we are going to look at a few of the things the students said and how they relate to the assessment criteria.

**Extract 1:** *Yeah, of course. Money is important because it helps you to do… like, to achieve what you want to achieve… Basically money is a good thing. I’m not living for money basically but money is very important to achieve your objectives, to support people, you know. Yah, I believe money is important because it helps you, really, to go further, to achieve your objectives.*

**Examiner feedback:** The candidate speaks at length, but there is a slight loss of coherence at some points, and also repetition at times (*money*, *important*, *basically*).

**Extract 2:** *Actually, I’m not both because I just graduate last week from my university but currently I’m just studying English. I start working at the end of this year.*

**Examiner feedback:** The meaning is clear, although the answer does lose a little bit of coherence. The student could perhaps speak at greater length.

**Extract 3:** *They all are farmers. Because it’s a bit far from the city so they all, in my area, the people depend on the farm.*

**Examiner feedback:** Again, this is quite a short and simple response: in this case the student doesn’t demonstrate being willing to speak at length.

**Record yourself**

**Now it’s time to record yourself doing this, and reflect on how you feel you perform, what you do well and how you could do better.**

Go to [SpeakPipe](https://www.speakpipe.com/voice-recorder) on your computer, phone or tablet. You may need to give permission for your device to use your microphone.

https://www.speakpipe.com/voice-recorder

When you’re ready, press *Record*. Answer the questions in the text below. When you’ve finished your recording, press *Stop*, then click *Save on server* then *Save*. You’ll then get a link. If you want to, you can share the link in the comments box below and let other users listen to your speaking.

You can listen to other learners’ recordings and write feedback for them in the comments.

**Some things to remember in this step**

1. Sharing your recording is optional. Not everyone may want to share their link and that’s fine.
2. Don’t share any personal or contact details in your recording.
3. If you’re commenting on another learner’s speaking, please be encouraging and helpful.
4. SpeakPipe recordings don’t last forever. They’ll be removed by SpeakPipe after a few months.

Here are the questions to answer:

Let’s talk about your home town or village:  
– What kind of place is it?  
– What’s the most interesting part of your town/village?  
– Would you say it’s a good place to live? (why?)

**Giving Better Answers**

**12 comments**

**Answers That Fit The Question**

**Look at this question:**

*Do you work or are you a student?*

Sometimes it might feel unnatural to give a long answer to a question like this one, but remember you need to use every opportunity you have to show your level of English. Try to extend your answer by giving further information: you study, but *what* do you study? Do you like it? Why are you studying it? Try to link this information together naturally.

Look at these short answers. How would you make your answer better?

*Do you like sport?*  
 Yes, I like it very much.

*Do you get on well with your family?*  
 Yes, I mostly get on well with them.

*Did you have a lot of friends when you were a child?*  
 Not really. Just a few.

**Share your answers with other learners in the comments below.**

**Expanding And Justifying Your Answers**

**There are two main ways to make your answer fuller. Firstly, as you saw in the previous step, you can give more information. In addition to this, you can give reasons to justify your answer. So, if the question is:**

*Do you like animals?*

don’t just say ‘yes’ or ‘no’ – you could say something like this:

*Well, yes, I do like animals but I don’t have any pets because I live in a really small flat and I don’t think it’s fair to keep a pet in such a small space. I’m also only at home a few hours each day.*

Remember that the examiner needs to hear your English to give a fair assessment of how good you are. So make sure you talk enough!

Think about how you would expand your answer to this question:

*Do you enjoy shopping?*

Share your ideas in the comments below. On the next step you’ll get more suggestions about expanding answers.