



IELTS Preparation Mini-Course

Lecture 2

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Mastering the IELTS Speaking Test (Parts 1–3)



Objectives

By the end of the lesson, students will be able to:

1. Identify the structure and timing of the IELTS Speaking test.
2. Recognize the assessment criteria (Fluency, Lexical Resource, Grammar, Pronunciation).
3. Respond confidently to Part 1, 2, and 3 familiar-topic questions..

Lead-in

What do you already know about the Speaking test?

- 1.How many parts?
- 2.How long in total?
- 3.Is it face-to-face or on a computer?

Test Structure

Part	Focus	Duration	Type of Questions	Example Topic
1	Introduction & Interview	4–5 min	Personal / Familiar	Work, studies, hobbies
2	Long Turn (Cue Card)	3–4 min	Description + Details	Describe a book / trip / person
3	Discussion	4–5 min	Abstract / Opinion	Education, environment, culture

The Band Descriptors (simplified):

1. **Fluency & Coherence:** speak smoothly, logical ideas.
2. **Lexical Resource:** wide vocabulary, natural expressions.
3. **Grammatical Range & Accuracy:** variety of structures.
4. **Pronunciation:** clear and natural sound.

Part 1 Practice — Interview

Model Q&A:

- What do you do?
- Do you enjoy your work/studies? Why?
- What kind of music do you like?
- How often do you spend time with friends?

Notes:

1. Give full answers (✓)
2. Use linking words (✓)
3. Clear pronunciation (✓)

Common topics for Task 1

[Work, study, Hometown, Home, Art, Birthdays, Childhood, Clothe, Computer, Daily Routine, Dictionaries, Evenings, Family, Friends, Flowers, Food, Going out, Happiness, hobbies, Internet, Leisure/free time, Music, Neighbors and Neighborhoods, Newspapers, Pets, Reading, Shopping, Sports, Transport, Weather]

It is a good idea to have these topics prepared in advance.

- **Focus on ICC (idioms + connectors + complex)**
- **Focus on the use of the following complex sentences:**
 - If I talk about....
 - When it comes to...
 - If you want my honest opinion, I can say that...
 - It's believed that....
 - It's crystal clear that...
 - As far as I know,
 - As far as I recall
 - If my memory serves me,
 - As far as I'm concerned

IELTS Part 1 Speaking: Answer Formation Process

1. Understand the Question (1-2 seconds):

1. Listen carefully to the keywords and the tense.
2. Identify the core topic.

2. Formulate a Direct Answer (1 second):

1. Give a clear, concise "Yes/No" or direct statement.
2. *Example Question:* "Do you enjoy cooking?"
3. *Direct Answer Thought:* "Yes, I do."

3. Provide a Reason/Explanation (2-3 seconds):

1. Briefly explain why your direct answer is true.
2. Think: "Because..." or "The reason is..."
3. *Connecting Thought:* "...because I find it very relaxing and creative."

4. Add an Example or Elaboration (3-4 seconds):

1. Give a specific example, a brief detail, or expand slightly on your reason.
2. Think: "For instance...", "One reason is...", "A good example is..."
3. *Elaboration Thought*: "I especially love trying out new recipes from different cuisines."

5. Refine and Conclude (1 second - optional):

1. Optionally, add a very short concluding thought or a natural linking phrase to transition if more ideas come to mind.
2. *Overall Answer (2-4 sentences)*: "Yes, I do enjoy cooking. I find it very relaxing and creative, especially when I get to try out new recipes from different cuisines."

Examples of task 1

Speaking Prompt that the examiner uses with transcript.



speaking sample part 1 prompt.pdf



speaking sample part 1 transcript.pdf

Examples of most common topics in IELTS speaking task 1 with questions.

Work

What is your job?
Where do you work?
Why did you choose that job?
Is it a popular job in your country?
Do you like your job?
Do you get on well with your colleagues?
What was your first day like?
What responsibilities do you have at work?
If you had the chance, would you change your job?
Do you plan to continue with your job in the future?

Study

What do you study?
Where do you study that?
Why did you choose that subject?
Is it a popular subject in your country?
Do you like that subject?
Do you get on with your colleagues?
What was your first day like?
What are the main aspects of your subject?
If you had the chance, would you change subject?
Do you plan to get a job in the same field as your subject?

Hometown

Where is your hometown?

Do you like your hometown?

Do you often visit your hometown?

What is your hometown like?

What is the oldest place in your hometown?

What is there for a foreigner to do or see in your hometown?

How could your hometown be improved?

Has your hometown changed much since you were a child?

Is there good public transportation in your hometown?

Do you think your hometown is a good place to bring up children?

Home

Where is your home?

Do you live in a house or a flat?

Who do you live with?

Are there many rooms in your home?

What is your favourite room?

How are the walls decorated?

What would you change about your home?

Do you plan to live there in the future?

What facilities are there near your home?

What is your neighbourhood like?

Do most people live in houses in your country?

Part 2 – Long Turn (Cue Card)

- 1 min to prepare → 1–2 min to speak.
- Make quick notes (who, where, when, why, feelings).
- Structure answer: **Introduction** → **Description** → **Details** → **Opinion**.

Cue Card Example:

Describe a book you recently read.

You should say:

- what book it was
 - why you decided to read it
 - what you learned from it
- and explain why you would (or would not) recommend it.

1- You will be given a small piece of paper with a topic and some points, an empty piece of paper and a pen. You will have one minute to prepare the topic and the points.

2- After that, you will be asked to talk about the topic for two minutes – with a timer – the examiner might ask you a question during that time to help you continue. You should use the points written on the paper. They are also very helpful for new ideas.

This part is made to assess your ability to speak at length on a specific topic. Using accurate language while staying organized is very important.

Examples of task 2

Speaking Prompt that the examiner uses with transcript.



speaking sample part 2 prompt.pdf



speaking sample part 2 transcript.pdf

Examples of task 2

Art

Describe a piece of art you like.

You should say:

- what the work of art is
- when you first saw it
- what you know about it
- and explain why you like it.

Book

Describe a book you have recently read.

You should say:

- what kind of book it is
- what it is about
- what sort of people would enjoy it
- and explain why you liked it.

Communication

Describe a piece of advice you recently received.

You should say:

- when this happened
- who gave you the advice
- what the advice was
- and explain how you felt about the advice.

Daily Routine

Describe a time of the day you like.

You should say:

- what time of day it is
- what you do at that time
- who you are usually with
- and explain why you like it.

Part 3 – Discussion

- Questions become **more abstract** and require reasoning/opinion.
- Examiner may interrupt or ask “Why?” / “Do you think ... ?”

Sample Topic: *Reading and Education*

1. Do you think people read less nowadays?
2. How can schools encourage students to read more?
3. Do you believe reading habits will change in the future?

- You will be asked more questions related to part 2, and you will be asked to explain, analyze, discuss, speculate justify, and express your opinion.
- In this part the examiner will speak with you and ask you questions.

This part is made to assess your ability to express ,justify your opinion and discusses and speculate issues related to general topics.

IELTS Part 3: Simple Answer Formation

Part 3 is for discussing bigger ideas and opinions. Think "big picture."

1.State Your Main Idea: Give your direct opinion or the main point.

1. *Example:* "Why do people live in big cities?" → "I think the main reason is career opportunities."

2.Explain It: Tell us *how* or *why* your idea is true.

1. *Example:* "...because cities have more jobs and better chances for promotion."

3.Give an Example/Detail: Provide a general illustration or a specific, brief example.

1. *Example:* "For instance, most large companies are based in urban areas."

4.Add Another Side (Optional, but good): Briefly mention an opposite view or another consideration.

1. *Example:* "However, the high cost of living can be a problem too."

Result (4-6 sentences): "I think the main reason people live in big cities is career opportunities. This is because cities generally have more jobs and better chances for promotion compared to smaller towns. For instance, most large companies are based in urban areas. However, it's also true that the high cost of living can be a major problem for many."

Key Idea: Main Idea + Explain + Example (+ Other Side).

Examples of task 3

Speaking Prompt that the examiner uses with transcript.



speaking sample part 3 prompt.pdf



speaking sample part 3 transcript.pdf

Examples of task 3

Education

- What makes a good student?
- What role should the teacher have in the classroom?
- Do you think computers will one day replace teachers in the classroom?
- How has teaching changed in your country in the last few decades?
- What is the difference between the way children learn and the way adults learn?
- How can a teacher make lessons for children more interesting?

Food

- Do you think diet is important?
- What is a balanced diet?
- What is the typical diet of people in your country?
- Do many people eat in restaurants in your country?
- Why do some people enjoy eating out?
- What's the difference between restaurant food and home cooked food?

Family

- Is family important in your country?
- How has the size of the family changed in the last few decades in your country?
- How do you think the family will change in the future?
- What role do grandparents play in the family in your country?
- Who do you think should be responsible for the care of the elderly, the family or the government?

Health

- How can people improve their health?
- Do elderly people do much exercise in your country?
- Do you think all illness can be prevented?
- Do you think there will be less illness in the future?
- Do you think health care should be free?
- What makes a good doctor?

General tips

Use connectors and linking

Examples of connectors and linking for speaking

Organizing your thoughts

[Firstly, Secondly/ Lastly, Finally / The former, the latter]

Adding more information

Informal [What's more, Plus, besides, and, also]

Giving examples

[For example, for instance, Namely, Such as, Like]

Summarizing :

Informal : [In a nutshell. To sum up]

Time Phrase :

[Now, At the moment, Currently, right now, these days, nowadays, in the past, before, then, at the time, years ago, When I was younger]

General tips

Expressing ideas:

[I think one important thing is, I guess one difference is, I suppose the main difference between And Is]

Causes and Solutions

[I guess it's because, The main reason is, It was caused by, Because, I suppose the best way to deal with this problem is, I reckon the only answer is to, The best way to solve this is]

Contrasting and concessions

[But, yet, while, whereas, on the other hand, even though]

Cause

[Because, for this, due to, therefor, that is why]

Effect

[For this, that is why, so]

How to study Speaking at home alone

How to study Speaking alone

1- Learn how to develop ideas for them. Be able to make at least six questions for any topic you hear using question heads.

for example, if the topic is transportation in your country

What transportation do we use?

When do we use transportation/busiest hour of the day?

What kind of transportation do we have?

where

How

Why

who

Is / Are

Do / Does

etc.

2- Learn different topics related vocabulary [Cold, chilly, freezing]

3- Record yourself when you answer speaking, and check

- Fluency [Worth 25% of speaking]

 - How long are your answers?

 - Are your ideas organized?

 - Are you doing a lot of uh, ah?

 - Are you taking pauses?

- Pronunciation [Worth 25% of speaking]

 - Are you pronouncing words and sounds right [o,p,th,j]? check dictionaries/

 - Are you using contractions?

 - Are you sounding flat ?

- Vocabulary [Worth 25% of speaking]

 - How many different words are you using?

 - Are you repeating the same words over and over or are you paraphrasing it?,

 - Are you using the wrong words,

 - Write it and put it on Grammarly

General tips

- Grammar [Worth 25% of speaking]

How many different tense are you using ?

Are you using model verbs or not? Are your sentences only simple?

Example: "we wear a lot of light colored clothe because The weather is normally very hot in Egypt, especially last month, it was scorching sometime it feels like you might melt"

Assignment

1- Record a 2-minute response to the following cue card:

Travel

Describe a place you have recently visited.

You should say:

- where you went
- who you went with
- how you got there
- and explain why you enjoyed it.

2- Write 3 Part 3 questions about “Travel and Tourism.”



Thank You

