

# B2 First for Schools

## Speaking test video: examiner feedback

### Part 1

Maria	Gustavo
<p>Maria responds appropriately to all questions. Her contributions are relevant and are extended beyond short phrases. There is very little hesitation, but she keeps her answers quite brief, for example her response to the question, <i>Are there a lot of interesting things to do in your town at the weekend?</i></p> <p>She shows a good degree of control of simple grammatical forms and uses appropriate vocabulary.</p> <p>Maria's pronunciation is clear.</p>	<p>Gustavo gives appropriate and extended responses to all questions. His responses are generally organised effectively, for example when answering the question about whether he likes spending time with his family.</p> <p>He demonstrates a good degree of control of a range of simple grammatical forms and some more complex forms, for example passive forms. He uses a range of appropriate vocabulary.</p> <p>Gustavo's pronunciation is clear.</p>

### Tips for Part 1

- This part gives you the chance to settle into the test environment. Use this opportunity to give longer answers to the questions, so that you get used to speaking in English.
- Questions in this part of the test will be on subjects related to your personal life. They may be about things you did in the past, present habits or future plans, so make sure you practise talking using a variety of tenses.

## Part 2

Maria	Gustavo
<p>Maria describes what she can see in each photograph and says why the girls in the first photograph have decided to study together, but she runs out of time to address this point for the second photograph. Her comments are relevant, with only slight hesitation, and she uses simple linking words to organise what she wants to say – e.g. <i>so; because</i>.</p> <p>Maria responds appropriately to the question about Gustavo's photographs.</p> <p>Maria uses mainly simple grammatical forms and vocabulary, with generally good control.</p> <p>Her pronunciation is clear.</p>	<p>Gustavo responds appropriately to the question about Maria's photographs, linking his comments to what she said.</p> <p>His description of his own photographs is developed, relevant and fully addresses the task, although he struggles to keep talking for the full minute. He generally organises his comments clearly, although there is some lack of coherence towards the end when talking about the second photograph.</p> <p>Gustavo shows a good degree of control of simple and some more complex grammatical forms, with some language of speculation – e.g. <i>He seems to be a PE teacher</i>. He uses an appropriate range of vocabulary to complete the task – e.g. <i>making fun of; paying attention to</i>.</p> <p>His pronunciation is clear.</p>

### Tips for Part 2

- In this task you have to do two things: talk about the pictures and answer a question about the pictures. Try to answer the question early on, so that you don't run out of time.
- While your partner is talking, listen carefully, because you will need to give a brief comment when they have finished. The question you will be asked will not be the same as your partner's question.
- This task gives you good opportunities to demonstrate language of speculation, i.e. modals, verbs.

### Part 3

Maria	Gustavo
<p>Maria initiates the initial discussion and the response to the follow-up question. She responds appropriately to Gustavo's comments and negotiates towards an agreement. There is some hesitation and repetition in her comments, but she communicates her ideas clearly.</p> <p>She shows a good degree of control of mainly simple grammatical forms and uses appropriate vocabulary, although she sometimes struggles to find the language to make her point – e.g. <i>they can have some <u>difficult to wear</u> some clothes</i>.</p> <p>Her pronunciation is generally clear, with good use of sentence stress but also with isolated examples of sounds which are less clearly articulated, i.e. <i>spend</i>.</p>	<p>Gustavo responds appropriately to Maria's comments and develops the interaction by introducing new points – e.g. <i>another thing; on the other hand</i>. His comments are generally organised effectively with a suitable range of cohesive devices, although there is some hesitation and repetition towards the end of this part.</p> <p>Gustavo shows a good degree of control of simple and some more complex grammatical forms. He uses a range of appropriate vocabulary.</p> <p>His pronunciation is generally clear, with isolated examples of less clearly articulated words, i.e. <i>visit; independent</i>.</p>

#### Tips for Part 3

- Use the thinking time you are given to look at all the points on the sheet and choose which one to start with.
- Remember to listen to your partner and react to their comments as well as making your own points.
- The aim of the first part of this task is to share your opinions about the different points. In the second part, the examiner asks you to choose one of the points (i.e. the best/the most important/the most interesting etc.). It's not necessary to agree with each other.

## Part 4

Maria	Gustavo
<p>Maria responds appropriately to all questions with very little hesitation, although her answers tend to be limited to simple responses and reasons. Her responses are relevant and clear, but she struggles to make her point in response to the question about doing schoolwork during the school holidays.</p> <p>She shows a good degree of control of mainly simple grammatical forms and uses appropriate vocabulary to give her views.</p> <p>Maria's pronunciation is generally clear, with isolated examples of less clear words – e.g. <i>friends</i>; <i>spend</i>.</p>	<p>Gustavo responds to all questions appropriately, giving extended answers which are generally well-organised, although there is occasional hesitation and repetition, for example his response to the question <i>Do you think it's good for teenagers to go on holiday with their families?</i></p> <p>Gustavo shows a generally good degree of control of a range of simple grammatical forms and uses a range of appropriate vocabulary.</p> <p>His pronunciation is generally clear, although there are occasional slips with individual sounds – e.g. <i>also</i>; <i>maturity</i>; <i>independence</i>.</p>

### Tips for Part 4

- You may be asked the same questions as your partner, or you may have different questions. Wherever possible, try to acknowledge what your partner has said – you can agree, disagree or add a new point.
- A slight pause before you answer is ok, and this can give you time to think about how to organise what you want to say, so that you avoid too much repetition. A brief comment, such as *That's a good question* lets the examiner know you have understood and gives you thinking time.

## Overall

Maria	Gustavo
<p><b>Grammar and Vocabulary</b> Maria shows a good degree of control of mainly simple grammatical forms. She uses appropriate vocabulary to give her views on a range of familiar topics.</p> <p><b>Discourse Management</b> Maria produces extended stretches of language with little hesitation. Her contributions are relevant, but occasionally lack development and are connected using a limited range of cohesive devices.</p> <p><b>Pronunciation</b> Maria's pronunciation is intelligible with appropriate use of intonation and sentence and word stress. Individual sounds are generally articulated clearly.</p> <p><b>Interactive Communication</b> Maria initiates and responds appropriately throughout the test, often linking her contributions to Gustavo's comments. In Part 3 she maintains and develops the interaction and works with Gustavo to reach an outcome.</p> <p><b>Global Achievement</b> Maria handles communication on a range of familiar topics, with only slight hesitation. Her responses are extended and organised simply. She uses mainly simple language with generally good control.</p>	<p><b>Grammar and Vocabulary</b> Gustavo shows generally good control of a range of simple grammatical forms and some more complex forms. He uses a range of appropriate vocabulary to give his views on a range of familiar topics.</p> <p><b>Discourse Management</b> Gustavo produces extended stretches of language with minimal hesitation. His contributions are relevant and generally clearly organised with suitable cohesive devices.</p> <p><b>Pronunciation</b> Gustavo's pronunciation is intelligible with good control of intonation and sentence and word stress. Individual sounds are generally articulated clearly.</p> <p><b>Interactive Communication</b> Gustavo initiates and responds appropriately, linking his comments to what Maria says. He maintains and develops the interaction and works with Maria to reach an outcome in Part 3.</p> <p><b>Global Achievement</b> Gustavo handles communication on a range of familiar topics, with only slight hesitation. He uses generally accurate and appropriate linguistic resources to express ideas and produce extended discourse that is generally coherent.</p>