

LECTURE NOTES

Employability Skills (303193353)

IELTS Speaking

Learning Objectives

By the end of this lecture, students should be able to:

1. Understand the significance of IELTS Speaking for global employability and higher education opportunities.
2. Identify and explain the structure and format of the IELTS Speaking test.
3. Identify the four key assessment criteria
4. Apply effective communication techniques to express technical and general ideas clearly.
5. Implement the Top 5 tips to increase performance in IELTS Speaking tasks.
6. Analyze TED-IELTS and TEDx Talks to improve listening comprehension, accent familiarity, and presentation style.
7. Cultivate confidence in delivering structured, fluent, and engaging responses during mock speaking sessions.

Importance of IELTS Speaking

- Global Opportunities: Enables access to global education, internships, and career options.
- Clear Communication: Assesses your ability to explain complex, technical concepts in simple English.
- Professional Skill: Builds confidence to present ideas logically and naturally—an essential quality in interviews and professional presentations.

IELTS Speaking Format

The speaking test is a face-to-face interview which lasts for 11-14 minutes and is divided into three parts:

Part	Description	Duration
Part 1 – Introduction & Interview	General questions about you, family, studies, hobbies, etc.	4–5 minutes
Part 2 – Long Turn (Cue Card)	You are given a topic card and 1 minute to prepare, then speak for 1–2 minutes.	3–4 minutes
Part 3 – Discussion	Questions related to the theme of Part 2; more analytical and abstract.	4–5 minutes

Assessment Criteria

The IELTS examiner scores you on four equally weighted parameters:

1. Fluency and Coherence – Speaking smoothly, logically, and with minimal hesitation.
2. Lexical Resource – Range and appropriateness of vocabulary, including technical terms.
3. Grammatical Range and Accuracy – Use of varied sentence structures with correct grammar.
4. Pronunciation – Clarity, stress, and natural rhythm of speech.

(Each criterion contributes 25% to your total speaking score.)

Top 5 Tips to Ace IELTS Speaking

1. Daily Practice: Speak on diverse topics for 15–20 minutes daily.
2. Use Technical Vocabulary: Incorporate engineering-related words, but explain them simply.
3. Follow a Structure: Introduction → Explanation → Example → Conclusion.
4. Self-Evaluate: Record your responses, listen, and identify pronunciation or fluency issues.
5. Stay Confident: Maintain eye contact, smile, and don't panic if you make minor mistakes.

TED-IELTS and TEDx Activities

TED-IELTS Video:

 [Watch here](#)

- Understand delivery, structure, and vocabulary used.
- Practice a cue card: *Describe a technological invention that changed your life.*
 - Preparation Time: 1 minute
 - Speaking Time: 2 minutes

Activity 2 – TEDx Talk by Philippe Rival:

 [Watch here](#)

- Topic: *Engineers Beyond Engineering – The Art of Being an Engineer*
- Focus on:
 - Exposure to various accents (British, American, Australian)
 - Presentation style and vocabulary
 - Intonation, pauses, and emphasis in speech

Significance of TED Talks for IELTS Speaking Practice

- Enhances listening comprehension and accent familiarity.
- Demonstrates how to present ideas clearly and confidently.
- Helps learners observe authentic English communication and body language.

Conclusion

The IELTS Speaking module is more than an English test—it's a training ground for global communication. Regular practice, awareness of test structure, and exposure to authentic English through TED Talks help students enhance fluency, confidence, and professionalism.

Learning Outcomes

By the end of the session, students will be able to:

1. Define the IELTS Speaking test format and scoring criteria.
2. Demonstrate effective communication through structured responses.
3. Use technical vocabulary appropriately in simple language.
4. Improve fluency, coherence, and pronunciation.
5. Self-assess and reflect on speaking strengths and weaknesses.
6. Perform confidently in mock interviews and discussions.
7. Apply techniques from TED Talks to enhance delivery and tone.

1. Academic Vocabulary:
 - Use precise, formal language.
 - Avoid repetition using synonyms.
 - Example: “increase” → “rise,” “grow,” “escalate.”
2. Complex Sentences:
 - Demonstrate grammatical range using relative, conditional, and subordinate clauses.
 - Example: “*Although the figures rose sharply in 2010, they declined thereafter.*”
3. Cohesive Devices:

Ensure logical flow with connectors such as *therefore, in addition to, however, consequently*.

Task 1 – Report Writing

Purpose: Describe visual data objectively.

Structure:

1. Introduction: Paraphrase the question and describe what the visual shows.
2. Overview: Summarize main trends, patterns, or significant features.
3. Detailed Analysis: Present specific data points and comparisons systematically.

Tips for Task 1:

- Analyse the visual carefully—identify key trends and exceptions.
- Paraphrase the question—never copy it directly.
- Select data strategically—focus on significant changes.
- Maintain a formal tone and avoid opinions.

Task 2 – Essay Writing

Purpose: Respond to a viewpoint, argument, or problem.

Structure:

- Introduction: Introduce the topic and outline your position.
- Body Paragraphs: Present clear arguments supported by examples.
- Conclusion: Summarize and restate your main idea logically.

Essentials of Essay Writing:

1. Opinion Essay: Present and justify your viewpoint.
2. Discussion Essay: Explore both sides of an argument and conclude with your view.
3. Problem/Solution Essay: Identify issues and propose practical solutions.
4. Cause/Effect Essay: Analyse reasons and consequences.

Tips for Task 2:

- Read and analyse the question carefully.
- Spend 5 minutes planning your essay.
- Use formal academic style and precise vocabulary.
- Support ideas with logical reasoning and examples.

Common Mistakes to Avoid

1. Word Count Errors:
 - Task 1: Minimum 150 words
 - Task 2: Minimum 250 wordsWriting too few or too many affects your score.
2. Copying from the Prompt:
 - Paraphrase instead of repeating phrases from the question.
3. Going Off-Topic:
 - Stay focused on what is asked in the prompt.
4. Poor Time Management:
 - Task 1: 20 minutes, Task 2: 40 minutes — keep to this split.

Classroom Activity

Activity Topic: *The Effects of Technology on Communication, Work, and Society*

- Develop an essay discussing advantages and disadvantages of technology.
- Structure: Introduction – Body – Conclusion.
- Emphasize coherence, logical flow, and academic tone.

Conclusion

- IELTS Writing demands a balance between linguistic accuracy, logical reasoning, and structured presentation.
- By mastering report and essay formats, applying academic language, and managing time effectively, students can produce well-organized, high-scoring responses.
- Consistent practice and awareness of common pitfalls are key to achieving success.

Learning Outcomes

By the end of this session, students will be able to:

1. Write a clear, organized report describing visual data (Task 1).
2. Compose coherent essays responding to prompts (Task 2).
3. Use formal academic language and cohesive devices accurately.
4. Manage time effectively between both tasks.
5. Paraphrase questions and present balanced arguments logically.