

October 16<sup>th</sup>, 2022 – Sunday

## Speaking Practice #1

### Languages

- How many languages can you speak? [Why/Why not?]
- How useful will English be to you in your future? [Why/Why not?]
- What do you remember about learning languages at school? [Why/Why not?]
- What do you think would be the hardest language for you to learn? [Why?]

## PART 2

**Describe a website that you bought something from.**

**You should say:**

**what the website is**

**what you bought from this website**

**how satisfied you were with what you bought**

**and explain what you liked or disliked about using this website.**

You will have to talk about the topic for one to two minutes. You have one minute to think about what you are going to say. You can make some notes to help you if you wish.

### *Discussion topics:*

#### Shopping online

*Example questions:*

What kinds of things do people in your country often buy from online shops?

Why do you think online shopping has become so popular nowadays?

What are some possible disadvantages of buying things from online shops?

#### The culture of consumerism

*Example questions:*

Why do many people today keep buying things which they do not need?

Do you believe the benefits of a consumer society outweigh the disadvantages?

How possible is it to avoid the culture of consumerism?

## Overall Feedback

Band Score: **6.5**

Fluency & Coherence	7
Lexical Resource	6.5
Grammatical Range & Accuracy	7
Pronunciation	6
Overall Speaking Band Score	6.5

- Pronunciation Mistakes

know <u>w</u> ledge [n]
liter <u>a</u> ture [n]
tomorro <u>w</u> / no <u>w</u> / new <u>w</u> / New <u>w</u> York
for <u>e</u> ign [adj] / fore <u>i</u> gner [n]
langu <u>a</u> ge [n] langu <u>a</u> ges [n] age [n] / ag <u>e</u> s [n]
<u>n</u> ative [adj / n]
pur <u>ch</u> ase [v / n]
follow <u>w</u> [v]
<u>e</u> vil-minded [adj]
adequ <u>a</u> te [adj]
fea <u>t</u> ure [n]
<u>s</u> ustainable [adj]
<u>a</u> ccessories [n]
<u>c</u> onsider [v]
<u>s</u> chedule [n]

- You **do NOT** need to tell the truth while answering the questions in the Speaking test. Instead, you should create stories when necessary, so that you can demonstrate your English skills.
- **redundancy [=pleonasm]**: the unnecessary use of more than one word or phrase meaning the same thing; the use of more words than are needed to express a meaning, done either unintentionally

~~young~~-adolescent

~~work~~ colleague

- More Topic-Specific Words and Phrases should be used. Likewise, you need to use more idiomatic language including phrasal verbs. You can check the following vocabulary words I have prepared for you on the topic of “Shopping”:

### SHOPPING ONLINE [The Topic]

Words & Phrases	Definition	Examples
<b>shop around [pv]</b>	to compare the price and quality of the same or a similar object in different shops before you decide which one to buy	<i>When you're buying a flight, you should always <b>shop around</b> for the best deal.</i>
<b>a pig in a poke [idiom]</b>	something that you buy or accept without first seeing it or finding out if it is good	<i>What if the car you buy turns out to be <b>a pig in a poke</b>?</i>  <i>The mail order bicycle that my nephew bought turned out to be <b>a pig in a poke</b>, and he is now trying to get his money back.</i>
<b>turn out [pv]</b>	to happen in a particular way or to have a particular result, especially an unexpected one; to be known or discovered finally and surprisingly	<i>It <b>turns out</b> that she had known him when they were children.</i>  <i>The truth <b>turned out</b> to be stranger than we had expected.</i>

<p><b>physical store [n]</b></p>	<p>It is a retail environment that requires physical space to display and sell products.</p>	<p><i>It's really a great leap forward from visiting a <b>physical store</b> to shopping online.</i></p> <p><i>Retailers are studying how to achieve interaction through your smartphone when you visit a <b>physical store</b>.</i></p>
<p><b>brick-and-mortar [adj]</b> (also <b>bricks-and-mortar</b>)</p>	<p>existing as a physical building, especially a shop, rather than doing business only on the internet</p>	<p><i>a <b>brick-and-mortar</b> retailer</i></p> <p><i><b>brick-and-mortar</b> bookstores</i></p> <p><i>Online retailers try to lure customers away from their <b>brick-and-mortar</b> competitors.</i></p>
<p><b>retail [v]</b></p>	<p>to sell goods to the public <b><u>in shops, on the internet,</u></b> etc.</p>	<p><i>The company makes and <b>retails</b> moderately priced sportswear.</i></p>
<p><b>retail at/for something [pv]</b></p>	<p>to be sold at a particular price</p>	<p><i>This laptop <b>retails at/for</b> £850.</i></p> <p><i>That book <b>retails at/for</b> a cheaper price on the Internet.</i></p>
<p><b>try something on [pv]</b></p>	<p>to put on a piece of clothing to discover if it fits you or if you like it</p>	<p><i><b>Try on</b> the shoes to see if they fit.</i></p> <p><i>I don't like buying clothes online as it is not possible to <b>try them on</b>.</i></p>
<p><b>gear [n]</b></p>	<p>the equipment, clothes, etc. that you use to do a particular activity; clothes</p>	<p><i>fishing/camping <b>gear</b></i></p> <p><i>She wears all the latest <b>gear</b>.</i></p>
<p><b>knock-down [adj]</b></p>	<p>extremely cheap</p>	<p><i>The earphones were at a real <b>knock-down</b> price on the online store than in the brick-and-mortar ones, so I bought them.</i></p>

<p><b>high street [n] [UK English]</b></p> <p>= main street [US English]</p>	<p>a street where the most important shops and businesses in a town are</p>	<p><i>There's a new Italian restaurant opening on the <b>high street</b>.</i></p> <p><i>a <b>high street</b> retailer/shop/store</i></p>
<p><b>the high street [n]</b></p>	<p>business done in shops</p>	<p><i>There are signs of economic recovery in <b>the high street</b>.</i></p> <p><i><b>high street</b> names / brands</i></p>
<p><b>throwaway [adj – before a noun]</b></p>	<p>made to be destroyed after use; throwaway goods, products, etc. are designed and marketed in a way that encourages people to keep replacing them</p>	<p><i>We live in a <b>throwaway</b> society [= one in which things are thrown away as soon as they have been used].</i></p> <p><i>Much of China's emissions come from manufacturing <b>throwaway</b> <u>products</u> for the west.</i></p>
<p><b>bargain hunting [n]</b></p>	<p>looking for products that are good value for money, usually because they are on sale at a lower price than normal</p>	<p><i>I love <b>bargain hunting</b> and feel great when I find something I need <u>at a knock-down price</u>.</i></p>
<p><b>retail therapy [n]</b></p>	<p>the practise of buying things in order to make yourself feel better when you are unhappy</p>	<p><i>I need some <b>retail therapy</b> to help me get over the disappointment of not getting a promotion at work.</i></p>
<p><b>to go on a shopping spree [n]</b></p>	<p>a short period of time in which someone buys a lot of things</p>	<p><i>I'll have <b>to go on a shopping spree</b> before my holiday next month as I've lost so much weight that my beachwear doesn't fit me anymore.</i></p>

<b>an impulse buy [n]</b>	an unplanned purchase when something is bought suddenly without careful thought	<i>My waterproof jacket was <b>an impulse buy</b> as I was actually looking for some new walking boots, but it was such a bargain that I just had to get it.</i>
<b>whim [n]</b> <i>on a whim</i>	a sudden wish or idea, especially one that cannot be reasonably explained	<i>We booked the trip <b>on a whim</b>.</i>
<b>a shopaholic [n]</b>	someone who loves shopping and does it often, sometimes to the point of it being an addiction	<i>My friend Sally is <b>a true shopaholic</b>, but I do worry about her as she can't really afford all the designer clothes she buys.</i>
<b>take something back [pv]</b>	return an unwanted item to a shop	<i>I'm going to have to <b>take</b> this <u>jacket</u> <b>back</b> to the shop as the colour doesn't match my skirt.</i>
<b>return [v]</b>	to return an item	<i>I'll have to <b>return</b> the jumper I bought online as they sent the wrong size.</i>
<b>exchange [v]</b>	change an item that has been purchased for a different one	<i>The shirt I bought my dad for his birthday is too large so I'm going to <b>exchange</b> it <b>for</b> a smaller one.</i>
<b>to give someone the hard sell</b>	try to sell someone something in a forceful way	<i>When I said I needed to go away and think about it before buying the car, the salesman <u>tried</u> <b>the hard sell</b> <u>on</u> me. [=tried to <b>give me the hard sell</b>]</i>
<b>bargain hunter [n]</b>	someone who is looking for goods that are very good value for money, usually because they are on sale at a lower price than normal	<i>My sister is a keen dedicated <b>bargain hunter</b> and rarely pays <u>full price</u> for anything.</i>

<b>flea market [n]</b>	a group of stalls selling old furniture or clothes	<i>The <b>flea market</b> in Portobello Road, London, started in the 1800s and is still popular with both locals and tourists.</i>
<b>gift voucher [n]</b>	a card that you buy at a shop to give as a gift, which entitles the person to exchange it for goods worth the same amount	<i>I often give my nieces and nephews <b>gift vouchers</b> for their birthdays so that they can buy what they want.</i>
<b>discount voucher [n]</b>	a ticket or piece of paper, often with a code on it, that gives money off the purchase price	<i>When I bought my new TV, I got a <b>discount voucher</b> for 20% off my next purchase from the shop.</i>
<b>coupon [n]</b>	a voucher, often printed in a newspaper or magazine, that can be used to get something without paying for it, or at a reduced price	<i>There's a <b>coupon</b> in our local newspaper this week for a free cupcake from the new bakery in town.</i>
<b>to pick up a bargain / to snap up a bargain [pv]</b>	to buy something cheaply	<i>My mother <b>picked up some great bargains</b> in the sale.</i>
<b>to slash prices [v]</b>	to reduce prices a great deal	<i>Consumers are <b>hunkering down</b> even though the Jaguars have <b>slashed prices</b>.</i>
<b>hunker down [pv]</b>	To hunker down is also to be prepared to stay in a particular place or situation for as long as necessary, <u>esp. for protection or to achieve something</u>	<i>We <b>hunkered down</b> in the cellar while the storm raged outside.  Members of Congress were <b>hunkered down</b> for weeks of debate on the health-care issue.</i>

<p><b>haggle [v] = bargain [v]</b></p> <p><i>haggle WITH sb</i></p> <p><i>haggle OVER/ABOUT the price</i></p>	<p>to negotiate the cost of an item</p>	<p><i>I had to really <b>haggle</b> <u>with</u> the car salesman to get the price I wanted.</i></p> <p><i>It's traditional that you <b>haggle</b> <u>over/about</u> the price of things in the market.</i></p> <p><i>It is not possible to <b>haggle</b> <u>over/about the price</u> on the Internet.</i></p>
<p><b>predatory pricing [n]</b></p>	<p>a situation in which a company offers goods at such a low price that other companies cannot compete with it</p>	<p><i>The airline has reduced its prices so sharply that it has been accused of <b>predatory pricing</b>.</i></p>
<p><b>the real McCoy [idiom]</b></p>	<p>genuine, not fake</p> <p><b>The origin:</b></p> <p><i>"The real McCoy" was the inventor Elijah McCoy, born in Canada in 1844. He had many different inventions including an ironing board and a lawn sprinkler. Other companies copied his devices, but these never worked as well as Elijah's so people would say, "I want a, and make sure it's a real McCoy." ☺</i></p>	<p><i>I was worried that the gold bracelet I bought in the market wasn't made of real gold but I showed it my uncle who's a jeweller and he said it's <b>the real McCoy</b>.</i></p>



<p><b>going for a song [idiom]</b></p>	<p>on sale for a very low price</p>	<p><i>I was glad I went to the end of season sale at the garden centre as many of the plants were <b>going for a song</b>.</i></p> <p><i>Sellers are now prepared to negotiate, but Paris properties are <b>not going for a song</b>.</i></p>
<p><b>to shop until you drop [idiom]</b></p>	<p>to continue shopping until you are exhausted; to shop intensively over a short period of time</p>	<p><i>I'm meeting my best friend in town on Friday afternoon and we're going to <b>shop until we drop</b>.</i></p>