**IELTS Speaking Module:**

The IELTS speaking test is a face to face interview with an examiner. Sometimes it is held on the same day as that of the other three sections or it can also take place on a different day.

**The time duration of the test is around 11-14 minutes.** The Speaking test has three parts or sections.

**Marking Criteria for speaking**

The speaking test is marked considering the following parameters:

1. **Fluency and Coherence**: The former checks how smooth the flow of the language is and the latter refers to your link and flow of the information.

**For example**: *I’m working as a sales representative. My job profile is to promote my product and increase the sales. India is a beautiful country.*

So in the above example a person is telling about his work but job. However, the last sentence appears to be completely unrelated or we can say there is no cohesion or link.

1. **Lexical Resource:** This refers to the range of vocabulary a candidate uses. It should be wide and the candidate shouldn’t repeat the same words many times.
2. **Grammatical Accuracy and Range:** The use of simple and complex sentences should be accurate. The candidate must exemplify usage of passive forms and variety of tenses correctly.
3. **Pronunciation and Task Relevance:** How we say a particular word or sentence is also marked and what you say, whether it is linked to your question or not is also of importance.

**Speaking Test Structure:**

*A speaking interview in IELTS consists of the following three parts* which last for 11-14 minutes.

**PART 1:**

This part includes general introduction or general questions on basic topics like your name’s meaning, hometown, work or education, family, friends and the like. This lasts for about 3-4 minutes and the examiner doesn’t take part in the discussion.

- What is your full name?  
- What should I call you?  
- Where are you from?  
- What are the special features of your hometown?  
- Would you like to stay there in the future? Why?  
- Do you like shopping? -Where do you like to shop from?

-In which way electronic devices help us? Like washing machine.

**PART 2: Long-Turn**

This is the cue-card part where in you are given some slips with topics written on them and without seeing you have to choose one. You will be given exactly one minute to think on it and you will have to speak on the topic for about 2 minutes.

**Your knowledge is not judged but your English proficiency is judged here.** for example even if you say Delhi is the capital of Kenya it is grammatically correct, so you won’t be marked negative for it.

Let’s learn how to speak for IELTS for minimum 2 minutes. The cue card mostly looks like the card given below. It has two to three sub points and one main point (**to be explained in detail**)

**Describe a situation when you helped someone.  Please say:**

* Who was that person?
* Why did he/she need your help?
* And explain how did you help him/her?

It is always helpful to make a web diagram or chart because you have just one minute to think. This diagram helps a lot as you don’t miss out any point. For example for the question above we can have the following diagram:

Changed tyre, difficult for me too, she very happy, I felt nice too, smile on my face

Teenage girl, 19-20, well dressed

On road, car tyre punctures

**You can start by:** *I’m going to talk about* a person whom I helped. Last Sunday while I was on my way back home from work, I saw *a teenage girl* waiving her hand by the **roadside**. *She was well dressed and appeared as to be around 19-20 years of age*. There was a car parked right besides her with the parking lights **turned on** .As I **approached near**er, I slowed down my car and **halted** there. She **peeped through** the window and asked *if I could help her fixing her car as it was punctured*. She was nervous and frustrated at the same time. I just **nodded** my head and parked my car on the other side.

Thereafter, she handed me over the keys and *I removed the tyre*. It took me quite some time though and I could see her **getting agitated** on each slip of mine. *But somehow I managed to take off the deflated tyre and replaced it with the right one*. She was **flabbergasted** as if she achieved the goal of her life. She thanked me a zillion times at least and I **gratefully accepted her gratitude** saying her bye.

Even now when I think of it, it brings a smile on my face.

Please note the italicised words above. They answer all the questions in the topic. Answering all the points is must. Other than that, you need to maintain the flow, so always try to build up a story. You are free to lie as much as you can but the only point is it should be linked and related to the topic. The words and phrases in bold show the range of vocabulary.

Let’s take another example:

**Describe about your own ideas of learning science (physics, chemistry or biology).**

·                    How do they do it?

·                    What it was all about?

·                    Explain likes and dislikes about any one of them.

**Please try and make a web diagram for the question given above.**

*I’m going to talk about* my ideas of learning science especially biology. I have studied science for almost 16 years or so. It was always one of my favourite subjects and out of sciences my personal best was biology.

Studying and learning biology appears to be a challenge for many students as it is vast and really detailed. There is a lot to learn so *I think* the key to success in learning biology is timely revision of the topics. Associating particular areas or topics with diagrams really helps to understand the subject better.

Biology is further divided into zoology and botany. The former gives details about the animal kingdom, the structure and evolution whereas the latter explains the plant life and its details. It involved many practical experiments other than theory classes.

*Well to be honest*, out of all the science subjects, I disliked physics quite a lot. It involved unending equations and concepts which *I believe* were the most challenging. I felt completely uninterested while studying that. *Contrastingly, as I mentioned Biology* interested me the most. I was amused whenever I read about the evolution of life forms and the plethora of species around us. I always wanted to study it more and more.

**Please note the italicised words. They are the linking words and fluency markers which help to make your speech more natural. Some other fluency markers are:**

**To be honest,**

**Well,**

**I believe,**

**I’m afraid, I’m not sure.....**

**Well, it depends....**

**Part 3: Discussion**

The last part comprises of two way discussion with the examiner. The questions would be based upon or somewhat related to the cue card.

You will be asked your opinion on various issues and you will have to support your answer with valid reasons.

**For example for the first cue-card mentioned above, you can have the following part 3.**

* In which way parents and teachers encourage children to help others?
* Do you like to help someone?
* What do you think; do people like to help someone? How about the earlier times?
* Other than the materialistic things, in which way you could help someone?

**For the second cue-card given, you could have the following questions in Part 3.**

* Can you share any news based on any recent research?
* Research companies should be government or private?
* A lot of money is spent on research these days; do you think it is correct?
* Research these days involves experimentation on animals, what are your opinions about it?

In this section since you will have to answer the questions logically, you should have some structure in your mind. You can start the answer by repeating a part of the question itself. **For instance, for the question in which way parents and teachers encourage children to help others?** You can answer: *Well, according to me parents and teachers can encourage children to help others in many ways. Since the children spend most of their time with them, it is easier to learn from them. They can take their children along whenever they help someone or narrate them moral stories.*

**Do you like to help someone?**

*Well, this is a little personal question*. For me helping someone is like relaxing my mind and purifying my soul. Since I’m a very religious and emotional person by nature, it touches me all the more. In a *nutshell, yes I definitely like to help others.*

In the above answer the (*Well, this is a little personal question.) makes your language seem more natural and in a nutshell,* means you are concluding your idea into a point.

**Practice questions: PART 1:**

* What is your full name?
* Where are you from?
* Can I see your ID?
* What kind of accommodation do you live? In a flat or a house?
* Do you like your home?
* What kind of house do you want to live in the future?
* Should electronic devices be used in maths classes?
* What is the importance of toys in your life?
* Do you still have any toy of your childhood?
* Why do the people keep their childhood toys?
* Do you often watch T.V?
* What kind of programmes you like to watch?
* What is the importance of educational serials telecasted on T.V?
* Why people often use mobile phones?
* What kind of programmes you mostly watch on T.V?
* Why you like to watch those types of programmes?
* Do you take rest?
* Do you think rest is required in the mid of the day?
* How many hours of good sleep is required?
* Do you think old people require more sleep than young ones?

**PART 2:**

1. **Describe a place, work or study. Please say:**

·                    What is the name of place?

·                    What did you do there?

·                    What facilities are available?

1. **An interesting person you have met recently.  Please say:**

·                    Name of the person.

·                    What he does?

·                    Why you consider him to be an interesting person?

1. **Describe a polite person. Please say:**

·                    Who the person is?

. When did you meet him first?

. What does he/she do?

. Explain why do you find him polite?

1. **Describe about any positive change in your life. Please say:**

* What is it?
* When did the change take place?
* What was the cause?
* How do you feel about the change?