



Strategies to improve Speaking Band Score - Speaking Exercise -1

58 minutes left

Speaking Exercise 1 - Task 1

PASSAGE

Tips that Will Help Remove Fillers While Speaking

In IELTS speaking test, it is extremely essential to speak fluently and without hesitation. Especially when hesitation is for finding words, you lose your marks and it gives an overall negative impression of your speaking skills as hesitation distracts the listener from understanding your talk. Thus, hesitation is a common problem people face in searching speaking test.

There are many fillers used by speakers while they are hesitating or for word or content such as ah, um, er, uh, etc, which add no value to your speaking. You should try to minimize filler words as much as possible as they lead to an impression of lack of confidence,

Types of Speech Fillers:

Filler words are words that are used by people to bridge the gap in speaking. There are three types of speech fillers:

- **Filler sounds:** ah, um, uh, er, mm
- **Filler words:** So, but, and, like, actually, basically, literally
- **Filler phrases:** You know, I mean, What I am trying to say is

How to Remove Speech Fillers:

Think and take pause

Instead of hesitating, if you think at that time (but quickly), it would be better so that you are able to continue speaking. The listener will understand that the quick pause was because you were are going to say something important or good structured and informative sentence.

Embrace the pause with silence rather than adding fillers in your talk. Furthermore, concentrating on your speaking at the time you speak and put conscious efforts to avoid the fillers. In this way, the overall impact of your speaking would be good enough to get a good band score.

Replace fillers with transitional words

Rather than saying “um” or “ah”, you can instead say “another point I would like to say is that”, “moreover, I think that”, “another thing I want to mention is”, “One more than I would like to say is that”, “in other words, we can say that”, etc. These transitional words not only add flow to your speaking but make it effective too.

Practice more saying these fillers more, especially at the time you are about to say “um” and it would sound natural. But do make sure you are using them rightly otherwise it would give a negative impression. If you think you will make mistakes using transitional words, take pause instead.

Prepare your mind

Before speaking if you have a sound strategy in your mind, you would perform better than without a strategy. Moreover, you are likely to be more nervous without a strategy and this can affect your speaking. Hence, it is important that you think before you speak and follow a strategy in your mind on how you would go ahead answering the questions being asked by examiner one after the other.

For example, you may use the strategy of speaking for long and answering all the questions if you feel you often go blank and give long pauses. Another strategy can be to give a well-timed pause which gives style and impact to your speaking. You should develop a strategy as it is crucial.

Speak slowly, not rapidly

If you try speaking fast, you will end up with fillers after saying few sentences. Instead, it is better to keep the pace normal and answer in a similar manner in the whole speaking test. It also helps the listener understand your talk better. But do keep in mind that you should also not speak too slowly as that will affect your fluency.

Record your voice

A very good strategy that works effectively in speaking is to record voice. You may record your voice on phone or use an online tool for the same. Just take a cue card and keep on speaking on that topic for 2-3 minutes.

If you use filler words excessively, you may like to do an exercise of counting fillers. When you listen to your recorded voice, count the number of fillers. This will give you an idea how far you need to work on avoiding fillers.

When recorded your voice, then play it to analyze how many times you have been using fillers, hesitation while speaking, how it has affected your overall flow of speaking, and whether it was necessary to use fillers, etc.

Questions

Task 1


Now, in this first part of the test I am going to ask you some questions about yourself.



Q.1

What or who inspires you?

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Q.2

Have you ever failed at something?

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Q.3

Whom do you seek advice from?

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Q.4

Talk about your parents Do they work?

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Q.5

Are you still in touch with your teachers?

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Speaking Exercise 1 - Task 2

Questions

Task 2

- 1. Now, I am going to give you a topic and I'd like you to talk about it for 1-2 minutes.
- 2. Before you talk you'll have one minute to think about what you are going to say and you can make notes if you wish.
- 3. Do you understand? Here's some paper and a pencil to make notes, and here is your topic.

Q.6

Describe something useful you learned from a friend/colleague You Should Say:

- what you learned.
- how this became useful later in your life
- have you taught it to someone
- explain why it was important for you.

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Speaking Exercise 1 - Task 3

Questions

Task 3


I am going to ask you some questions related to this.

Q.7

Does being helpful make one happy?



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Q.8

Would you help a stranger?

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Q.9

Who was your favorite teacher in school? Why?

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Q.10

Are you close to your father or mother? Why?

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Q.11

How often do you talk to them?

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Q.12

Do you rely on friends or family more? Why?

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