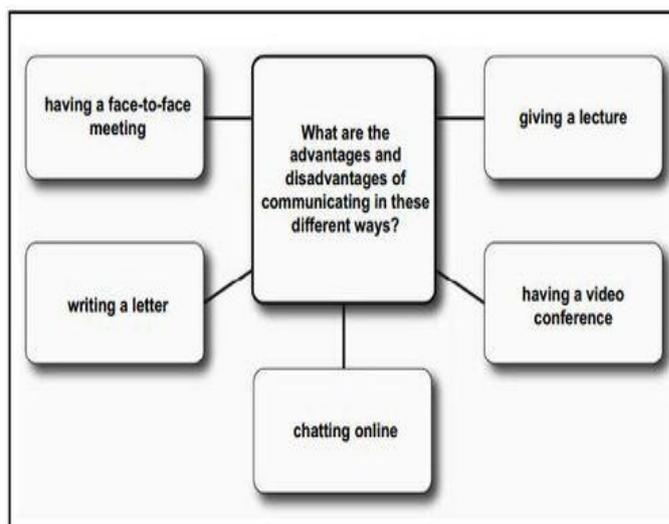


## CAE SPEAKING TIPS PART 3

In part 3 you and your speaking test partner are given a 'mind-map' (or 'spider web') with five keywords linking to a theme. The themes are often universally interesting ones such as 'health' or 'the environment'. If the topic is 'health', the keywords will be things like 'diet', 'exercise', 'sleep', and so on. Have you ever had a conversation about the food you eat or how well you slept? Of course you have. In part 3, that's what you do. (The theme in this picture is *communication*.)



It's often called the 'collaborative task' because for the first time in the CAE Speaking test, you have to work as a team.

You discuss the first question for two minutes, and then there's another question you talk about for one minute.

### 1. About the 2015 Changes

In previous years, part 3 used pictures instead of keywords. Cambridge changed it because candidates described the pictures instead of discussing the topics.

Cambridge also split the task in two. Before, candidates were given 3 minutes to discuss the topics AND decide which was the most important. They changed it because a lot of candidates quickly decided which topics were the most important and had nothing left to talk about. They also split the task into two separate sections.

### 2. What is 'Collaboration'?

Collaboration means team work. In parts 1 and 2 you talked on your own. Now you have to talk to the other candidate in the room.

To succeed in part 3, you have to

- ask your partner questions
- agree and disagree with what they say
- include them in every step of the process
- be interested in what they have to say

### ***3. What if my speaking partner is shy/nervous/aggressive?***

If you're worried about this, you're not alone! Almost every candidate gets stressed thinking about who their partner might be and how this partner might ruin THEIR chances of getting a good grade!

Don't worry - the only person who affects your grade is you. The Cambridge examiners are EXPERTS and they have seen everything many times before. They will understand whatever situation you are in.

If your partner talks too much in part 3 they will penalise him, but not you. If you have to talk too much because the other candidate is so nervous, that won't count against you.

Whatever happens in part 3, the examiners will assess your performance in the whole Speaking test in a fair way.

### ***4. Common Mistakes***

- Monologues (you shouldn't talk more than 20/25 seconds without passing the ball to your partner)
- Not reacting to your partner's ideas
- Getting stuck on 1 topic (it's very easy to talk about one keyword for a long time, but you should try to organise your conversation so that it covers everything on the mind map)
- Rushing through all the topics without analysing them at all (it's better to talk about 4 in a meaningful manner than 5 in a superficial way)
- Dead air (many candidates race through the 5 topics in less than a minute, look up at the examiner and are shocked to find they have more time. Keep talking until the examiner stops you! These topics are HUGE with many, many issues behind them)
- Nodding and other non-verbal communication (socially normal, but this is a *speaking* test. At least say 'yes' while you are nodding!)

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- Getting sidetracked (for example, if the topic is 'How important are these things for our health?' many candidates will say explain **why** health is important. That's not the question! The correct answer to 'how important' is: not important/quite important/very important.)

## 5. Useful language

**Linking words and ways to organise the discussion.** The examiners will be impressed if you can:

- combine two keywords into one point ("well, I think exercise and sleep are similar things - they're both connected to your physical health")
- move from topic to topic in an elegant way ("so I totally agree with you that exercise can contribute a lot to having a healthy life. And I think that brings us to this point about sleep, because if you exercise a lot you'll sleep better.")
- include your partner in the process ("So shall we move to the next point?")

## 6. The Second Third

So you spent two minutes talking about the theme, and you discussed most/all of the keywords. The examiner will stop you, and then ask you a follow-up question. It will include words like 'most', 'best', or 'easiest'. These words make it possible for you to come to a **decision**.

If the topic was health, the examiner will say, 'Now you have about a minute to **decide** which of these things can benefit people the **most**.'

Note that word 'minute'! Deciding the answer too soon will lead to ... dead air! Always start by eliminating two or three options (giving reasons).