

Answer key

A comprehensive answer key is provided for all sections of the book including recommended answers and explanations. You will also find full audio scripts of all speaking exercises at the back of the book. There are sample answers for all the IELTS Speaking test questions recorded on the CDs. The audio scripts for these sample answers are also at the back of the book. Listening to and learning from these will help you to achieve the best scores.

Using the book for self-study

If you are new to IELTS, we recommend that you work systematically through the 12 units in order to benefit from the book's progressive structure. If you are a more experienced learner, you can use the aims listed at the start of each unit to select the most useful exercises.

Each unit contains between three and four hours of study material. Having access to someone who can provide informed feedback on the speaking practice exercises is an advantage. However, you can still learn a lot working alone or with a study partner willing to give and receive peer feedback.

Avoid writing the answers to vocabulary exercises directly into the book so that you can try the exercises again once you have completed the unit. As you attempt the exercises in each unit, write down in a separate notebook any language that you find particularly useful or relevant. Review this language often.

Try to revise what you have learnt before attempting the practice IELTS questions in each unit. This will improve the quality of your answers, and using the new language will help you to remember it.

Record your answers if you can. It will develop your self-awareness: you will be able to hear where your strengths lie and which aspects of your speaking you need to improve. In addition, hearing how your speaking has improved over time will increase your confidence and motivation. Remember that there are no 'right' or 'wrong' answers to the exam questions: the examiner is interested in your English, not in testing the validity of your opinions.

Once you have answered the practice IELTS questions, listen to the sample answers. You can also read the sample answers in the audio scripts section at the back of the book. Write down any useful vocabulary and grammatical structures. Be aware that 'vocabulary' consists of more than just single words: also pay attention to bigger chunks of language, such as phrases and collocations.

It is recommended that you play the sample answers a second time. This time, read the words as you listen, imitating as closely as possible the native speakers' pronunciation.

It is very important that you do not memorise entire sentences or answers. IELTS examiners are trained to spot this and will change the topic if they think you are repeating memorised answers. With its structured approach, wide range of relevant exercises, and exam tips and techniques, *Speaking for IELTS* should equip you with the skills and language, as well as the confidence, necessary to tackle unfamiliar questions on the day of the exam.

Unit 12 is a complete practice speaking test. This unit should be done under exam conditions including setting yourself the time limits that are suggested. There is also a sample answer for this complete practice test so you can listen to the audio and read the audio script to further learn from the experience of sitting this practice test.