

**1) IELTS Cambridge books 1-12**

<https://drive.google.com/drive/u/0/folders/0BybCg3z9gRTAem02RIZCaFpQOGc>

**2) Simon writing task one 9 bands samples book**

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B25ZkaDLMyyIZldFdUtZ2trckU/view>

**3) Simon writing task two 9 bands samples book**

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B25ZkaDLMyyISWphUmJUalQ2dXM/view>

**4) Sam McCarter TIPS books**

<http://brteam.ir/phocadownload/tip%20for%20ielts%20by%20sam%20mccarterunlocked.pdf>

**5) Recommended Facebook groups for IELTS writing evaluation**

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1033671333348928/>

[https://www.facebook.com/groups/133502420542140/?ref=br\\_rs](https://www.facebook.com/groups/133502420542140/?ref=br_rs)

**6) IELTS book author (Pauline Cullen) Facebook page**

[https://www.facebook.com/Vocabforielts/?ref=br\\_rs](https://www.facebook.com/Vocabforielts/?ref=br_rs)

**7) IELTS writing task 2 structures**

<https://www.ieltsadvantage.com/2015/03/03/ielts-writing-task-2-essay-structures/>

**8) IELTS band Score: How they are calculated**

<http://ieltsliz.com/ielts-band-scores/>

**9) Recent actual IELTS test (very important)**

<http://ieltsliz.com/recent-ielts-questions-and-topics/>

**10 IELTS TASK 1 Writing band descriptors (public version)**

[https://takeielts.britishcouncil.org/sites/default/files/IELTS\\_task\\_1\\_Writing\\_band\\_descriptors.pdf](https://takeielts.britishcouncil.org/sites/default/files/IELTS_task_1_Writing_band_descriptors.pdf)

**11 IELTS TASK 2 Writing band descriptors (public version)**

[https://takeielts.britishcouncil.org/sites/default/files/IELTS\\_task\\_2\\_Writing\\_band\\_descriptors.pdf](https://takeielts.britishcouncil.org/sites/default/files/IELTS_task_2_Writing_band_descriptors.pdf)

**12 Very useful websites for writing task 1 vocabulary**

<http://www.dcielts.com/ielts-writing/task-1-graph-vocabulary-1/>

<https://www.aehelp.com/blog/2014/04/08/academic-ielts-task-1-useful-vocabulary-for-graphs-and-diagrams/>

**13 Recommended Websites**

<http://writefix.com/>

<http://ielts-up.com/>

<http://www.ieltsbuddy.com/>

<https://ieltsolinetests.com/>

<http://ielts-simon.com/>

**14 Suggested IELTS Practice Materials**

Websites

- [www.ielts.org](http://www.ielts.org) (general information)
- [www.writefix.com](http://www.writefix.com) (excellent & has links for listening & speaking)

- [www.ieltsspeaking.co.uk](http://www.ieltsspeaking.co.uk) (includes free sections on ideas, vocabulary & phrases for speaking about a variety of topics)
- [www.examenglish.com](http://www.examenglish.com) (contains 2 full on line reading & listening tests. The Academic Vocabulary section is also useful)
- <http://elc.polyu.edu.hk/ielts/> (excellent on-line practice materials)
- [www.ielts-simon.com](http://www.ielts-simon.com) (advice & model answers)
- [www.bbc.co.uk/worldservice/learningenglish](http://www.bbc.co.uk/worldservice/learningenglish) (General English, including reading & vocabulary)

On Facebook, ‘Pauline Cullen’s IELTS Page’ is strongly recommended. But please beware of ‘IELTS Liz’. Many doctors preparing for IELTS say ‘IELTS Buddy’ website is helpful.

#### Books

It is recommended that you buy IELTS Testbuilder 1 (new edition) – Sam Mcarter (Macmillan) and possibly Testbuilder 2. These are a reasonable price, containing 4 tests, answer key with explanations & practical tips.

## Useful phrases

### giving personal opinions

- I’d say
- As I see it
- If you ask me
- From my point of view
- In my opinion
- Personally speaking
- My view is
- The way I see it is
- I believe

### giving weaker opinions

- I guess
- I suppose
- I imagine

**So, while you are thinking use phrases like: (Rafael)**

- “That’s an interesting question.”
- “As a matter of fact, I saw a TV programme about this subject recently.”
- “I suppose it depends on individual taste/opinion.”
- “This is a current topic in my country.”
- "Well, to be honest..... "
- "That's a good question... "
- "Well, let me see"....
- "That's a tricky one"....

‘Not really. The idea doesn’t appeal to me.’

**Also, link and connect your sentences with phrases like: (Rafael)**

- “Actually,...”
- “In fact,...”
- In other words... ”
- Another point is...."
- “Personally speaking,...” etc.

### **Situations**

- To be honest, it’s hard to tell, as it totally depends on people’s taste.
- I think I would say it depends on my mood
- Well, it depends on the situations.
- It varies from person to person

### **Reasoning**

- First and most important reason is
- Related to first reason another reason it
- For so many reasons I suppose. The first reason I could think of.... Another possible reason is
- It is extremely important for
- Because of
- That’s why
- Reason behind it is

### **Other prashes**

- Well, I’ve never thought about it

- If you're talking about India, no, I don't think it's possible,
- Yes, I do like flowers.
- Frankly speaking, I have never bought a mirror in my entire life.
- I actually prefer
- To be honest, I'm really into swimming,
- As I've mentioned I prefer
- Absolutely, I am a big fan of music.
- Well, I often spend my time
- Personally, I like the former option.

## **Opinion**

- I strongly believe that...  
As far as I'm concerned...  
I'm strongly against...  
I'm strongly in favour of....  
I'm skeptical of the idea that...

## **Speaking part 2**

- I'd like to talk about (X).'
- So let me tell you about (X) in a little more detail.

## **Used to**

You can talk about what you 'used to' do and how that has changed now in the present.

Do you play sport?

Short answer: I play football.

Longer answer: I used to love basketball, but now I play football more because that's what my friends are in to.

## **IELTS Speaking Advice**

### **Fluency**

It is essential that you keep talking and do not spend a long time in silence while you think about your answers. So, while you are thinking use phrases like:

- "That's an interesting question."
- "As a matter of fact, I saw a TV programme about this subject recently."

- "I suppose it depends on individual taste/opinion."
- "This is a current topic in my country."
- "Well, to be honest..... "
- "That's a good question... "
- "Well, let me see"....
- "That's a tricky one"....

But make sure the phrases are relevant to what you are saying!

You can ask the examiner to repeat a question but in Part 1 the examiner has a script and cannot rephrase the question. If you misunderstand a question, the examiner will not correct you. So be sure the question is about 'working', not 'walking' if you are not sure.

Also, link and connect your sentences with phrases like:

- "Actually,..."
- "In fact,..."
- In other words..."
- Another point is...."
- "Personally speaking,..." etc.

Remember to use a range of linking words. If you mainly use 'and', 'but' or 'because, it will reduce your grade.

Fluency includes using the appropriate register, Part 1 tests your ability to 'chat' informally but in Part 3 you need to be 'formal' and discuss ideas in the same way you would in a job interview or university tutorial.

Vocabulary

You need to use a variety of words so try not to use the same words as the examiner. For example, Q "Would you like to visit the USA?" A 'Not really. The idea doesn't appeal to me.'

If you mainly use adjectives like 'good', 'nice', 'important' and 'interesting', you are likely to get a low band for vocabulary. Perhaps 4.0! It is important to use adjectives in Part 2 to describe and show your feelings. Always try to speak with 'passion' in Part 2.

As well as using a range of vocabulary, remember to use collocations. So don't just say 'factor', say 'there are several factors which contribute to the situation', 'tackle the problem', 'take measures/steps to solve/remedy the situation' etc. In Part 1 also try to use a few phrasal verbs.

Grammar

You need to use a variety of language so do not just use short simple sentences, even if they are correct. It is better to use more complex sentences with some errors than correct, short sentences.

- Make sure you say, “I go.../he goes...” correctly.
- Make sure you say, “I went...”, not ‘I go....last week’.
- Make sure you say, “I went to London two weeks ago”, not “I went to London two weeks before.”
- Try not to only use the present simple or past simple tenses. Variety is essential.
- Try to use the past continuous tense. For example, “I was studying at college when I first met my best friend.”
- Try to use the present perfect tense. For example, “I have lived in Birmingham for four months/since January” or “It’s the best party I’ve ever been too.”
- Make sure you use a few ‘if’ sentences. For example, “If you visit my country, you can see...” (1st conditional) or “If I had a lot of money, I would buy a big house”. Also, remember that ‘Provided that’/’Providing’/’As long as’/’Unless’ 😊 (= ‘if not’ in 1st conditional) are similar in meaning.
- Try to use comparatives or superlatives if you have an opportunity. For example, “The cost of living in my country is (much) higher/lower than in the UK.”
- Try not just to say ‘will’ if the examiner asks you about the future in Part 3. Use ‘X is likely to...’/’might’/’could’ etc or ‘it is predicted/expected’ etc.
- Don’t keep saying “I think...” Also use, “What I think is...”/’What the government should do is...” etc.
- Try to use a few sentences beginning with ‘-ing’. For example, “Living in Birmingham means it is easy to travel to other places in the UK” or “Being a student means I don’t have much money.”
- You need to join a few sentences with ‘which’/’who’. For example, “I live in Birmingham, which is in the centre of England.”
- Try to use a few sentences in the passive. For example, “I was given a watch by my father and I got a mobile from my brother”, not just “My father gave me a watch and my brother gave me a mobile.”
- Please be careful not to make the usual ‘Arabic’ mistake of saying, “My friend he lives in Manchester.”

#### Pronunciation

Pronunciation and Fluency are connected. So if you speak slowly, it will affect your Pronunciation grade.

If you have a noticeable problem with a particular sound, your band will be limited to 6.0. If the examiner has difficulty in understanding parts of what you are saying because you mispronounce words, you will be limited to 5.0.

Remember what you have practised in class about stressing important words and using falling intonation for new information or when you have finished speaking,

The best website to practise sounds is:

- [www.cambridgeenglishonline.com/Phonetics\\_Focus](http://www.cambridgeenglishonline.com/Phonetics_Focus)

There are examples of speaking interviews on You Tube and there is a link on [www.writefix.com](http://www.writefix.com)