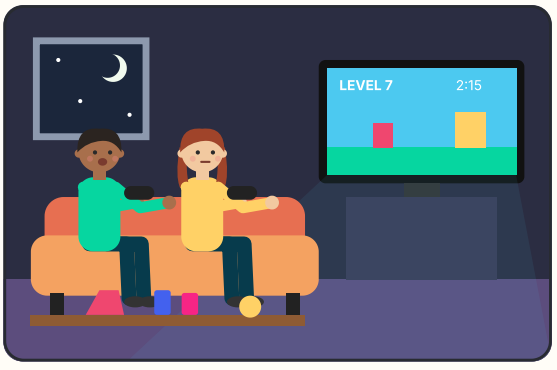
SPEAKING WORKSHOP FOR TEENS

Talk About the Picture!

How to describe, compare and speculate about photos in **B1 Preliminary** (Part 2) and **B2 First for Schools** (Speaking Part 2)





1 · Learn
how the task works and how it is marked

2 · Build
your toolkit of useful phrases

3 · Practise
with guided worksheets and models

4 · Perform
a timed exam simulation

WORKSHEET 1 · KNOW THE TASK

How the Picture Task Works

Name: _____

Date: _____

In both exams you speak **on your own for about one minute** about photographs. The examiner gives you the photos and reads the instructions. Your partner listens, then answers a short question about your photos.

	B1 Preliminary (for Schools) · Part 2	B2 First (for Schools) · Part 2
Photos	1 colour photo each	2 colour photos each
What you do	Describe what you can see: people, place, actions, objects	**Compare** the two photos **and answer the question** printed above them
Your time	about 1 minute	1 minute (the examiner stops you)
Your partner	then describes a different photo	answers a short question about your photos (about 30 seconds)
The trap	Stopping after 20 seconds	Describing each photo separately and forgetting the question

1 What does the examiner listen for?

Grammar & Vocabulary – a good range, used accurately: present continuous, modals, comparatives, topic words.

Discourse Management – speaking for the full time, organising ideas, linking with *whereas, while, on the other hand*.

Pronunciation – clear sounds, word stress and intonation; you are easy to understand.

Interactive Communication – mainly in the other parts, but in Part 2 you must respond to your partner's photos too.

2 Your 60-second plan (B2)

0–10 s What do both photos show?	10–30 s Main differences	30–55 s Answer the question + speculate	55–60 Wrap up

3 True or false? Tick the box.

Statement	True	False
a) In B2 First you should describe everything in photo 1, then everything in photo 2.	☐	☐
b) The question above the photos is the most important part of the task.	☐	☐
c) If you don't know a word, it's better to stop speaking than to make a mistake.	☐	☐
d) You can guess what people are feeling, even if you are not sure.	☐	☐
e) It's fine to finish after 30 seconds if you have said the main things.	☐	☐
f) Your partner will be asked a question about your photos, so they must listen.	☐	☐

Golden rule: the examiner wants to hear **your English**, not a perfect description. Keep talking, compare, give opinions and guess!

WORKSHEET 2 · LANGUAGE TOOLKIT

Your Picture Toolkit

Name: _____

Date: _____

📍 WHERE IS IT?

in the foreground / in the background
on the left / on the right / in the middle
at the top / at the bottom of the photo
next to · behind · in front of · opposite

👀 WHO AND WHAT?

There's a … / There are some …
A girl **is holding** … / They**'re sitting** …
She's wearing … · He seems to be …
It looks like a … · Everyone looks + adjective

🔍 SPECULATING (GUESSING)

Sure ✔ They **must** be friends. / It **must have** rained.
Possible ~ She **might / could / may** be waiting for someone.
Sure ✘ He **can't** be at work – he's on a sofa.
It looks **as if / as though** … · I'd say … · Judging by …, … · Perhaps / Maybe …

⚖️ COMPARING

Similar: Both photos show … · In both pictures … · Neither photo …
Different: In the first photo …, **whereas / while** in the second …
The first photo is much more …than the second.
Unlike the people in photo 1, … · **On the other hand**, …

💬 ANSWERING THE QUESTION

I think the people in the first photo have chosen … because …
Probably the main reason is …
For the people in the second photo, it might be more about …
Personally, I'd rather …, because …

⏳ BUYING TIME

Let me see … · That's an interesting question. · How can I put it? · It's hard to say, but …

🧩 YOU DON'T KNOW THE WORD?

It's a kind of … · It's something you use for/to … · It's similar to a … · I'm not sure what it's called, but …

1 Sort the phrases. Write S (similar), D (different) or G (guessing).

a) Both pictures were taken indoors. ___
b) She might be waiting for her mum. ___
c) …, whereas in the second photo it's night. ___
d) They can't be in a city – there are mountains. ___
e) Unlike the boy, the girl looks relaxed. ___
f) Neither photo shows any adults. ___
g) It looks as if they've just won something. ___
h) The first place is far busier than the second. ___

2 Upgrade! Replace the basic word with a more interesting one.

exhausted · delighted · cosy · crowded · stunning · focused · stressful · thrilled

1. The view is very nice. → _____
2. They look very happy about the result. → _____
3. After the walk they must be very tired. → _____
4. She's concentrating on her work. → _____
5. The room looks nice and warm. → _____
6. The place is full of people. → _____
7. The boy looks very excited. → _____
8. Missing a train can be bad. → _____

Describe One Photo

Name: _____

Date: _____



Examiner: "Now, I'd like each of you to talk on your own about something. Here is your photograph. It shows people cooking at home. Please tell us what you can see in the photograph."

1 Find it in the picture

Tick ☑ the things you can see. Two of them are **not** in the photo.

- ☐ a pot
- ☐ steam
- ☐ a chopping board
- ☐ a fridge
- ☐ a bowl
- ☐ a shelf
- ☐ a clock
- ☐ a window
- ☐ a dog
- ☐ some tomatoes

2 Ask and answer

1. How many people are there? Who could they be?
2. What is each person doing?
3. Where are they? What time of day is it?
4. How do they feel? How do you know?

3 Complete the model description with words from the box.

background · probably · while · looks · holding · seems · there · must

In this photo I can see three people in a kitchen. They (1) _____ be a family – maybe a father and his two children. On the left, the man is stirring something in a big pot, and (2) _____ is steam coming out of it, so it's hot. In the middle, a girl is cutting vegetables on a chopping board, (3) _____ the youngest boy, on the right, is (4) _____ a bowl. He (5) _____ very excited! In the (6) _____ there's a window and you can see the sun, so it's (7) _____ daytime. The kitchen (8) _____ warm and cosy. I think they're making lunch together, and they seem to be enjoying it.

4 Your turn! (1 minute)

Speaker: cover the text above and describe the photo. Use **3 places** (on the left…), **3 actions** (-ing) and **1 guess** (might / must).

Listener checklist ✔

☐ spoke for about 1 minute ☐ used place phrases

☐ used present continuous ☐ guessed / gave an opinion

☐ described feelings or atmosphere

WORKSHEET 4 · SPECULATION SKILLS

Be a Picture Detective

Name: _____

Date: _____



Good speakers don't just say what they **see** – they say what they **think**. Look for **clues**, then make a deduction.

Certainty	Present	Past
almost sure ✔	must be / must have	must have + V3
possible ~	might / could / may be	might have + V3
almost sure ✘	can't be	can't have + V3

1 Clue → Deduction. Complete the table.

Clue in the picture	Deduction
She's carrying a suitcase and a backpack.	She _____ be going on a trip.
She's frowning and looking at her phone.	She _____ be worried about something.
The board says the 09:30 to Paris is CANCELLED.	She _____ have been planning to take that train.
The clock shows a quarter to ten.	It _____ be the afternoon.
The man is walking quickly with a bag.	He _____ be late for his train to Berlin.
She's typing a message.	She _____ be telling someone she'll be late.

2 Rewrite with a modal verb.

1. I'm sure she's travelling alone. → She _____
2. Perhaps her train was delayed. → Her train _____
3. It's impossible that the man is on holiday – he's in a suit. → He _____
4. I'm certain the trains have been late all morning. → The trains _____

3 Story time! 🎬

In pairs: invent the story behind the photo in 60 seconds. Who is she? Where is she going? What has just happened? What will she do next? Use **at least four** speculation phrases. Then vote for the most creative story!

Our story notes:

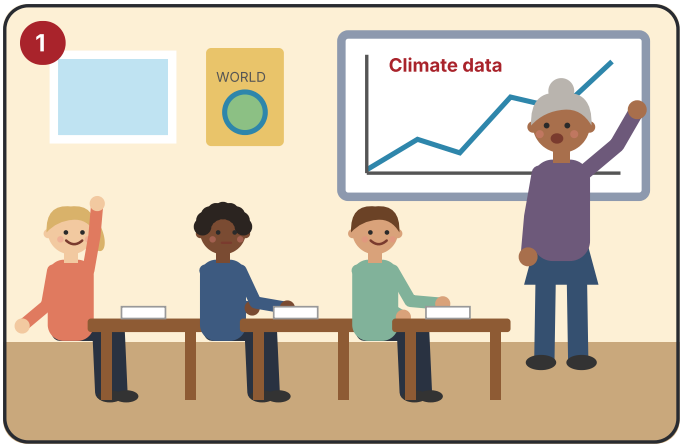
WORKSHEET 5 · B2 FIRST PART 2

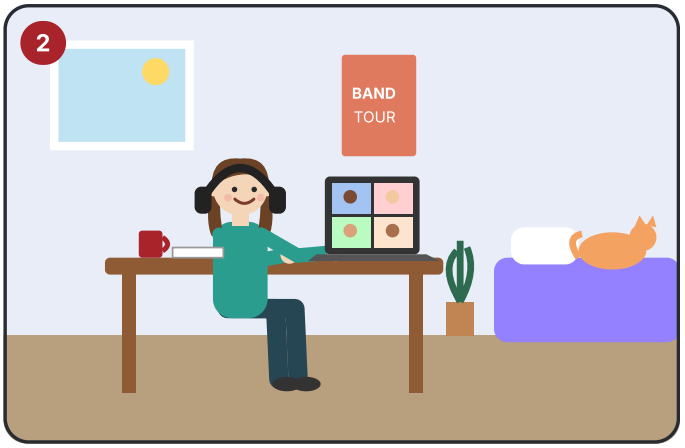
Compare & Answer: Learning

Name: _____

Date: _____

Why are the students learning in these different ways?





Examiner: "Here are your photographs. They show students learning in different ways. I'd like you to compare the photographs, and say why you think the students are learning in these different ways."

1 Venn diagram – find at least 3 similarities and 5 differences.

Only photo 1	Both	Only photo 2

2 Read a high-scoring answer. Find and colour:

similarity · difference · speculation · answer to the question

Both photos show young people studying, but in very different situations. In the first one, the students are in a traditional classroom with a teacher, whereas in the second, a girl is studying on her own at home, using a laptop. The classroom looks quite formal – the teacher is explaining a graph – while the bedroom seems much more relaxed, and there's even a cat sleeping on the bed! I'd say the students in the first photo are learning together because they need a teacher to guide them and answer their questions face to face. They might also enjoy working with classmates. The girl, on the other hand, could be doing an online course because she prefers to study at her own pace, or perhaps her school is too far away. Judging by the video call on her screen, she isn't completely alone – she must be talking to other students. Personally, I think the first way is better for motivation, but the second is more flexible.

3 Partner's question (about 30 seconds)

Candidate B: "Which way of learning do you prefer? Why?" — Give **one** clear opinion + **two** reasons + **one** example.

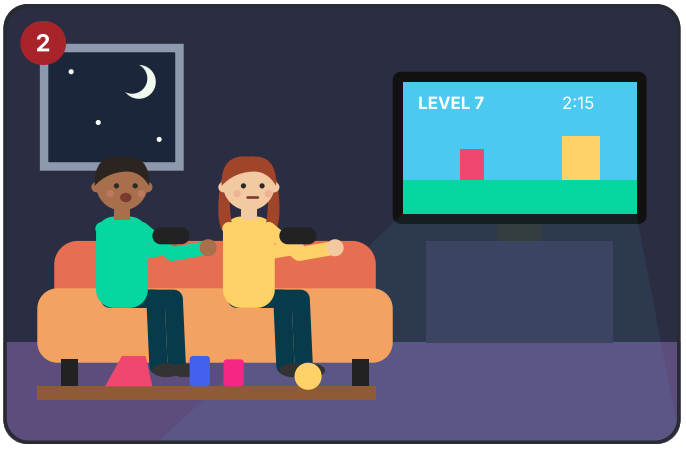
From Weak to Strong: Free Time

Name: _____

Date: _____

What are the people enjoying about spending their free time in these ways?





1 Read Alex's answer. What's wrong with it?

> *"In the first picture there are three people. They are walking. There are mountains. The sun is shining. One girl has a cap. In the second picture there are two people. They are playing a game. There is a sofa and a TV. It is night. Um... that's all."*

Tick the problems ☑

☐ He doesn't compare the photos.
☐ He doesn't answer the question.
☐ He only uses short, simple sentences.
☐ He doesn't speculate or give opinions.
☐ He stops too early.
☐ He speaks about the wrong photos.

2 Make it stronger. Complete Alex's new answer.

Both photos show young people _____, but in completely different places. In the first one, a group of friends are hiking in the mountains, _____ in the second, two teenagers are playing a video game on a sofa. I think the hikers are enjoying _____ . They look _____, so they might also be proud of _____. On the other hand, the gamers seem to be enjoying _____. It must be _____ because it's dark outside. Personally, I'd rather _____ because _____.

3 Brainstorm the "why"

Hiking – what's enjoyable?
fresh air · amazing views · exercise · a sense of achievement · being with friends · a break from screens · ...

Gaming – what's enjoyable?
competition · relaxing after school · teamwork · comfort · no need to plan · snacks! · ...

Now you: answer the question in 60 seconds. Your partner times you and asks: *"Which of these activities would you rather do this weekend?"*

WORKSHEET 7 · EXAM SIMULATION

Your Turn: Celebrations

Name: _____

Date: _____

Why have the people decided to celebrate in these places?





1 30-second planning

Write **key words only** – no full sentences!

Similar	Different	Why? (guess)

2 Perform – 1 minute ⏱

Candidate A: compare the photos and answer the question.

Candidate B (30 s): *"Which celebration would you prefer to go to? Why?"*

> Then swap roles. Candidate B uses the photos on Worksheet 6.

3 Peer feedback

Did your partner...	Score ★ (1–3)
compare the photos (not just describe them one by one)?	★ ★ ★
answer the question above the photos?	★ ★ ★
speculate with *must / might / can't / looks as if*?	★ ★ ★
use linkers (*whereas, while, on the other hand*)?	★ ★ ★
keep talking for the whole minute?	★ ★ ★
speak clearly, with good stress and intonation?	★ ★ ★

4 Self-reflection

One thing I did well:

One thing I'll improve next time:

WORKSHEET 8 · THE FOUR-STEP METHOD

Describe · Compare · Speculate · React

Name: _____

Date: _____



Strong candidates don't stop at describing. They move through **four steps**:

1 Describe	who, where, what is happening
2 Compare & contrast	similarities and differences
3 Speculate	guess relationships, feelings, reasons
4 React	give your personal opinion

Pairs: photos **A + B** (people meeting indoors) and **C + D** (teenagers spending time together).

1 Describe – photo A. Complete with words from the box.

background · **sofas** · **chatting** · **modern** · **skyline** · **relaxed**

Photo A shows a group of young people in a very (1) _____ flat. They're sitting on big white (2) _____ and (3) _____ to each other. In the (4) _____ there are huge windows and you can see a city (5) _____. Everyone looks (6) _____ and friendly.

2 Compare & contrast – A and B

Question: Why are the people meeting in these places?

	A	B
Who?		
Where?		
Atmosphere?		
Why? (guess)		

3 Speculate – true detectives

Complete with *must, might, can't* (+ *have*).

1. The people in B _____ be celebrating something special – there's wine and lots of food.
2. The older lady in B _____ be the grandmother.
3. Photo C _____ be in summer – the trees have no leaves.
4. The girls in D _____ known each other for years – they look so comfortable.
5. The young people in A _____ be students sharing the flat.

4 Model answer – photos C and D. Underline the four steps in four colours.

Question: What are the teenagers enjoying about spending time together in these places?

In photo C, a group of teenagers are sitting on some play equipment in a park, and one boy is drinking from a can. In photo D, some girls are sitting around a table indoors, having snacks and drinks. Both photos show friends hanging out together, but the first group is outdoors, whereas the second is in someone's home. It looks quite cold in C, because the trees are bare, so it might be autumn. They're probably enjoying the fresh air and the freedom of being away from adults. The girls in D, on the other hand, must be enjoying the comfort and the chance to chat privately – maybe it's a birthday or a sleepover. Personally, I'd prefer the second situation, because it's warmer and easier to talk.

5 React – your turn

- Which of the four situations would you most like to be in? Why?
- Is it better to meet friends at home or outside?
- Do families in your country often eat together like in B?
- How have the ways teenagers meet changed in recent years?

WORKSHEET 9 · FUN PRACTICE

Picture Games & Challenge Cards

Name: _____

Date: _____

Short, energetic activities for pairs or small groups. Use any photos from these worksheets, a magazine or your phone.

⏱ JUST A MINUTE

Speak about a photo for 60 seconds **without stopping, repeating yourself or saying "um"** more than twice. Partner buzzes on mistakes. 1 point for every 10 seconds.

🎲 SPECULATION DICE

Roll a dice: **1** must · **2** might · **3** can't · **4** must have · **5** might have · **6** looks as if. Make a sentence about the photo with that structure.

🙈 HIDDEN PICTURE

Student A describes a photo the others can't see. They draw it. Compare drawings with the photo – who was the clearest speaker?

🚫 TABOO WORDS

Describe the photo **without** using: *nice, good, bad, big, people, thing*. Every taboo word = minus 1 point.

🔁 SPOT THE DIFFERENCE – IN WORDS

Two students each have a different photo on the same topic. Without showing them, find 5 differences only by asking and answering questions.

🎤 EXAMINER FOR A DAY

Students write their own B2 question for two photos (e.g. *Why...? How...? What...?*). Swap with another pair and answer.

★ Question bank – B2 style

Topic	Question above the photos
Travel	Why have the people chosen to travel in these ways?
Sport	What are the people enjoying about doing these sports?
Helping others	Why are the people helping in these situations?
Shopping	Why have the people decided to shop in these places?
Learning skills	How difficult might it be to learn these skills?
Technology	How is technology helping the people in these situations?

Teacher tip: for authentic practice, combine these worksheets with the free official sample tests on **cambridgeenglish.org**, which use real exam-style colour photographs.

FOR THE TEACHER

Answer Key & Teaching Notes

WORKSHEET 1 · TRUE / FALSE

a) F – compare, don't describe separately · b) T · c) F – paraphrase and keep going · d) T – speculating is expected · e) F – use the full minute · f) T

WORKSHEET 2

Ex. 1: a) S · b) G · c) D · d) G · e) D · f) S · g) G · h) D

Ex. 2: 1 stunning · 2 delighted (or thrilled) · 3 exhausted · 4 focused · 5 cosy · 6 crowded · 7 thrilled (or delighted) · 8 stressful

WORKSHEET 3

Ex. 1: not in the photo: **a fridge, a dog**.

Ex. 3: 1 must · 2 there · 3 while · 4 holding · 5 seems · 6 background · 7 probably · 8 looks (5 and 8 are interchangeable: *seems/looks*)

WORKSHEET 4

Ex. 1: must · might/could/must · must (might also accepted) · can't · might/could · might/could/must

Ex. 2: 1 She must be travelling alone. · 2 Her train might/may/could have been delayed. · 3 He can't be on holiday. · 4 The trains must have been late all morning.

WORKSHEET 5 · COLOUR CODING

Similarity: Both photos show young people studying.
Differences: traditional classroom with a teacher *whereas* on her own at home · formal *while* relaxed · *on the other hand*.
Speculation: I'd say… · might also enjoy · could be doing · perhaps · judging by · must be talking.
Answer: because they need a teacher… · because she prefers to study at her own pace…

WORKSHEET 6

Ex. 1: all problems except the last one (he does talk about the right photos).

Ex. 2 (sample): enjoying their free time · whereas/while · the fresh air and the amazing views · exhausted/happy · reaching the top · the competition and relaxing after school · evening/night-time · go hiking · I love being outdoors.

WORKSHEET 8

Ex. 1: 1 modern · 2 sofas · 3 chatting · 4 background · 5 skyline · 6 relaxed
Ex. 3: 1 must / might · 2 might · 3 can't · 4 must have · 5 might

Ex. 4: describe = first two sentences · compare = *Both photos… whereas…; on the other hand* · speculate = *It looks…, might, probably, must, maybe* · react = *Personally, I'd prefer…*

TEACHING NOTES

- Time every long turn – learners usually underestimate one minute.
- Correct accuracy **after** the turn (delayed correction); during the turn, focus on fluency.
- Drill the contrastive stress in *"In the **first** photo…, whereas in the **second**…"*.
- B1 learners: Worksheets 1–4. B2 learners: all worksheets; use 3–4 as a quick warm-up.
- The illustrations are original practice drawings. Real exams use colour photographs, so also practise with real photos.