


SPEAKING: SUCCESS CRITERIA


The following information aims to help teachers and students gain a better understanding of what candidates of the Cambridge A2 Key for Schools exam need to do to improve their speaking skills and eventually pass the exam. The categories are based on the marking criteria for the Cambridge A2 Key for Schools exam. These tables can be used by teachers when assessing speaking, or by students when peer or self-assessing their performance in speaking tasks. They can also use them to set goals to help them advance their speaking skills.

Part 1: General conversation

	SOLID	GOOD	ACING IT! 
GLOBAL ACHIEVEMENT			
Meaning	Answers most questions about everyday topics. The meaning is often clear.	Answers most questions on a range of everyday topics. The meaning is often clear.	+ Answers all questions on a range of everyday topics. The meaning is usually clear.
Content	Gives a short answer e.g. <i>I start school at 8 a.m.</i>	Gives a short answer and one more piece of information e.g. <i>I start school at 8 a.m. I finish at 3 p.m.</i>	Gives a short answer and two more pieces of information e.g. <i>I start school at 8 a.m. I finish at 3 p.m. but I sometimes go to a club.</i>
Fluency	Often pauses.	Sometimes pauses.	Occasionally pauses.
GRAMMAR AND VOCABULARY			
Grammar	Uses simple grammar, sometimes correctly.	Uses simple grammar, often correctly.	Uses simple grammar, usually correctly.
Vocabulary	Uses everyday vocabulary to answer the questions.	Uses everyday vocabulary correctly.	Uses a range of everyday vocabulary correctly.
PRONUNCIATION			
Clarity of pronunciation	Pronunciation is sometimes intelligible.	Pronunciation is often intelligible.	Pronunciation is usually intelligible.

Part 2: Discussion

+ = Solid plus whatever is in the Good or Acing It! box.

	SOLID	GOOD	ACING IT! 
GLOBAL ACHIEVEMENT			
Meaning	Talk about likes and dislikes. The meaning is sometimes clear.	Talk about likes and dislikes. The meaning is often clear.	Talk about likes and dislikes. The meaning is usually clear.
Content	Gives a short answer e.g. <i>I like cycling.</i>	Gives a short answer and one more piece of information e.g. <i>I like cycling because I can go fast.</i>	Gives a short answer and two more pieces of information e.g. <i>I like cycling because I can go fast and do some exercise.</i>
Fluency	Often pauses.	Sometimes pauses.	Occasionally pauses.
GRAMMAR AND VOCABULARY			
Grammar	Uses simple grammar, sometimes correctly.	Uses simple grammar, often correctly.	Uses simple grammar usually correctly.
Vocabulary	Uses everyday vocabulary to answer the questions.	Uses everyday vocabulary correctly.	Uses a range of everyday vocabulary correctly.
PRONUNCIATION			
Clarity of pronunciation	Pronunciation is sometimes intelligible.	Pronunciation is often intelligible.	Pronunciation is usually intelligible.
INTERACTIVE COMMUNICATION			
Discussion	Can have a short, simple discussion.	Can start and continue a simple discussion with help.	Can start and continue a simple discussion with little or no help.