

## IELTS Speaking Exam: Part 3

- 13 You are going to hear questions that are typical of Part 3 of the exam. Listen to each question and record your answers.

Now listen to the sample answer. What additional vocabulary could you use in your own answers?

## Pronunciation: Word stress

- 14 Underline the syllable that is stressed in words 1–4. Check your answers in a dictionary.

1 leader                      2 hotel                      3 production                      4 desert (*verb*)

Now listen to the words and practise pronouncing them correctly. The stressed syllable is generally louder and longer.

**Exam tip:** Something the examiner will be thinking about as you talk is, 'Does this student impose a strain on the listener?' This is a very important concept in the IELTS Speaking exam. If you 'impose a strain', it means that the listener has to struggle to understand you.

Here are some ways you may impose a strain:

- hesitating for too long
- speaking too quietly
- having poor pronunciation

Improving these aspects of your speaking will improve your mark.

Word stress is crucial in English. If you stress the wrong syllable, the listener may have trouble understanding you. Always mark the stressed syllable when you note down a new word.

- 15 There are some rules for word stress in English, although there are also many exceptions to the rules. Read the following rules and answer the questions.

**Rule a:** Two-syllable nouns and adjectives are most often stressed on the first syllable.

- 1 Which word from Exercise 14 follows this rule? Can you think of three more?
- 2 Which word from Exercise 14 is an exception to this rule? Can you think of any other exceptions?

**Rule b:** There are words that can be either a noun or a verb. If they are spelt the same and have two syllables, the noun (and adjective) is usually stressed on the first syllable, whereas the verb on the second syllable.

- 3 Which word from Exercise 14 follows this rule? Do you know any other words that follow the rule?