

Week 2 · Reading

Reading · Day 1 — Reading & Books

Part 1

~30 min · Flexible · class time or home practice

We carry the Part 1 thread into the Reading week, and today's topic doubles up nicely with the module — reading and books. Encourage real opinions; "I don't read much" is a perfectly good answer if it's extended with why.

Say: *We keep the speaking habit going through Reading week. Fittingly, today's Part 1 topic is reading and books — so the speaking practice and the module reinforce each other.*

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 — Reading & Books

1. Do you enjoy reading? What kinds of things do you read?
2. Do you prefer paper books or reading on a screen? Why?
3. What was the last thing you read for pleasure?
4. Did you read a lot as a child?
5. Do you think reading is still important today? Why?
6. Is there a book you'd recommend to a friend?
7. Do people in your country read much these days?

More questions — build a bank

Your reading habits

8. What kind of books or articles do you read most?
9. When and where do you usually read?
10. Do you read more or less than you used to?
11. How do you choose what to read next?

Books & technology

12. Do you think e-books will replace paper books?
13. Do you ever listen to audiobooks? What do you think of them?
14. Where do you usually get your books — buy, borrow or download?

Reading & society

15. Should children be encouraged to read more? How?
16. Are libraries still important today? Why?

17. Has anything you read ever changed your mind about something?
18. Do people in your country prefer fiction or non-fiction?
19. What was your favourite book as a child?
20. Would you like to write a book one day?

Example answers — short reply grown into a full one

Do you enjoy reading?

I do, though mostly non-fiction these days — history and science. I like the feeling of finishing a book and understanding something I didn't before; it's a small, satisfying kind of progress.

Paper books or a screen?

I read the news on my phone, but for a proper book I still prefer paper. There's something about not having notifications popping up that helps me concentrate, and I just remember things better that way.

Is reading still important today?

Definitely — maybe more than ever. We're surrounded by short, fast information, so being able to sit with a longer argument and follow it properly is a skill that's quietly becoming rare.

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.