

EIKEN Grade 3 Speaking Test

★ Tips for Passing

Sample Topic Card

At the interview, you will be given a "question card" with a passage (in English) and an illustration printed on it. Let's look at an example:

School Libraries

Most schools have a library. Many students often go to the library after school, and they enjoy reading many kinds of books there. Students can use the Internet at some school libraries.



No. 1 Passage Question

Please look at the passage. When do many students often go to the library?

Example: They often go there after school.

No. 2 Illustration Question

Please look at the picture. Where is the woman going to put the books?

Example: She's going to put them on the table.

No. 3 Illustration Question

Please look at the boy wearing glasses. What does he have in his hand?

Example: He has a bag (in his hand).

No. 4 Opinion Question

What would you like to do next weekend?

Example: I'd like to play soccer with my friends.

No. 5 Opinion Question

Which do you like better, summer or winter?

Example: (I like summer. と答えた場合) Why? I like to go swimming in the sea.

Flow of the Interview

- 1. Entering the Room** After registering, wait in the waiting room. You will be given an "Interview Card," which you should fill out with your name and personal number. When you are escorted to the front of the interview room by a staff member, take all of your belongings with you. When it is your turn to enter the room, follow the instructions of the staff member and say "May I come in?"

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You will be guided in Japanese from the reception desk to here. After knocking, open the door and say "Hello."

- 2. Interview Card** All communication with the interviewer will be conducted in English. You will be asked to hand over your "Interview Card," so say "Here you are."

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The interviewer will say, "Can I have your card please?" Give them the card you filled out in the waiting room and say, "Here you are."

- 3. Taking a Seat** Sit down as instructed by the interviewer. Put your luggage next to your seat.

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The interviewer will say, "Please sit down." When you are asked to sit down, reply "Thank you." If you sit down without saying anything, or if you remain slumped over and do not make eye contact, you will be seen as unwilling to communicate. If there is an empty chair next to you, place your baggage on it; if not, place it at your feet.

- 4. Name, Confirmation of Grade, and Greeting** The interviewer will ask for your name. Answer with, "My name is ...". You will be asked to confirm that you are testing for the Grade 3 test. A brief greeting will be exchanged.

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The interviewer will ask for your name by saying, "What's your name, please?" They will also ask, "This is the Grade 3 test, OK?" to confirm the grade you are taking. You will be asked a simple greeting, such as "How are you?"

- 5. Topic Card** The interviewer will hand you a "question card" with passages and illustrations printed on them.

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When the interviewer says, "Let's start the test." the greeting time is over. The interviewer will hand you a "question card" printed with a passage and illustrations and say "This is your card."

6. **Read the Passage Silently (20 Seconds)** Read the passage silently as instructed by the interviewer.

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The instructor will say, "Please read the passage silently for 20 seconds." Respond with "All right." and then read the passage.

There is about 30 words and 3 sentences. Focus first on the title to get a sense of the passage, then read the main text. Read through, paying attention to nouns, verbs, and adjectives that often contain important information. It is also important to check the positions of periods and commas that should be paused when reading aloud.

Attention

You will run out of time if you worry about the structure of sentences and think, "What is the meaning of this word?"

7. **Read the Passage Aloud** Follow the instructions of the interviewer and start reading the passage aloud. There is no time limit.

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The interviewer will say "Now please read the passage aloud." Respond with, "OK."

The important thing is use intonation and stress. Most of the English passages are declarative, so read in a descending tone at the end of the sentence. Words that contain important information are read aloud slightly louder. If you come across words that are also in Japanese, such as class and lunch, be careful to pronounce them like English. It's not good to stop or skip over words you don't know. Read it confidently by analogizing the pronunciation from the spelling.

8. **Question About the Passage (No.1)** You will be asked about the content of the passage you read aloud. You can answer while looking at the topic card.

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First, the interviewer will say, "Please look at the passage." After that, you will be asked about the content of the passage, so listen carefully to the interrogative words at the beginning of the sentence. Most of the questions start with "Why".

The point is to listen carefully for the subject and verb in the question. If you try to find the subject or verb in the passage, it will be easier to find the correct sentence. Once you find the sentence, replace the subject with a pronoun and read it out loud.

9. **Questions About the Illustration (No. 2, No. 3)** You will be asked questions about the people and things on the topic card illustration.

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No. 2 and No. 3 are tasks to describe the actions of people and the objects in the illustration printed on the topic card. First, the interviewer will say, "Please look at the picture."

The key is to replace the subject of the question with the appropriate pronoun and form the verb appropriately. It is also important to replace plural words, like "books", with the pronoun "them". For example, when asked "Where is **the woman** going to put the books?", you would say "**She's** going to put them on the table." You will be asked to answer using the expression "is going to do".

Be careful with the a / an articles when referring to things in the singular. For example, if you want to answer 「彼はバッグを1つ持っています」, you must add, "He has a bag ." This may seem like a small detail, but it's important, so be careful.

10. **Turn Over the Topic Card** After answering question No. 3, the interviewer will say, "Please turn the card over." Follow their directions and place it on your desk.

11. **Opinion Questions (No. 4, No. 5)** You will be asked questions about your own opinion. The content may not be related to the topic of the card.

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In No. 4 and No. 5, candidates are asked for their own opinion. Listen with an open mind, as the questions are often unrelated to the topic of the topic card. Also, since this is a task that you answer without looking at the topic card, it is also important to look the interviewer and make eye contact while answering. Test takers are often asked about their own preferences and wishes, so it's a good idea to get used to using the phrase "I'd [I would] like to do".

In No. 5, in many cases, you will first be asked "Do you ... ?" For example, if you are asked, "Do you like to watch TV?" Try to keep it on-topic by saying something like, "I often watch music programs." If you answer no, you will likely be asked a different topic than the first question, such as, "What do you like to do at home?" Say something like, "I like to read books at home." It doesn't matter if your answer is yes or no. Answer in the way that is most convenient for you. You may be asked, "Which do you like better, A or B? " and "Why?" In other words, the question will vary depending on the candidate's response, so pay attention to interrogative words and verbs to make sure you hear the question.

- 12. Returning the Topic Card** The interviewer will ask you to return the topic card.

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The exam is over when the interviewer says, “This is the end of the test. May I have your card back, please?”

- 13. Exiting the Room** Say goodbye and leave the room. After leaving the room, you cannot talk to other examinees or return to the waiting room.

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The interviewer will say, “You may go now.” You should say, “Thank you. Goodbye.” and leave the room.

Be careful not to forget anything when you leave the room. After leaving the room, you cannot talk to other candidates or return to the waiting room.

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Attitude

Attitude is also evaluated in the Eiken Grade 3 secondary exam. Specifically, it means that clarity of vocalization, naturalness of reaction, aggressiveness, etc. will be scored. So show your willingness to communicate and speak loudly and clearly so that the other person can easily hear you. Your attitude will be evaluated from the time you enter the room to the time you leave, so be careful not to silently sit down without permission or mumble answers without looking into their eyes.

The worst thing you can do is keep quiet. Even if your English speaking skills are inexperienced, if you have a willingness to use the words and grammar you know to convey your thoughts, you will receive a positive evaluation in Attitude. Even if you make a mistake in grammar, you can simply say "excuse me". In any case, what you want to avoid is giving up and saying, "I failed..." or mumbling in an attempt to cover up your poor pronunciation or feeling that you are not good at it.

Useful Expressions

★ **Pardon?** (何ですって?)

If you didn't understand what the interviewer said, it's okay to ask again. Say "Pardon?" or "Pardon me?" and have them say it again. You can also say "Excuse me?" or "Sorry?" These expressions should be used immediately after the other person speaks, so if you don't understand what the other person is saying, say this immediately. After a pause, "Pardon?" sounds unnatural and is subject to deduction.

Don't ask too many questions. It may be judged that "this examinee's listening ability is low" and the interviewer will move on to the next question.

★ **Well...** (ええと...)

If you want to think for a moment before answering, say "Well, ..." and let them know you are thinking about it. You can also use "Let's see." and "Let me see." You can also say "Hmm." or slowly repeat the keyword in the question. Avoid thinking silently.

★ **Could you say that again?** (もう一度言っていただけますか?)

If you don't understand the interviewer's question, the first thing you should do is ask the interviewer to repeat the question. In addition to the aforementioned "Pardon?" and "Excuse me?", you can also use the expression "Could you say that again?" However, if you ask them what the word in your question means or ask them to translate it into another word, they won't give you an answer. So, if you really can't understand, try to guess the meaning from the range of words you can hear, and answer in a dignified manner.

It is not good to say, "I don't know." If you accidentally said something, immediately say "No, sorry."