

Activity 1: Task 1 Preparation

Level:
Entry 2

Time:
45 minutes

Resources:

- ✓ Photographs
- ✓ Hand out: Task 1 Preparation

Aims:

- ✓ To develop skills and knowledge in speaking and listening at Entry 2
- ✓ To explore vocabulary connected to E2 topics
- ✓ To practise asking and answering questions in the past simple
- ✓ To focus on pronunciation

Sub-skill focus: active listening skills, turn-taking

Exam task focus: Component 1 Task 1

Procedure: Task 1 Preparation

- Choose one of the themes mentioned in the E2 Specifications, eg a wedding, and elicit from the class some vocabulary to talk about the theme (answers might include bride, groom, party, food and drink, clothes, gifts, celebration); supply extra answers if needed.
- Elicit questions to ask about a past event, again add useful ones and create a questionnaire similar to the handout below (a template to work from is provided in the form of a hand out), leaving a space between questions for learners to write their answers.
- Show the learners a sample photo such as:



- Ask them to complete the questionnaire about a wedding they have attended, using complete sentences. Reassure them they don't have to answer every question. (This could be for homework if class time is limited.) Check accuracy of lexis and grammatical forms, particularly the simple past.
- Put the learners in pairs, get them to take turns asking the questions from the questionnaire and answering with their own account and explanation. *This builds confidence in hearing questions which end in an infinitive but must be answered with a simple past – candidates often hear 'where did you go?' and begin 'I go to....' Instead of I went.*
- This activity can be repeated over the weeks of term with different themes, from the Specifications or from themes the teacher or learners want to practise.
- Encourage learners to make longer sentences, add more adjectives and so on to make the account more interesting and demonstrate their use of the target language. The pair work can be used as a filler, for those who arrive early and so on, mixing the pairs and varying which theme is used.
- Nearer the exam date, ask those taking the exam to choose a photo from the bank and practise describing a past event in their own lives. They should by this time have a clear idea of which topic works best for them, and how to use the target language effectively.

Hand out: Task 1 Familiarisation

Preparing to talk about a past event: ***I went to a wedding.***

When was this?

Who got married?

Where was the party?

Who was there? How many people?

Did you give a present? A card? Flowers?

Why did you choose that?

What did you eat?

What did you drink?

What did you wear?

What did the bride and groom wear?

What happened at the wedding?

What was the weather like?

What did you like best?

Was there anything you **didn't** like or enjoy?