

B2 English

THE BUILDING BLOCKS GUÍA



The Building Blocks Guide

Your speaking exam foundation

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1: INTRODUCTION

The Building Blocks guide should be used as a **reference** to support your speaking exam preparation.

Using this guide should help you to save time, and therefore money, as it focuses your exam preparation on developing **sentences and phrases** which demonstrate the **EOI exam assessment criteria** –i.e. sentences which are **exam-ready**.

Take care of your brain: Use the same grammatical structures and language points for your writing and mediation exam tasks.

This guide gives you:

1. A list of **exam-ready sentences** using **key grammatical structures**
 2. A list of **exam-ready sentences** using **key language functions:**
 - a) Advice
 - b) Suggestions
 - c) Speculation & Possibility
 - d) Prohibition
 - e) Obligation
 3. Advice on how to improve **richness and range:**
 - a. A list of exam-ready sentences **to express general ideas**
 - b. A list of exam-ready sentences **to give personal opinions**
 - c. A list of useful **vocabulary, expressions and idioms**
 4. Advice on how to improve **coherence:**
 - a) A list of useful **connectors/linkers**
 - b) A list of useful **adverbial phrases**

Advice & Tips:

1. The EOI exam has questions about a lot of different topics. The sentences in this guide are mostly connected to the **environment, tourism, health and technology**
 2. **Different regions have different time restrictions.** You must know how long your exam tasks last as **you must practise in exam conditions.**
 3. Don't try to remember everything. **Learn and copy a range of structures and phrases from each section.** Adapt the vocabulary for different topics.
 4. To become familiar with the different topics, you must refer to past exam papers.
 5. There is a big difference between a low B2 and a high B2, so adapt the sentences in this guide to make them easier or more complex depending on your level.
 6. **To pass the exam you have to demonstrate the assessment criteria.**
Remember, the truth is not important.

EOI ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

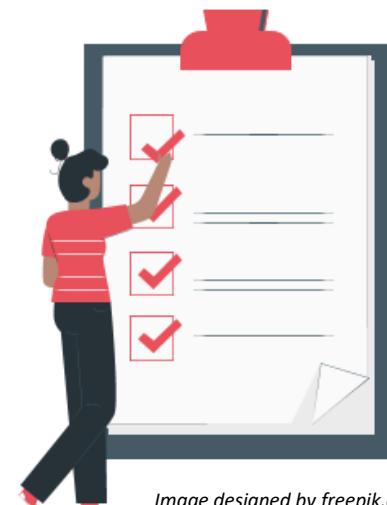


Image designed by freepik.com

The Monólogo

TAREA 1 MONÓLOGO: SOCIAL NETWORKS

You are going to talk about the pros and cons of social networks (Facebook, Twitter, WhatsApp, Instagram, etc.)

- What are the benefits?
- What are the risks?
- Can you recall any personal experiences?

TYPES OF HOLIDAYS

You are going to talk about different kinds of holidays. Express your ideas and use arguments to justify your opinion. Use the questions given to guide you, but you do not need to answer them directly:

1. Compare and contrast different kinds of holidays. Why do holiday-makers prefer one type of holiday over another?
2. What kind of holiday do you prefer? Why?
3. Talk about a memorable holiday. Why was it special?

CRIME AND PUNISHMENT

You are going to talk about different kinds of crime. Express your ideas and use arguments to justify your opinion. Use the questions given to guide you, but you do not need to answer them directly:

1. Describe some types of crimes that you consider very serious as opposed to other crimes that are less serious.
2. What do you think would be the appropriate punishment for different types of crimes depending on their severity?
3. What are the most common crimes in the area where you live?

READING

You are going to talk about reading. Express your ideas and use arguments to justify your opinion. Use the questions given to guide you, but you do not need to answer them directly:

1. Are paper books ever going to disappear?
2. Do you think young people are interested in reading? What genres do they enjoy and/or hate?
3. How could reading be promoted at townhalls, local libraries and schools?

2: GRAMMATICAL STRUCTURES

MINIMUM GRAMMATICAL RANGE	
Present Tenses <i>Simple</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Social networks have many benefits. <i>In fact</i>, many people consider them to be <i>the best way to meet</i> new people, find work and follow the latest trends. 2. <i>Special diets are in fashion</i> nowadays, <i>but</i> it is not unusual to wonder whether they are <i>truly beneficial</i> for our health. 3. <i>Generally speaking</i>, nowadays, more people are involved in environmental activism. 4. <i>It is common knowledge</i> that <i>most</i> young people spend their free time on social networking sites. 5. Friendships have a <i>huge impact</i> on our <i>happiness</i> and our <i>mental health</i>. 6. It's a sad fact of <i>modern life</i> that people are more interested in digital gadgets and social media than they are in <i>environmental</i> issues. 7. It's a <i>well-known</i> fact that global warming is one of the most serious world problems. 8. <i>Nowadays, fewer people read</i> printed books than e-books. 9. Recycling, using energy-efficient appliances and reducing waste are by far the easiest measures that the general public could adopt to slow down environmental damage. 10. Most people would agree that online shopping is more popular than traditional shopping nowadays. 11. <i>Thankfully</i>, the Spanish government is taking the issue of <i>sustainable energy</i> much more seriously now than in the past. 12. <i>A great number of people are giving up</i> sugar <i>as a way to</i> get healthier.
Present Continuous	
Past Tenses <i>Simple past</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Researchers estimated that <i>obesity in children</i> would increase <i>as a consequence of the popularity</i> of junk food. 2. <i>According to a Netflix documentary</i> that I watched recently, in 2023, more people were victims of online crime than any other type of crime. 3. <i>As for my most memorable holiday, it was</i> when I went to Dublin for a month. I had such a great time hanging out in the <i>tourist hotspots</i> and improving my English. 4. <i>Last year, I cut out</i> sugar from my diet and also cut down on <i>the amount of</i> wine I drink because my doctor told me I had to lose weight. 5. In 2022, I went on a <i>city break to London</i> to practise my English and go sightseeing. 6. A few months ago, I read an article <i>in which</i> scientists reported that teenage stress will increase as society becomes more addicted to digital technologies. 7. I have been keen on reading historical novels <i>since I was a child</i>. 8. I have been recycling paper, glass and plastic for 10 years, and last year I bought a garden composter to reduce my organic waste. 9. I remember when nobody used to recycle. However, most people take the issue of <i>waste disposal</i> more seriously nowadays. 10. A local charity used to plant trees in my city <i>until</i> their funding was cut by the council. 11. I hadn't really thought about online crimes until last year when I became a victim of <i>phishing</i>, a form of crime where people get your personal details to steal your money.
Present Perfect <i>Used to</i>	
Past perfect	
Future Tenses	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. In 20 years, fossil-fueled transport will not exist and <i>a great number of people will own</i> a flying car. 2. I strongly believe that in 30 years, all children will be taught by robots and AI. 3. Next year, I'm going to sell my car and start cycling everywhere.

Future perfect	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. It is said that all big European cities will be car-free within 15 years. 5. In the future, education and schools will change dramatically. As <i>knowledge</i> and facts are easy to find online, schools will focus on project work and <i>developing softer skills</i>, for example, <i>teamwork, analytical thinking and problem-solving</i>. 6. <i>It has recently been reported that by 2030</i>, the number of criminal cases <i>filed against</i> environmental groups will have decreased by 20%. That's a good thing, right? 7. <i>According to experts, by 2035</i>, greenhouse emissions will have increased by 14%. 8. <i>According to environmentalists, by 2040</i>, we will have destroyed more than 50% of the Amazon rainforest. 9. <i>Despite the progress made in</i> developing sustainable energies, most people believe our environmental crisis will not be solved in the near future.
Conditionals Clauses/Phrases	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. C0: When people <i>eat a balanced diet</i>, they are usually healthy. 2. C0: If we <i>use</i> less energy, we can slow down climate change. 3. C1: If we <i>continue</i> to <i>cut down</i> so many trees, we will destroy our natural heritage <i>and endanger</i> our national wildlife. 4. C1: If we <i>don't go</i> and see live music, then many musicians will find it difficult to make a living. 5. C1: Unless the cost of public transport <i>goes down</i>, I'm <i>going to go on using</i> my car. 6. C1: If the cost of fuel <i>increases</i> again, I'm <i>going to set up</i> a carpool system at work. 7. C1: If we <i>continue</i> to spend so much time using computers and digital screens, we will have more health problems in the future. 8. C2: If people <i>understood</i> the health risks <i>connected to</i> sugar, they wouldn't eat it. 9. C2: If public transport were free, people would use their cars <i>less</i>. 10. C2: If I <i>worked</i> for the government, I would decrease the cost of public transport, <i>increase</i> City Park and Ride schemes and finally, develop better urban bike lanes. 11. C2: If I <i>were richer</i>, I wouldn't buy fast fashion because of its impact on the environment. 12. C2: If I <i>had</i> more money, I would go on an adventure holiday. 13. C3: If I <i>had known</i> how <i>much cheaper</i> it was to use <i>energy-saving</i> bulbs, I would have bought some earlier. 14. Mixed: From my point of view, if the government <i>had fined</i> multinational companies earlier for <i>dumping waste in</i> rivers, I believe we wouldn't have the same contamination levels that we have today. 15. Mixed: If I <i>had</i> a good voice, I would have become a singer since it's such a cool occupation. 16. Even if online shopping were more expensive, I don't think people would go back to traditional ways of shopping.
Passive Voice + reporting verbs	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. It is often reported that many governments don't do <i>enough</i> to protect the planet. 2. It has recently been reported that objective journalism <i>is a thing of the past</i>. However, recent research suggests that the news reported through social media sites is generally more accurate. 3. Nowadays, it is often claimed that living in cities has more cons than pros. 4. It is often said that <i>human greed</i> is the main reason why our planet is in danger. 5. It is often thought that people read less now than they did in the past. However, recent research suggests that this might not be true. 6. It is often thought that special diets do more harm than good.

NEED MORE HELP?

A: EOI Digital Survival Guides Summary

1. **The Building Blocks Guide:**
 - Exam-ready sentences for you to copy and adapt for the speaking exam
 - A list of useful grammatical structures
 - A list of useful vocabulary, expressions & idioms
 - A list of useful connectors & adverbial phrases

2. **The Monólogo Guide:**
 - Exam-ready recorded monólogo: **audio** (mp3)
 - Complete transcript colour-coded to show you how to use the grammar, vocabulary and connectors

3. **The Diálogo Guía:**
 - Exam-ready sentences to start, interact and end an exam dialogue
 - Examples of formal & informal situations
 - Best used with the Diálogo Tutorial

4. **The Diálogo Tutorial**
 - Step-by-step tutorial on how to develop an exam-ready dialogue
 - Complete model from start to end



B: 60-minute English Online Exam Clinic 1-1

Escuela Oficiales de Idiomas inglés

Want to pass your official English language speaking exam but need more exam practice?

The 60-minute online 1-1 exam clinic will give you the exam practice you need. Delivered by a certified Trinity & Cambridge examiner and experienced EOI teacher.



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