

Track 02

- 1 I've played the clarinet since I was a child. OR
I've been playing the clarinet since I was a child.
- 2 I've only been scuba-diving twice.
- 3 I've known her for three and a half years.
- 4 I've read your book. You can have it back now.
- 5 I've been watching TV all morning. I'm so lazy!

Track 03

- 1 How long have you been doing your favourite hobby?
- 2 How many times have you engaged in your hobby this week, or this year?
- 3 Have you had less time for your hobby since you started studying for IELTS?

Track 04**Hobbies**

Do you think men and women tend to have different types of hobbies?

Why do some people get obsessed with their hobby?

Do you think hobbies that keep you fit are better than hobbies that you can do sitting down?

Free time

Do you think it can be a disadvantage to have too much free time?

Should people feel a duty to do something constructive in their free time?

Do people have more free time now than in the past?

Sample answers:

Examiner: Do you think men and women tend to have different types of hobbies?

Candidate: Yes, I do. The men I know have sports as hobbies. The women usually enjoy more sedentary and peaceful hobbies, like reading or crafts. Having said that, there are of course women who love exhilarating hobbies or are fanatical about cycling or something. And there are men who take up pottery or sewing. There are always exceptions to every rule.

Examiner: Why do some people get obsessed with their hobby?

Candidate: I think everybody finds at least one thing absolutely fascinating. It can be anything – subjects like history of art, or a sport like basketball, or a craft like card-making. Everyone is different and one person's interest can appear strange to other people. However, not everyone has time to indulge themselves with their hobby. Mothers of young children, for example, get little free time and so they appear less 'obsessed' than a single man who spends every weekend, all weekend playing computer games.

Examiner: Do you think hobbies that keep you fit are better than hobbies that you can do sitting down?

Candidate: No, I think hobbies that open you up to new things are the best, ones that enrich you and give you a new skill. That can be anything, but it is important always to grow as a person and not become boring by never trying anything new.

Examiner: Do you think it can be a disadvantage to have too much free time?

Candidate: Well, they say that the devil makes work for idle hands and I think it's true that the less you have to do the less active you become and the more time you waste. People who have too much time to spare tend to become lazy and lethargic. People who are always on the go, on the other hand, think nothing of fitting one more thing into their busy schedules.