

IELTS Speaking Success

A woman with dark hair, wearing a grey blazer over a dark top, is seated at a white desk. She is looking towards a man whose back is to the camera. The man has short, light-colored hair and is wearing a light-colored shirt. The background is a blurred office or classroom setting with blue posters on the wall. The entire image is overlaid with a semi-transparent purple filter.

Topic from the IELTS Question Bank

Working together





IELTS Speaking

Part 2

Part 2 Cue Card

Describe a person who you enjoyed working / studying with.

You should say:

- Who the person was**
- Where you worked/studied with them**
- Why you enjoyed working/studying with them**

and explain how you felt about your relationship with them

Similar Part 2 questions

Describe a friend or a person who encouraged you to achieve a goal.

Describe a person who has interesting ideas or opinions.

Describe an old person who has inspired you

Describe a person who speaks a foreign language well

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.

You could talk about...

A boss, a peer, a subordinate, a colleague...

A teacher, a classmate, a friend, a family member...

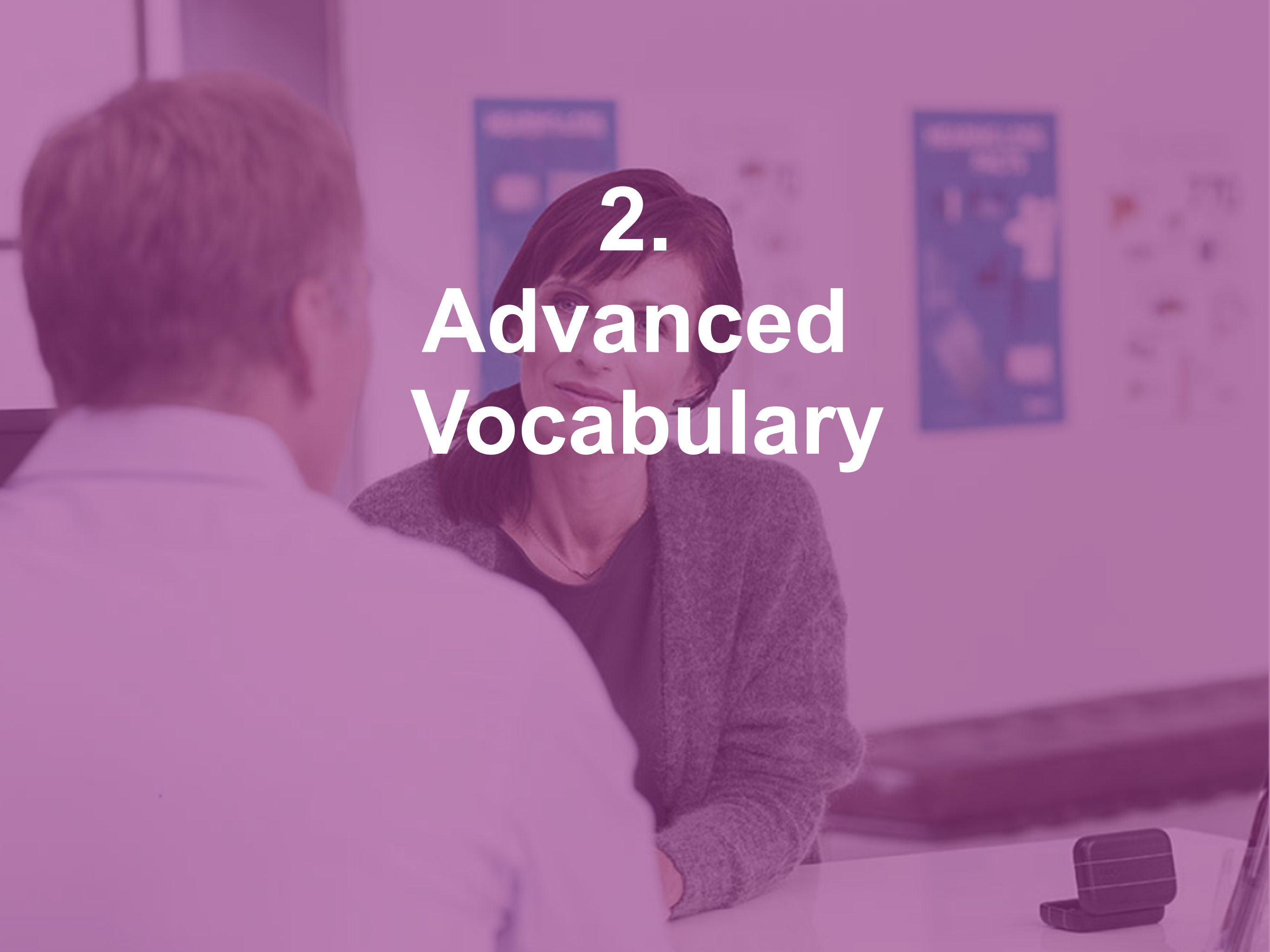
Someone you worked or studied with for a short time, like at a conference or training course.

Remember to focus more on the person, than the job or activity

You can talk about...

Personality, appearance, special skills or abilities

Make sure your focus is mainly on the past

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.

2. Advanced Vocabulary

Personality


- Down to earth
- Amenable
- Charismatic
- Get up and go
- Gregarious
- Reliable
- Upbeat

Skill-set, abilities


- Creative
- Have a knack for doing something
- Good at picking things up
- Quick off the mark
- On the ball
- Astute
- Have good people skills

Collaboration

- to get along well
- to get on like a house on fire
- to work hand in hand
- to pull your weight
- to go along with an idea
- to join forces

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.

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

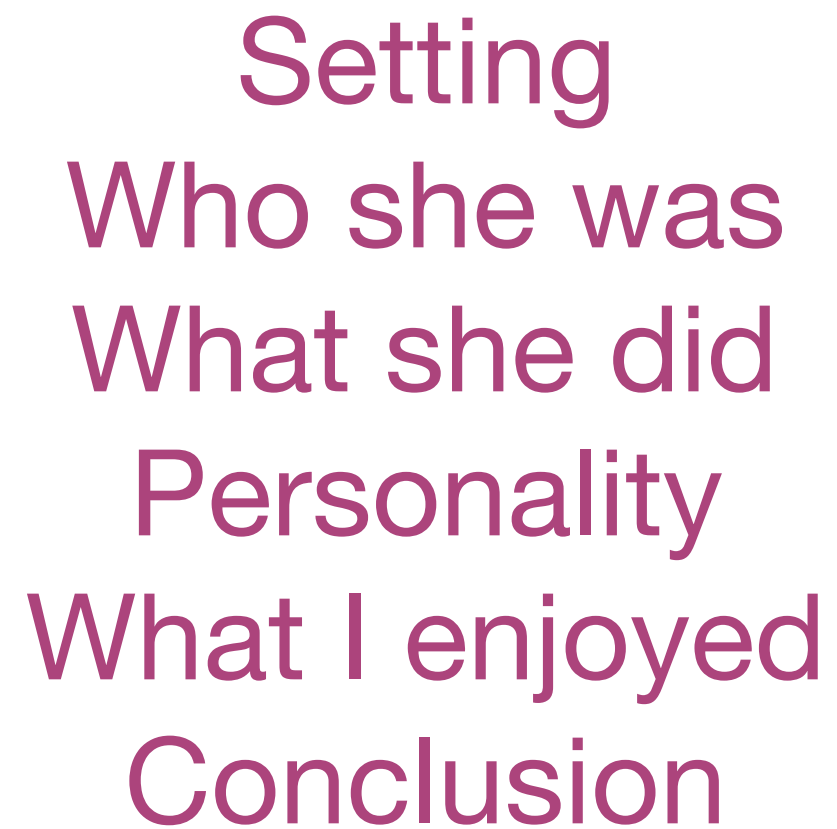
Part 2 - Structure

Who the person was

Where you worked/studied
with them

Why you enjoyed working/
studying with them

How you felt about your
relationship with them



Setting
Who she was
What she did
Personality
What I enjoyed
Conclusion

I once did a conference presentation with a colleague from another department and it went like a dream, mainly thanks to that colleague.

Indicating time

I once did...

= at some 'unknown' point in the past

Idiomatic expression

It went like a dream

= *it went well and smoothly*

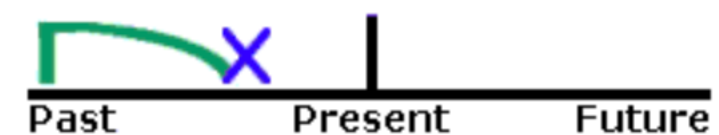
At the time, **I was working** for an educational company, and **had been** slaving away on a particular project for about a month, **when** this opportunity to do a joint presentation at a conference **popped up**. As you might have guessed, I jumped at the chance.

Tenses

I was working..., and had been doing..., when....happened.

I was + verb ING (past continuous)
= action was interrupted in the past

I had been + verb ING (past perfect continuous)
= started in past and continued to a point in past



At the time, I was working for an educational company, and I had been **slaving away** on a particular project for about a month, when this opportunity to do a joint presentation at a conference popped up. As you might have guessed, I jumped at the chance.

Advanced Vocabulary

*To **slave away** on / at something*

= to work hard (like a slave) on something

Collocation

an opportunity popped up

= an opportunity came up

*To **jump at the chance***

= to take the opportunity immediately

The idea was for me to work together with Zoe, who from the marketing team, and I remember she was just so **easy-going**, yet really **on the ball**.

Advanced Vocabulary

Easy-going (adj.)

= relaxed, laid-back, casual (adj.)

Idiomatic expression

To be on the ball

= *to be alert to new ideas, quick to see new ideas.*

She was meant to just design the presentation slides and make sure they were on brand, but she **had a gift for seeing the big picture**, and in the end, helped my craft the whole structure of the talk.

Advanced Vocabulary

to have a gift for doing something

= to be talented, to have a knack for...

To see the big picture

= able to see most important facts of a situation

Collocation

Be on brand

= follow brand guidelines

I have a tendency **to over-reach**, but her sense of timing **was spot on**. So when I explained that we had up to 15 minutes for the talk, she urged me to **cut** some stuff **out**. She instinctively knew we would go over time, otherwise.

Collocation

To have a tendency to do something

= *to often do something (usually not good)*

A sense of timing

= *ability to know how long things last*

Idiomatic expression

To be spot on

= *to be perfect*

To cut out

= *to leave out, not include*

What I really enjoyed about working with her, was that she was so **upbeat**. Even the smallest detail was worth getting excited about **in her eyes**. I found her enthusiasm really infectious.

Advanced Vocabulary

To be upbeat

= to be lively, optimistic, cheerful

In her eyes

= in her opinion

Collocation

Infectious enthusiasm

= feeling of enthusiasm that spreads to others

In the end, the presentation **ran like clockwork**, and to be honest, it's a shame it was a one-off event, as **I would have loved to have worked** more with her.

Idiomatic expression

To run like clockwork

= to work well and as expected

Tenses

I would have + verb ED to have verb ED


Perfect conditional (part of 3rd Conditional)

= I didn't do something, but I wanted to.



IELTS Speaking

Part 3

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 small black device on the table. The entire image is overlaid with a semi-transparent purple filter.

2. Model Answers

1. How can a newcomer be made to feel welcome by colleagues?
2. What qualities should a good manager have?



How can a newcomer be made to feel welcome by colleagues?

In my eyes, it's always tough being the new kid on the block, **because** everyone is watching you and evaluating you, right? **So I guess** one thing that always helps is being introduced to people, but one at a time, rather than everyone at once. **That way**, you can start to build a better bond with colleagues and you're not the centre of attention. **Otherwise**, the typical scenario is you meet everyone at once, get to know nobody and forget everyone's name.

Give an opinion

In my eyes,...

So I guess

Give a reason

because everyone is watching you

Give consequences

That way,....

Otherwise,...

How can a newcomer be made to feel welcome by colleagues?

In my eyes, it's always **tough** being **the new kid on the block**, because everyone is watching you and evaluating you, right? So I guess one thing that always helps is being introduced to people, but one at a time, rather than everyone at once. That way, you can start to **build a better bond** with colleagues and you're not the centre of attention. Otherwise, the **typical scenario** is you meet everyone at once, get to know nobody and forget everyone's name.

Idiomatic expressions

To be tough = to be difficult

The new kid on the block = the new person

Collocations

Build a bond = develop a relationship

Typical scenario = a common situation

What qualities should a good manager have?

Personally, my experience has been, the best managers, first and foremost, care about you, **because when** they care, you care. Secondly, they challenge you but then also support you. **So, I had one boss who** always asked me, after I had finished a task - 'how can you do that better?' - he was always nudging me to up my game which was great. He would also support me though, maybe feed me some ideas, **and that meant** I felt empowered to improve.

Give an opinion

Personally, my experience has been,...

Give a reason

Because when they care, you care
Because when A happens, B happens.

Give an example

So, I had one boss who....

Give a consequence

...and that meant...

What qualities should a good manager have?

Personally, my experience has been, the best managers, **first and foremost**, care about you, because when they care, you care. Secondly, they challenge you but then also support you. So, I had one boss who always asked me, after I had finished a task - 'how can you do that better?' - he was always nudging me to **up my game** which was great. He would also support me though, maybe **feed me some ideas**, and that meant I felt empowered to improve.

Binomials

First and foremost...

Idiomatic expressions

Up my game = to improve

Feed me some ideas = give me some ideas

<https://ielts speaking success.com>



Copyright © IELTS Speaking Success