

IELTS Speaking Success

A woman with dark hair, wearing a grey blazer over a dark top, is seated at a white desk 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 has a purple tint. The text 'IELTS Speaking Success' is overlaid in white.

Each lesson has

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



Topic from the IELTS Question Bank

Routines





IELTS Speaking

Part 2

Part 2 Cue Card

Describe a time that you got up early in the morning

You should say:

- when it happened**
- what you did**
- why you got up early**

and explain how you felt about getting up early.

1. Ideas

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 environment with blue posters on the wall. The entire image is overlaid with a semi-transparent purple filter.

Reasons for getting up early

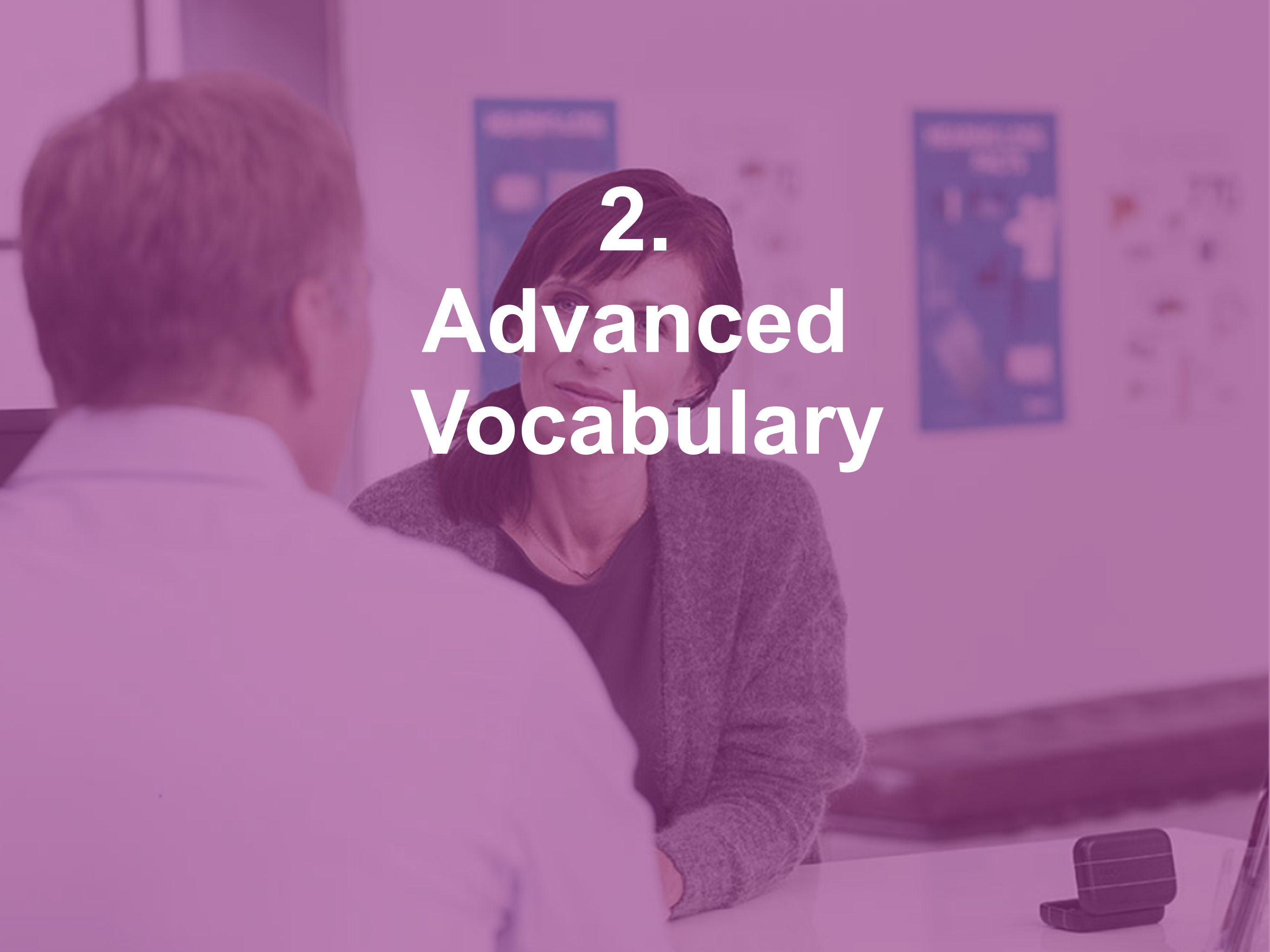
...External factors

- **Study for an exam,**
- **Work for a deadline,**
- **Go on a trip (catch a plane)**
- **Do a special activity (fishing, bird-watching, hiking...)**

...Internal factors (part of your routine)

Like to

- **exercise,**
- **read,**
- **meditate,**
- **plan the day...**

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2. Advanced Vocabulary

Routine and habits


- I tend to...
- I am (not) one for...
- be par for the course
- be business as usual
- be a creature of habit
- to cultivate a habit of

Feeling tired

- shattered
- exhausted
- weary
- drowsy
- like death warmed up
-

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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 whose back is to the camera. The man is wearing a white shirt. The background is a blurred office environment with blue posters on the wall. The entire image is overlaid with a semi-transparent purple filter.

4. Language Analysis

I recall once, I had to get up at **an ungodly hour**, it **must have been** around 4am in the morning, because **I'd agreed to go** water skiing with some friends.

Advanced Vocabulary

At an ungodly hour

= *an unreasonable time of day*

Grammar - complex tenses

Modals past tense

Subj + must have + past participle

= *deduction about the past*

Past perfect

Subj + had + past participle

= *something happened before a time in the past*



I **was** actually on holiday in the States **visiting** these mates and one of them **had invited us** to go water skiing. It sounded great, but **the only catch was**, we had to set out early in the morning.

Past Continuous - to give setting

I was (+ place) + verb ING

Past perfect

Subj + had + past participle

= something happened before a time in the past

Advanced Vocabulary

*The only **catch** was...*

= the only problem was...

|< ————— On holiday ————— >|

Invited Went skiing Now
—|—————|—————|

At that time, I wasn't **an early bird**, so I **wasn't over the moon** about getting up so early. In fact, if I'd known about the early rising, I might not have agreed so quickly.

Idiomatic expressions

*an **early bird***

= someone who gets up early

To be over the moon about...

= to be happy about something

At that time, I wasn't an early bird, so I wasn't over the moon about getting up so early. In fact, **if I'd known** about the early rising, **I might not have agreed** so quickly.

3rd conditional

If S. + had + past participle, S. would have + past participle

= imaginary situation in the past. Shows if things were different, how you would do something differently then.

If I had known, I would (not) have agreed

Use modal of possibility

*If I had known, I **might** (not) have agreed*

However, our friend **had explained** that to get the best experience, we needed to go when the water was calm, and **that just happened to be** at 4am in the morning.

Advanced Vocabulary

That happened to be...

= That was (by chance/luck)

So, the night before, we set our alarm clocks and **begrudgingly hit the sack** early. The next day, **I tell you what**, it was a real struggle to rise, but once we were up and had a bit of breakfast, it wasn't so bad.

Advanced vocabulary

Begrudgingly (adj.)

= *reluctantly (not wanting to do something)*

Idiomatic expressions

To hit the sack

= *to go to bed*

Natural English

I tell you what

= *used to introduce a new topic of a conversation*

We got to the lake, got on the water and actually had a brilliant time. **It was well worth it.** So, although getting up had been tough, we **reaped the benefits.**

Natural English - collocation

*It was **well** worth it*

= using 'well' to emphasise

Advanced Vocabulary

reap the benefits

= enjoy the benefits

Interestingly enough, since then, I have become an early riser, **I've cultivated the habit** of getting up early because I realised I just get a lot more done in life. Not only that, but I feel happier too.

Connectors

Interestingly enough

= *introduce an interesting idea (often a coincidence)*

Collocation

Cultivate a habit

= *create a habit*



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Part 3

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1. Technique

Question type


What are the advantages and (or) disadvantages of X?

What are the pros and cons of X?



1. What are the advantages and disadvantages of having a regular daily routine?
2. What are the pros and cons of getting up early?



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 are in an office environment with blue posters on the wall and a black object on the table. The entire image is overlaid with a semi-transparent purple filter.

2. Model Answers

What are the advantages and disadvantages of having a regular daily routine?

On the one hand, it can make us much more productive, doing regular things at the same time each day. I think there is some scientific research that supports this too. **On top of that**, most people are creatures of habit, so I suspect we find comfort in knowing what is going to happen at each moment of the day.

That said, the downside would have to be that we become a bit robotic. Life can very quickly become boring and predictable. **Broadly speaking**, whilst it's good to have a routine, sometimes we need to be impulsive and just go with the flow.

Present advantages

On the one hand...

On top of that...

Present disadvantages

That said...

The downside would have to be...

Concluding

Broadly speaking...

What are the advantages and disadvantages of having a regular daily routine?

On the one hand, it can make us much more productive, doing regular things at the same time each day. I think there is some scientific research that supports this too. On top of that, most people are **creatures of habit**, so I suspect we **find comfort in** knowing what is going to happen at each moment of the day.

That said, the downside would have to be that we become a bit robotic. Life can very quickly become boring and predictable. Broadly speaking, whilst it's good to have a routine, sometimes we need to be impulsive and just **go with the flow**.

Advanced Vocabulary

A creature of habit

= *Someone who likes habits*

Collocation

Find comfort in something

= *it makes us feel comfortable*

Idiomatic expression

To go with the flow = *accept a situation*

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