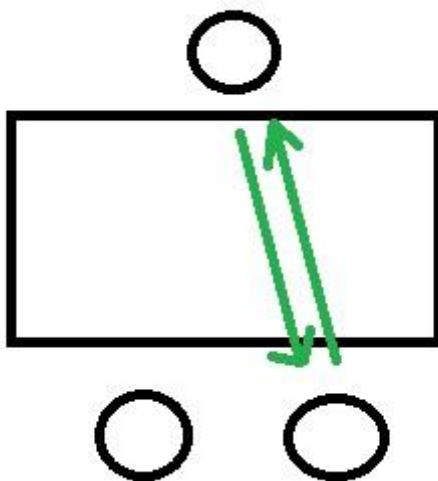


## CAE SPEAKING TIPS PART 1

Part 1. The examiner will ask you and the other candidate some basic questions about you and your life. You shouldn't talk to the other candidate at this time. In this section you will learn how to avoid some common mistakes, and how to prepare.

### 1. INTERACTION DIAG.



The examiner asks you questions. You answer. When the other candidate is talking, don't interrupt or ask your own questions.

### 2. DEAD AIR IS A CRIME

Dead air is just as bad in the speaking exam. It's a total of 15 minutes long. Some of that time will be the examiner telling you what to do. Half of the time the other candidate will be talking. So the absolute number 1 most important lesson to learn about the speaking test is never leave dead air. If you forget a word, **keep talking**. If you realise you just made a big grammar mistake, **keep talking**. If no-one is smiling at you and you think you are doing badly - **KEEP TALKING!**

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### ***3. WHICH QUESTIONS TO EXPECT***

Typical questions about your hometown, your home, your job, your hobbies, and your personality. Plus one or two slightly more advanced ones. Here are a few you could prepare for:

Where are you from?

Do you have a job or are you still a student?

How long have you been studying English?

What do you enjoy most about learning English?

How do you like to spend your free time?

What would your ideal job be?

Are you the kind of person who can do two things at once?

Are you planning to do any courses in the near future?

Do you use social networking sites a lot?

Would you enjoy preparing food for a large number of people?

Do you like to give yourself targets or goals?

If you won the lottery what would you do?

### ***4. THE RIGHT LENGTH OF ANSWER***

#### **TOO SHORT**

Q - Do you like your job?

A - Yes.

#### **A BIT BETTER**

Q - Do you like your job?

A - Yes, it is good. Having a job is good and my job is good.

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## THE RIGHT LENGTH

Q - Do you like your job?

A - Yes and no! I mean, it's a **challenge** and the work is **varied**. But sometimes the **workload** is **overwhelming** and my work-life balance **suffers**.

(This is a good length and the vocabulary is spot-on. A longer answer might start to annoy everyone. Let the other candidate have time to answer questions. Being selfish is not a good strategy in the CAE speaking test.)

## 5. LEARN KEYWORDS, NOT SPEECHES

The examiners don't want to hear a rehearsed speech. The point of the test is to see how well you would cope in a real-life situation.

So: learn some CAE level vocabulary that you can use for the questions you might be asked.

Examiner: "What do you like about your job?"

Reply: 'I like helping people and our offices are **bright and airy**.'

or

Examiner: 'How has your life changed in the last 5 years?'

Reply: 'A lot! My company changed their office - the old one was quite dark and in a bad location. The new one is **bright and airy**. It's nice to work there.'

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