

Prompts for Part One of the AE1 Speaking exam
SZTE Institute of English and American Studies
Fall semester 2017

1. When students from outside of Szeged come to university here, they usually have to find accommodation in a student hostel or a rented flat. Which do you (and/or your friends) prefer? Why? What are the many benefits and drawbacks of each? Are there alternatives? If so, what? How are those better or worse?
2. According to one survey, the figure for young people in Hungary (those between the ages of 15 and 34) who succeed in learning English is only 23.87% – a relatively low figure in the EU. Why do you think this percentage is so low? What do you think teachers, schools, publishing houses, the media and other players can do to improve this number? How did you manage to learn English? Do you think this could work for others?
3. In many English-speaking countries, a traditional 'gap year' is the activity of taking a year out before university during which year people can engage in a number of activities, for example, travel, volunteer or work abroad. What would you do for a year if a 'gap year' was obligatory before starting university?
4. Think back to when you first decided to study at university. What were your expectations, both about university and about yourself? How have your experiences matched or differed from what you expected? What are your expectations about the years ahead?
5. The semester here starts at the beginning of September and ends at the beginning of December; however, we do not have an autumn break. Aside from having a week's rest, what other use might an autumn break serve? What are the advantages and disadvantages of the current schedule? In your opinion, how else could the semester be organized?
6. If you could compile your own weekly timetable at university, what criteria would you use to do so (best time of day, stacking classes or not, etc.)?
7. University students can study for classes at various places, for example, in the university, at the university library or other libraries, or at home. What is your preferred place for studying for classes? What are your reasons for choosing that particular place?
8. Some universities abroad provide distance learning degree courses or blended ones (where you can combine distance or e-learning with conventional face-to-face study). Do you think that Hungarian universities should introduce such degree courses? Give reasons to support your opinion.
9. What has been your biggest struggle at the Institute? What methods have you used to fight it?
10. How can regular sport activities benefit students' academic career? How would you encourage students to do more physical activities? What do you do to stay mentally and physically healthy?