

RELIGIOUS / CULTURAL FESTIVALS

ACTIVE LISTENING GAME

In the Speaking and Listening assessment you will have a conversation with a partner. Each person needs to ask questions as well as answer them. The conversation should be a two-way discussion, with both partners contributing equally.

Active listening is more than just sitting quietly whilst the other person talks. It is listening to what your partner is saying and responding to what she has said with a question or comment that moves the conversation forward.

To practice this, we shall play a game and as with all games, there are specific rules you need to follow to make the game work.

1. Choose a partner. It will be best if your partner comes from a different country to you.
2. Choose between you who is going to be partner A and who will be partner B.
3. Partner B decides which festival she is going to talk about, such as Christmas, Eid, New Year or any other.
4. Partner A is the Listener. You may only ask questions. You are the leader of the team.

5. Partner B is the speaker. You may only answer questions. You may only answer the question put to you and you may not wander off the subject or add extra information that wasn't asked for in the question.

So, A asks a question such as: "When do you celebrate the festival of Christmas?" and B answers: "In my country Christmas Day is 25th of December but the most important time is Christmas Eve". A then asks a question to build on what B has said, such as: "So what do you do on Christmas Eve?" and B can now tell more of the story.

6. If A is asking good questions, B should be doing most of the talking.
7. After ten minutes, you swap over and B asks the questions and A answers.
8. After ten more minutes, you all change partners and repeat. This time you will know better what kind of questions you want to ask.