

Listening · Day 3 — Free Time & Hobbies

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

Hobbies are a Part 1 favourite and a great place to show some range of vocabulary. Watch for the student who says “I like sport” and stops — today we make every answer earn its keep with a reason and an example.

Say: *Today’s Part 1 topic is free time and hobbies. This is where you can let a bit of personality and some nicer vocabulary come through — examiners notice when an answer sounds genuine.*

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 — Free Time & Hobbies

1. What do you like to do in your free time?
2. How long have you been interested in this?
3. Do you prefer free time alone or with other people? Why?
4. Did you have more free time when you were younger?
5. Is there a new hobby you’d like to try? Why?
6. Do most people in your country have enough free time?
7. How do you usually spend your weekends?

More questions — build a bank

Your hobby in detail

8. How did you first get into it?
9. How often do you get the chance to do it?
10. Do you do it alone or with other people?
11. Has it taught you anything useful?

Free time in general

12. Do you have more or less free time than you used to?
13. What do most people your age do to relax?
14. Do you prefer active hobbies or relaxing ones? Why?
15. Is it important to have a hobby? Why?

Variety

16. Are there hobbies that are especially popular in your country?
17. Is there a hobby you used to do but gave up?
18. Would you like to turn any of your hobbies into a job?

19. Do you prefer spending free time indoors or outdoors?
 20. Is there a hobby you think everyone should try?

Example answers — short reply grown into a full one

What do you like to do in your free time?

I'm really into hiking. I try to get out into the hills at least twice a month, partly for the exercise but mostly because being away from screens and traffic clears my head completely.

How long have you been interested in it?

For about five years now. A friend dragged me along to a local trail one weekend and I was hooked — I'd never realised there was so much green space so close to the city.

Is there a new hobby you'd like to try?

I'd love to learn photography, actually. I take a lot of pictures when I'm hiking anyway, so it feels like a natural next step — I just need to learn to do it properly rather than pointing and hoping.

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.