



Let's Talk!

**Preparation for FETAC ESOL Level 4
Speaking**

Welcome to 'Let's Talk'

This booklet is designed to get learners speaking.

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Myself, My Home

What is your full name?

Where do you live?

I live in _____

Do you like living in _____?

Yes, I do. ❶ / No, I don't. ❷ / That's difficult to answer. ❸



What do you like about living in _____?

❶ Well, I like living in _____ because...

- ...for the most part, the locals are friendly.
- ...there are a lot of things to do.
- ...the public transport is great.
- ...it's full of shops.
- ...it's near the city centre.
- ...it's in the country and I like that.
- ...there is a playground for my children.
- ...there are schools.
- ...there is a swimming pool.
- ...it's a quiet area.
- ...it's a lively place.
- ...it's very picturesque.
- ...the buildings are nice.
- ...it's a historical area.
- ...the nightlife is good.
- ...there's a great community spirit.
- ...it's a bustling town.





What do you not like about living in_____?

② Well , I don't like living there,
because...

...it's a very rundown area.

...there is a lot of vandalism.

...it's an unfriendly / hostile place.

...there is a big drug problem.

...there is a lot of violence around.

...a lot of joyriding goes on.

...there are a lot of burglaries in the area.

...there are few facilities.

...there are not many shops.

...it's an awkward / difficult place to get to. There is only one bus that goes there.

...it's a dormitory town, there is nothing for people to do.

So, you have mixed feelings about your area?

③ Yes, There are plusses and minuses (advantages and disadvantages / pros and cons) to living there.



On the plus side it...
On the minus side it ...

What kind of accommodation do you live in?

I live in ...

... a bed-sit	... a flat	... an apartment	... a council house
... a terraced house	... a semi-detached house	... a detached house	
... a cottage	... shared accommodation in a house	... a bungalow	
... a caravan	... a mobile home	... a hostel	

How many rooms do you have?

There are _____ rooms in my _____.

There is / are...

... 1 / 2 / 3 / 4 / 5 ...bedrooms (single / double / twin)		
... a bathroom en suite to the master bedroom	... a conservatory	
... a large / medium sized /small kitchen	... a toilet downstairs / upstairs	
... a sitting room / living room	... a large / small hallway	
... a box room / store room	... an attic	... a basement

Describe one of the rooms to me? (Tell me about one of the rooms?)

Well, the _____ room is ...

... big / small	... painted blue / green / pink / cream / yellow, etc.
... a long room / square shaped room.	
There is a _____ in it.	
Above / below / beside the _____ there is a _____.	

Who lives beside you? (Who are your neighbours?)

My neighbours are...

... students ... a young couple ... an old married couple
... a middle aged couple with ___ kids ... a single man ... a single woman

What are they like?

They are...

... friendly / unfriendly ... helpful / unhelpful ... kind
... always fighting ... very neat and tidy ... active / sporty
... nice, they always say hello ... chatty ... respectable ... suspicious

Food

Do you cook?

Well, sometimes / No , never / At the weekend...

What kind of food do you like?

I like ...



... plain food (meat and 2 veg) no sauces ... spicy food, really hot
... French food with the rich cream sauces ... Italian food, pastas and lasagne
... food from my country ... potatoes ... rice ... pasta ... salads ... stews

What do you normally have for breakfast?

For breakfast, I have ...

... tea and toast ... just coffee (espresso / white coffee / black coffee)
... juice (orange / apple / pineapple) ... scrambled eggs on toast
... a sandwich ... cereal (cornflakes / weetabix / muesli / porridge
... a full Irish breakfast (sausages, eggs, bacon, tomato, beans, mushrooms..)

What do you have for lunch?

For lunch, I have...

... a sandwich ... a full meal (for example...) ... a salad ... some fruit

What do you have for dinner?

For dinner, I have...

... meat and 2 veg ... fish as often as I can ... couscous with lamb
... whatever my wife / husband / partner cooks ... fast food (pizzas /
kebabs..)

Do you usually have food from your own country?

Yes, I do. / No, I don't / Sometimes , I do. / At the weekends, I do.

Shopping

Do you like shopping?

Yes, I do. Because.... ① No, I don't because.... ②

- ① ... it's fun. ... it makes me happy when I'm sad.
... I like to look for new clothes. ... I like finding bargains.
... it gets me out of the house.
... it is a chance to talk in English.



- ② ... it's boring. ... I have better things to do. ... my wife / husband does it.
... it's too much hassle/ bother / trouble. ... I hate shopping centres.
...there are too many people pushing and shoving.

Where do you go shopping?

Well, if I'm shopping for clothes, I go to...

- ... Stephen's Green Shopping Centre ...the Jervis Centre
... Blanchardstown Shopping Centre ... Liffey Valley Shopping Centre
...Dundrum Shopping centre ...
Warehouse / A Wear / Monsoon / Penneys / Dunnes Stores / Arnotts / Clerys
TKMAXX / Champion Sports

What do like buying most of all?

That's hard to say but I do enjoy buying...

- ...suits ...dresses ...shirts ...handbags ...shoes ...jeans
...belts ...trainers ...tracksuits ...underwear ...jackets ...hats
...makeup ...t shirts ...jewellery ...earrings ...bracelets ...rings ...necklaces
...compact discs ...games ...DVDs ...books ...magazines

Where do you buy food?

If I'm shopping for food, I like to go to...

...Dunnes Stores	...Lidl	...Superquinn	...Tesco	...Aldi
...the local grocery shops				

Why do you shop in _____?



Well, I shop in _____ because.....

...the food is good quality.	...the staff are friendly.
...it's cheap / inexpensive.	... it's close by / it's near my house.
...they have a wide range of products.	...I like the _____ there.

Who does the shopping in your home? (this means for groceries)

I do	/	My wife does	/	My husband does	/
I do the shopping with _____					

Travel, Public Transport

How do you come to class?

I come by bus / dart / train / car. / I walk.



How long does the journey take, to come here?

Oh, about _____ on a good day, but maybe _____ on a bad day.

Is there a lot of traffic on the road when you are coming to class?

Well, that depends on.....

...the day of the week ...the weather ...whether the schools are off.

...the area / street ...traffic black spots like..

Are you happy with the public transport where you live?

Yes, because...

...we have the bus / the train / the Luas.

...we have a very frequent bus service.

...we have the Dart and that goes every 5 minutes in the morning.

No, because....

... I live in _____ and there is only one bus that goes there.

...I live in _____ and we only have the suburban train which is always packed.

...I always have to stand up on the _____ because it is always crowded.

...the _____ only goes to _____ and then I have to take a _____.

Learning English



What time does your class start and finish?

My class start**S** at _____ and finish**ES** at _____

How long have you been studying here?

I have been studying here for _____ years

I have been studying here since _____ (date)

Do you like studying English?

Yes, I do,

because...

...it's important for my future life in Ireland ...it's fun and interesting

...I want to integrate into Irish life and learning English helps me to do that

...I meet new people and make new friends

but

...I find the listening / speaking / writing / reading / spelling / pronunciation /
grammar difficult

How will English help you in the future?

Well, I will need English to work here and I want to be a _____

I'm doing a course in _____ after this course and I need English to study it.

Daily Routines



What time do you usually get up?

I get up at (around)	7 am	7.15 am	
	8 am	8.30 am	
	9 am	10.20 am	...

What time do you normally go to bed?

Well, I normally go to bed at around....	9 pm / 10.30pm / 11pm
	midnight ...

What do you do at the weekends?

At the weekend, I usually ...	get up at _____
	have breakfast at _____
	go to the city centre to
	go to the cinema.
	visit my friends.
	bring my kids to the playground.

What did you do yesterday?

Well, I ...

ate

drank

drove to

saw

played

had

went to

sang

visited

watched

listened to

got

revised

studied

bought

looked after

dropped by

travelled to

met up with

helped

came across

chatted with

looked after

took

lazed around

wrote to

played with

listened to

fixed

worked on

practised

did the..

cleaned

organised

stayed indoors

Free Time – TV, Radio, Music

What do you like doing in your free time? What are your hobbies?

Well, I like ...

gardening	sewing	dressmaking	knitting	playing cards
fishing	dancing	sailing	listening to music	painting
knitting	playing piano / guitar / drums / football with my friends.....			
	star gazing	doing DIY jobs		

Do you like television?

Yes, I love telly /TV/ television.

Not really but I like watching_____



What do you watch on TV? What kinds of programmes?

Well, I like watching...

sports programmes	documentaries	films	the news
the history channel	National Geographic	the biography channel	nature programmes
soap operas	romantic films	comedies	horror films
	thrillers		

How often do you watch telly?

Well, I usually watch telly...

... for _____ hours every night.
... only at the weekend.
... only if there's a good programme on.

What language do you watch telly in?

I watch it in _____

Is watching television good for learning English?

Yes, I think so, because... No, I don't think so, because...

Do you listen to the radio?



Where do you listen to the radio? / How long do you listen to the radio for?

Well, I listen to the radio on the dart / bus / train (at home) and I listen to it for..... a day

Do you like music?

Yes, I do. No, I don't.



What kind of music do you like?

I like traditional music / jazz music / rock music / country / heavy metal ...

Tell me about music in your country?

In my country we have _____ music .

The traditional instruments are _____.

Free Time - Travel



What countries have you been to, so far?

I've been to...

...Italy ...France ...Spain ...Germany Belgium ... England

What cities did you visit when you were in _____?

I visited _____ and I stayed in _____.

Which country did you prefer?

My favourite country is _____ because ...

...it's beautiful ...the people are really friendly ...they are very chatty
...the people there are very helpful ...there are loads of things to do
...the food is delicious ...they have great festivals
....the lifestyle is very relaxed ...they work hard there
...they are very child friendly / they love kids
...it's a child friendly society they have a great music scene
...I love the language ...they are very tolerant
...it is very multicultural ...the climate is great ...the nightlife is fantastic

Free Time – Reading, Cinema

Do you like reading?

Yes / No / Sometimes

What books do you like reading?

I like reading...

...thrillers ...romantic ...novels ...history books ...newspapers
...magazines ...horror stories ...poetry ...plays



How often do you read?

Every day / once a week / at the weekend

What do you read in English?

I read newspapers / magazines / novels ...

Do you go to the cinema?

What kind of films do you like?

I like ... action / adventure / romantic / horror films.

Tell me about a film that you have seen in English.



My Country

What is the most famous festival in your country?

It's _____

When do you celebrate it?

We celebrate it in _____

What clothes do the people wear?

The men wear _____, the women wear _____, and the children wear _____.

Do all the family celebrate the festival?

What are the big differences between your country and Ireland?

What did you used to do when you lived in your country?

Talk about things that have changed in your life?

Well, when I lived in _____, I used to...

....ride a bike everywhere	...walk to work / school	...go to music lessons
d to do ballet	...do gymnastics
....eat a lot of _____go to my friend's / aunt's / _____house everyday	...play football
...go to a restaurant at the weekend with my family	...study_____	
...drink_____	...go on holidays to_____	

Future Plans

What would you like to do in the future?

I'd like to work as a _____

I'd like to learn.....

...hairdressing ... health and beauty ...business and English
...architectural draughting ...nursing ...dentistry ...childcare
...motor mechanics ... construction ...medicine ... CAD
...computer maintenance ...to be a warehouse operative
...to be a forklift driver ...to be a taxi driver / a bus driver

And where can you learn _____ ?

You can learn _____ in ...



VEC colleges



The National
College
of Art & Design



Practice Dialogue 1 - Telling A Garda That Your Bag Was Stolen

Good morning officer, I'd like report that somebody stole my bag.

Right and when did this happen?

Well, I was walking along O'Connell street just a few minutes ago when a man grabbed my bag and ran away.

Ok, and what did he look like?

Well, he was small, with brown hair and a tattoo on his face.

And what was in the bag?

I had 30 euro, my driving licence, my passport , my watch and other small things. But what I'm really worried about, is that my house keys were also in the bag

And what's your name please?

My name is Marianna del Pino.

Sorry, how do you spell that?

That's M..A..R..I..A..N..N..A D..E..L P..I..N..O

That's great and what is your address and telephone number?

My address is..... and my telephone number is

Alright, we'll have to ask you a few more questions. Can you wait for a few minutes. There's a seat over there. I won't be long.

Yes, thank you.

Practice Dialogue 2 - Making An Appointment To See The Doctor

Good morning, I'd like to make an appointment to see Doctor Ryan.

Right and what seems to be the problem?

Well, I have been feeling very tired and dizzy for the last few days.

Ok, and have you seen Doctor Ryan before?

No, I haven't / Yes, I have actually.

And what's your name please?

My name is Marianna del Pino.

Sorry, how do you spell that?

That's M..A..R..I..A..N..N..A D..E..L P..I..N..O

That's great, and what is your address, telephone number, and date of birth?

My address is..... and my telephone number is and my date of birth is.....

Alright, well I can give you an appointment for Thursday at 2pm if that suits?

I'm sorry but I can't go in the afternoon because I have my English class.

Ok, how about on Thursday morning at 10am?

Yes, that's perfect. Oh, and I have a medical card.

That's fine.

Practice Dialogue 3 - Buying A Plane Ticket

Good morning, I'd like to know the price of a return / single ticket to...

Right and when do you want to go and come back?

Well, I'd like to leave Dublin on Saturday the of and come back on the ...

Ok, and would you prefer morning afternoon or evening flights?

Oh, the cheapest one

Ha, ha. Now there is one leaving Dublin on Saturday at 10am. Is that ok?

Yes that's fine. What time does it get to?

It arrives at and there is a return flight leavingfor Dublin at

That's perfect and how much is it for return ticket?

It'sEuro with the airport taxes

That's great. I'd like to book that now please

Ok, and what is your name please

My name is Marianna del Pino

Sorry, how do you spell that?

That's M..A..R..I..A..N..N..A D..E..L P..I..N..O

That's great and what is your address ,telephone number and date of birth?

My address is..... and my telephone number is and my date of birth is.....

Alright, and what is your passport number?

My passport number is

And how would you like to pay for your ticket?

In cash / by credit card , etc....

Lovely, there are your tickets. You are leaving Dublin airport at..... Enjoy your visit.

Thanks. Bye.

Teacher's Notes

This booklet can be used in different ways, depending on the learner's level.

Can be used...



- As an ice-breaker.
- As practice for the interview section of FETAC Language Level 4 award.
- As consolidation for structures that have already been taught in class.
- To expand the learners' vocabulary.
- To continue the process of learners thinking about their future.
- To encourage learners to take notes.
- To check learners formulation of well structured questions and answers.

Sample approach

Learners go through sections of the booklet in pairs with a dictionary - taking notes – of new vocabulary, expressions, phrasal verbs, etc.

Feedback at end of each section with teacher.

One learner is then designated as interviewer and the other as interviewee. Interviewer uses booklet to ask questions and takes notes.

Teacher should emphasise that learners should give grammatically correct answers by giving some examples - 'What countries have you been to so far? **'Well, I've been to...'** Not **'I go to.....'**

Teacher should emphasise that when giving answers, **learners use new vocabulary, where appropriate.**

Prior to interview, interviewers should be **encouraged to prompt** interviewee. For example, a learner answers that s/he likes living in his / her area because its nice and the people are friendly.

Interviewer then prompts: 'And is it a lively area?' 'Is there a good community spirit?' etc.

As **writing practice**, learners can reconstruct interviewee's story from notes. Learners and teacher check work using correction code