

# 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

# Colours







# IELTS Speaking

## Part 2

## Part 2 Cue Card

**Describe a place you remember well that was full of colours.**

You should say,

- where it was
- what it was like
- why you went there

and explain why you remember it 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 theatre, palace, museum,

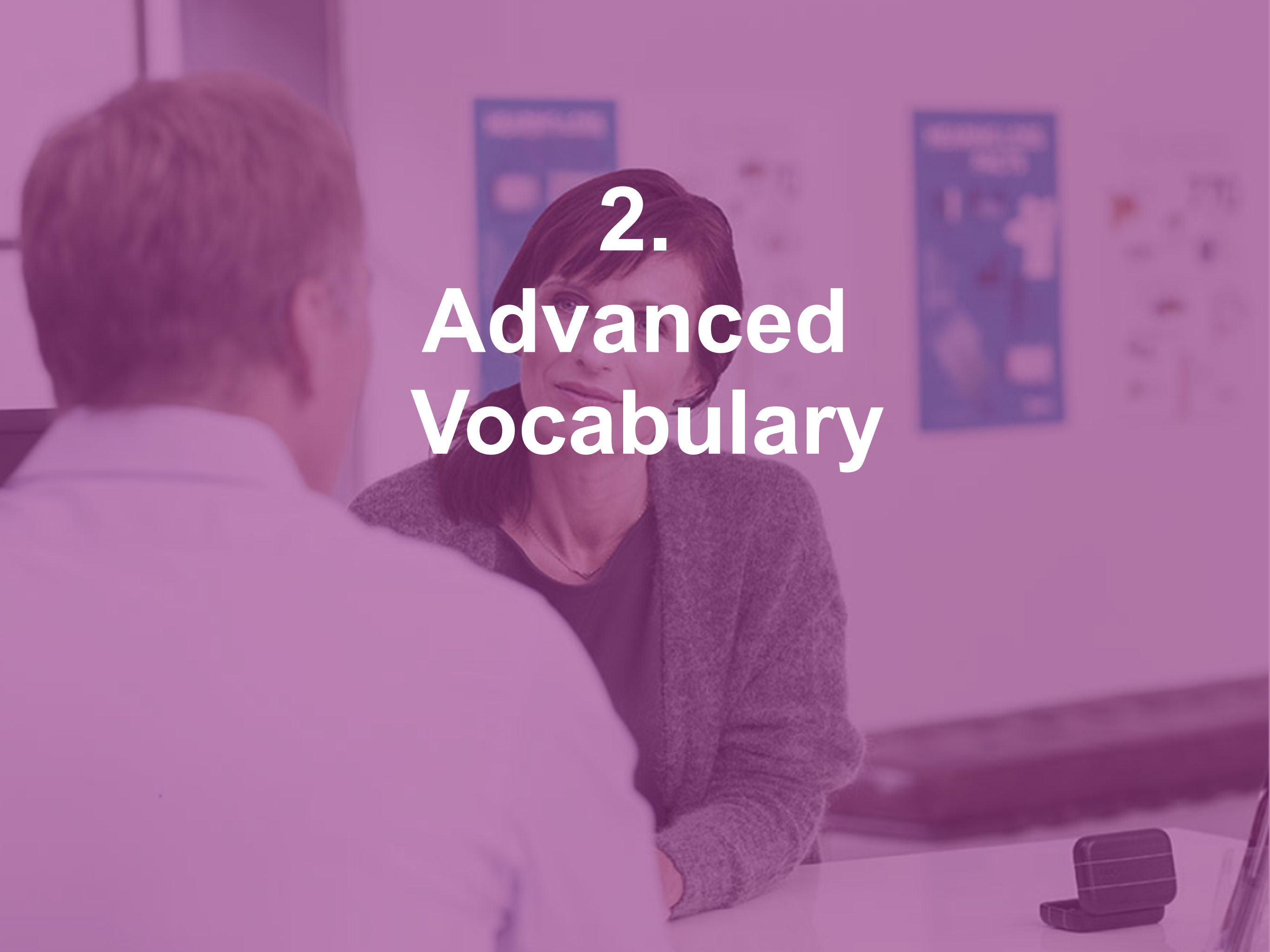
A classroom (pics on wall), art gallery (colourful paintings),

A temple/church/mosque,

A restaurant (pics on the wall - food/dishes)

***Remember to focus more on the place and the colours, rather than what you did there.***



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# 2. Advanced Vocabulary


## Colours

- Vivid
- Brash
- Multi-coloured  
(adj.)
- A range of colours
- A rainbow of  
colours




## Colour collocations

- Colours match
- Colours clash
- Bright blue
- Dark blue
- Neon blue
- Soft blue

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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 am going to tell you about** my daughter's classroom.

A few years ago, when my daughter was in Primary school, I was invited to attend an open day at the school. **This was an event where** parents could visit their child's classroom, **browse** projects the kids have done and talk to the teachers.

### **Signpost**

***I am going to tell you about...***

tell the examiner what you will say

### **Referencing**

***This was an event where...***

*'This' refers to the one day, and helps define it with a relative clause 'a place where...'*



When I got to my daughter's classroom, I was quite **taken aback** to be honest - it was just **overwhelmingly** colourful. There were these brash, bright colours **left, right and centre**.

#### **Idiomatic Vocabulary**

***To be taken aback***

= *to be surprised*

***left, right and centre***

= everywhere

#### **Advanced vocabulary**

***Overwhelmingly (adv.)***

= Too much of something

So, they **had decorated** the windows with all sorts of pictures painted by the children, **ranging from multi-coloured** houses to bright blue skies. Now I know kids love bright colours and teachers use them to promote learning but this **collage** was really spectacular.

### **Tenses**

***They had decorated....*** (done at a point before the time of the story)

**They had done...** (past perfect)

### **Vocabulary**

***Ranging from A to B***

= *including*

***A collage***

= *different pictures stuck together*

On top of that, the kids had painted each wall of the classroom a different colour. **Colours that don't** typically **match**, in fact they actually **clashed**. So **bright yellow**, neon blue, a **dull brown** and soft cream. I think each wall represented a theme of some kind.

### Collocations

***These colours match***

= colours that go well together

***These colours clash***

= *they don't go well together*

***Bright yellow = shiny***

***Dull brown = not shiny***

I remember feeling **a pang of regret**, wishing that my classroom had been like that when I was a kid. I sensed the kids really loved the glow of all the colours and obviously they **were proud as punch of** all the paintings they had done.

So, that's a place I remember well that was full of colours.

### **Idiomatic Vocabulary**

***to feel a pang of regret***

*= a sudden, sharp feeling of regret*

***To be proud as punch***

*= to be extremely proud*





# IELTS Speaking

## Part 3

1. Are colours important in your country?
2. What role can colours play in advertisements?



Are colours important in your country?

**Sure. I think** the most important colours are probably those of our national flag, red, white and blue. **I guess** people see them as representing our nation, and giving us a sense of nationality and unity. **On top of that**, the main political parties in my country have adopted one of those colours as a symbol of their party. **For example**, the Conservative party uses blue as their official brand colour, if you like, **so** people associate blue with conservatism and everything that party stands for.

**Give an opinion**

*Sure, I think...*

*I guess*

**Develop the answer**

*On top of that...*

**Give an example**

*For example,....*

*so...*

Are colours important in your country?

Sure. I think the most important colours are probably those of our national flag, red, white and blue. I guess people **see them as representing** our nation, and giving us a sense of nationality and unity. On top of that, the main political parties in my country **have adopted one of those colours as a symbol of** their party. For example the Conservative Party uses red in their official brand colour, if you like, so people **associate red with** conservatism and everything that party stands for.

### **Vocabulary**

*See them as representing something*

*= think they represent or symbolise...*

*Have adopted a colour*

*= use as an official colour*

*People associate red with...*

*= people connect red with...*



# What role can colours play in advertisements?

**I'd say** colours are an essential part of any advertisement, mainly because they have a subliminal effect on the audience's behaviour. **This is why** marketing companies spend fortunes on getting the colours right in their logos and adverts. **For instance**, McDonald's deliberately use red and yellow in all their adverts. Red is associated with being active, whilst yellow is known to trigger feelings of happiness. **So this way**, they can create the right mood that will entice their customers to buy.

**Give an opinion**

*I'd say,...*

**Give a reason**

*This is why...*

**Give an example**

*For instance....*

**Give a consequence**

*...so this way...*

## What role can colours play in advertisements?

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### Vocabulary

*To be an essential part of...*  
*= to play an important role...*

*To spend fortunes on*  
*= to spend a lot of money on*

*To trigger feelings of*  
*= to create feelings of*

*To entice = to tempt, attract*

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