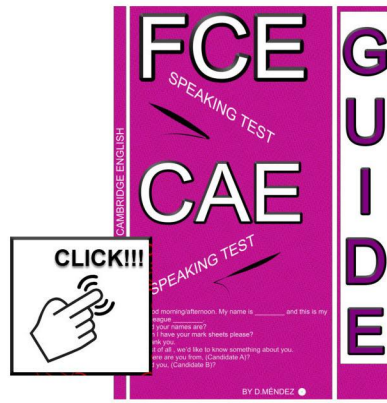


# BIG LARGE GREAT



# B2-C1 SPEAKING TEST GUIDE

## Difference between big, large, and great

These three words are used to discuss size. They can all be used before countable nouns, but only great can be used before uncountable nouns.

### Describing Objects:

We use big, large, and great to describe objects. Big is commonly used in everyday conversations. Large is more formal. Great is employed in stories to emphasize something's impressive size.

Where is Sarah?" - "Over there, by that big house."

The artist painted a large canvas. / A great mountain stood tall in the distance.

### Describing Amounts:

When describing amounts, it is more common to use large.

She received a large sum of money. / They consumed large quantities of coffee.

**NOTE:** *Avoid using "big" to describe amounts.*

For example, do not say, "She received a very big amount of money."

### Describing Feelings:

When expressing emotions or reactions, it is customary to use great.

He has great joy for the upcoming celebration.

It was a great relief when we finally found the lost keys.

If "surprise" is a countable noun, you can use either big or great before it.

The news was a big surprise. / It will be no great surprise if they win the championship.

**NOTE:** *Avoid using "large" to describe feelings or reactions.*

### Describing Problems:

When describing a problem or danger, you can use big or great.

The biggest challenge we face is lack of funding. / Many species are in great peril.

**NOTE:** *Avoid using "large" to describe a problem or danger.*

### Showing Importance:

Great is employed to signify that a person or place is significant or renowned.

He was one of the greatest poets of his time. / We visited the great cities of Europe.

**Used with Other Adjectives:** In conversation, you can combine great and big to emphasize the size of something. Always place great before big.

There was a great big smile on her face.

**Be careful!** You can say someone is in great pain, but you don't usually use "big," "large," or "great" to describe an illness. Instead, use adjectives such as severe, intense, or excruciating.

He's suffering from severe migraines. / I started experiencing intense abdominal pain.