

Exam technique: Planning your answer

Exam tip: When planning your answer to Part 2, remember that you do not have to cover all the points on the task card and you do not have to talk about them in order. It is usually a good idea, however, because the points help you to organise what you are going to say.

IELTS Speaking Exam: Part 2

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Read the Part 2 task card and the notes that one candidate made for the questions. Notice that the candidate has not used full sentences. For example, instead of writing *It was a final so the atmosphere was electric*, he has written *final so atmosph. electric*. When we make notes, we often omit less important words such as articles and auxiliary verbs, and we often write only the key words. We also use shorthand, such as + for *and*, w. for *with*, and yrs for *years*. Develop your own shorthand in English as this will save you time.

Describe an exciting competition or sporting event you have witnessed.

You should say:

what the competition or sporting event was

when and where it took place

who won

and explain why it was exciting.

Past tenses! Don't sound bored!!!

What? tennis match, final

Where, when? outside Bdx, 6 yrs ago

Who won? M. won 2-1 (leave till end)

Why exciting? final so atmosph. electric,

close to action, loser expected to win but fell apart

Vocab - court, crowd, hit balls down the line, serve for the match, be presented w. the trophy

Now answer questions a-d.

- Which tenses will the candidate use? Why?
- Why do you think he has written *Don't sound bored*?
- Is he going to follow the order of the points on the card?
- Why do you think he has noted down vocabulary? Has he written just isolated words?

Give yourself one minute to plan your answer to the Part 2 Exam question using the ideas in Exercise 1. Whenever you practise Part 2 questions, always give yourself one minute, but no more, so that you learn how best to use the time. Then talk for one to two minutes.