

Speaking skill

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February 24, 2023

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Chapter 1

Understand the IELTS Speaking

The Speaking test takes **between 11 and 14 minutes** and consists of an interview between the test taker and a trained and certified examiner.

1.1 Before Your Speaking Test

- You'll be given a day and time for your speaking test

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                Speaking Test  
Candidate Number: abc123  
Friday, 3.10pm  
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- Give yourself a plenty of time (to get to the testing center)
 - Speaking test will usually comes after the other part of the test
- Make sure to bring your ID (and maybe your passport)
- An examiner will come and get (collect) you
 - When the examiner comes and gets you and you're walking together to the speaking test room, Don't suck up¹ to them. Be very friendly. But don't try to make small talk at this stage. You can't impress the examiner here. impress them in the actual test. Certainly respond to them if they ask you any questions.

¹You say that someone is sucking up to a person in authority when you do not like the fact that they are trying to please the person because of the person's position. (INFORMAL)

1.2 During Your Speaking Test, Part One (Small Talk) – (4-5 min)

At this point, when you're sitting, the examiner will ask to see your passport and confirm some details with you.

Then *part 1* of the speaking test will begin with some pretty straightforward questions that you can think of as **small talk**.

Do you live in an apartment or a house?

Are you a student? Or do you work?

Then the questions will suddenly change direction. The examiner will say: let's talk about *art* (or *rain*, or *computers*). Or let's talk about any of the following:

Birthdays	Hobbies	Family
Childhood	Internet	Friends
Daily routines	Music	Flowers
Dictionaries	Neighbours	Food
Evenings	Newspapers	Going out
Happiness	Transport	Weather
pets	Reading	Shopping
Sport	TV	

And then the examiner will ask you pretty straightforward question about one of those topics where you need to **give your personal views and opinion**

1.3 Part 2: 2-Minute Talk - (3–4 minutes)

The examiner will hand you *a piece of paper and a pen* and give you *a task card* that looks like this:

Describe a X you have recently used.

You should say:

- What the X is
- What you used the X for
- How often you use the X

And explain what you like and dislike about the X.

The tasks card will include a *prompt*, *three dot points*, and *an additional sentence*. You will have **one minute** to prepare to speak about the particular topic you are given.

There are four main topic categories that you might have to speak about in IELTS speaking part 2.

- People (e.g., *A friend*)
- Places (e.g., *A library*)
- Objects (e.g., *A gift*)
- Events (e.g., *A wedding*)

Out of these 4 large categories, you'll have to talk about a specific topic.

- A PERSON
 - *OLD / YOUNG*
 - *FAMOUS*
 - *OCCUPATION*
 - *FAMILY*
 - *TEEN etc.*
- A PLACE
 - *FUN*
 - *CROWDED*
 - *INTERESTING*
 - *COUNTRYSIDE*
 - *SOCIAL PLACE*
 - *HOUSE*
 - *COUNTRY*
- A PHYSICAL OBJECT
 - *BOOK*
 - *FILM*
 - *GIFT*
 - *DEVICE*

- *BUSINESS*
- AN ABSTRACT OBJECT
 - *WEBSITE*
 - *WEATHER*
 - *PROFESSION*
 - *GOALS / DREAMS*
 - *LANGUAGE*
 - *HOLIDAY*
 - *ENVIRONMENT*
- A TIME
 - *HAPPY / SAD*
 - *BORED / EXCITED*
 - *PLEASED / DISAPPOINTED*
 - *HELP*
 - *ADVICE*
 - *GOOD NEWS*
 - *LOST / FOUND*
 - *LEARNED*
 - *REMEMBERED*

After you've done two minute talk, the examiner *might* give you a couple of *follow up questions*.

1.4 Part 3: Deep Discussion - (4–5 minutes)

In this part of the test, you're going to have a **dialogue** with the examiner, a back and forth conversation. The questions that the examiner will ask you will carry on from *the task card that you looked at in part 2*. For example, If you were asked about an *advertisement* in your task card, you will now talk to the examiner more broadly about *advertising*. If in your task card you talked about a *teacher*, you will now talk more broadly about *education*.

This is where it gets a little bit more abstract. You might need to

- *define,*
- *explain,*
- *argue,*
- *list,*
- *classify,*
- *compare / contrast,*
- or *describe,*

something.

DEFINE: *What is an advertisement?*

EXPLAIN: *Why do you think advertising works?*

ARGUE: *Do you think TV ads or internet ads are more effective?*

LIST: *What types of advertisements are there?*

CLASSIFY: *Are logos on clothes, such as a t-shirt, a form of advertisement?*

COMPARE / CONTRAST: *How has advertising changed in the last few decades?*

DESCRIBE: *What makes an effective advertisement?*

It's worth pointing out that in part 3, you're not giving answers. There's no incorrect or correct answers. You're being graded on your *language skills*.

1.5 Scoring

As soon as you finish part 3, the examiner is actually going to give you your score. There's a certain way that IELTS examiner mark you which is based on 7 key factors:

1. **Fluency**

- You speak with little or no hesitation and very few umm and ahhs. The words and the rules come to you effortlessly. Also you speak at a moderate pace, not too fast, not too slow.

2. **Coherence**

- Your phrases, sentences or ideas flow *logically* from one to the next.

3. **Vocabulary range**

- You have a broad repertoire of words that you can use to express yourself clearly.

4. **Vocabulary precision,**

- (word choice) You're using the right word, at the right time to make the right meaning. You might use a fancy word here and there if it works, but you are not using fancy words that don't work. Always focus on *clarity*.

5. **Grammatical range**

- You use a variety of different sentence types. For example, some complex, and compound complex, maybe a question, maybe a conditional sentence etc.

6. **Grammatical accuracy**

- You get your verb tenses or propositions right. You get your question or negative sentence right.

7. **Pronunciation**

- You can make all of the 44 individual sounds of English (the p, m, d etc.) as well as the combined sounds (the constant clusters like *spr*, *sm*, *sl*)

1.6 Links and References

- [Understand IELTS Speaking in JUST 9 Minutes! - YouTube](#)
- [IELTS: speaking test](#)
- [IELTS speaking assessment criteria](#)