

How to Ace the C1 Advanced (CAE) Speaking Test

By EnglishExam.eu Team | 2/11/2026

Struggling with the CAE Speaking paper? Learn strategies for each part of the test, useful phrases, and how to interact effectively with your partner.

The C1 Advanced Speaking test assesses your ability to communicate effectively in complex situations. Here is how to impress the examiners.

PART 1: THE INTERVIEW

Keep your answers natural. Avoid rehearsed speeches. Expand on your answers by giving reasons and examples. If asked "Where are you from?", don't just say "Madrid". Say "I'm from Madrid, which is the bustling capital of Spain. It's a great city, though it gets quite hot in the summer."

PART 2: THE LONG TURN

You will be asked to compare two pictures and answer two questions about them.

- Compare, don't just describe: Use phrases like "While the first picture shows...", "In contrast...", "Similarly...".
- Speculate: You don't know exactly what is happening, so use speculative language: "It seems like...", "They might be...", "I suppose...".
- Keep talking: You have to speak for one minute without interruption. Keep going until the examiner asks you to stop.

PART 3: COLLABORATIVE TASK

Interact with your partner. The key here is collaboration, not domination. Ask for their opinion ("What do you think?"), agree or disagree politely ("I see your point, but...", "That's a valid argument"), and work towards a conclusion.

PART 4: DISCUSSION

This is a continuation of the topic from Part 3 but more abstract. Use high-level vocabulary and complex grammatical structures.

Express your opinions clearly and justify them.

KEY PHRASES FOR C1 SPEAKING

- "It strikes me that..."
- "My take on this is..."
- "I'm inclined to agree with you."
- "Another aspect to consider is..."

