Date:



Background information

Use the following text as background information on the topic of your dialogue. Carefully read the text and mark or write down any relevant information. This information is meant both for you and your dialogue partner.

Autism

Introduction

Autism, or Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), is a developmental disorder that affects communication and behavior. It is known as a "spectrum" disorder because there is a wide range of symptoms and severity. Understanding autism is important for creating inclusive environments and supporting individuals with autism effectively.

Symptoms and Characteristics

Autism is characterized by difficulties in social interaction, communication challenges, and a tendency to engage in repetitive behaviors. Some common symptoms include:

- Difficulty with verbal and non-verbal communication: Individuals with autism may struggle to understand and use spoken language, gestures, facial expressions, and body language.
- Repetitive behaviors: These can include repeated movements, activities, or routines, such as hand-flapping, rocking, or lining up objects.
- Social challenges: People with autism might find it hard to make friends, understand social cues, and engage in typical social interactions.
- Sensory sensitivities: Individuals may be overly sensitive or under-sensitive to sensory stimuli, such as sounds, lights, textures, and tastes.

Causes and Diagnosis

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The exact cause of autism is not known, but it is believed to involve a combination of genetic and environmental factors. Some risk factors include:

- Family history: Having a family member with autism increases the likelihood.
- Genetic mutations: Certain genetic changes may contribute to the development of autism.
- Environmental factors: Exposure to certain environmental factors during pregnancy may increase the risk.

Autism is usually diagnosed in early childhood. Diagnosis involves observing the child's behavior and development, and may include:

• Developmental screenings: Regular screenings during check-ups can help identify early signs.

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Comprehensive evaluations: Specialists such as pediatricians, psychologists, and speech therapists conduct detailed assessments.

Support and Treatment

While there is no cure for autism, various treatments and interventions can help individuals manage symptoms and improve their quality of life. Some common approaches include:

- Behavioral therapy: Techniques such as Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) help improve communication, social skills, and behavior.
- Speech therapy: This can assist individuals in developing better communication skills.
- Occupational therapy: Helps individuals with autism develop daily living skills and manage sensory sensitivities.
- Educational support: Tailored educational programs and support can enhance learning and development.

Living with Autism

Living with autism can present unique challenges, but with the right support, individuals can lead fulfilling lives. Key aspects include:

- Family support: Families play a crucial role in providing emotional and practical support.
- Inclusive education: Schools should offer inclusive environments that cater to the needs of students with autism.
- Social inclusion: Encouraging participation in social activities helps individuals with autism build relationships and social skills.
- Advocacy: Promoting awareness and understanding of autism can lead to better support and acceptance in society.

Famous Individuals with Autism

Many individuals with autism have made significant contributions in various fields. Some notable examples include:

- Temple Grandin: A renowned animal behavior expert and autism advocate.
- Satoshi Tajiri: The creator of Pokémon, who has shared his experiences with autism.
- Susan Boyle: A singer who gained fame on "Britain's Got Talent" and has been open about her autism diagnosis.

Conclusion

Understanding autism is essential for fostering inclusive communities and providing effective support. By recognizing the symptoms, causes, and treatments, we can better support individuals with autism in their daily lives. With continued advocacy and awareness, society can become more accepting and accommodating of neurodiversity.

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Notes

Use this space to take notes.

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Guide to participating in a dialogue

Carefully read the following guide to participating in a dialogue.

Guide to participating in a dialogue

Introduction:

Participating in a dialogue for an oral exam involves not just expressing your own thoughts, but also actively listening to your partner, engaging in meaningful conversation, and demonstrating your understanding of the topic. This guide will help you navigate the dialogue effectively, ensuring you cover important aspects such as greetings, small talk, agreeing or disagreeing respectfully, and concluding the conversation.

Step-by-Step Guide:

1. Beginning the Dialogue:

- **Start with Greetings and Small Talk:** Begin the conversation with a friendly greeting and a bit of small talk to create a comfortable atmosphere.
- Example: "Hi, how are you doing today? Are you ready for the exam?"

2. Initial Observation:

- **Introduce the Topic:** Start by mentioning the main topic or subject of the dialogue. Give a general overview to set the stage for the discussion.
- Example: "Today, we will be discussing the impact of social media on teenagers."

3. Detailed Discussion:

- **Present Your Points:** Share your thoughts on the topic, providing specific examples and details to support your points.
- Example: "I believe social media has both positive and negative effects. On the one hand, it allows us to stay connected with friends and family. On the other hand, it can lead to issues like cyberbullying and addiction."
- Listen Actively: Pay attention to what your partner is saying. Show that you are listening by nodding, making eye contact, and responding appropriately.

4. Contextual and Background Knowledge:

- **Incorporate Relevant Information:** Relate the discussion to relevant historical, cultural, or social knowledge. This shows your understanding of the broader context.
- Example: "Historically, social interactions were limited to face-to-face meetings or phone calls. The advent of social media has revolutionized the way we communicate, especially among teenagers."

5. Agreeing or Disagreeing Respectfully:

Express Agreement or Disagreement: Politely agree or disagree with your partner's points, providing reasons for your stance.

• Example: "I see your point about social media being a useful tool for communication. However, I disagree that it is entirely beneficial because it can also lead to mental health issues."

6. Personal Reaction and Reflection:

- **Share Your Personal Views:** Reflect on the topic and share your personal experiences or opinions. This adds depth to the conversation.
- Example: "From my own experience, I find that spending too much time on social media can be distracting. It's important to find a balance."

7. Connecting to Broader Themes:

- **Relate to Larger Issues:** Connect the discussion to broader themes or issues such as societal changes, technological advancements, or ethical considerations.
- Example: "Our discussion also touches on the broader issue of how technology is shaping our lives and the need for responsible usage."

8. Conclusion:

- **Summarize and Conclude:** End the dialogue by summarizing the main points discussed and providing a concluding statement.
- Example: "In conclusion, while social media has transformed the way we communicate, it is essential to be aware of both its advantages and potential drawbacks."

9. Final Greetings:

- End with Polite Farewells: Conclude the conversation with polite farewells to leave a positive impression.
- Example: "Thank you for the insightful discussion. Good luck with the rest of your exams!"

10. Behavior Towards Each Other:

- Respectful Interaction: Always be respectful and courteous towards your partner. Avoid interrupting and allow them to finish their points before responding.
- Active Listening: Show that you are actively listening by making eye contact, nodding, and providing feedback.
- Constructive Feedback: When disagreeing, do so politely and constructively. Focus on discussing ideas rather than criticizing the person.
- Encouragement: Encourage your partner by acknowledging their good points and building on their ideas.

11. Practice and Preparation:

- Practice Dialogues: Regularly practice dialogues with classmates or friends using this guide.
- Expand Your Knowledge: Read up on various topics to enhance your background knowledge and be prepared for different subjects.
- Seek Feedback: Share your dialogues with teachers or peers to get feedback and improve.

By following these steps and emphasizing respectful interaction, you will be well-prepared to participate effectively in dialogues for your oral exams.

Key Points to Remember:

Start with greetings and small talk. Provide a general overview of the topic. Share detailed points and listen actively. Incorporate contextual and background knowledge. Agree or disagree respectfully. Share personal reactions and reflections. Connect the discussion to broader themes. Summarize and conclude the dialogue. End with polite farewells. Good luck with your studies and your exams!

Grammar

There are no specific guidelines for grammar that you have to follow when performing your dialogue but make sure to use tenses correctly, as well as the appropriate grammatical phrases.

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Vocabulary

Use the following list of vocabulary as a help for your dialogue.

Vocabulary list for dialogues

- first of all zunächst einmal
- in my opinion meiner Meinung nach
- on the one hand einerseits
- on the other hand andererseits
- furthermore außerdem
- for instance zum Beispiel
- what do you think about...? was denkst du über...?
- · could you explain that, please? könntest du das bitte erklären?
- · I see what you mean ich verstehe, was du meinst
- that's a good point das ist ein guter Punkt
- I agree with you ich stimme dir zu
- I disagree with you ich stimme dir nicht zu
- however jedoch
- on the contrary im Gegenteil
- in conclusion abschließend
- to sum up zusammenfassend
- · let's move on to lass uns weitermachen mit
- · I'm not sure about that ich bin mir da nicht sicher
- · could you repeat that, please? könntest du das bitte wiederholen?
- · let's agree to disagree lass uns darauf einigen, uneinig zu sein
- what's your opinion on...? was ist deine Meinung zu...?
- that's an interesting perspective das ist eine interessante Perspektive
- we should consider wir sollten in Betracht ziehen

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Use this space to take notes.

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Practising your dialogue

Use your notes as well as the vocabulary introduced in the worksheet and start practising your dialogue with your partner. Try talking for about 8 minutes.

Once you're quite confident with your dialogue, present it to another student in your class. They will fill out the feedback sheet below and give you feedback on what you did well and what you still can improve upon.

Aspect	Yes/No	ldeas for Improvement
Greeting / Small talk		
Main part of conversation Pro/con arguments or other de- tailed information on both sides		
Conclusion / End of dialogue		
Grammar		
Vocabulary		

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Sample solution



Audio Content

To listen to audio content just scan the QR code and listen to it on the digital worksheet. https://to-teach.ai/worksheet/aj1FQUZfAC3bmAgDySgA