

IELTS Speaking

Index

Chapter 1 - All About Speaking Skill

Chapter 2 - How is Speaking Task Scored?

Chapter 3 - What Are the Types of Topics in Speaking Task?

Chapter 4 - How To Utilize 1 Minute Effectively?

Chapter 5 - How To Add Details?

Chapter 6 - How To Use Less Fillers?

Chapter 7 - 11 Things To Remember To Score Well

Chapter 8 - How To Sound More Confident While Speaking?

Chapter 9 - Vocabulary Building

- 1) How To Expand Your Vocabulary
- 2) How To Paraphrase
- 3) Common Errors While Using Prepositions
- 4) Important Phrases To Know
- 5) Idioms

Chapter 10 - Recent Exam Questions

- 1) Section 1
- 2) Section 2
- 3) Section 3

Chapter 11 - Complete Tests

Chapter 1

All About Speaking Task

All About Speaking Task

IELTS Speaking test is nothing but a discussion between a certified examiner and the candidate. This means you will have an interactive discussion with the examiner. The examiner will try to have a conversation with you about a certain topic and you have to give appropriate answers to those questions.

Types of Speaking Tasks:

The Speaking test lasts for 11-14 minutes. It is in three parts.

Part 1	5-6 minutes	This section focuses on questions about yourself and your family.
Part 2	2-3 minutes	You will be given a topic on which you have to speak about 1-2 minutes.
Part 3	5-6 minutes	This is in continuation of Part 2 as you will be required to have a longer discussion about the topic given in Part 2.

Important: There is no difference between the IELTS Speaking tests for IELTS Academic or IELTS General Training tests.

IELTS Speaking Part 1

This section starts the minute the examiner starts speaking. The initial 5-6 minutes will be utilized to have small talks with you where the examiner will ask you about your daily routine, hobbies, details about your family, etc. This section is considered relatively easier as it is about your personal life, wherein you will be questions about your past and present life and future aspirations. Therefore it is advised not to give 'difficult' answers and try to avoid making mistakes.

Here are four simple rules for Speaking Part 1:

1. Give short but complete answers and stop confidently.

2. Include some vocabulary in your answers from the examiner's question
3. Always give a reason for your answer.
4. Don't forget to say "yes" or "no" wherever required.

Here's an example to illustrate these points:

Do you like malls?

Yes, I like malls as they provide a good one-stop destination for everything. If you live in a city, a mall can provide you with everything that you need under one roof.

Do you live in a house or an apartment?

I live in a one bedroom apartment in the suburb of Mumbai. I have recently shifted to Mumbai due to work purposes.

Which is your favourite room in your home? Why?

I love each and every room in my home. However, my favorite room, I'd say, is the kitchen as I love preparing meals for my family. We sit at the kitchen bay and have our dinner together.

Would you change anything about your home? Why / why not?

Yes, I've been looking forward to redecorating it since I moved in last year. A garage is very much needed to address the issue of parking, so that's what I'd change first.

Where is your hometown?

My hometown is in New Delhi, which is the capital of India. It has located in the north of the country, which makes it a little closer to Himalayas. I love holidaying in Himalayas

IELTS Speaking Part 2

For section 2 of the speaking task, you will be given a cue card that will have a prompt on it on which you have to speak for one to two minutes. You will be given a minute to think and prepare your notes. These topics are about describing different situations.

For instance,

- Describing an event/game/sports
- Describing an interesting conversation
- Describing a person
- Describing a place

The prompt is divided into four parts and you need to answer each question in no more than two to three sentences. However, don't try to make complex sentences. It is advised to keep your sentences simple.

Pay attention to the tense used in the question. This will help you construct your answer accordingly.

Remember that this section is free speech section and you need to speak fluently; therefore, pay attention to

- Pronunciation of each sound
- Word stress
- Sentence stress
- Intonation/voice articulation
- Tone

To improve your speech clarity, you can record your own voice and hear it. By observing your own answer, You will soon realise the do's and don'ts of answering a question.

Sample Question

Describe your favourite season in your country. You should say

- *when that season is*
- *what the weather is like at that time of year*
- *how that season is different from other seasons*
- *and why it is your favourite season.*

Sample Answer

I'm going to talk about winters in England. In England winters, like other parts of the northern hemisphere, usually lasts for about 5 months between November and March. I love these months because during this time the whole world seems to be covered in pearly white, and it looks very serene and beautiful.

Most of the time, the temperature during winter is below zero. Sometimes, there is heavy snowfall and the roads get blocked as there is snow on the roads. Schools also get closed at the time of heavy snowfall. Children love to make snowman and throw snowballs at one another. Young men and women go for skiing,

Winter is not very much different from other seasons. The only difference is that the months are colder and the roads are empty as people tend to remain indoors. That's why an unusual kind of calm and peace prevail during these months.

I also like winters because I love the snow and the natural scenic beauty during winter

months. Luckily, I can experience this because I live in the countryside. Moreover, I like winters for its festive spirit that brings about family gathering and celebrations on the occasion of Christmas and New Year. In fact, I enjoy preparing for the festivities with the onset of winter so much that I don't want winters to get over.

IELTS Speaking Part 3

After the examiner has given you maximum of two minutes to speak on the prompt, she will start asking you follow-up questions. IELTS speaking part 3 is a continued discussion on the topic introduced in Part 2. Therefore, it becomes easier for you to answer the question.

The questions asked in this section will be abstract in nature. What does this mean? It means that the questions would demand your opinion. You must practice giving your opinion in a polite manner along with appropriate examples.

However, you need to give longer answers in part 3 of the speaking test. The best way to do it is by thinking that you are writing a paragraph.

How To Structure the Answer?

You can structure the answer by following the below mentioned.

Idea → Explain → Example

Start your answer to the question, by given a 'topic sentence' flow. Now, start adding details with the help of various example to support the answer.

For instance,

How many seasons does your country have?

My country has four seasons. And each season has its own significance. We have a lot of festivals that signifies each season change. For example, Holi, festival of colours, signifies arrival of summer.

How does the weather affect your mood?

Weather affects my mood greatly. For instance if it's raining, I feel very lazy. Whereas, a sunny winter morning fills me with energy and enthusiasm. Hot weather, however, drains out all my energy, thus I feel very lethargic.

How has global warming affected the winters in your country?

Global warming has certainly affected the weather patterns all across the globe. Lately, I've noticed that winters in India are longer and harsher. There were untimely rains also at some regions. We saw snowfall in Shimla this year, which happened after several decades.

Has celebrating Holi changed since the time of your parents? Why?

It has changed a great deal. Lately, I've noticed that now Holi is celebrated with less water and

more with organic colours. This is due to shortage of water in various parts of India. Nowadays, youngsters prefer to go to Holi parties rather than celebrate it on the streets. We see less people on the streets, celebrating Holi, than in our childhood.

Chapter 2

How is Speaking Task Scored?

- A. Assessment Criteria.
- B. What is expected from you?
- C. Band predictors.

How is Speaking Task Scored?

Assessment Criteria

There are four assessment criteria:

1. Fluency and Coherence – 25%
2. Lexical Resource – 25%
3. Grammatical Range and Accuracy – 25%
4. Pronunciation – 25%

What is expected from you?

1. Understand the question

You are supposed to understand the question and answer it without going off topic. So, even if you speak fluently and you talk about something other than the question, you will end up scoring less.

For example: The question asked is, “where do you live?” In reply some would say “ I am from Hyderabad.”

The above answer is grammatically correct but does not directly answer the examiner’s question. Instead, it answers the question, “Where are you from?”. You could be from Hyderabad but you could be living in Australia.

You should say, “I reside in Hyderabad.”

Notice the change of words; “live” was changed to “reside”. This is yet another example of using better vocabulary.

2. Use of Vocabulary

In non native English speaking countries, people are more likely to use simple English when they communicate. However, this has to be avoided when giving the IELTS speaking test. You

have to use better words to describe the question. Remember better vocabulary carries 25% weightage.

For example: For “I mean to say...” say “I intend to say...”

Nonetheless, you should not overdo it. Using unnecessary fancy words and phrases will only result in lower score band.

When the examiner asks you a question, you should also begin by paraphrasing the question.

3. Coherence (Common thread in the speech):

Your speech has to be linked via connectors that enable you to connect the thought to the other keep the listener engaged and They also help the speaker predict the course of the conversation.

Connectors like *such as*, *but* and *however* helps in predicting that the opposite of what is being said is coming, whereas connectors such as *also*, *apart from this*, *etc* help in introducing another point.

You will learn more about this in the vocabulary section of this book.

4. Grammar

You should avoid grammatical errors at all costs. You must understand the difference between: “I slept at 6”, “I was sleeping at six...” and “I went to sleep at 6.”

C. Band Descriptors:

You can be awarded anywhere between 5 and a 9. Each band score tells something about the fluency level of the student.

Speaking Band 5.0

The candidate hesitates a lot which gets in the way of his speaking. He uses short sentences and linking words but they seem forced. Coherence of complex sentence is minimal. He uses repetitive words and sentence structure. His pronunciation is not very good, which includes incorrect stress on words.

Speaking Band 5.5

The candidate gives short answers, and is not willing to talk at length. He does not add details and the responses are short. He hesitates a little and sometimes uses linking words incorrectly. His vocabulary is simple but sufficient for him to send across the message. Simple sentences are grammatically correct, however, there are a lot of error with complex sentences. There are many mispronounced words.

Speaking Band 6

The candidate is willing to talk at length, but often steers away from the question. The speech is mostly fluent with some hesitation and repetition. Usage of linking words (such as 'however', 'on the one hand', 'then again', etc) is there, are not always used appropriately or accurately. He is easy to understand as his vocabulary is large. However, there are some grammatical errors. He uses both simple and complex sentence structures. Nonetheless, there are grammatical mistakes while using complex sentences. The pronunciation is mostly correct with occasional errors.

Speaking Band 6.5

The candidate can talk at length without much hesitation or repetition. The sentences are in sequence, thus making it easier to follow. He uses linking words effortlessly. His vocabulary includes not only simple but also sophisticated words on the subject, even if sometimes the choice of a word is inappropriate, the meaning is perfectly clear. Even though the pronunciation is correct, strong accent is very evident.

Speaking Band 7

The candidate speaks smoothly without much effort. The linking words are used naturally and in the right places. The answers are to the point and well structured; he doesn't steer away from the subject. His vocabulary is appropriate but not sophisticated and doesn't show variations, the language is fluent but relatively simple. The vocabulary is large and uses some idioms; sometimes inaccurately. The sentences are grammatically correct most of the times. His pronunciation is good and the accent doesn't get in the way.

Speaking Band 7.5

The candidate speaks fluently and sticks to the questions without any effort. Occasionally hesitation and self-correction is content related and not language related. Repetition is minimal. He uses markers which results in relaxed delivery. His vocabulary is sufficient for him to engage with a variety of topics and he demonstrates an ability to use idioms and collocations with some sense of style and skill. However, he makes a number of inappropriate vocabulary choices

which restrict his rating on this criterion. He uses intonation effectively and puts correct stress on words. His accent has only minimal effect on the understanding.

Speaking Band 8

The candidate speaks fluently with only occasional repetition or self correction. He develops topics coherently and appropriately. He uses a wide vocabulary resource flexibly to convey his meaning. Uses less common and idiomatic vocabulary skilfully. Uses correctly paraphrased sentences. He uses a wide range of pronunciation features. His accent has minimal effect on intelligibility.

Speaking Band 8.5

The candidate speaks fluently for most of the time and develops topics coherently and appropriately, with only slight content-related hesitations as he engages with the topics. His vocabulary is precise and sophisticated throughout this part of the test. He uses a wide range of grammatical structures naturally and accurately, with no noticeable error. He also uses a full range of pronunciation features to convey precise and subtle meaning such as emphatic stress and contrastive stress. He sustains this flexible use of features of connected speech throughout and is effortless to understand. However, he hesitates a little which restricts him from getting band 9.

Speaking Band 9

The candidate speaks fluently with only rare repetition or self correction; any hesitation is content-related rather than to find words or grammar. He speaks coherently and develops topics fully and appropriately. He uses vocabulary with full flexibility and precision in all topics. He uses idiomatic language naturally and accurately. He uses a full range of structures naturally and appropriately. He produces consistently accurate structures apart from 'slips' characteristic of native speaker speech.