

5 Strategies To Answer CELPIP Speaking Task 8: Describing an Unusual Situation



The Amazing Chocolate Hat

Your Speaking Task 8 Checklist

The Question: the question you will face on the test will have you describing something to someone else who is not there, like maybe over an imaginary phone call. Your goal is to describe the thing you're looking at so that they know what it is, and what it looks like. Details are vital to successfully answer this task.

Step 1: Did You Provide An Overview?

- Begin by telling your listener what you're looking at and provide a helpful detail.
- Use the phrase "I'm looking at a..." to start your description.

Step 2: Did You Divide the Image Into Equal Parts?

- Mentally divide the object into quadrants or spaces.
- This helps you follow a logical order and not get overwhelmed by too many details at once.
- Work your way through each part as you talk about it in the recording phase of the question.

Step 3: Did You Describe Each Quadrant?

- Focus on one quadrant at a time, spending about 10 seconds on each.
- Offer one or two specific details about each feature you mention.
- Use a variety of descriptors: size, shape, color, number/amount, material, texture, flavor, and similes (comparisons using "like" or "as").

Step 4: Did You Use Variety In Your Response?

- Be careful not to repeat descriptive phrases or ideas.
- Use different descriptors for each quadrant, don't focus on just one aspect (e.g., color) throughout.

Step 5: Did you Offer A Conclusion?

- End with a conversational phrase like "So that's my idea, what do you think?" or "Do you think I should get it?" or "Do you think they will like it?"

The Chocolate Hat

John, I'm looking at a chocolate cake that looks exactly like a woman's hat with a wide chocolate brim that I think would be perfect for your wife's party! I know she loves her hats, so I bet she'd love this!"

At the bottom of the light brown hat, there is an elegant wide brim that goes around the base. The brim is flat around the front but folds up near the back of the hat.

Slightly above the brim, at the bottom and near the middle of the hat, there is a lovely oval shape that looks like a fancy decorative button. It has beautiful rounded edges that make it look like it pops out from the rest of the design.

Now I need to tell you about the amazing texture! I've never seen anything like it! The milk chocolate is draped over the cake and has soft flowing raised lines that wrap around the hat so that it looks like it is covered fabric! I think your wife will love this part the most!

The hat itself is several inches tall - almost like a top hat, but made for a woman. It looks like you could pick it up and wear it to a fancy event, if you could resist eating it!

What do you think John, would you like to come and see it? I think she'll love this cake!