

# EIKEN Grade Pre-2 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:

#### Aerobics with Japanese Drums

Recently, people have started doing a new exercise. It is a combination of Japanese drums, wadaiko, and aerobics. People move around the drums and exercise by beating them. It also offers the chance to learn Japanese culture. This exercise is both healthy and interesting, so it is getting more and more popular.



#### No. 1 Passage Question

According to the passage, why is the new exercise getting more and more popular?

Example: (Because) it is both healthy and interesting.

#### No. 2 Illustration Question

Now, please look at the people in Picture A. They are doing different things. Tell me as much as you can about what they are doing.

Example: A woman is cleaning the floor. / A boy is carrying a chair. / Two men are shaking hands. / A girl is putting on shoes. / A man is opening the curtain.

#### No. 3 Illustration Question

Now, look at the boy in Picture B. Please describe the situation.

Example: He wants to buy a drink (from the vending machine), but he doesn't have any money.

#### No. 4 Opinion Question

Do you think people should exercise every day?

Example: (Yes. と答えた場合: Why?) It is important for people to try to be healthy all the time. It is often said that people need more exercise today.

#### No. 5 Opinion Question

Today, many towns in Japan have large shopping malls. Do you like to go shopping at these malls?

Example: (Yes. と答えた場合: Why?) I can buy many different things at one place. When I am tired from shopping, I can eat there, too.

## 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?"

### Point

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."

### Point

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.

### Point

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 Pre-2 test. A brief greeting will be exchanged.

### Point

The interviewer will ask for your name by saying, "What's your name, please?" They will also ask, "This is the Grade Pre-2 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.

### Point

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.

**Point**

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

There is about 50 words. You will run out of time if you worry about the structure of sentences and think, "What is the meaning of this word?" 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.

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

**Point**

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.

**Point**

Most of the questions about the content of the passage start with "Why" or "How". The question starts with, "According to the passage...". Listen carefully for the interrogative words that follow. If you are asked a question in the form of "Why ... ?" Pay attention to the part before the conjunction "so". When asked "How ... ?" Use expressions like "by doing so" and "in this way" as clues.

The answer is often found in the second half of the passage. Listen carefully to the interviewer's questions and try to find the parts that contain the same words. When you find it, the point is not to read the passage as it is, but to create a correct sentence by replacing the subject with a pronoun, removing unnecessary words, etc. It is a good idea to add "because" to "Why ... ?" questions, and "by doing" to "How ... ?" questions.

9. **Illustration Question (No. 2)** You will be asked to describe the behavior of the people on Illustration A on the topic card.

**Point**

No. 2 is a task to look at illustration A and describe the behavior of the people on it. There are many cases where there are 5 people, so try your best to say 5 sentences in total, one sentence for each action.

The first point is the subject. Don't forget to use the article when referring to one person, such as A woman, Two boys, etc., and pluralize when referring to multiple people. The plural forms of man and woman, men and women, should also be pronounced carefully. The second point is to use the present continuous tense. If the subject is singular, be careful to say "A woman is cleaning the floor. If the subject is plural, say "Two men are shaking hands."

Since various actions are drawn, you may think, "I don't know this word, I can't remember it." If that's the case, use your wits to find another word to describe it. For example, if you want to say "A boy is carrying a chair." (男の子が椅子を運んでいます), but can't remember the correct verb, don't give up. There is another way to say it! For example, "A boy is walking with a chair."

10. **Illustration Question (No.3)** You will be asked to describe the situation of the person shown in Illustration B of the topic card.

**Point**

No. 3 is the task of looking at illustration B and explaining the situation of the person on it. B's illustrations often have speech bubbles that show the person and what they think. The point is to create a sentence that describes what the person is doing and another sentence that describes what the person is thinking, and connect the two sentences with appropriate conjunctions. For example, "He wants to buy a drink (from the vending machine), but he doesn't have any coins."

In some cases, more than one person is depicted in the illustration. In that case, it is necessary to listen carefully to which person the question is about. Then make a sentence about what situation the person is in and a sentence explaining why they are in that situation, and connect them with the appropriate conjunctions.

Remember the conjunctions "because", "so", and "but".

11. **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.

- 12. Opinion Question (No. 4)** You will be asked a question that asks for your own opinion on a subject related to the topic card.

**Point**

In No. 4, candidates are asked to give their own opinions on content related to the topic card. Most of the questions are in the form of "Do you think ... ?" If you answer "Yes.", you will be asked "Why?". If you answer "No.", you will be asked "Why not?" Explain your rationale in two sentences.

The standard way to express your opinion is "I think ... ." You can also say, "It is important (for A) to do." This phrase is a convenient expression that can be applied in various ways by replacing adjectives, such as changing "important" to "dangerous". For example, "It is dangerous for A to do...". Also, when stating two reasons, it's a good idea to add "Also" to the beginning of the sentence that talks about the second reason. It doesn't matter if your answer is yes or no. Answer in the way that is most convenient for you.

- 13. Opinion Question (No.5)** This question asks the examinee's opinion about familiar matters in daily life. It is not related to the topic of the topic card.

**Point**

In No. 5, you will also be asked for your own opinion. First, a situation is described using expressions like, "There are..." and "These days..." Followed by a question about the test takers themselves. This question usually starts with, "Do you...?" or "Are you...?".

It is important to note that many of the questions are completely unrelated to the topic of the topic card. Be open-minded and focused on both the premise and the questions that follow. Use expression like, "I think..." , "I like ...", and "I often do...".

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

**Point**

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

- 15. 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.

**Point**

There 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.

## 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."

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