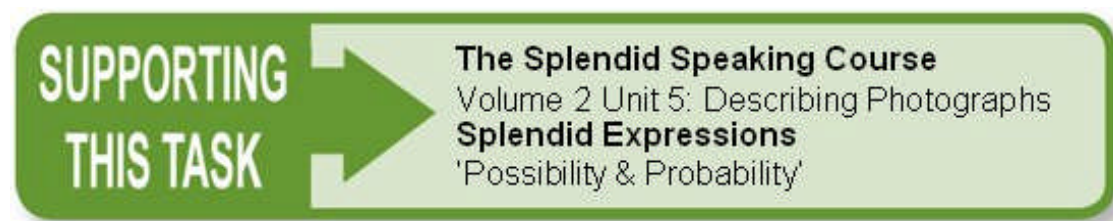

Splendid Speaking Podcasts

Topic: Describing Photographs (Interview 3)

This show can be listened to at the following address:
<http://www.splendid-speaking.com/learn/podcasts/int3.html>



Transcript

Introduction

Are you working in an industry or an academic area where you have to describe or interpret pictures or photographs? Perhaps you're doing an exam like CAE (Certificate in Advanced English), part of which asks you to describe a series of photographs.

This podcast features an interview with Ekaterina from Bulgaria, who at the time of the interview was preparing for CAE.

A reminder that transcripts of all recordings including this one are available to subscribers of our mailing list. You can sign up to the newsletter from www.splendid-speaking.com.

Also, you can now download a weekly task from Splendid Speaking which gives you the opportunity to carry out a similar exercise to the one in the featured interview. These new task sheets and grading criteria are available from www.splendid-speaking.com.

In this task Ekaterina had to speak for about 1 minute, commenting and reflecting on the collection of photographs she was given. These photographs are available from the Cambridge ESOL website in pdf format.

http://cambridgeesol.org/teach/cae/speaking/data/sample_part2.pdf

A link to these photographs can be found in the transcript of this recording.

Ekaterina was asked to speculate on the content of the photographs and not simply to describe them. As you listen, decide how well Ekaterina managed to keep to the time limit of 1 minute and in particular, how successfully she speculated on how the people in the photographs were feeling. Finally, make a note of Ekaterina's use of English, which we'll look at in the feedback section.

Let's listen to Ekaterina.

Peter: It says in this part of the test I'm going to give you the chance to talk for about a minute on the pictures that are in front of you. They show people with photographs of the past. I'd like you to compare and contrast these pictures saying what aspects of the past the photographs show and how the people might be feeling as they look back on the past. Don't forget you have about one minute for this. OK?

Ekaterina: OK

Peter: OK would you like to start now.

Ekaterina: Yes. OK .. so these are three pictures ... showing people with photographs of the past. And ... they ... they are actually different ... they show different aspects of ... development. The first ... the first picture it is ... in the first picture there is ... an old lady and her portrait of her youth. She ... she must feel proud of her ... of herself ... of what she's been doing. About the next picture there is again a lady in her fifties maybe and around her there are lots of ... as far as I could see a kind of a plate or ... again pictures from ... photographs of her youth and maybe she's been a star. Well ... at the next ... at the next photograph there are more ... there are several people and ... they are looking at a kind of mountain or hill and ... as and ... as far as I could see and I could say from the picture that is in the picture ... maybe this .. this hill has changed and maybe these people feel in some way amazed by ... the ... you know the changes of time on the nature. All these three pictures have ... have a lot in common because of the feelings that people express. For example the ... the woman ... the star ... the show star feels ... in some way regrets

that she isn't young again ... that she isn't young again, while the old lady is ... proud of herself.

First of all a big 'thank you' to Ekaterina for agreeing to be recorded. I'm sure she'd appreciate any comments you would like to make on her talk on the Splendid Speaking website. Time for some feedback.

Ekaterina did go over the one minute time limit a little but did an excellent job of speculating on the scenes in the photographs. Did you notice the various ways in which she used language to speculate?

"...She ... she must feel proud of her... of herself ... of what she's been doing..."
"...there is again a lady in her fifties maybe..."
"...maybe this .. this hill has changed and maybe these people feel in some way amazed by the ... you know the changes of time on the nature..."
"...the show star feels in some way regrets that she isn't young again ... that she isn't young again, while the old lady is proud of herself..."

In the main Ekaterina's English was very accurate but can you spot the mistakes in these extracts:

"...an old lady and her portrait of her youth..."
"...About the next picture..."
"...while at the next photograph..."
"...as far as I could see..."
"...you know the changes of time on the nature..."

Here are the corrections. The first is a pronunciation error which Ekaterina made a couple of times but self-corrected later in the podcast.

"...an old lady and her portrait of her youth..."

It is in fact 'in her youth'. Next:

"...About the next picture..."

Not 'about the next picture' but better 'as far as the next picture is concerned' or 'turning to the next picture'.

"...while at the next photograph..."

Not 'at the next photograph' but 'in the next photograph'.

"...as far as I could see..."

Not 'as far as I could see' but 'as far as I can see'. Ekaterina was looking at the photographs at the time so needs the present tense. And finally

“...you know the changes of time on the nature...”

Not ‘on the nature’ but ‘on nature’.

OK. That’s the end of this podcast. Come back soon for another episode from Splendid Speaking.

The Splendid Speaking Self Study Course

Describing photographs features in Volume 2 of the 'Splendid Speaking Self-Study Course'.

Volume 1: Introductions and Small Talk

In this volume you'll learn how to:

- Make an impact with a 15-second introduction (Unit 1) - a useful skill in a job interview or networking situations.
- Make small talk using the S.O.F.A. strategy (Unit 2)- a surefire way to make social situations much easier.
- Listen effectively and show interest in what other have to say (Unit 2), so you can build an immediate rapport with other people.
- Relate a S.T.A.R. story (Unit 3) that illustrates a personal achievement - ideal in an interview for a job or training course.

Plus 2 other key speaking strategies on body language and giving examples.

Volume 2: Powerful Presentations

In this volume you'll learn how to:

- Captivate your audience by choosing one of five memorable ways to start a presentation, and then signpost it clearly so your audience don't get lost (Unit 4).
- Introduce photographs and information graphics (graphs, charts, tables, etc) to illustrate your talk (Unit 5).
- Avoid worrying when you're asked to "say a few words". You'll soon be giving a T.O.P. spontaneous talk, and using pauses for effect (Unit 6).

In addition to these 12 key strategies you can test yourself with our interactive quizzes on useful collocational phrases to do with work, business, education and relationships, for example.

For further information visit

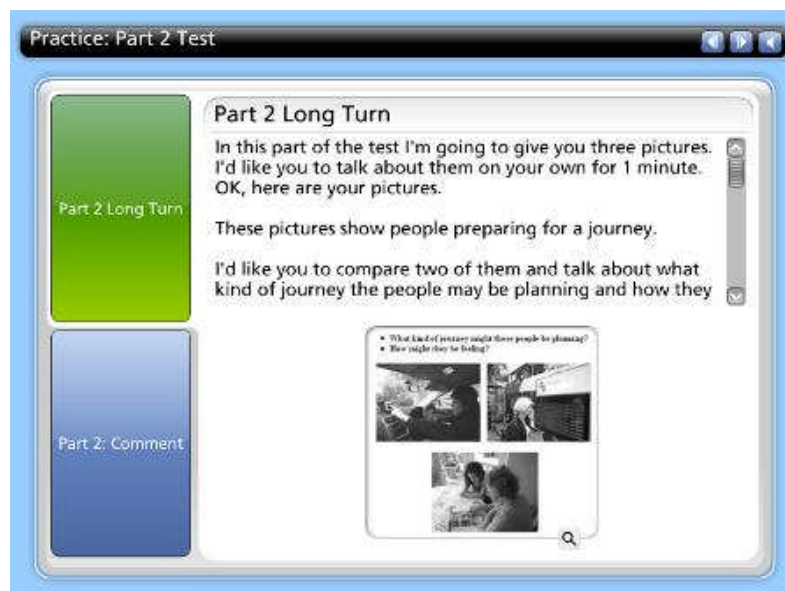
www.splendid-speaking.com/products/shop.html

CAE Speaking *Success!*

Preparing for Cambridge English: Advanced? Learn how to speculate effectively when talking about photographs in Part 2 of the exam with **CAE Speaking *Success!***

This 12 unit course has:

- easy-to-remember strategies to ensure you won't dry up in the exam.
- recordings of advanced non-native speakers applying these strategies, offering a model for you to aim for.
- use of the CAE assessment criteria to evaluate the speaker's performance, giving you a clear understanding of the exam requirements.
- CAE Speaking practice tests to help you master these strategies.
- the chance to learn the important functional language you'll need during the exam.
- Error-correction activities to help you avoid the language mistakes made at advanced level.
- Topic vocabulary tests to make sure you have the language you need to respond fully to questions.



Further information about CAE Speaking *Success!* here:
<http://www.splendid-speaking.com/products/caespeaking.html>