



Video 2: How to Improve Fluency Score

Speak every day

Practice speaking without using prepared answers

Give a coherent and detailed answer:

Answer directly (opinion)

Explain (reasons/examples)

Relevance (相关性) - Answer question directly!

If you don't understand the question, or don't hear clearly, then check:

Sorry, I didn't quite catch that.

Sorry, please could you repeat that?

Can I just check, do you mean....?

Can I just check, is the question,?

I'm sorry, I'm not familiar with the word "...", could you rephrase it please?

Try to speak while you think, to prevent long pauses, for example:

“how can I put it?”

when you're thinking how to express yourself

“what's the word?”

when you're trying to think of a word

“what else?”

when you're thinking of more to say.



Video 3: How to Improve Vocabulary Score

Use as much variety as you can, not always the same words like “very” , “maybe”

Give details after using an adjective. For example:

“The traffic is really **bad** in my hometown, **so it takes ages to get anywhere!**”

“Buying stuff online is pretty **cheap**. **For example**, you can get a good pair of jeans for about 100 RMB on *Taobao*.”

Tips for using more vocabulary:

If you can only think of a basic adjective, you can put a high-level adverb before it!

“He is **incredibly** nice”

“The food is **extremely** good”

“The traffic is **unbelievably** bad”

Use the positive and negative / opposites when describing someone / something. For example:

“**He’s** a really nice guy. I mean, **he never** gets angry or shouts at people”

“**The buses are** really crowded, and **there are never** any free seats.”

“The weather’s really nice in my hometown, cos **it’s** sunny most of the time and **it doesn’t rain a lot.**”

Make a comparison:

“My mum’s a really good cook, **and I’d say her cooking is a lot better than most restaurants I’ve been to.**”

Show flexibility - If you can’t remember a word, try to describe it. For example:

“He’s very ...um....**what’s the word?...um... what I’m trying to say is that...** he’s a really good friend, because he’s always there for me, and helps me whenever I need it.”

Methods for learning and remembering vocab:

Use and say them as much as possible

Make your own vocab cards



Video 4: How to Improve Grammar Score

USE VARIETY OF GRAMMAR:

Pay attention to the kind of question asked – this tells you the grammar that the examiner is testing you on (see videos on answering different question types)

Useful sentence patterns

I'd say there are a number of differences/advantages/reasons....., one of which would be that.....
我觉得有很多 区别、优点、原因， 其中一个就是...

“which” – to add your opinion to something you’ve just said (用来回指前面句子表达的观点或状况)

“We can’t use mobile phones at school, **which I think is ridiculous.**”

“She got full marks in her Maths exam, **which is amazing!**”

“The whole meal only cost me 50 yuan, **which I thought was pretty good-value.**”

ACCURACY:

Be careful about the differences between Chinese and English grammar, for example:

e.g. “listen to” , “play with sth”

Plural 负数

“s” at end of most verbs for he/she/it

Although / even though, (still)..... (no “but”)

Past tense!

How to remember:

Practice saying them correctly every day so that they eventually become automatic!

Past tense exercise – at the end of each day, say everything you did, practicing the past tense.

Be your own teacher - record your answers and listen.

(See list of common mistakes and corrections for reference)



Video 5: How to Improve Pronunciation Score

Things to remember for good pronunciation:

1. English is spoken mainly at front of mouth, different to Chinese, which is mainly at back of mouth.

Examples: Do / to / you / so / no / yes I do / no I don't

2. Some words can be shortened and joined together with others when spoken

For example: I am → I'm / It is... → It's / my hometown is... → my hometown's a great city / there is a → there's a
to → "t"
for → "f"
and → "en"

3. Connect words smoothly when speaking:

If one word ends in a consonant and the next begins with one, the first is quieter, or even not heard

For example: it does / I don't know / I used to / it depends / basketball / football

If consonant is followed by vowel, they are joined together when speaking.

For example: and also / but if / if I / one of / a lot of / when I'm at home / wear it / there is / there are

If two vowels are together, a "w" or "y" sound can be added in between (to make it easier to say quickly)

For example: go out / do I / no I don't / two of / to a ("w" sound in the middle)

I am / he is / she isn't / three apples ("y" sound in the middle)

4. Intonation 语调

Vary the tone of your voice - Speak with feeling!

How to practice:

Listen to and imitate native English (films / TV series / interviews / talk shows / radio)

Record your voice, identify which areas don't sound right, and practice those sounds



Video 6: How to Structure your Answer

OPTIONAL

(Reaction to question):

That's a good question,
That's an interesting question
That's a tough/difficult question
I've never really thought about it before, but
Let me have a little think (repeat question to yourself)

Other useful phrases at beginning of answer:

Thinking about it,
Off the top of my head, (不经过仔细思考的话)
Generally speaking / In general / By and large / On the whole (总的来说)
It's hard to generalize, (很难概括)
To be (quite/totally) honest (with you) / In all honesty
Honestly/frankly speaking / To tell (you) the truth / (if) truth be told
Actually
Basically

IMPORTANT

Answer directly:

I would say (or "I'd say")
I think
In my opinion
In my view
From my point of view
I guess
I suppose



Explain - reason(s):

because / cos...
I mean...
because I mean...
due to the fact that...
and (I guess) the reason (for this) is that...
basically because...
mainly/primarily because...
the main reason being that...
simply because / for the simple fact that...
firstly because.....and also because...
partly because.....and also cos.....



Making additional point:

(So that's one thing,) And also...
(So that's one thing,) And as well as this,
Besides this,
In addition to this
And another thing I'd say is that.....

And/or example(s):

(so) for example/instance,
And just to give you an example,
And one example that comes to mind is...

Ending: to make it clear you've finished your answer)

So yeah, (所以嗯) ...
So yeah, I think.....
So yeah, I'd say.....
or:
So yeah, that's basically what I think. (所以嗯, 我基本上就这么认为)
So yeah, that's why I think.....

OPTIONAL



Video 7: How to Answer Yes / No Questions

Giving your opinion:

Yes I would say so / Yes I'd say so.

No, I wouldn't (really) say so.

Yeah, for sure.

Yeah, (most) definitely.

No, definitely not.

Repeat just the beginning of question – more natural than repeating everything:

Do you think...?

Are there many...?

Do you think globalization **is** good?

Do you think books **will** disappear in the future?

Do you think museums **should** be free?

Does advertising influence people's spending habits?

Can games help children become more intelligent?

Yes I do / No I don't

Yes, (I'd say) **there are**, No **there aren't**.

Yes, I'd say it **is** / No I wouldn't say it **is**

Yes, I'd say they **will** / No, I'd say they **won't**.

Yes, I think they **should (be)**

Yes, (I'd say) **it does** / No, I'd say it doesn't

Yes, I'd say they **can**.

Other words you can add to express the extent to which you think something:

probably / generally / definitely

Do you think books **will** disappear in the future?

Do you think museums **should** be free?

Are there any disadvantages to being famous?

Yes, I'd say **they probably will**

Yes, I think **they generally should be**.

Yeah, **there definitely are**.

Follow opinion with reasons and/or examples

Ways to finish:

So yeah, that's basically what I think.

So yeah, I'd say.....(repeat key point).

所以嗯，我基本上就这么认为。

所以嗯，我觉得...



Video 8: How to Answer “Do you like...?” Questions

Expressing how much you like something:

| | |
|---|---------|
| It's ok / It's ok I guess / I don't mind it | 还行吧 |
| I like... quite a lot | |
| I like... a lot | 很喜欢 |
| I really like... (not “very like”) | 非常喜欢 |
| I (really) love... | |
| I absolutely love... | 非常非常喜欢! |

Expressing how much you don't like something:

| | |
|--|---------|
| No, not really / not particularly | |
| No, I don't like that much | 我不是那么喜欢 |
| No, I don't like at all | 我根本不喜欢 |
| No, I really hate..... / I can't stand | 我受不了 |
| No, I absolutely hate..... | |

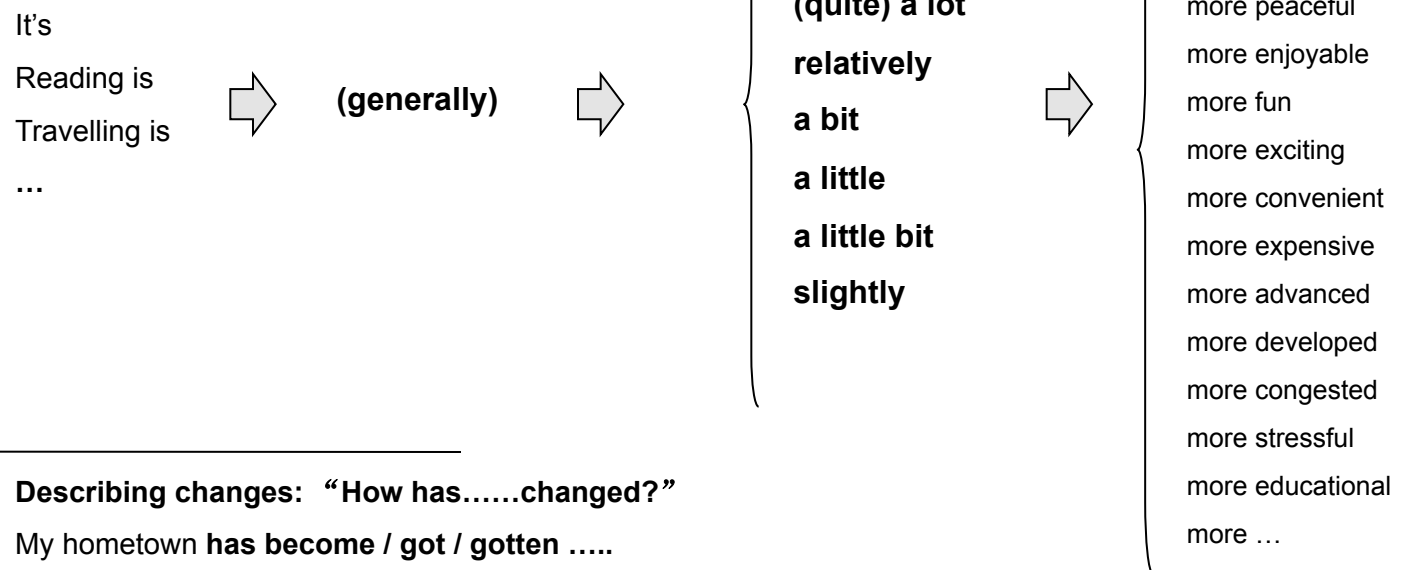
Giving reasons for liking / disliking something:

| | |
|--------------------------------------|-----------|
| I find it relaxing | 我觉得令人很放松的 |
| I find it fun / enjoyable | 我觉得很好玩 |
| I find it interesting / fascinating | 我觉得很有趣 |
| it helps me take my mind off things. | 让我忘掉我的担忧 |
| I find it boring | 我觉得很无聊 |
| I find it difficult | 我觉得很难 |
| I'm not (that) good at... | 我不擅长 |
| it's a lot of effort | 很麻烦 |
| it's too much effort | 太麻烦 |
| it's time-consuming | 很耗时 |



Video 9: Making Comparisons (1)

Which sounds better? – “Eating at home is cheaper than eating out.”
“Eating at home is **generally a lot** cheaper than eating out.”



Describing changes: “How has.....changed?”

My hometown **has become / got / gotten**

Films **have (generally) become / got**...

Or:

My hometown **is more....than it used to be.**

Films **are more...than they used to be.**

A is (generally) not as as B

*Example: Reading a book **is not as fun as** watching a film.*

*Reading a book **is no way near as fun as** watching a film*



Video 10: Making Comparisons (2)

A....., whereas (in contrast,) B..... A...而 (相对来说) B...

Good for comparing people: “Girls generally like shopping in their free time, whereas boys tend to prefer doing sport.”

Good for comparing past and present: “In the past, people used to spend a lot of time with their neighbours, whereas in contrast, nowadays people hardly spend any time with them.”

Answer structure:

Ways to begin:

I would say there are quite a few differences, one of which would be that...

I guess the main difference is that...

I guess one of the main differences would be that....

I suppose the biggest difference is that.....

我觉得有好几个区别，其中一个就是...

我觉得主要的区别是...

我觉得一个主要的区别就是...

Linking to next point:

(So that's one thing), and I guess another difference is that...

(So that's one difference), and as well as this, I suppose another would be that...

所以这是一点呢，然后我想另外一个区别就是...

Ending:

So (yeah) I would say these are (pretty much) the main differences.

So (yeah) I guess these would be the main differences.

I'm sure there are other differences, but right now this is all that comes to mind.

所以嗯，我觉得这些差不多应该是主要的区别吧。

肯定也有别的区别，但我现在只能想到这点。

Example 1: What are the differences in the music that young and old people listen to?

I suppose there are a number of differences, one of which would be that young people, on the whole, mainly like listening to pop music, whereas the older generation tend to prefer listening to more traditional music, like Chinese opera and old revolutionary songs. So that's one difference, and I guess another would be that young people often listen to Western music as well as Chinese music, whereas in contrast, I think it's fair to say that most elderly people just listen to Chinese music. So yeah I guess these would be the main differences.

Example 2: How have TV programs changed in China?

I would say that they've changed quite a lot. And to begin with, I guess one of the biggest changes would be that in the past, there used to be only a limited variety of programs, whereas nowadays, there is a much wider range of things on TV, such as talent and dating shows.



Video 11: How to Answer “Do you prefer ... or ...?” Questions

Expressing preferences:

I like.....more

I prefer to do sth / prefer doing sth.

To what extent do you prefer?

I far prefer 我绝对更喜欢...

I much prefer

I definitely prefer

I generally / normally prefer 我一般更喜欢...

On the whole I prefer 总的来说，我更喜欢...

I probably prefer

I slightly prefer 我稍微更喜欢...

I guess I prefer

I've never really thought about it, but I guess My preference would be

It depends:

if.....then

Would you prefer..?

你会更喜欢...还是...?

I would prefer.....

我会更喜欢....

Reasons:

make comparison



Video 12: How to Answer “How often...?” Questions

Be specific

Different ways to express how often:

pretty much every day

差不多每天

more or less every...

差不多每...

virtually / almost

几乎

a lot / quite a lot

not **that** often

不是很多

hardly every

几乎不

pretty much never (do something)

差不多不做

I don't at all

我根本不做...

I've never **actually** done sth.

其实我从来没有...

it kind of depends, cos if...,... but if..., then...

要看，因为如果..., ..., 但若果..., 那么...

Sounding more natural

You can use the following phrases to sound more natural:

probably (only) about

可能大概...

something like / roughly / around / about

大概...

on average, e.g. “on average about twice a month”

平均

You can use 2 numbers, e.g. “two or three times a week”

You can add “...or so” / “or something”, at the end e.g. “twice a year or so.”

左右



Video 13: How to Answer “When ...?” Questions

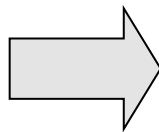
Remember past tense!

Don't say, “It's 3 years ago” , say, “It **was** 3 years ago.”

Different ways to express how long ago something happened:

Speaking Generally:

| | |
|---------------------------------|--------|
| it was ages ago | 很久以前 |
| it was a while ago | 很久以前 |
| it was quite a while ago | 比较久以前 |
| it was pretty recently | 最近 |
| it wasn't that long ago | 没那么久之前 |



Speaking Specifically:

| | |
|---|------------|
| It was about... (3 months)... ago . | |
| It must have been about ago. | 应该是...之前把。 |
| It was only about two weeks ago . | |
| It was when I was about five (years old). | |
| It must have been when I was about five. | |

In the future:

I'll **be** doing something **later** this week / month / year
I'll **be** doing something **sometime next** year/summer
I'll **be** doing something **in** about 8 months' **time**

Sounding more natural

You can use the following phrases to sound more natural:

| | |
|--|---------|
| probably (only) about | 可能大概... |
| something like / roughly / around / about | 大概... |
| on average, e.g. “on average about twice a month” | 平均 |
| You can use 2 numbers, e.g. “two or three times a week” | |
| You can add “...or so” / “or something”, at the end e.g. “twice a year or so.” | 左右 |



Video 14: How to Answer “What kinds of...?” Questions

With these questions, you have the opportunity to use your range of vocabulary for this topic

Use full sentences, don't just list things.

Useful phrases:

not that many, mainly just..... because.....

没那么多，主要只有...

all kinds of

各种各样的

a huge variety of

很多种

a wide variety of

很多种

quite a wide variety of

比较多种

a fairly broad range of

比较多种

what else...? Oh yeah, and also.....

还有什么？...啊对了，还有...

Finishing answer:

So yeah, I guess these would be the main ones.

所以嗯,我想这些应该是主要的

There are some other ones as well, but this is all I can think of right now.

也有别的,但我现在只能想到这些

If you want to make answer longer:

And out of these, I'd say the most..... is.....

然后在这些当中,我觉得最...是...



Video 15: How to Answer “Would you...?” Questions

Would you like to...?

Answer directly:

Yes I would. (*don't use “want”*)

Yes I would quite like to.

Yes I would really like to.

Yeah I would love to.

No I wouldn't.

No I wouldn't really like to.

No, definitely not.

Giving reason:

You can use conditional:

(可以用虚拟语气)

I think it would be fun

I think I would enjoy it

I don't think I would be good at it

...because if I did, I could... / I would be able to...

我觉得会很好玩的

我觉得我会很喜欢

我觉得我不会做得好

因为假如我说的话，我就能够.....

How to answer if question is: “If.....would you...?”

I might...

I would...

I would probably...

I would definitely...

Reason: I would be able to / I could...

Don't use “can” or “will”.



Video 16: Part 2: How to Give a High-Level Talk

Ways to begin:

- 1. **Ok, right then,** I'm going to describe... 好的,那么我要描述...
- 2. **Ok then,** well what I'm gonna talk about is... 好的,那么我要讲的是...
- 3. **Ok right then,** well the ...I'm going to talk about is...(e.g. **"The time I'm going to talk about is when I was late for an exam"**)
- 4. **Ok,** well after a bit of thought, what I've decided to talk about is... 好的, 那么经过了一点思考之后呢, 我决定讲的是...
- 5. **Ok,** well the firstthat came to mind when I saw this topic was..., so that's what I'm going to talk (to you) about.
- 6. **Well,** there are actually quite a few....., but probably the most..... is....., so that's what I've decided to talk about.

LINKING PHRASES:

| | | | | |
|--|---------------------|--------------------------|--|----------|
| 然后呢, | 至于 | 我做了什么、跟谁去呢、为什么... | 首先呢、简单的说呢、其实、就像我刚才所说的..... | |
| And | As for | what we did, | (well) firstly,,,, | |
| So | Regarding | when it happened, | (well) I guess..... | |
| (But) Anyway | | where it was, | (well) basically, | 基本上、简单地说 |
| | | who I went with, | (well) in a nutshell, | 简单地说, |
| | | why I think..... | (well) if I remember correctly, | 如果没记错的话, |
| | | how I felt, | (well) to be honest, | |
| | Moving on to | | (well) thinking about it, | |
| | In terms of | | (well) as I just mentioned, | 就像我刚才所说的 |
| Example: | | | | |
| “ And in terms of how I felt about it, well basically, I just felt pretty frustrated, because there was absolutely nothing I could do about it!” 至于我有什么感受呢, 简单地说, 我只感到了很懊恼, 因为实在没有办法。 | | | | |

Ending:

- Ok, that's about all 好的, 大概就这样。
- Ok, I guess that's about it. 好的, 我想, 大概就这样了。
- Ok, that's pretty much it. 好的, 差不多就这样。
- Ok, I think that's pretty much all there is to say, so thanks for listening. 好的, 该说的差不多就这些, 谢谢。

Video 17: How to Answer Advantages / Disadvantages Questions



If question asks for advantages AND disadvantages:

Beginning your answer:

I think (it's fair to say that) there are a number of pros and cons.

In terms of the advantages, ...

Looking at the advantages,

我觉得可以，说有好几个优点和缺点。

至于优点呢

如果看优点呢，

If you have another point:

As well as this, (I guess) another advantage is that.....

此外呢，我想，另外一个优点就是...

Moving to the Disadvantages:

Going on to the drawbacks, well first of all, ...

Regarding the drawbacks, well firstly,.....

关于缺点呢，首先，...

Ending:

But/So (I guess), all in all, I would say that the advantages outweigh the disadvantages.

总的来说，我觉得优点多于缺点。

If question just asks for benefits or drawbacks:

I would say there are quite a few benefits/drawbacks, of which one would be that.....

Well, (to begin with), one of the (main) advantages/disadvantages would be that.....

我觉得有好几个优点，其中一个就是...

首先呢，一个主要的优点就是...

Useful phrases:

"... is/are a good/great/fun way to..."

E.g. "Playing games is a fun way (in which) to learn things"

"... can help improve/enhance/develop yourskills." E.g. "Playing sports like basketball can help **improve** your teamwork **skills**"

Full Example: What are the advantages and disadvantages of television?

Well I suppose there are a number of pros and cons. And looking at the benefits, I would say that, firstly, television provides us with a lot of entertainment, like showing sports games and things. And as well as this, another good thing about TV is that many programs are educational, like documentaries for example. So there's a lot we can learn through watching TV. Going on to the drawbacks, well I guess the main one is that watching TV tends to be quite addictive, so it's easy to spend several hours a day watching it. But, all in all, I would say that the advantages outweigh the disadvantages.

Explain each advantage/disadvantage instead of just listing them.

Can make a comparison – E.g. "Buying things online is generally cheaper than buying things in the shops."

Video 18: How to Answer Questions that Require Making Suggestions



E.g. “**How** could your hometown be improved?”

Beginning Answer:

I guess there are a number of things that could be done (, one of which would be to...) 我觉得有几件事情可以做，其中一个就是...
I suppose ... could in a number of ways. **e.g. “I suppose my hometown **could be improved in a number of ways.**”**

Giving first idea/suggestion:

we could...

one thing we could do would be to...

one thing could be to.....

one thing (that could be done) would be to...

one possibility might be to...

一件我们可以做的事情就是...

E.g. “**One thing (that could be done) would be to** increase the number of walking streets.”

Or you can use the passive:

First of all, I guess the number of walking streets **could be increased**

首先呢，我觉得步行街的数量可以提高。

Explaining your idea:

Because in so doing,

Because by doing that,.....

Because then.....

Because at the moment,

因为这样做,....

因为目前,...

If you have another suggestion:

(So that's one thing,) and maybe another possibility might be to.....

Another thing that could be done would be to...

Another thing could be to.....

(所以这是一点呢)，然后另外个可能是...
另外可以做的事情就是...

Ending:

So (yeah), that's basically what I think.

所以嗯，我基本上就这么认为。

(I'm sure there are other things that could also be done but) this is pretty much all I can think of right now



Video 19: How to Answer Questions about the Future

Basic Method:

I thinkwill.....

I think junk food **will** be less popular in the future.

Higher-Level Method 1:

I think it's possible that ... will ...

I think it's (very) likely that.....will.....

I think, in all likelihood,will...

I think **it's possible that** junk food **will** be less popular in the future.

我觉得有可能...会...

我觉得很有可能...会...

我觉得十有八九,...会...

Higher-Level Method 2:

I think..... will probably...

will likely...

will definitely ...

我觉得...可能会...

我觉得...很有可能会...

我觉得...一定会...

I think junk food **will likely** be less popular in the future.

Explain reason

Linking to Another Point:

(So that's one thing), and **I imagine it's also quite possible that...might...**

Another thing which could/might happen is that....will...

所以这是一点呢，然后我觉得也有可能...会...

另外可能会发生的事情就是...会...

Ending:

Of course other things might happen, but right now this is all that comes to mind. 当然别的事情也会发生，但我现在只能想到这点。

Useful phrases:

...will get better / will get worse.

Peoples living standards are getting higher and higher

Land resources are becoming more and more limited

...will become more computer-based / technology-based

In the future, we will be able to..... (not “we can”)

会变得更好、会变得更差

人的生活水平越来越高

土地资源越来越有限

会变得更以电脑为主、以技术为主