

The ORAL INTERVIEW

Level: Elementary

Aim: Students practise asking and answering typical questions in English oral tests.

Language Points: Short answers present simple, verb to be, can, future (going to); Numbers and letters; basic vocabulary;

Materials: 1 copy of the worksheet

Rationale: Many English courses have an exam component. More often than not, the exam includes an oral exam. One standard part of an oral exam is an interview type session, in which an interviewer (usually the teacher) asks the students some simple questions to get started. With low levels, this is often quite a large component of the exam, as the student may not have the linguistic resources to engage in longer pieces of discourse. This lesson is designed to give students practice in this type of oral exam question. The questions on the worksheet are often used in placement exams as well. In short, they are the kinds of questions that EFL/ESL students at a low level will encounter frequently.

4 WAYS TO USE THE WORKSHEET

1. To practise speaking in class

The worksheet can be used as a speaking activity by itself in class. Put students in pairs. One person asks a question and the other answers. They then switch roles. As the teacher, circulate and monitor. At the end, highlight any errors that you heard. With the two blank circles at the end, ask students to write their own questions to ask each other.

2. To review before a test/interview

Students can use this as a revision tool before a test. The procedure is the same as above, but emphasis should be now much more on accuracy. You could ask students to prepare the answers by writing them out and then doing them orally (referring to their notes only if necessary). Use the two blank circles at the end to write other questions that might come up in an interview.

3. To serve as a diagnostic test

The questions get progressively more difficult and cover a variety of different lexis commonly encountered at low levels. If you are asking the questions, make a note of the ones the students find difficult answering. Use the last two circles to write your own questions (perhaps covering past tense).

4. To practise grammar of questions

The second worksheet is the same as the first, except only key words are available to the reader. This worksheet could be used as #1 or 2 above, perhaps after students are familiar with answering the questions.

The ORAL INTERVIEW

Can you answer all the questions? Use this paper with a partner to practise.

What's
your
name?

Can you
spell
your
name?

Where
are you
from?

Where
do you
live?

What's
your
address?

What's
your
phone
number?

What
do you
do?

Are you
married?

Have you
got any
children?
How
many?

Tell me
about
your
family.

Do you live
in a house or
a flat? Can
you describe
it?

What time
is it?

What is
the date
today?

Can you
drive?

Can you
use a
computer?

How many
languages
can you
speak?

What are
you going
to do
tonight?

Describe
what I am
wearing.

The ORAL INTERVIEW

Can you answer all the questions? Use this paper with a partner to practise.

name?

spell
name?

Where /
from?

Where /
live?

What /
address?

What /
phone
number?

What /
do?

married?

children?
How
many?

Tell me
about
your
family.

House or
flat?
Can /
describe?

Time?

Date
today?

You
drive?

use a
computer?

How many
languages
speak?

What / you /
do /
tonight?

Describe
what I am
wearing.