On the following pages you will find**IELTS speaking questions with answers.**

These are provided so you can see the kind of questions you may get and possible ways to answers them.

They will also give you ideas of the sorts of things you can talk about. They are *not* here for you to try and learn them to use in the test because that won't help you.

Firstly, although there are common topics that come up, they can all vary slightly, so if you give a learned response you may not answer the question. Also, examiners will be able to spot if you are using learned responses as you will not sound natural.

The following IELTS speaking questions with answers are based on part 1 of the test.

**Hometown**

**Where is your hometown?**

My hometown's in Hanoi, which is the capital city of Vietnam. It's located in the north of the country, not really that far from the southern Chinese border.

**Is there much to do in your hometown?**

Oh yes, there's certainly lots to do there as it's a fairly big city. If you like going out in the evening there are a lot of good restaurants and bars. If you prefer cultural activities there are museums and art galleries. But if you like nature there are lots of other things outside of the city which are easy to reach.

**What are the people like in your hometown?**

They are mostly quite friendly, but as with most big cities everyone is often busy so it may seem as if they are not interested in speaking or having a chat. But if you live there you know that most people are quite happy to have a chat if they have time and will help you if needed.

**Studies**

**What are you studying at the moment?**

I'm studying history at university. It's a four year course, and I started it three years ago, so I have just one year left. I'm enjoying it a lot so it will be sad to finish.

**What do you like most about your studies?**

We learn about many things from the past such as politics and wars, but I like learning about how people lived in the past the most. It's amazing to see how our lives have changed so much from the past up until now. In some ways our lives have got much easier now, but in other ways the simplicity of life in the past made people much happier. Learning about all that is fascinating.

**What do you hope to do in the future when you have finished?**

I'm not sure at the moment, but I may go into teaching. This is why I'm doing the IELTS, as I intend to carry on and do a Masters in a specific area of history. I'll probably decide for sure what to do when I have completed that.

**Work**

**What is your job?**

I currently work as an office manager at a large marketing company. I've been in the job for about five years now. I'm usually assigned to work with a specific business in order to improve their sales through various marketing strategies.

**Do you have to work with other people?**

Oh yes, all the time. It's a big office and we all have to work as a team if we want to achieve results. I have colleagues I need to liaise with such as the graphic designers and I also have administration staff who work under me. And of course I also have to work alongside the companies that we provide marketing for. So yes, I definitely have to work with other people.

**Do you think you will change jobs in the future?**

Well, that's not something I'm thinking about at the moment as I really enjoy what I do and it's a really good company to work for. The pay is good and they have other good benefits such as flexi-time and end of year bonuses. But that said, change is always a good thing, so I can't see me being there forever. I'm sure I will change one day.

**Leisure time**

**What do you like to do in your free time?**

I do quite a lot of sport actually. I play football mostly - on Wednesday nights and Sunday afternoon with a local team. I also play tennis and squash when I can but I don't really get the time to do them as well every week. I work quite hard at the moment, so I don't get a lot of free time unfortunately.

**Have your leisure activities changed since you were a child?**

Not a great deal actually. I used to love playing football when I was young as well - I played a lot at school. Though of course I did all the other things kids loved to do such as going out on bike rides after school and things.

**Do you prefer to spend your free time alone or with other people?**

It depends on my mood really. I think most people need some time on their own. Sometimes my work is quite stressful and I spend a lot of time there with others, so it's good to just get home and relax and read a book or something. But I get bored if I am alone too much so I like to go out and meet friends in the evening or play football.

**Trains**

**Do you like to travel by train?**

Yes, I quite like them. If you are on a train you can relax and look out the window, read, use your lap top - it's all quite comfortable. On the bus it's more difficult to do those things because there is less space and the movement can make you travel sick too. The only problem with trains in my country is that they are often delayed or late. That can ruin your journey.

**Where do you usually go by train?**

It's usually on long trips across the country if I want to visit friends or I have an appointment somewhere. For short journeys around where I live or to work it's much easier to drive or take the bus. As I said before, you can do things such as read on the train so it's good for long journeys.

**When was the last time you travelled by train?**

Er....I'm not quite sure, let me think. It was a while ago now. I think the last time was last year when I went up to see some friends I had not seen for a while in the north of the country. Yes, that was it. It was a journey of about 3 hours and I had to change trains once during the journey. The first train was a bit crowded and noisy as I think there were people on there going to a football match, but it was an ok trip most of the way..

**Time**

**Are you good at managing your time?**

Actually I'd say I'm not too good! I don't really have a system in place to organize things. I know some people have an electronic organizer or use some device to plan what they are doing but I don't do that. But I always make sure I am on time for appointments and things like that, and I meet deadlines and get things done.

**How do you manage your time?**

As I said, I don't have any specific system in place to manage my time. For example, if I am at work and I have a lot of cases, I just go through them each day and decide which I need to tackle first. At work we do have an online diary which I guess I use, so in that sense I do manage my time to an extent.

**When is it most important for you to manage your time?**

I think it is probably when you are at work. When out of work, it's not really going to affect things too much, or at least only yourself, if you are late to meet friends or for an appointment, or if you are getting things done in your house. But at work, it will cause problems if you don't manage your time effectively because you could miss deadlines or miss appointments. You could lose your job. So at work is when it is most important to manage your time.

**Books**

**What kind of books do you like to read?**

I mostly like to read biographies. I'm not sure why but it is interesting to read about people's real lives, especially when they have had interesting lives and have had to deal with many problems. I do read fiction as well, but I often find it difficult to get hold of a book that I really like. I also like reading about books to do with current affairs.

**Do you read the same kind of books now that you read when you were a child?**

Not really, no. Actually I didn't read that much when I was a child, but if I did it was mainly fiction books, such as fairy tales. Things like The Lion, The Witch, and the Wardrobe. Fantasy things.

**When do you think is the best time to read?**

I think any time is ok, but when I read I like to concentrate, so I can't read for a short time like on a bus ride like some people do. I like to put time aside to enjoy it. So if I have some free time at the weekend I might read for a few hours. And I nearly always read before I go to bed - this really helps me to sleep.

**Art Galleries**

**Are there many art galleries where you live?**

No, not that I know of. I live in a small town so I don't think there are any, though we do have a few museums and other cultural institutions. In our capital city there are quite a few art galleries, however.

**Did you like to go to art galleries when you were a child?**

I've never been that interested in art to be honest, so not really. We were taken to one as part of a trip when I was at school. It has a lot of paintings from famous artists from our country. It was quite interesting to see I guess but I've not been to any since.

**Should people have to pay to go to art galleries?**

I think it depends really. If possible they should be free because if people do have to pay they are less likely to go and see it. But on the other hand these things cost money so a small fee may be necessary if it can keep the art gallery going and keep it open. Ideally though the government should pay for this as I believe this kind of thing is paid for by our taxes.

**Swimming**

**Can you swim?**

Yes I can. I learnt at school when I was about 7 years old. Swimming lessons were compulsory at our school, like most schools I think.

**Are there many places to swim near you?**

Yes, there are a few public swimming pools. There is the main indoor one at a big sports complex in the center of town. There are also a couple of outdoor ones, but you can only use them in summer as it is too cold in winter. One is a big one in a park, the other is a much smaller one.

**Do you think everyone should learn to swim?**

Of course, I think it's very important. Firstly, you spend much of your life on holiday by water, for example, when you go to the beach on holiday, so you won't be able to enjoy yourself with your friends if you can't swim. Also, for safety reasons it's very important. You often hear about sad accidents involving young children so it's very important.

## **Speaking Test - Part 1**

Last Updated: Friday, 21 June 2019 19:19

Written by IELTS Mentor

Hits: 298854

IELTS Speaking Test has three parts **part 1**, **part 2** and **part 3**.  
  
In part 1 of the Speaking test, the examiner will ask **4-6** general questions on familiar topics. It is expected that the examiner will introduce him/herself first and ask your name and then ask you to confirm your identity.  
  
The questions in this part include familiar topics such as home, family, work, studies and interests. Part 1 of the test will last **4-5** minutes.

It is customary that the examiner will ask your name first. He/she then will ask you to show your identity (passport in this case) and want to know what you do, where are you from and some basic conversation-starter questions.    
  
**Some such common questions are given below:**  
  
**Q.** Good morning. My name is Katherin Hingis. Could I have your name, please?  
**Q.** And your candidate number?  
**Q.** Can I see your ID?  
**Q.** Well, great. Where are you from?  
**Q.** What do you do?  
  
Some of the common topics and question that you can expect to encounter in your speaking test part 1 are given below for your preparation for the test. Answers to these questions vary from candidate to candidate and you are advised to think about possible answers to all these questions.

**Following is a list of possible topics that you should be ready to talk about in speaking part 1.**

**Study     
Work  
Hometown/ Living place  
Home/ Accommodation  
Family  
Friends  
Clothes  
Gifts  
Daily routine  
Daily activities  
Food/ Cooking  
Going Out  
Hobbies  
Internet  
Leisure time  
Music  
Neighbours & Neighbourhood  
Newspapers  
Pets  
Reading  
Music  
Shopping  
Sport  
TV  
Transport/Travelling  
Weather  
Culture/Tradition**

#### **Links to all Speaking Test - Part 1 questions**

[Question Set 1](https://www.ielts-mentor.com/speaking-sample/speaking-part-1)   **|**   [Question Set 2](https://www.ielts-mentor.com/speaking-sample/58-speaking-part-1/3072-speaking-test-part-1-question-set-2)   **|**   [Question Set 3](https://www.ielts-mentor.com/speaking-sample/58-speaking-part-1/3073-speaking-test-part-1-question-set-3)   **|**   [Question Set 4](https://www.ielts-mentor.com/speaking-sample/58-speaking-part-1/3074-speaking-test-part-1-question-set-4)  **|**[Question Set 5](https://www.ielts-mentor.com/speaking-sample/58-speaking-part-1/3363-speaking-test-part-1-question-set-5) **|**

### Topic - Friends:

Q. Do you have many friends? [Why/Why not?]  
Q. How often do you go out with friends? [Why/Why not?]  
Q. Tell me about your best friend at school.  
Q. How friendly are you with your neighbours? [Why/Why not?]  
Q. Which is more important to you, friends or family? [Why?]

**Q. Do you have many friends? [Why/Why not?]**  
Answer: I have more than 10 friends and I am not sure if I should say this is many! However, I had more than 30 friends in my school days. With the passage of the time, the number plummeted. If I count my Facebook friends as real friends, the number would go high!

**Q.  How often do you go out with friends? [Why/Why not?]**  
Answer: I meet my friends almost twice a week. I love to spend my weekends with them and sometimes I visit different places, watch movies and discuss different topics with them. I do not go out with all of my friends. I mostly hang out with 2-3 close buddies and go out with them almost 3-4 times a month.

**Q.  Tell me about your best friend at school.**  
Answer: My best friend at school was John and he was a great friend. He was tall and brave. He taught me how to show courage when we are in trouble. He has a great impact on my life. Though he lives in Australia now, we regularly communicate via Skype. I specifically liked him because he was more like a brother than a friend to me.

**Q.  How friendly are you with your neighbours? [Why/Why not?]**  
Answer: I must say I am quite lucky to have good neighbours who are always supportive and well-behaved. I am quite close to them. We have been living in our neighbourhood for more than a decade and our neighbours have become our close relatives. We have a mutual understanding and an invisible bond that ties us together as good neighbours. I respect their opinion, privacy and try to step forward whenever they need me.

**Q.  Which is more important to you, friends or family? [Why?]**  
Answer: To be honest, family comes first. However, there are some friends who become our family members. The bond between family members is often stronger but this does not mean that we do not have friends who are less important in our life. Being with the family makes us who we really are and friends make our life worth living.

### Topic - Names:

Q. Did your parents choose your name(s)?  
Q. How did your parents choose your name(s)?  
Q. Does your name have any special meaning?  
Q. Is your name common or unusual in your country?  
Q. If you could change your name, would you? [Why/Why not?]

**Q.  Did your parents choose your name(s)?**  
Answer:  Yes, my parents selected my name. When I was born, my parents wanted me to have a great name, at least to them. I have heard from my mother than my father brought a baby-name-book even before I was born. So the credit of my name solely goes to them.

**Q.  How did your parents choose your name(s)?**  
Answer:  I learned that they were inspired by a name they found in the book and they took the surname from my grandfather. Thus they combined the name and selected it for me. However, this was the final step they went through to pick my name. As far as I know, they had to choose from hundreds of names, spend considerable hours to finally become satisfied with the name.

**Q.  Does your name have any special meaning?**  
Answer:  My name is very special to me as it is to my parents. The first part of my name, Clyde, came from the name of a river, more specifically it is a Scottish river. The river was close to the location where I was born and I believe my parents wanted me to be as big as a river! The second part of my name, which is Entriken', is the family name of a famous ancient dynasty from Great Britain.

**Q.  Is your name common or unusual in your country?**  
Answer:  Statistically speaking, this is not a very common name. However, from my experience, I can tell that I have personally met at least 10 others with the same name but with a different family name.

**Q.  If you could change your name, would you? [Why/Why not?]**  
Answer:  My name is very special to me and I would never change it. For anyone, his/her name is quite unique and significantly important. I might take an alias someday if I need to ghost-write some articles, but changing my real name to something for the sake of modernism or style, is something I will never accept.

### Topic - Food and cooking:

Q. What sorts of food do you like eating most? [Why?]  
Q. Who normally does the cooking in your home?  
Q. Do you watch cookery programmes on TV? [Why/Why not?]  
Q. In general, do you prefer eating out or eating at home? [Why?]

**Q.  What sorts of food do you like eating most? [Why?]**  
Answer:  I prefer homemade food and a fan of my mother's recipe. She is an amazing cook and I always enjoy her cooking. Whenever we go to a restaurant, we like to order Chinese menus. Apart from that, I like buttered popcorn, pizza, Indian Masala dosa, Mexican Tacos, doughnuts and sandwich - a mixture of many foreign food items actually.

**Q.  Who normally does the cooking in your home?**  
Answer:  My mother does the cooking in our house and as I have said, she is a magnificent cook. I often compliment her and inspire her to start a restaurant in the city and she always laughs hearing this. Sometimes, my elder sister Emma assists my mother in the kitchen. I, on the contrary, in charge of the grocery and daily shopping.

**Q.  Do you watch cookery programmes on TV? [Why/Why not?]**  
Answer:  Not much, I would say. I am not a big fan of TV programmes and mostly watch movies on my laptop. Once in a while, I watch programmes related to travel and cooking and 'Hell's Kitchen', 'Iron Chef' and 30 'Minute Meals' are my favourite.

**Q.  In general, do you prefer eating out or eating at home? [Why?]**  
Answer:  I like to eat at home. Homemade food has better food value and offers a wide range of choices. It is more hygienic and less expensive. However, we like to eat at a restaurant whenever we have special occasions to celebrate. As dining out in a restaurant offers my mom plenty of time to socialise rather than getting stuck in the kitchen, my father and I often insist her to go to an eatery on occasions like wedding anniversaries and birthdays.

### Topic - Photographs:

Q. What type of photos do you like taking? [Why/Why not?]  
Q. What do you do with the photos you take?  
Q. When you visit other places, do you take photos or buy postcards? [Why/Why not?]  
Q. Do you like people taking photos of you? [Why/Why not?]

**Q.  What type of photos do you like taking? [Why/Why not?]**  
Answer:  I often experiment with my camera and mobile phone camera and that's why I like to take a wide range of photos that include nature, people, gift items, sky, river, flower and so on.

However, I am inclined to take photos of people. Some of the best photos that I took were taken in unknown places where people posed for my camera. Their genuine smile, sad expression and sometimes bewilderment make the photograph worth cherishing.

**Q.  What do you do with the photos you take?**  
Answer: After I take around 20-30 photographs in my camera or my mobile phone, I connect it to my laptop and sort out the best clicks. Then I name those phones according to the theme and prepare those to upload to my Flickr account. Flickr is a great photo storing and sharing website owned by Yahoo! and it offers enormous storage space. Sometimes, I share a few pictures with my friends on Facebook and Instagram. I usually print a photo if I want to gift it to someone or frame it.

**Q.  When you visit other places, do you take photos or buy postcards? [Why/Why not?]**  
Answer:  I used to buy postcards whenever I visited a new place with my parents in my childhood. Perhaps I did so to bring souvenirs of the places I had been to. But with the increasing use of the smartphone and cameras, we can now take our own picture and video and frame it to our digital storage. In this age of technological advancement, we are more inclined to take picture and video and then share those with friends and family rather than purchasing souvenirs, especially postcards.

**Q.  Do you like people taking photos of you? [Why/Why not?]**  
Answer:  If someone asks me firsts and I feel like being captured in a photo, I do not mind. Otherwise, I do not prefer to be in a photograph, especially with less known or unknown people. I think this is a personal choice and I am not the type of person who likes taking selfie or self-photograph now and then.

### Topic- Bicycles:

Q. How popular are bicycles in your hometown? [Why?]  
Q. How often do you ride a bicycle? [Why/Why not?]  
Q. Do you think that bicycles are suitable for all ages? [Why/Why not?]  
Q. What are the advantages of a bicycle compared to a car? [Why?]

**Q. How popular are bicycles in your hometown? [Why?]**  
Answer:  Well, I would say bicycles are moderately popular in my hometown. It was widely used when I was a child and I have seen so many people using bicycles to reach their destinations. In fact, the majority of people used to ride bicycles to travel to and from their offices at that time. But, the motorized vehicles have become more popular these days and this trend has decreased the prevalence of bicycles. However, It's a good sign that many young people these days are using bicycles.

**Q.  How often do you ride a bicycle? [Why/Why not?]**  
Answer: Honestly speaking, I scarcely ride a bicycle these days. Busy lifestyle, faster speed of motorized vehicles and our apathy to get involved in physical activities have forced us to use a bicycle less often. Once in a while, I ride a bicycle and that's primarily to have fun and not to travel. Personally, I more often use a car than a bicycle because the former one is faster and more comfortable to ride in.

**Q.  Do you think that bicycles are suitable for all ages? [Why/Why not?]**  
Answer: Yes, I absolutely believe that bicycles are suitable for people of all age groups. Bicycles are cheap, have almost zero maintenance costs, and good for the environment and for our health. Since it doesn't take much physical labour, children, youth and senior citizens alike can ride it without any hassle. The health benefits of riding a bicycle are unparalleled and that's why people from all age groups should consider this as their primary means of transportation.

**Q.  What are the advantages of a bicycle compared to a car? [Why?]**  
Answer: Bicycles have far more benefits than cars except for the fact that a car is faster. The most important advantage of riding a bicycle is that it keeps us healthy. Bicycles do not pollute the air and they are environment-friendly. They are cheap and requires no costly maintenances or services. While cars take larger spaces to be parked into, bicycles do not. Considering the environmental consequences, bicycles could be a great replacement for motorised vehicles in our hometown.

### Topic - Giving gifts:

Q. When do people give gifts or presents in your country?  
Q. Do you ever take a gift when you visit someone in their home? [Why/Why not?]  
Q. When did you last receive a gift? [What was it?]  
Q. Do you enjoy looking for gifts for people? [Why/Why not?]

**Q.  When do people give gifts or presents in your country?**  
Answer:  In my country, we mostly give gifts to others on a special day like a birthday, a wedding ceremony, and on an anniversary day. It's a widely followed custom to exchange gifts during the Christmas holidays. We often buy gifts for a classmate, colleague or a teacher on their farewell days.

Besides, we often buy candies to children and flowers to our relatives whenever we visit their house.

**Q.  Do you ever take a gift when you visit someone in their home? [Why/Why not?]**  
Answer:  Yes, I most often buy a gift on such an occasion. I do it as it is a broadly followed convention in our country, and the idea of giving a host some sort of gifts is exciting, especially when the host loves the gift. Besides, it's a token of appreciation and a good gesture as a guest.

**Q.  When did you last receive a gift? [What was it?]**  
Answer:  Well, that's an interesting question and it reminds me of a gift that a close friend of mine gave me a few weeks ago. Maria went to Italy last November to visit her grandparents and after she returned, she gave me a perfume made in Italy. 'Gucci Premiere Eau De Parfum' that she gave me was expensive and I really appreciate her gift.

**Q.  Do you enjoy looking for gifts for people? [Why/Why not?]**  
Answer: Yes, most of the time I love to browse different shops to find a suitable gift for someone I care for. Finding a suitable gift idea and then getting the item can be time-consuming, but it represents our care and love for the person we are presenting the gift. If the person likes the present, the time we spend to find it worths every second of it.

### Topic - Games:

Q. What games are popular in your country? [Why?]  
Q. Do you play any games? [Why/Why not?]  
Q. How do people learn to play games in your country?  
Q. Do you think it’s important for people to play games? [Why/Why not?]

**Q.  What games are popular in your country? [Why?]**  
Answer:  People in my country are crazy about football. You will find most of the youths playing football in the evening. Among the indoor games, people love to play chess and cards most of the time. Finally, computer games are highly popular among the young generation.

**Q.  Do you play any games? [Why/Why not?]**  
Answer:  Yes, I like to play badminton most of the time. Football was, and still is my favourite sports, but I can't manage time to practice football in the evening. I am a great fan of chess and I often visit a few of my friends who are also passionate about playing chess. Sometimes, a single chess match between me and my friend takes multiple days to finish!

**Q.  How do people learn to play games in your country?**  
Answer:  I think most of the people in my country learn to play different games in their childhood and their family, classmates and friends have a great role in teaching these games to them. Young children often mimic elders and play games that are popular in their area.

Those who are serious about sports or want to become professional sportsmen often get admitted to different training institutes to develop their skills.

**Q.  Do you think it’s important for people to play games? [Why/Why not?]**  
Answer:  Yes, I do believe that sports and games are vital for a balanced life. Games are highly entertaining and beneficial for our health. Many games are helpful for children's physical and cognitive developments. It also teaches them important skills like how to be a team member and develops their decision-making capabilities.

### Topic - Telephoning:

Q. How often do you make telephone calls? [Why/Why not?]  
Q. Who do you spend the most time talking to on the telephone? [Why?]  
Q. When do you think you’ll next make a telephone call? [Why?]  
Q. Do you sometimes prefer to send a text message instead of telephoning? [Why/Why not?]

**Q.  How often do you make telephone calls? [Why/Why not?]**  
Answer:  I do not use a landline that much except for some official purposes, but I use a mobile phone very extensively and daily.

I use the mobile phone to make or receive calls, send or receive text messages and sometimes to use the internet. I often play games on my mobile phone and listen to my favourite music. There is scarcely any day when I do not use it.

**Q.  Who do you spend the most time talking to on the telephone? [Why?]**  
Answer:  I believe that would be my mom. She is very close to me and starts worrying if she does not hear from me for more than a few hours. She calls me a few times each day whenever I am out and I can tell her virtually anything. For these reasons, she is the person I spend the most time talking to on a telephone or on a mobile phone.

**Q.  When do you think you’ll next make a telephone call? [Why?]**  
Answer:  I will call my mom after I leave the exam hall to let her know that I am fine and my exam went very well. I will call her as I am sure she is eagerly waiting to hear from me and to know how well I had performed in the exam.

**Q.  Do you sometimes prefer to send a text message instead of telephoning? [Why/Why not?]**  
Answer:  Yes, sometimes sending a text message is more convenient and makes more sense than calling someone. For instance, if I'm in a meeting or in a crowded place, I would prefer SMS than phone calls. Moreover, if I need to send an address, a number or an email ID, I would rather send a text message than to call the intended recipient.

### Topic - Your friends:

Q. Do you prefer to have one particular friend or a group of friends? [Why?]  
Q. What do you like doing most with your friend/s?  
Q. Do you think it’s important to keep in contact with friends you knew as a child? [Why/Why not?]  
Q. What makes a friend into a good friend?

**Q.  Do you prefer to have one particular friend or a group of friends? [Why?]**  
Answer:  I think it's a tough question to answer. But I will try. Naturally, I would like to have a group of friends from my school, my neighbourhood and a few online friends but someone truly special would become my best friend. One particular friend, who I believe would be a truly great friend and completely reliable, is hard to find but will remain my buddy for a long time while many other friends would be for a short span of time.

**Q.  What do you like doing most with your friend/s?**  
Answer:  I like to have conversations with my friends and hang out with them. I often play indoor and outdoor games with them. Since we can virtually say anything to our friends and do anything with them, we can be truly ourselves with our friends. I sometimes, prefer to travel to different cities with my friends, and I went to Milan a few months ago with two of my close buddies.

**Q.  Do you think it’s important to keep in contact with friends you knew as a child? [Why/Why not?]**  
Answer:  I think childhood friends are special in a sense. We make friends during this phase of life very innocently and without any expectation from them. Besides, childhood memories are truly special and our childhood friends are a part of these reminiscences. So keeping in touch with those buddies are important. However, from a practical point of view, having regular contact with all childhood friends is not possible as we lose contacts with many of them as we grow older.

**Q.  What makes a friend into a good friend?**  
Answer:  I believe it takes time, common interests and similar mentally to bring friends even closer. We make many friends in our life and some of them become close friends as they prove through their activities that we can trust them and share anything with them.

### Topic - Musical instruments:

Q. Which instrument do you like listening to most? [Why?]  
Q. Have you ever learned to play a musical instrument? [Which one?]  
Q. Do you think children should learn to play a musical instrument at school? [Why/Why not?]  
Q. How easy would it be to learn to play an instrument without a teacher? [Why?]

**Q.  Which instrument do you like listening to most? [Why?]**  
Answer:  I mostly like the sound of a piano. The note that a piano produces is so delightful and melodious. It soothes the ear and refreshes my mind. The guitar is perhaps my second most preferred musical instrument and it is widely used with most of the music types.

**Q.  Have you ever learned to play a musical instrument? [Which one?]**  
Answer:  I once tried to master the skills of playing the guitar. I even got admitted to a music school to learn to play the guitar but could not finish the whole course. I can play some basic tones and music in the guitar but I am not a skilled guitarist.

**Q.  Do you think children should learn to play a musical instrument at school? [Why/Why not?]**  
Answer:  I believe schools should have the facility for the interested students who want to learn to sing and play a musical instrument, but it should not be forced to all. If a child at school feels passionate about learning it, he/she should be given the choice to do so.

**Q.  How easy would it be to learn to play an instrument without a teacher? [Why?]**  
Answer:  I think it was quite impossible in the pre-internet era. However, the online courses and the interactive video tutorials make it a bit easier to learn to play a musical instrument like a guitar or a drum without the direct supervision of a mentor these days. Nevertheless, having a teacher is tremendously beneficial as he /she inspires to learn and can be a role model for mastering the skills of playing a musical instrument.

[Next » Question Set 2](https://www.ielts-mentor.com/speaking-sample/58-speaking-part-1/3072-speaking-test-part-1-question-set-2)

If you do very well on this part of the test and **give thoughtful extended answers that are directly addressing the question**, it will show that you have a high band level (though of course your grammar will need to be good too in order to do very well!).

These IELTS Speaking Part 3 Samples are not here to be copied, but they give you an idea of the sorts of questions you may get asked and how they could possibly be answered.

There is no right or wrong opinion of course. These are just IELTS speaking samples - you need to answer the question that is asked and don't go off topic, but the examiner is not grading based on whether they disagree or agree with what you say.

So give your own opinion and don't worry about if the examiner has a different opinion to you.

### Values

**Let’s consider values and the way they change.**

**What kinds of possessions give status to people in your country?**

That’s a good question. Let me think…I’d say it depends on where you are and who you are with. If you are out in public, it’s things like the car you are driving. If you have the latest Mercedes Benz model, then in my country that is a sign of status, as most people can’t even afford a car at all, whatever the make. Property, or the house you own, and the possessions you have in it are also a sign of status. If you have a nice house in a nice area, then this shows you have money and are someone important.

**Has it always been the same or were different possessions thought of as valuable in the past?**

I’m too young to remember exactly what it was like a long time ago, but yes, I think it was different. For example, cars as I mentioned before only really came to our country in the last ten years or so. That kind of consumerism is a fairly recent thing so this couldn’t have been used as a representation of something valuable. I think it was things like gold and jewelry that were seen as valuable. Of course these are still seen as valuable today, but previously it was these things over anything else as a lot of the modern day possessions were not available.

**Why do you think people need to show their status in society?**

I believe that this is because it's important in society to show you have money or are successful – it is nature, or the way we are brought up, that makes us feel like this, but also the pressure that society puts on everyone to be successful. And showing status is basically showing that you have money and you have success, so this is what people want to do. Going back to the example of the car, driving around in a Mercedes is a very conspicuous show of status – it basically says to people, “Look, I am successful and I have money.” Another reason is possibly for respect. In many cultures, if someone has high status, then they will be respected by others and they may receive preferential treatment.

### ****Advertising****

**Now we'll discuss the role of advertising.**

**Do you think advertising influences what people buy?**

Yes, definitely. If there were no advertising and you went to a shop, then you would just buy what you wanted based on maybe what others have told you, what the product looks like, or, depending on the product, what it says on the label. Advertising builds up a brand and people then trust a certain thing because they have seen it on television or elsewhere. Also, there is so much advertising around it must influence us. You can’t escape it as it is fed to us constantly in our daily lives – not only in magazines, radio and television, but on billboards, on TVs installed on trains and platforms, even in schools and universities. So yes, advertising influences what we buy.

**Do advertisements give correct information, or do they encourage people to buy things that they may not need?**

I think some do and some don’t, but it’s difficult to know which are giving us the correct information. For example, the skin whitening products – I do not believe that these work but we see them everywhere in Asian countries, and we are encouraged to buy them even though they are not actually necessary. The adverts, though, tell us they are necessary as they will improve our lives and we will become more accepted and successful. This then, is an example of advertising encouraging people to buy something they do not need. I do think there are checks in most countries these days to make sure that adverts are giving the correct information and not lying to people, but I think it is still easy for advertisers to exaggerate or to do this without breaking the regulations.

**Is advertising really necessary in modern society?**

It could be seen to be necessary in terms of the fact that, as I mentioned before, there is so much choice that we need someone to guide us in what to buy or to give us some extra information about products. Without this, it would be difficult to know where to start. However, that said, I’m not sure that I would regard it as ‘necessary’ as overall I think it may do more harm than good. As we just discussed, advertising encourages people to buy things they possibly do not need. We live in a consumer society and many people are in debt because we are encouraged to buy and buy, and I’m sure advertising plays a major role in this. Without advertising we could just do our own research and decide what we really need. So no, I would not say that advertising in necessary in modern society.

### The Internet

**Now we'll move on to the influence of the internet.**

**Do you think people take notice of advertisements on the internet?**

Despite the fact that there are many adverts on the internet these days, I think actually many people tend to ignore them, or at least that is my experience. People usually go onto the internet to find something specific that they are looking for, which may be a product, or to read about something, so they will ignore what is not relevant to that. But of course there is no doubt that some people take notice of them. Advertising on the internet is a practice most companies partake in now, and they have to pay quite substantial sums to advertise on highly ranked sites. Of course they would not do this if it were not attracting customers for them.

**How do you think it will change people's buying habits in the future?**

Buying from the internet is becoming more and more popular. For example, we’ve seen many book shops close down because people can buy online at cheaper prices from sites such as Amazon. It makes life much easier if products can be delivered direct to our door, especially with our busy modern lifestyles. I think this will only increase in the future as more people feel safe to buy online and online shops make it easier to purchase this way. Also, I think our lives are only going to become busier, so more people will choose to shop this way.

**Are there any disadvantages to shopping on the internet?**

There certainly are some. Firstly, buying clothes can be a problem. When you go into a shop you can check what you are buying fits you and suits you, but it is obviously not possible to do this online. Shopping does not become less hassle if you have to send something back in the post. Another problem is the security. We have to give out our bank details to people we don’t know. There have been several recent reports in the press about sites that have had their security breached and credit card details have been stolen. So far this is fairly uncommon, but it is a risk none the same. Another disadvantage is to society as it could destroy local shops and businesses if people are not going out to shop in their local town.

### Transport

**Let's talk about transport.**

**How do most people travel long distances in your country?**

I’d say that the main ways are cars, buses and trains. If someone has a car, I think this is their preference because to be honest the trains are not that much cheaper where I live. Also there are often delays with the trains which can be a real pain, so you may end up with a really long journey. The buses are a bit cheaper but I don’t think that is such a comfortable way to travel.  There is the option to travel by plane as well of course, but most of the bucket airlines go abroad – you can’t really travel that cheaply by plane within the country. So then, cars are really the best option, and of course they give you the most freedom when you are travelling.

**Have the types of transport people use changed much over the last few decades?**

I don’t think they have really. We’ve had the transport I mentioned before for many decades now in my country, and it is much the same today. Of course cars have become much more popular as people’s incomes have risen which accounts for the problems we see on the roads today such as congestion and more accidents and pollution. This has probably led to some changes within cities. Many have now introduced environmentally friendly forms of transport such as trams and guided buses that don’t run on gas and mean that people can travel without the use of the car. There has also been an increase in air travel, but like I said, this is quite expensive in my country so most cannot afford it.

**What kinds of improvement have there been in transport in your country in recent years?**

There has been several ways that transport has improved. More major roads have been built which means it is easier to travel long distances, though of course some would argue that more roads are not an improvement. They can be an eyesore in the countryside and they have encouraged more people to drive which may mean these improvements ultimately don’t work because there are more cars using the roads. As I mentioned before, there has been the introduction of mass transit in many cities, such as trams and trains. In our capital city they have also extended the underground system so it now links many more areas of the city. This has helped many people as commuting times are horrendous if you have to travel on the roads.  Those are the main improvements.

<<< More Part 2

[More Part 3 >>>](https://www.ieltsbuddy.com/ielts-speaking-environmental-problems.html)

1. [Home](https://www.ieltsbuddy.com/)

 ›

1. [Speaking Samples](https://www.ieltsbuddy.com/ielts-speaking-samples.html)

 ›

1. [Part 3](https://www.ieltsbuddy.com/ielts-speaking-part-3-samples.html)

## Band 7+ eBooks

"I think these eBooks are FANTASTIC!!! I know that's not academic language, but it's the truth!"

**Linda, from Italy, Scored Band 7.5**

[View the eBooks](https://www.ieltsbuddy.com/products.html)