

Brainstorming useful phrases for C2 Proficiency Speaking Part 3

Write as many suitable phrases as you can for communicating in Speaking Part 3.

Checking what you should speak about

Starting your answer without any silence/ Thinking aloud/ Reacting to the question

Weak language

Strong language

Answering “How (much/ adjective)...?” questions/ Answering “To what extent...?” questions (adverbs of degree/ amounts, etc)

Talking about importance

Looking at both sides

Comparing/ Contrasting

Giving reasons/ Cause and effect

Moving onto another sub-topic (on the topic card or your own idea)

Compare as a class or with the suggested answers.

Suggested answers

Many other phrases are possible, so please check if you wrote something different.

Checking what you should speak about

Sorry, before I start, can I ask a question?

Sorry, can I just check one thing about the task?

Sorry, can I check the meaning of this word here?

Can I (also) talk about...?

Does... mean (that I should talk about)...?

Does... count as...?/ Does... include...?

Starting your answer without any silence/ Thinking aloud/ Reacting to the question

The question is...

That's an interesting question.

That's a tough one.

My (initial) answer to this question is...

The first thing that comes to mind when I think about this question is...

For me, personally,...

I guess I'd say that...

Weak language

I've never really thought about this before, but...

I'm no expert on this, but...

It's difficult to say for sure, but...

I might have a different answer if I had more time to think about it/ if I did some research on this, but...

I suppose/ I guess/ I reckon...

On the whole,...

In general,...

Strong language

I don't think there's any doubt that...

I think everyone/ most people would agree that...

Obviously

Clearly

I always find that...

To be honest/ Frankly,...

Answering "How (much/ adjective)...?" questions/ Answering "To what extent...? questions (adverbs of degree/ amounts, etc)

absolutely/ completely/ totally

incredibly/ extremely/ so/ a huge amount

very/ a lot/ a large amount

fairly/ quite a lot/ a considerable amount

not very/ not much/ a small amount/ slightly

completely un.../ not... at all

Talking about importance

vital/ essential/ crucial (for/ to...)
serves a certain purpose
... doesn't matter (at all/ much)

Looking at both sides

On the other hand,.../ On the other side of the coin,...
pros – cons
advantage – disadvantage
plus point – minus point
positive point – negative point
benefit – drawback
(unique) selling point/ USP

Comparing/ Contrasting

... is far/ much/ a lot more... than...
... is considerably/ substantially/ quite a lot... than...
... is slightly/ a bit/ a little more... than...
... In (complete) contrast,.../... whereas...
Compared to...,....
Comparing... and...,....
I (much) prefer... to...

Giving reasons/ Cause and effect

This is because...
This is due to...
The (chief/ main) reason for this is...
... drives... to...
motivated by...
spurred on by...
made to... by...
forced to... by...
... (inevitably) leads to/ results in...
... causes... (to...)
As a consequence/ result of this,...

Moving onto another sub-topic (on the topic card or your own idea)

(And) looking at.../ As for...
(And) if we think about...
In addition, we need to consider...
... is connected to... as well.
What are the other topics? Oh, yes,...
What else can I talk about? Well, I suppose we also need to take... into account.
And about.../ I'd also like to talk about...
We also mustn't forget...
Another important factor is...
(NOT *By the way*... X)