Comparing and contrasting getting to know you games
Cambridge First Certificate (FCE) Speaking Parts One and Two
Practise the questions below in threes or fours with one person asking the same questions to both of/ all the candidates in the examiner role. The candidates should try to comment on what their partner said in as many answers as possible.

Useful language for commenting on what your partner said

- Like/ Unlike (name), I…
- I… too/ as well. In fact,…
- My answer/ feelings are (fairly/ very) different from/ similar to…'s, in that/ because…
- I'm (quite/ rather/ very/ remarkably) similar to (name) (in terms of…), but…
- I don't… (nearly) as much as…
- I (slightly/ a bit/ somewhat/ quite a lot/ a great deal/ substantially/ a lot/ much/ far/ much much/ far far) … er/ more… than…
- In contrast to (name), I…
- I differ from… in that…
- Rather than…, I…

Other languages
Do any of your friends speak other languages?
Is there a language which you would really like to learn in the future?
Using English
Do you use English on holiday?
Tell us about the last time you used English outside the classroom.
Would you prefer to have a job where you could use English more often?
Studying English (including self-study)
Do you study English every day?
Do you use the internet to study English?
Do you spend a lot of time studying English?
Tell us about the last English language book you bought.
Do you have any plans to study abroad in the future?
English language exams, including FCE
Do you prefer to study English for exams, or just for pleasure?
Do you plan to take any other English language exams?
Other studies
Do you like studying any particular subjects?
How do you prefer to study?
What was your favourite subject when you were younger?
Is there anything you would really like to study in the future?
Free time/ Hobbies
What's the most interesting thing about your main hobby?
Do you have the same hobbies as your parents?
Do you think you will have more time for your hobbies in the future?

Brainstorm ways of talking about differences and things in common.

Use some photos from Speaking Part Two to help you think of more phrases, then compare with the answers on the next page.

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Suggested answers, in approximate order of usefulness for Speaking Part Two

1. Both… and…/ … and… both
2. …, whereas…
3. …, but…
4. …. In contrast,…
5. Unlike…,….
6. …, and so is/ does…
7. …, and… is/ does too.
8. …, and… is/ does as well.
9. A/ One difference/ similarity (which stands out) is…
10. One thing that… and… have in common is…
11. One of the (few) similarities/ differences between… and… is…
12. Another/ An additional difference/ similarity (which is instantly apparent) is…
13. The most obvious/ important/ apparent similarity/ difference (for me) between… and… is…
14. A striking similarity/ difference is…
15. … and… are (quite/ very/ really/ really quite) similar/ different, for example…
16. … and…. are (quite/ very/ really/ really quite) similar/ different in terms of…
17. … is different/ similar, in that…
18. …, as is/ does….
19. … and… have a lot in common, for example…
20. … and… don't have much in common, but…
21. There are more similarities than differences between… and… For instance,…
22. …. In a similar way,…
23. A/ One contrast between… and… is that…
24. Contrasting… and…,…
25. The most apparent difference/ similarity between… and… is…
26. The only difference/ similarity between… that I can see is…
27. The main similarity/ difference between… and… is…
28. …and that is (more or less) the same for…
29. … and… share some features, e.g….
30. Compared to…,…
31. … is (slightly/ a bit/ somewhat/ quite a lot/ a great deal/ substantially/ a lot/ much/ far/ much much/ far far) … er/ more… than…
32. … is not (nearly/ quite) as… as…
33. A more subtle difference is…
34. … differs from… in that…
35. …. Likewise,…
36. In comparison to…,…
37. Neither… nor…
38. One resemblance between… and… is that…

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Work together to find as many similarities and differences between you on these topics as you can, writing them into one of the gaps below.

- Other languages
- Using English
- Studying English (including self-study)
- English language exams, including FCE
- Other studies
- Arts and media
- Daily routine
- Food and drink
- Free time/ Hobbies
- Friends and family
- Health and fitness
- Home
- Technology
- Transport and travel
- Work

You will get one point for each sentence that another group or the whole class accepts as correct, or two points if that also isn't true for the people listening.

1. Like _____, _____.
2. Unlike _____, _____.
3. _____, and _____ too.
4. _____, and _____ as well.
5. _____ (quite/ fairly/ very) different from _____in that/ because _____.
6. _____ (quite/ fairly/ very) similar to _____in that/ because _____.
7. _____ not (nearly) as much as _____.
8. _____(slightly/ a bit/ somewhat/ quite a lot/ a great deal/ substantially/ a lot/ much/ far/ much much/ far far) _____er than _____
9. _____(slightly/ a bit/ somewhat/ quite a lot/ a great deal/ substantially/ a lot/ much/ far/ much much/ far far) more _____ than _____.
10. In contrast to _____, _____.
11. _____ differ(s) from _____ in that/ because_____.
12. Rather than _____, _____.
13. Both _____ and _____.
14. _____, whereas _____.
15. _____, but _____.
16. _____, and so is/ does/ did/ has _____.
17. A difference which stands out is _____.
18. An obvious similarity between us is _____.

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19. One thing that we have in common is _____.
20. Another/ An additional difference/ similarity (which is instantly apparent) is _____
21. The most obvious/ important/ apparent similarity/ difference (for me) between _____is_____.
22. A striking similarity/ difference _____ is _____.
23. Our _____are (quite/ very/ really/ really quite) similar/ different, for example _____.
24. _____, as is/ does _____
25. Our _____ have a lot in common, for example _____
26. Our _____ don't have much in common, but _____
27. There are more similarities than differences between our _____ For instance, _____
28. _____ . In a similar way, _____.
29. A/ One contrast between our _____is that _____.
30. The only difference/ similarity between our _____ is _____.
31. _____, and that is (more or less) the same for _____.
32. _____share some features, e.g. _____.
33. Compared to/ In comparison to _____, _____.
34. A more subtle difference is _____
35. _____ Likewise, _____.
36. Neither _____ nor _____.
37. One resemblance between _____ is that _____.

Use language from this lesson to compare two FCE Speaking Part Two photos. Then do the same, but making sure that you don't sound too sure about any of the things you see.

Brainstorm phrases for speculating about photos.

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