

Week 1 · Listening

Listening · Day 1 — Hometown & Home

Part 1 ~30 min · Flexible · class time or home practice

Part 1 is the gentle opener of the Speaking test — four to five minutes of familiar questions about you. We plant it in Week 1 so that by Week 4 it's automatic. Today's set is the most common opener of all: where you're from and where you live.

Say: *We're going to start building your Speaking skills from day one, even though this is the Listening week. Speaking is a muscle — a few minutes every day beats one big session at the end.*

How to run it

Put students in pairs (A and B); online students drop into breakout pairs. A plays the examiner and asks the questions below; B answers. Push B for two to three sentences per answer — never a bare one-word reply. Swap roles after about six minutes, then re-pair with a fresh partner and run the set a second time, faster and more fluently. Part 1 has no preparation time in the real test, so don't let students plan — ask the question and they answer on the spot. That on-your-feet fluency is exactly the skill this builds.

Questions — Hometown & Home

1. Where is your hometown / where are you from?
2. Do you like your hometown? Why or why not?
3. What kind of place is it — a city, a town or a village?
4. Tell me about the home you live in.
5. What's your favourite room in your home, and why?
6. Has your hometown changed much since you were a child?
7. Would you like to live somewhere else in the future? Where?

More questions — build a bank

Your hometown

8. What is your hometown best known for?
9. What do most visitors do or see there?
10. Is it a good place for young people to grow up? Why?
11. Has it changed much in the last ten years?
12. Is there anything you would change about it?
13. Would you recommend it to a tourist? Why or why not?

Your home

14. Do you live in a house or an apartment?
15. How long have you lived there?
16. Which room do you spend the most time in?
17. What can you see from your window?

18. Is there anything you would like to change about your home?
19. Do you think you will live there for a long time?

Looking ahead

20. Would you prefer to live in a city or in the countryside? Why?
21. Is it better to rent or to own your home, in your view?
22. What kind of place would you like to live in one day?

Example answers — short reply grown into a full one

Do you like your hometown?

Yes, I'm really fond of it. It's small enough that I run into people I know wherever I go, and that sense of familiarity makes it feel like home in a way a big city never could.

What kind of place is it?

It's a medium-sized town rather than a city. There's one main square with all the cafés and shops around it, and you can walk almost anywhere in about twenty minutes, which I love.

What's your favourite room?

Probably the kitchen, oddly enough. It's where everyone ends up — we cook together and talk there — and in the mornings the light comes straight in, so it just feels like the heart of the house.

Pair-work sequence (~30 min)

- ▶ **Interview · 13 min** — A asks every question, B answers (~6 min); swap so B asks and A answers (~6 min). The examiner-partner keeps the pace brisk, like the real test, and resists chatting back. No planning — straight in.
- ▶ **Extend & re-run · 13 min** — New partner. Run the set again — but now every answer must carry a reason (“because...”) and one example or detail. Faster, more natural delivery.
- ▶ **Feedback · 4 min** — Whole-class: read out two answers you overheard that grew from one word into a full, natural reply.

Listen for / feedback: Mark any answer that stops at one word — push that student for a reason and a detail. Praise natural extenders: “Well, actually...”, “I’d say...”, “It depends, but...”. Note tense slips (“I go yesterday”) for a quick thirty-second correction at the end.

Flexibility: Short on time today? Assign the whole set as paired home practice — a quick voice call or an in-person run — and have each student record one answer to bring back. If the room runs ahead of schedule, this slots straight in after the wrap-up.