What else could you say? – Speaking Part 1

Teacher's notes

Aim: Better able to meet Fluency and Coherence part of Assessment Criteria by developing ability to speak at length using a range of connectives / discourse markers.

Instructions

1. As a warmer, write a sentence header (below) on the board and elicit different responses from Ss. When you've elicited several responses for one sentence header, move onto the next.

   - I took my IELTS exam because…
   - I arrived on time for the exam, but…
   - I did well in the exam, so…

2. Tell Ss they're going to look at extending their answers Speaking Part 1. Hand out the worksheet and ask Ss to complete the dialogues with answers from the box (exercise 1). Ss check in pairs then feed back.

3. Tell Ss that the words in bold are *linking words* and they are used to introduce extra information. In the Speaking exam it's important to extend answers as much as possible. Ss complete exercise 2 to check that they understand how each linking word is used. Check in pairs and feed back.

4. Put Ss in groups of 3 - 4. The teacher writes some Speaking Part 1 style questions on the board (you might want to prepare these in advance or you could ask Ss to write them). Student 1 answers question 1. Student 2 continues Student 1's reply using a linking word then adding to it, Student 3 continues Student 2's reply using a **different** linking word then adding to it. This continues until a student hesitates for too long (10 seconds?) or uses a linking word which has already been used.

   ### Example

   #### Q1   What are your favourite colours?

   Student 1: I love red…
   Student 2: …**because** it's the colour of love…
   Student 3: …**I guess** green is also okay…
   Student 1: …**but** I still prefer red…
   Student 2: …**Actually**, all my clothes are red…

ANSWER KEY – What else could you say? – Speaking Part 1

1

Dialogue 1

Examiner   Which relatives did you see most often when you were a child?

Candidate   I used to see my grandparents four or five times a week **because** *d. I went there after school when my parents were still at work* **but** *b. I don't see them as often now.* **Actually,** *c. I miss their company a lot* **so** *a. I'm planning to go round more often in the future*

Dialogue 2

Examiner   What kind of films do you like?

Candidate   **It depends,** **c. if I want some excitement I'll see a horror movie*, **but** **d. if I've had a hard day, I might watch a comedy.* **Actually,** *a. I chose to watch a comedy last night so* **I guess** *b. yesterday was a hard day.*

*Note: phrases c and d can be swapped over

2   Which linking word is used:

1. To link together two different (or opposite) ideas? **but**

2. To introduce your opinion (like *I think*)? **I guess**

3. To introduce a reason for something? **because**

4. To introduce the result of something? **so**

5. To say that something is not certain – it is decided by something else? **It depends**

6. To introduce a fact / idea which may be surprising or unusual? **Actually**