



SPEAKING PART 1: FREE-TIME ACTIVITIES

In Part 1 of the Speaking test, the examiner may ask questions about your free-time activities and entertainment interests. Questions of this type may begin the interview, or they may follow on from other questions, for example questions about your occupation or the place where you live. It's a good idea to prepare some ideas for speaking about these things and the other typical Part 1 topics which you will meet later in this book.

Try it first!

Try talking about your leisure interests as if you were doing Speaking Part 1. If you are working with a partner, take it in turns to play the roles of examiner and candidate. Here are some typical questions.

Examiner (*perhaps following on from questions on another topic*): Let's talk about your free-time activities.

- What do you do at the weekends?
- What is it that you like about [*one of candidate's leisure activities*]?
- How often do you get the chance to [*one of candidate's leisure activities*]?
- How important a part of your week are your free-time activities?
- Do you enjoy your free time more now than you did when you were a child?
- What free-time activity would you like to try in the future?



Spotlight 1

Useful language for talking about your leisure interests

Grammar: gerunds and infinitives

Gerund

The gerund ends in *-ing*.

*I love **reading**.*

*I'm not very interested in **watching** sport on TV.*

For activities, the gerund can often follow *go*.

*I often **go swimming** at the weekends.*

*I'm **going fishing** next weekend.*

Infinitive

The infinitive is the form of the verb found in the dictionary, and is often preceded by *to*.

*I don't get much time **to listen** to music.*

*I hope **to have** more free time from next year.*

*I'm planning **to take** my children to the zoo next Saturday.*

1 Put each of these gerunds and phrases with gerunds into the correct column of the table below.

camping gardening ice skating mountain climbing
 playing computer games playing football reading running
 skiing walking in the countryside walking the dog watching TV

can follow go	do not normally follow go

Tip

Make sure you learn the words in English for all your free-time and leisure interests. Write them in your vocabulary notebook, and use a dictionary or internet search to find out which ones can follow *go*.

2 Choose the correct form (gerund or infinitive) in these sentences.

- I always enjoy *to see* / *seeing* my friends.
- I'm going *to see* / *seeing* it in the cinema as soon as it comes out.
- We try *to go* / *going* to the theatre at least once a year.
- We had a great time *to play* / *playing* silly games on the beach.
- I'm planning *to buy* / *buying* some roller skates.
- I'd like *to have* / *having* more free time, but it's impossible at the moment.

Both forms are possible with *like*, *love* and *prefer*. The second is more commonly used in American English.

*I **like going** to restaurants. / I **like to go** to restaurants.*

*I don't really **like going** shopping. / I don't really **like to go** shopping.*

*We **love cooking**. / We **love to cook**.*

*Do you **prefer watching** sport live or on TV? / Do you **prefer to watch** sport live or on TV?*

3 Write two sentences about your free-time activities using a gerund form.

4 Write two sentences about your free-time activities using an infinitive form.

Tip

If you're not sure if a phrase is grammatically correct, enter it into an internet search engine. You'll probably see from the search results whether or not your version is correct. This also works for spelling, of course.