

IELTS Speaking Task 1

Topic - People you study/work with:

Q. Who do you spend most time studying/working with? [Why?]

Answer: As a university student, I have a couple of classmates, who are also my friends, with whom I spend a considerable amount of time studying or discussing different topics related to our studies or assignments. If I have to single out a person among them, I would say I spend most time with “Jessica”, who is a very close friend of mine, and a very brilliant student.

Alternative Answer: I work in a software company in our country, and I often have to work with a number of colleagues on different projects and requirements. However, I believe I work most with two of my colleagues, who happen to be also from my university, as we are often in the same team working on the same projects.

Q. What kinds of things do you study/work on with other people? [Why?]

Answer: My major is Business Studies, and I often find myself studying or discussing accounting, banking, technology, finance, management and computer applications related topics or assignments with the people I study with. If we have important assignments, which are quite frequent, we also discuss how we can approach and prepare to get a good grade.

Alternative Answer: As a software developer, almost always I work in a team. My work nature is such that I have to constantly interact with a group of people ranging from the clients to the project manager, from teammates, subordinates, the design team, the marketing team to the testing team. I work with the clients to understand the project requirements. With other teams and project managers, I mostly discuss the progress of the projects or do formal meetings about the projects. With the testing team, I collaborate in order to solve bugs or improve a feature.

Q. Are there times when you study/work better by yourself? [Why/Why not?]

Answer: I think most of us would agree that group studies are better for understanding comparatively complex topics and it also helps us share our ideas. However, there are some instances, at least this is what my experience has taught me, when we tend to do better if we study

all by ourselves. For instance, if I need to write an essay, read a chapter of a book that requires utmost attention, solve a math problem, or do some online research for a small project, I prefer working alone to being in a group of several people. I would like to share my ideas or get reviews on the work I do in such situations, but when it comes to jotting down my thoughts or thinking with rapt attention, I think working solo is sometimes the best option.

Alternative Answer: Well, before starting working on a project, I need to discuss and collaborate with several people. But when it comes to actually write codes for the software or application, I prefer to work all by myself. However, during this work, I often need to supervise my subordinates and interact with seniors. I think I prefer writing code in a silent environment without the intervention of others because this way, I can pay absolute attention and produce great outputs.

Q. Is it important to like the people you study/work with? [Why/Why not?]

Answer: Yes, it is absolutely important to like the people we study with. Students, most of the time, if not always, create a friendly bond with others they study with. So if they do not like each other, chances are that the group would not sustain in the long run and produce very poor output. As for me, the students who I study with are my dear friends, and this friendship has begun after we started studying together.

Alternative Answer: In my opinion, it is quite important to like and respect people we work with. Without having a work environment where we have friendly and helpful colleagues, we cannot go on for a long. In fact, we spend a significant amount of our day-time in our workplace, so it is imperative that we are surrounded by the people we like to work with and respect each other.