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**B2**  
**General English**  
**Speaking skills**

**Practice situation 1**

**THE EXAMINEE'S ROLE**

You organize a summer camp for a group of English students in Hungary, they wish to get to know the Hungarian people and culture. You make some decisions together with the representative of the school in England.

- Suggest possible dates and the venue of the camp.  
(Debrecen University, 1 week either in mid-July or the end)
- Suggest some programmes apart from classes.  
(Excursions, exhibitions, organising theatre performance)
- Talk about the number of students and the staff needed.  
(15 students, 2 Hungarian and an English teacher)
- Talk about how you should share the responsibility.  
(teacher programme and organisation – Hungarian staff, help in all the situations – English teacher)

**YOU START**

**THE EXAMINER'S ROLE**

You are the headmaster/headmistress of a school. You organize a summer camp for a group of your English students in Hungary, as they wish to get to know the Hungarian people and culture. You make some decisions together with the Hungaria organiser.

- Agree about the venue the venue of the camp, suitable date only end of July or August (end of term break).
- Agree about the programmes, ask for visiting the “puszta” and a famous Hungarian restaurant
- Talk about the number of students interested (10) ask about the staff needed.
- Ask about how you should share the responsibility.

## **Practice situation 2**

### **THE EXAMINEE'S ROLE**

Your foreign student friend has bought an empty apartment in Budapest and is asking for your opinion about the household appliances she needs to buy. Give her advice on the most essential home appliances and what technical features she must look for. Apart from the usual domestic appliances, recommend further electric tools and equipment that assist in cooking, washing or cleaning.

- Mention the most needed kitchen, laundry and cleaning equipment
- Why these are necessary to buy and not rent
- Talk about their prices and the most important product features
- Tell what other major or small appliances you would advise buying

THE EXAMINER STARTS.

### **THE EXAMINER'S ROLE**

You are 25 years old and recently bought a house. You need advice on household appliances. Ask a more experienced friend about what electric appliances are indispensable, and what other tools she can recommend.

Ask her about

- the most important domestic appliances and their functions
- benefits of buying rather than renting
- where it is best to buy them
- what costs you can expect

YOU START

## **Practice situation 3**

### **THE EXAMINEE'S ROLE**

Your English friend, who is staying with you for the summer, is interested in voluntary work.

- Tell him/her about the possibility of a campaign programme to collect rubbish near your residential area.
- Tell him/her what the activity will include.
- Tell him/her where and when it is going to take place.
- Ask him/her about some ways to protect the environment in his country.

### **YOU START**

### **THE EXAMINER'S ROLE**

You are an English person, staying with your Hungarian friend for the summer, and you are interested in doing voluntary work while being here.

- Agree to take part.
- Tell him/her what the activity will include.
- Tell him/her where and when it is going to take place.
- Tell him/her about some ways you already protect the environment in England.

## **Practice situation 4**

### **THE EXAMINEE'S ROLE**

You have just bought a flat and you want to have it refurbished before you move in.

- Meet one of your new neighbours and introduce yourself.
- Tell him/her about some things you want to change in your flat.
- Apologize for any inconvenience the workers might cause (e.g. noise, dust, garbage)
- Tell your neighbour how he/she can contact you in any case, and invite him/her to the house-warming party.

### **YOU START**

### **THE EXAMINER'S ROLE**

You have a new neighbour next door.

- Introduce yourself and ask him/her about some usual things (e.g. job, family).
- Ask your neighbour when he/she will move in.
- Tell him/her that you have a little son, who usually has a nap after lunchtime. You don't want the workers to wake up the baby. (Be gentle but firm.)
- Wish your neighbour good luck and accept the invitation.)

## **Practice situation 5**

### **THE EXAMINEE'S ROLE**

You are abroad in a bookshop where you bought a biography the day before. You returned to complain and are talking to the shop assistant now.

- Tell him/her that some pages are missing from the book.
- Answer his/her question about the receipt.
- Don't accept the offer for a full refund.
- Ask for another copy of the book.

### **YOU START**

### **THE EXAMINER'S ROLE**

You work in a bookshop in London. A customer returned to complain about a faulty book s/he bought yesterday.

- Apologize about the missing pages
- Ask
  - if s/he has the receipt
  - if she/he accepts a full refund
- Say you need to order another copy of the book

## **Practice situation 6**

### **THE EXAMINEE'S ROLE**

You are a foreign student from Africa and a Hungarian friend invited you to a football match. You've never been to a football match before and don't know the rules. You're afraid you wouldn't be able to enjoy the 90 minutes without understanding the goal and rules of the game.

Ask your mentor (the examinee) to explain the rules to you, and also why football is so popular in Europe.

Ask him/her

- to explain the aim of the game
- about the number of participants
- rules (length of the game, timing, penalties)
- why it is so popular

**YOU START**

### **THE EXAMINER'S ROLE**

You are the mentor of an African student in Hungary. Your mentee is invited to a soccer match but he doesn't understand the game as he has never seen one before. He is asking you questions about the game.

- Tell him the aim of the game
- Talk about the participants (numbers, positions)
- Explain the most important rules (length of the game, timing, penalties, etc)
- Describe why European people are so enthusiastic about this game and the players

## **Practice situation 7**

### **THE EXAMINEE'S ROLE**

Your school celebrates its 80th birthday and the headmaster asked you as the students' representative to take part in preparing the program. Share your ideas with the headmaster about:

- where to hold it (city cinema)
- who to invite to the event (twin school from Belgium)
- how many students you would need to work with (5 classmates)
- how to advertise the program (school newspaper, city magazine, facebook group)

YOU START

### **THE EXAMINER'S ROLE**

Your school celebrates its 80th birthday. You, as the headmaster/headmistress ask the students' representative to take part in preparing the program. Ask him/her about:

- where to hold it
- who to invite to the event
- how many students s/he would need to work with
- how to advertise the program



## **Practice situation 8**

### **THE EXAMINER'S ROLE**

You are a Hungarian pensioner visiting your son in Ireland. As you are planning to spend six months with your son's family, you need to get familiar with the digital forms of financial transactions. Since you are a cautious person, and you know that banking and paying on the internet is not without risks, you ask your son for advice on how to use internet banking in a safe way.

Ask him

- if you need any special programs or applications for e-banking
- about what safety steps or measures you should take beforehand
- what are the most dangerous things you should avoid doing
- where you can further help

THE EXAMINER STARTS.

### **THE EXAMINEE'S ROLE**

You have been living in Ireland for a long time, and now your 70-year-old mother moved to your house to stay for six months. She will need to use e-banking but is not familiar with the digital platforms of online banking. Give her the necessary information about:

- the benefits of making payments by mobile phone
- installing the necessary applications
- the security threats
- the importance of accurate typing

YOU START

## **Practice situation 9**

### **THE EXAMINEE'S ROLE**

You are an athlete who has been underperforming for a while. Your coach wants to find out the reasons and suspects you have not been following his/her instructions.

- Deny not following the instructions.
- Blame the coach, fellow athletes, etc. for your poor performance.
- Mention one thing about the diet or the training that you disagree with.
- Ask for another chance.

THE EXAMINER STARTS.

### **THE EXAMINER'S ROLE**

You are a sports coach. The examinee is your athlete. He/she has not been performing consistently recently. Talk to him/her about the reason for his/her poor performance.

- Ask him/her what he/she thinks is behind his/her performance decrease.
- Find out if he/she has been following your instructions on
  - diet,
  - training.
- Tell him/her that you are going to withdraw him/her from the starting lineup if there is no improvement soon.

YOU START

## **Practice situation 10**

### **THE EXAMINEE'S ROLE**

You are 30 minutes late for a meeting with your friend because of heavy traffic.

- Tell him/her why you use your car in the city.
- Mention some of the disadvantages of public transport.
- Tell him/her how you can be environmentally friendly even if you use your car
- Answer the examiner's question.

### **THE EXAMINER STARTS.**

### **THE EXAMINER'S ROLE**

- Ask the candidate why he/she is so late.
- Contradict to his/her statement about the advantages of driving a car.
- Ask him/her how he/she tries to protect the environment.
- Ask him/her what he /she thinks about cycling in bigger cities.

### **YOU START**

## **Practice situation 11**

### **THE EXAMINEE'S ROLE**

You and your friend has decided to go to a distant town or city for a day by your father's car, but your father has changed his mind and he doesn't want to give you his car, but your friend can borrow his bicycle.

Tell your friend

- why your father has changed his mind
- you could go to a nearby village for a picnic, where exactly
- when you should leave
- what to take with you

YOU START

### **THE EXAMINER'S ROLE**

You are very disappointed that you cannot go by car to the excursion with you friend. Luckily, you can ride a bike.

- Ask about the reason
- Agree to the idea
  - of the picnic
  - of leaving straightaway
  - of taking a ball and some food and drinks with you

## **Practice situation 12**

### **THE EXAMINEE'S ROLE**

Your English friend is visiting you next month. Call him/her to discuss his/her stay.

- Enquire about the flight details.
- Offer to meet him/her at the airport.
- Ask if he/she is interested in a local concert.
- Mention the trips you have planned for his/her stay, and give some packing tips.

THE EXAMINER STARTS.

### **THE EXAMINER'S ROLE**

You are visiting your Hungarian friend next month. He/she calls you to discuss your stay.

- Tell him/her you have just booked the flight (BA866 arriving at Terminal B2 at 11:20).
- Tell him/her you have already bought a train ticket to his/her city (direct train from airport, arrives at 13:20).
- When he/she recommends a local concert, ask about the details. Agree to go.
- Enquire about other plans he/she has in mind, and ask what clothes you should pack.

YOU START.

## **Practice situation 13**

### **THE EXAMINEE'S ROLE**

You work for a multinational company in Hungary. Your Swedish colleague who is the manager of an international team would like to get to know Hungarian culture. Answer his questions and show interest in his country, culture and their way of life as well.

- Express how much you like working for an international company
- Talk about the expected attitude to time in Hungary and its importance
- Tell him whether people in Hungary like chatting and what topics are preferred
- Express your interest in Sweden and ask some questions about their culture (e.g. national holidays)

THE EXAMINER STARTS.

### **THE EXAMINER'S ROLE**

You are a Swedish production manager who started his new job in Hungary one week ago. Your team consists of 20 people from different countries. As you and your team would like to accommodate to the local customs you are asking a Hungarian colleague about the cultural rules and traditions.

Ask him/her

- about the attitude to punctuality
- how to greet people for the first time
- about the taboo topics for conversation
- about topics people like talking about

YOU START

## **Practice situation 14**

### **THE EXAMINEE'S ROLE**

You have read an advertisement by an English charity company calling for young people to do voluntary work including activities like helping either lonely elderly people or children with learning difficulties and supporting parks and green spaces through litter picking and gardening.

In the application interview tell the interviewers

- why you want to do voluntary work,
- when you are available and for how much time,
- what skills you have
- and what kind of work you can do.

THE EXAMINER STARTS.

### **THE EXAMINER'S ROLE**

You are the manager of a charity company in England calling for young people to do voluntary work including activities like helping either lonely elderly people or children with learning difficulties and supporting parks and green spaces through litter picking and gardening.

In the application interview ask the candidate

- why s/he wants to do voluntary work,
- when s/he is available and for how much time,
- what skills s/he has
- and what kind of work s/he can do.

YOU START

## **Practice situation 15**

### **THE EXAMINEE'S ROLE**

You have lost all your documents abroad. Go to the local police and report it. Talk to the officer, answer his/her questions and give your contact data.

- What exactly happened?
- When/Where did you have them?
- How can they reach you?
- Do you need any other help?

### **YOU START**

### **THE EXAMINER'S ROLE**

You work for the local police in England. A young man is arriving to report his/her lost documents. Talk to him/her, ask him/her questions and ask for his/her contact data.

- What exactly happened?
- When/Where did s/he have them?
- How can they reach him/her?
- Does s/he need any other help?



## Practice situation 16

### THE EXAMINEE'S ROLE

You are planning a camping holiday to the south of England. Ask the advice of your English friend (played by the examiner).

Discuss how to prepare for it as far as:

- medication (you take medicine for allergies)
- vaccination / allergic reactions (you are allergic to antibiotic)
- clothing
- and special food are concerned. (take some food, but want to taste local food as well)

YOU START

### THE EXAMINER'S ROLE

Your Hungarian friend is travelling to England to a camping holiday. Ask him/her about his/her plans and give advice.

- Ask him/her
  - about the location
  - about her plan concerning taking medicine, especially his/her usual ones, and any known allergies
- Suggest
  - taking clothes for all kinds of weather
  - trying simple local food (fish and chips, pub food, etc)

## Practice situation 17

### THE EXAMINEE'S ROLE

Your friend lives in Ireland. He/She would like to travel to Hungary and attend *Balaton Sound*, which is one of Europe's largest open-air electronic music festivals.

He/She would like to ask you a few questions about the festival.

- React to your friend's news
- Answer the questions of your friend.
  - About the place and the date of the festival
  - About possible accommodation
  - About other activities/facilities during the festival

THE EXAMINER STARTS.

### THE EXAMINER'S ROLE

You live in Ireland. You would like to travel to Hungary and attend *Balaton Sound*, which is one of Europe's largest open air electronic music festivals.

Ask your Hungarian friend the following questions about the festival.

- Tell your Hungarian friend that you would like to travel to Hungary and attend *Balaton Sound*,
- Ask the following questions:
  - When /Where is Balaton Sound held? How can I travel there?
  - Are there hotels and restaurant around to stay and eat during the festival? How expensive are they?
  - What other activities you can do during the festival?

YOU START