

Speaking Task 1 – Alternate

Have a friendly conversation with a classmate about a fun day

Options

Options for any class

- Make video or audio recordings of the task (Video cameras and easy to use Micro-Track mp3 recorders are available at PFC and Machida.)
- Ask students to bring in photos to support the discussion.
- Assess students in threes rather than pairs.

Options for low level or reluctant classes

- Allow students to use very limited note cards as a support (i.e., a maximum of 10 words on a card.)
- Test students more privately, not in front of the class. Use the FLSC which has two rooms or take students out in the hallway two-by-two.
- Reduce the number of possible topics to two.
- If many students are unreliable or unhelpful partners, consider using the same preparation, tasks, and structure, but interview the students rather than observing them in pairs.

Options for high level or very communicative classes

- Ask students to generate topics
- Add a follow-up short written summary of the conversation as a comprehension check
- Self-assessment or peer assessment
- Hand out holiday postcards or interesting photos as prompts for imaginative conversations about invented holidays or fun days.

Extensions

- Watch videos or listen to audio recordings after the assessed task.
- Have a contest: Ask the class to vote on the best pair of students.
- Ask students to transcribe all of a short conversation, or a brief excerpt of a longer conversation. Be careful not to make this too time consuming. Keep it very brief!