

IELTS Speaking Success

A woman with dark hair, wearing a grey blazer over a dark top, is seated at a white table and looking towards a man whose back is to the camera. The man is wearing a white shirt. The background is a blurred office or classroom setting with blue posters on the wall. The entire image is covered with a semi-transparent purple overlay. The text 'IELTS Speaking Success' is written in large, white, bold, sans-serif font across the middle of the image.

Each lesson has

- **Part 2**
 - Ideas
 - Advanced vocabulary
 - Model answer
 - Language analysis
- **Part 3**
 - Technique
 - Model answers



Topic from the IELTS Question Bank

Housing





IELTS Speaking

Part 2

Part 2 Cue Card

Describe your ideal house

You should say:

- **What it looks like**
- **Where it is**
- **Why it is your ideal house**

and explain how you feel about this house.

1. Ideas

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House (building)

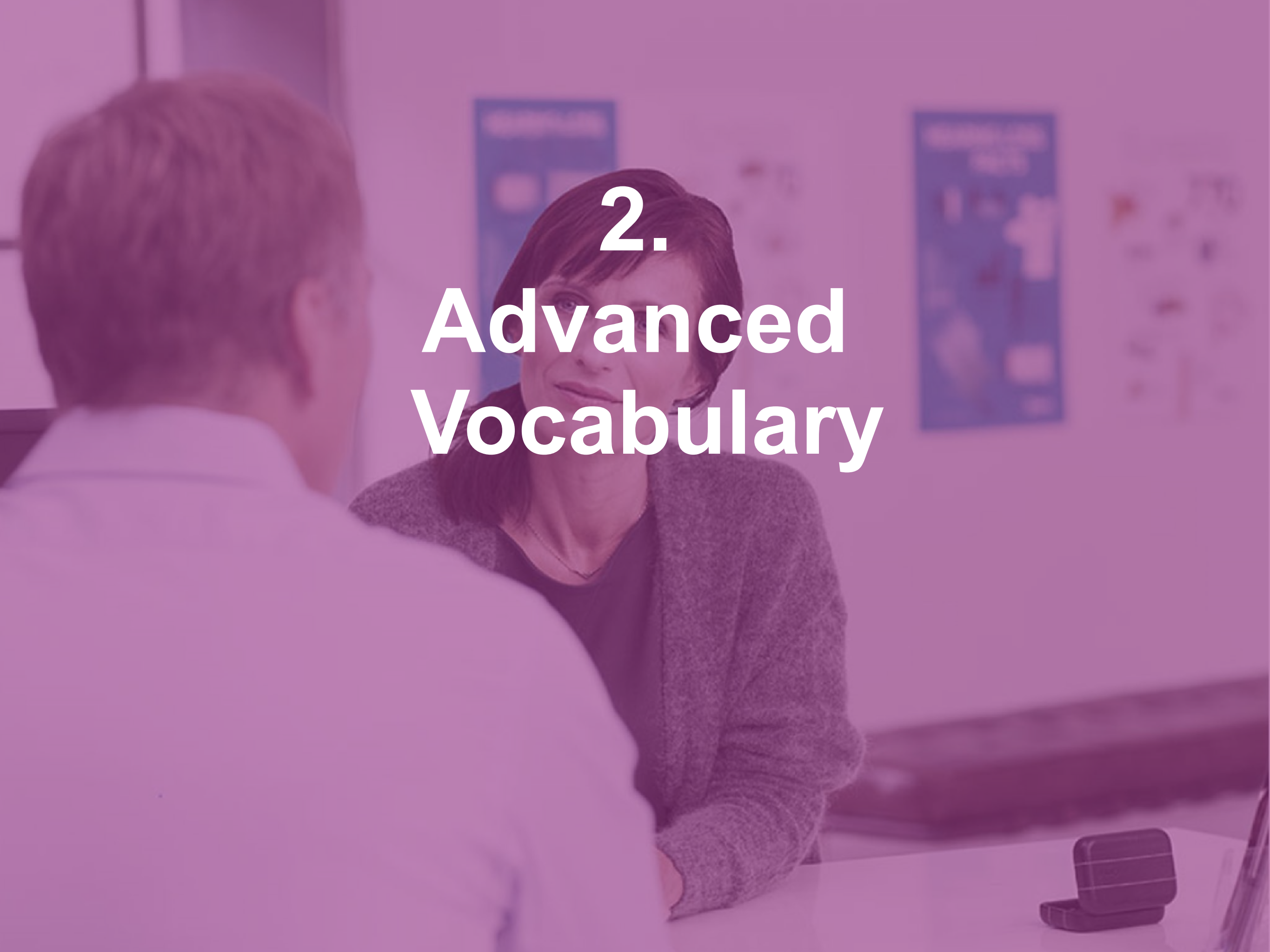
Home (can be a place or an abstract idea)

Housing (groups of buildings for a purpose)

An ideal house

You can discuss...

1. **Location** (*countryside, seafront...*)
2. **Architecture / exterior design** (*brick, wood...*)
3. **Type** (*Bungalow, detached house...*)
4. **Facilities or amenities** (*spa, swimming pool...*)

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2. Advanced Vocabulary

1. Location - *countryside*



1. Location - *seafront*



1. Location - *suburban*



1. Location - *greenbelt*



1. Location - *a gated community*



2. Architecture / exterior design (*brick, wood, concrete...*)



3. Type - *a bungalow*



3. **Type** - *a detached house, a semi-detached house*



3. Type - *a villa*



3. Type - *a cottage*




3. Type - *a mansion*




4. Facilities or amenities (*spa, swimming pool, patio, open-plan kitchen, en-suite bedrooms, fireplace, lawn...*)



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3. Model Answer

A woman with dark hair, wearing a grey blazer over a dark top, is seated at a white table and looking towards a man. The man, seen from the back, has short brown hair and is wearing a white shirt. They appear to be in a professional meeting. In the background, there are blue posters on a white wall. On the table in the foreground, there is a small black electronic device.

4. Language Analysis

If I could choose my ideal house, it would be in a small village in a European country with a **mild climate**, somewhere not too hot and not too cold, because **I'm not really one for** hot weather.

Hypothesising (Imagining)

If I could..., I would...

(2nd Conditional)

Natural English

I'm not really one for...

= I don't really like....

I'd rather live in a fairly large village to escape **the hustle and bustle** of the city, and to be close to nature. That way, I can live in a community where I can really get to know the people, but without having to **live in each others' pockets**.

Preference

I'd rather live....

I'd prefer to live...

Idiomatic expression

The hustle and bustle

= a lot of activity in a noisy area

To live in each others' pockets

= to live (too) close together

When it comes to the style of house, I think I'd go for a traditional **cottage**, but I would renovate the inside, so it **has all the mod cons**.

Connectors/signposts

When it comes to...

= talking about...

= as far as goes,...

Essential vocabulary

A cottage

= an old-fashioned house in the countryside

To have all the mod cons

= to have all the modern conveniences/ facilities (e.g. heating, fully equipped kitchen...

First of all outside, I'd like a good size garden so I can grow my own fruit and vegetables. The house would have a **patio** too, with an outdoor kitchen so I could cook, eat and entertain guests outside, **weather permitting**.

Connectors/signposts

First of all...

= to begin with...

Essential vocabulary

A patio

= an outside area for chairs and table

Natural English

Weather permitting

= if the weather is good

Literally = if the weather allows it to happen.

As far as the interior decor goes, I'd opt for wooden floors in most rooms, **carpets** in the bedrooms for extra comfort, and **tiles** in the indoor kitchen. I'd like a spacious, **open-plan kitchen** that merges into the main living area.

Connectors/signposts

As far as A goes,...

= talking about A...

= as for A...

Essential vocabulary

Carpets

Tiles

Open-plan kitchen

= an old-fashioned house in the countryside

To merge = to become one

e.g. Company A merged with company B to form a new company

And then there's the facilities. I don't **care** too much **for** high-tech **amenities**, like automatic curtains, but I would need a good internet connection so I can work and browse the Internet at home.

Natural English

And then there's A

= and now let's talk about A,

Essential vocabulary

I don't care for....

I don't like...

Amenities

= facilities

I guess it goes without saying, I'd want a big, Smart TV, but the **icing on the cake** for me would be to have an indoor swimming pool and gym, so I can work out and keep in shape **from the comfort of my own home**.

Connectors/signposts

I guess it goes without saying

= *of course, obviously*

Idiomatic expression

The icing on the cake

= *something attractive, but not necessary, that makes something good even better*

from the comfort of my own

home = *at home (conveniently)*



IELTS Speaking

Part 3

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1. Technique

You may be asked...

How have houses changed compared to the past?

What are the housing issues many big cities face?

Should governments provide housing for the homeless?



Housing

- Housing crisis
- Housing for the homeless
- Social housing
- Affordable housing
- A housing allowance

Question type


How could we make A **better**?

What could we do to **improve** A?



1. How could we make **inner city housing** better?
2. What could we do to improve **the standard of living in cities today?**



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2. Model Answers

How could we make inner city housing better?

To start with, I think city governments have to plan housing for the long term, and to do it in a holistic way. **By that I mean**, when they design housing developments, they need to think about how that connects with the whole city infrastructure, **such as** public transport. **For example**, in my city, a social housing development was built in a greenbelt area, but it didn't connect with the new bus routes and trams that were built a year later. **So**, the people who needed public transport the most, couldn't access it easily at all.

Signpost

To start with...

By that I mean...

Give an opinion

I think...

Give an example

Such as...

For example,

Give an consequence/result

So,

How could we make inner city housing better?

To start with, I think **city governments have to** plan housing for the long term, and to do it in a holistic way. By that I mean, when they design housing developments, **they need to** think about how that connects with the whole city infrastructure, such as public transport. For example, in my city, a social housing development was built in a greenbelt area, but it didn't connect with the new bus routes and trams that were built a year later. So, the people who needed public transport the most, couldn't access it easily at all.

Make suggestions

City governments **have to...**

They **need to...**

They should...

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