

SPEAKING

IN THIS UNIT YOU WILL LEARN HOW TO

- speak about various aspects of where you live for Speaking Part 1
- respond to *wh-*, *would* and *Yes/No* questions about where you live
- prepare more information for common Speaking Part 1 topics
- use syllable stress in words correctly.



LEAD-IN

01 In Part 1 of the Speaking test, you may be asked about your home town. Organise the words into things you like in your home town, things you don't like and things you would like to have, if they are not already in your home town.

| | | | |
|--------------|-------------|--------------|----------------|
| architecture | monuments | mountains | museums |
| parks | restaurants | rivers/lakes | shopping malls |
| weather | theatres | the sea | sports centres |



| Things I like | Things I don't like | Things I wish I had in my home town |
|---------------|---------------------|-------------------------------------|
| | | |

02▶

Listen to an extract from Speaking Part 1 and answer these questions. Discuss your answers with a partner.

08



TIP 02

The *Why?* question usually comes last, and might be more difficult to answer. Try to explain clearly, but don't go into too much detail at this stage.

- 1 How many questions did the examiner ask?
- 2 What kind of questions did the examiner ask? What were the question words?
- 3 What two topics did the examiner cover?
- 4 Approximately how long did the student speak for each question? How many sentences did they use?

RESPONDING TO WH- QUESTIONS

03▶

Listen again to the recording from exercise 2. Note down useful language the student uses.

08

Home

Shopping



Most Speaking Part 1 questions are *Wh-* questions. These include *What?*, *Who?*, *When?*, *Where?* and *Why?*



04▶

With a partner, ask and answer these questions.

Your home town

- 1 Where do you come from?
- 2 What is the weather like in your home town?
- 3 When is the best time of year to visit your home town?
- 4 Why do you like/not like your home town?

Your accommodation

- 1 Where are you living now?
- 2 Who else do you live with?
- 3 What is your favourite room in your home?
- 4 Why do you like/not like the place where you live?

05▶

Some questions ask you to think about something you *might* do, using 'would'. Ask and answer these questions with a partner.

- 1 Would you recommend your house/apartment to another person?
- 2 Would you move house if you had the chance?
- 3 Would you like to buy a house in your home town one day?
- 4 Would you like to live by yourself or with family/friends?

THINKING OF MORE INFORMATION

- 06** These words are useful when talking about your home town. Write four sentences about each, using prompts 1–4.

| | | | | |
|---------|-------------|----------|---------|-----------|
| culture | historical | monument | museums | nightlife |
| parks | restaurants | shopping | weather | |

- 1 People in my home town usually/don't often go out at night because _____.
- 2 My favourite thing about my home town is the culture because _____.
- 3 A famous historical place in my home town is _____.
- 4 I like / don't like the weather in my home town because _____.



There are a number of possible topics you might be asked about in Speaking Part 1, such as the news, entertainment or sport. To prepare for this, you need to know some basic information about each topic.

RESPONDING TO YES/NO QUESTIONS

- 07** Match questions 1–6 with answers a–f.

- 1 Do you live near the sea?
- 2 Is there anything you don't like about where you live?
- 3 Is your house in the city or the countryside?
- 4 Do you live in a house or an apartment?
- 5 Is there anything special you can do in your home town?
- 6 Are there any interesting places to visit in your home town?

TIP 07

It is not enough to just say *Yes/No*. Try to add at least two sentences with extra information, explaining your answer.



Other types of question ask for a *Yes/No* response. These questions usually start with *Do(es)* or *Is/Are*.

- a We live in the suburbs, just outside the city, about 20 minutes' drive by car.
- b Yes, we live on the coast, and we can see the beach from our window – it's pretty nice.
- c Not really, I think my home town is a little boring. We mostly take a train to Shanghai when we want to do something.
- d Yes, the weather there is pretty terrible. We only get about six weeks of summer, and it's very cold most of the time.
- e Yes, there are many monuments and museums to see – we have a lot of culture and history.
- f We currently live in a small apartment on the 33rd floor. My last house was much bigger ...

- 08** Ask and answer these questions about your home town/accommodation.

Your home town

- 1 Do you live in the city or the countryside?
- 2 Do you live near the sea?
- 3 Is there anything special that people do in your home town?
- 4 Are there any interesting places to visit in your home town?

Your accommodation

- 5 Do you live in a house or an apartment?
- 6 Is your house in the city or the countryside?
- 7 Do other people live with you?
- 8 Is there anything you don't like about where you live?

THINKING OF NEW IDEAS

09 Try to write **FOUR** questions (either *Wh-?* or *Yes/No* questions) for each topic in the mindmap. Ask and answer questions with a partner.

Weather

Do you like the weather in your home town?
When was the last time it was really cold in your home town?
Does it ever snow in your home town?
When is the best time of year to visit your home town?

Shopping



You may be asked about a topic you know well, but the exact question could be unfamiliar. It can be useful to make your own questions for a topic to explore new ideas you have not thought about before.

Culture

Monuments

Restaurants

Nightlife

Museums

Parks

10 Add **TWO** more topics to the mindmap.

SYLLABLE STRESS

11 Listen to the sentences. Underline the *stressed* syllable in the words.

09

Right now, I am living in an apartment with my friends.

1 a / part / ment

5 es / ca / la / tors

9 res / i / den / tial

13 ge / og / ra / phy

2 ac / com / o / da / tion

6 in / ha / bi / tants

10 sta / di / um

14 re / gion / al

3 ar / chi / tec / ture

7 mon / u / ment

11 coun / try / side

15 temp / er / a / tures

4 con / struc / tion

8 mu / se / um

12 en / vi / ron / ment

16 sce / ne / ry

12 Listen to the words again and repeat them with the correct syllable stress.

10

EXAM SKILLS

13 Answer these questions about accommodation and your home town. Reply with **THREE SENTENCES ONLY** for each question.

- Where do you come from?
- Are there any special places that tourists visit in your home town?
- When is the best time of year to visit your home town?
- Why do you like / don't you like your home town?
- Where are you living now – in a house or an apartment?
- Does anyone else live with you?
- What is your favourite room where you live?
- Would you recommend your accommodation to another person?