

Cambly Content

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IELTS Topic: Sports

📁 IELTS, Test Prep



Vocab & Idioms

Go over the following vocabulary and expressions with your tutor. Read the word/expression and definition out loud, and your tutor will go over anything you do not understand. Practice creating a sentence or two to make sure you know how to use the word/expression properly.

Vocabulary/ Expressions

to play tennis/football	(not do or go)
to do judo	(not go or play)
a football fan	someone who likes football
a fitness programme	a schedule of activities to keep fit
a football match	a game of football
a football pitch	the surface on which you play football (as opposed to a stadium, which is the building)
a football season	a period in the year when football is played
to get into shape	to become fit
an away game	a football match played in the opposing teams stadium
a home game	a football match played in the teams own stadium
to keep fit	to stay in good physically condition
to be out of condition	to not be physically fit
a season ticket	a ticket that gives you entry to most of a team's home games during the sporting year.
a sports centre	a public building where people can do various sports
sports facilities	the equipment and services needed to do a sport
strenuous exercise	exercise that needs a lot of physical effort

Part 1 Questions

Here are possible questions that might come up during the test. Go over them with your tutor.

Topic

- Do you like to watch sports on TV?
- Do you play any sports?
- Do you have a favorite sports star?
- What's the most popular sports in your country?
- What kind of sports would you like to try in the future?
- Have you ever tried any dangerous sports?

Part 2&3 Questions

Here are possible questions that might come up during the test. Go over them with your tutor.

Sample A

Part 2 Questions

- Describe a sport you would like to learn. You should say:
 - what the sport is
 - when you want to learn it
 - how you would learn it
 - and why you want to learn it

Part 3 Questions

- Should people be encouraged more to take up sport?
- Why do some people enjoy participating in sport more than others?

Sample B

Part 2 Questions

- Describe a place that you visit to keep fit. You should say:
 - What is it
 - When do you go there
 - What do you do there
 - and say why do you like it

Part 3 Questions

- Which sports do you think are best for people who aren't used to physical activity?
- What could the government do to make people more active?

Sample C

Part 2 Questions

- Talk about a sport or exercise that you do. You should say:
 - Why you do that sport or exercise
 - How it compares to other sports or exercises
 - How popular it is in your country
 - And say which kinds of people you would recommend that sport or exercise to and why

Part 3 Questions

- How much emphasis should sports be given in schools?
- Should schools move towards boys and girls doing the same sports?

Sample Answers

Here are some sample answers. Go over them with your tutor.

Part 1 Questions

- **Do you like to watch sports on TV?**
 - Yes, I'm really into watching sports on TV because it entertains me a lot. Besides, I like seeing other people do the things that I can't do and wish I could do.
- **Do you play any sports?**
 - Yes, I sometimes play football in the morning with my friends in the garden during the weekends to get some exercises.
- **Do you have a favorite sports star?**
 - My favorite sports star is a footballer called Messi who is a forward for Barcelona. He has the perfect blend of speed, strength, skill and toughness. He is also an icon in the modern football game.
- **What's the most popular sports in your country?**
 - I guess the most popular spectator sport in China is basketball. Many young people in China play basketball but mainly boys play it. Basketball courts are easy to find and it doesn't require any specific facilities or expensive equipment other than a basket and a ball.
- **What kind of sports would you like to try in the future?**
 - Well, I guess what I'll try in the future is tennis because it can help me build strength and can improve my flexibility and balance. Besides, tennis is a social activity too; it's a sport I can enjoy with friends if I play regularly.
- **Have you ever tried any dangerous sports?**
 - Oh, no, though my life is quite a bit boring, I'm too scared to do any extreme sports because I don't think I have enough guts to put myself in these difficult situations.

Part 2&3 Answers

Here are some sample answers. Go over them with your tutor.

Sample A

Part 2 Questions

- Describe a place you like going to in your leisure time. You should say:
 - what this place is
 - when you go there
 - what you do there
 - and say why you enjoy it there so much.

I'd like to talk about my local sports centre ... it's a place I spend a lot of time in ... it's a new building with all the latest sports facilities ... I probably go there at least twice a week ... sometimes more often ... it's a huge place ... there's an outdoor athletics track and some football pitches ... I play football so I'm often out there ... there are several indoor squash and tennis courts that I use occasionally ... a big swimming pool ... although I don't use that very often ... I'm not a very strong swimmer ... there's a gym ... lots of things really ... why do I enjoy going there ... it's just a really fun place to be ... there's a good social side to it all ... you can enter competitions ... meet up with other people who want to do the same sports ... and because there are so many activities on offer it gets you interested in different things ... for example I was listening to some people talking about training to run the marathon and I've decided I might even think about that ... I go jogging a couple of times a week so it would give me something to aim for ... so yes ... the sports centre ... that's the place I really like to visit ...

Part 3 Questions

- **Should people be encouraged more to take up sport?**
 - I think young people should be given the chance to discover which sport they might like ... watching sport is sometimes a good way to get people started ... not on TV but actually getting out ... take athletics for example ... they could go to an athletics meeting ... there are so many different sports on show one might interest them ...
- **Why do some people enjoy participating in sport more than others?**
 - That's a good question ... I suppose some people are more concerned about their health ... they can't stand the thought of being out of condition ... other people might be driven to excel ... they want to set records or get personal bests ...

Sample B

Part 2 Questions

- Describe a place that you visit to keep fit. You should say:
 - What is it
 - When do you go there
 - What do you do there
 - and say why do you like it
-

I would like to talk about my local gym that I visit three times a week... It's a new sports centre with the latest fitness equipment... It has everything you would ever need to keep fit: treadmills, various dumbbells and exercisers for different muscle groups. Moreover, it offers a wide range of different classes for every taste... I developed my own strength-building strategy, so usually I start with a short warm-up when I jog on the treadmill for a few minutes to sweat... Then, I go to the weights sections and start doing lifting exercises... Finally, I end my workout with stretching... I try not to miss my trainings, because they help me to relax and forget about the daily routine.

Part 3 Questions

- **Which sports do you think are best for people who aren't used to physical activity?**
 - Well ... I think people like this should avoid strenuous exercise so things like circuit training are definitely out of the question ... maybe just doing a brisk walk every day ... or swimming is always a good way to get started ...
- **What could the government do to make people more active?**
 - That's a tough question. It's very difficult to change people's behaviors. For example, if I like reading at home more than playing soccer or doing any other sports, I don't know what it will take to change my behavior. I guess getting people interested in various kinds of sports is a start. Perhaps the government can subsidize sports game tickets and promote them.

Sample C

Part 2 Questions

- Talk about a sport or exercise that you do. You should say:
 - Why you do that sport or exercise
 - How it compares to other sports or exercises
 - How popular it is in your country
 - And say which kinds of people you would recommend that sport or exercise to and why
-

I like going to dance classes more than just running on a treadmill. I like it because it's a group activity and I have my buddy or friends to help me stay motivated and not miss my classes. My favorite kind of dance is salsa, and my dance partner is so good and he always inspires me. I think salsa is relatively new sports, even among dance sports. None of my friends know how to dance salsa, but I think the population who enjoys salsa is growing very fast. I would love to recommend it to my friends and family. I think it will be so much fun if all of my close friends could all do it together!

Part 3 Questions

- **How much emphasis should sports be given in schools?**
 - I think sports should be emphasized more in schools. Most students don't get to exercise because they are always studying for various tests, and I think in the long term it does more harm than good to students.
- **Should schools move towards boys and girls doing the same sports?**
 - Well... I think boys and girls should be doing the same sports. Girls can play soccer and boys can do ballet, but we were just not educated that way. I think sports should be enjoyed by everyone equally.

Wrap-up

Go over any new expressions or vocabulary that you learned today.

Now try practicing the expressions that you've just learned
with a native-speaker tutor on Cambly

Practice English!



(<http://www.cambly.com/en/student/topics?url=>)

Blog at WordPress.com. (https://wordpress.com/?ref=footer_blog)

Linking words are essential for IELTS writing task 2 to get a high score. The word list below will help you show the examiner a range of connecting words to get a high score in the criterion of Coherence and Cohesion which is 25% of your marks. You will be checked on your range, accuracy and your flexibility of linking words in IELTS writing task 2.

Linking Words for IELTS Writing Task 2

Listing & Order firstly secondly thirdly fourthly lastly /last but not least / finally	Adding Information in addition additionally furthermore moreover also not only ... but also as well as	Giving Examples for example one clear example is for instance such as namely to illustrate in other words
Results and Consequences as a result consequently therefore thus hence so for this reason	Highlighting and Stressing particularly in particular specifically especially obviously of course clearly	Concessions and Contrasts admittedly however nevertheless even though although despite in spite of still on the other hand by contrast in comparison alternatively another option could be
Reasons and Causes because owing to due to since as	Giving your Opinion In my opinion I think I believe I admit In my view I concur / I agree I disagree / I cannot accept	Concluding Linkers in conclusion to conclude to sum up to reiterate

The above linking devices can be used for both Academic IELTS and General Training IELTS. Spelling is important and any words spelled incorrectly will adversely affect your score. There are also other useful expressions listed above for giving your opinion.

Please see my blog (www.ieltsliz.com) for model essays using a range of linking devices and also practice exercises to improve your understanding of connective devices.

The linking words in IELTS speaking help the examiner follow your ideas when you are talking. Connecting words are part of the marking criteria of Fluency and Coherence, which is 25% of your marks.

However, linking words are used naturally in IELTS speaking. They should NOT be over used. It is not the same as writing where you need to use a range and show flexibility. In speaking, you CAN repeat common linking words.

The list below are the most usual linking words and phrases to use in IELTS speaking.

Linking Words for IELTS Speaking

Adding more information and also as well as another reason is	Time Phrases now at the moment at present right now these days nowadays in the past before then at that time years ago when I was younger	Causes and Solutions I guess it's because The main reason is It was caused by Because I suppose the best way to deal with this problem is I reckon the only answer is to The best way to solve this is
Expressing ideas I think one important thing is I guess one difference is I suppose the main difference between X and Y is	Giving Examples for example for instance such as like	Being Clear You use these simple, natural expression to explain your point again more clearly or get your answer back on track. What I mean is What I want to say is As I was saying
Contrasting and concessions but on the other hand while although or		

There is only one speaking test for all IELTS students. Both GT and academic students take the same test and all speaking tips and words are suitable for everyone.

For model answers, common mistakes and tips, please see my blog www.ieltsliz.com and visit the speaking section.

Examples of Linking Words in IELTS Speaking

Look at the following questions and answers. See what linking words are contained in the answers.

Q. Do you eat much fruit?

A. Yes, I do. I love tropical fruit like mangoes and pineapples.

Comments: We would not use "for example" in this type of sentence which relates to our everyday life.

Q. Do you think fast food is bad?

A. Yes, I do. If it is eaten too often, it can cause problems such as heart disease or diabetes. Also, it can lead to weight problems which are really common nowadays.

Comments: You could use "such as" or "for example" in this sentence because the content is more serious. Please note that we don't use "furthermore" or "in addition" for speaking, instead we use "also" or "and".

Q. Do children play similar games today that they played in the past?

A. No, I don't think they do. Before, children used to play simple games like hide and seek or they used to play with simple handmade toys. But, these days, kids tend to prefer computer games and their toys are battery operated.

Comments: This answer contained time phrases for the past and present "before" and "these days". It also had an example "like". "Like" is the main example linking word for speaking and can be repeated again and again. This answer also uses a contrasting linking word "but". "But" is the main contrasting linking word in speaking and can be repeated many times.

Mistakes with Linking Words in Speaking

The example below will help you understand how not to answer a question with linking words.

Q. Do you like going out with friends?

A. Yes, I do. Firstly, it gives me a chance to relax. Secondly, I can catch up on their news. Last but not least, it allows me the opportunity to visit new places.

Comments: The method of linking is too formal. It is inappropriate and is not a good for a high score.

See below what the answer should be:

A. Yes, I do. It's great being able to chill out and catch up with their news. Also we often go out to new places which I really enjoy.

Comments: This answer was more natural and would be marked higher in IELTS speaking. The linking words are used appropriately (and / also).

Tips for Linking Devices in IELTS Speaking

- Don't use formal linking words for simple questions about yourself and your life.
- Don't worry about repeating linking words. This is different to IELTS writing.
- The most common linking words for speaking are: and, but, because, also, like (for giving examples)
- "Like" is only used as a linking word to give examples in speaking NOT in writing.
- You do not get a higher score because used a range of linking devices.
- Linking words in speaking are just to help the listener understand better.
- Linking words are used naturally not formally in IELTS speaking.
- Linking words are part of the criterion of "Fluency and Coherence" which is 25% of your marks.

IELTS Writing Linking Words

It is essential to use a wide range of linking words for IELTS writing to get a high score. Please visit my blog to get a free download of the linking words with tips: www.ieltsliz.com. Visit the writing task 2 page. You will also find model essays and free video lessons.

IELTS Speaking Questions

For IELTS speaking part 1, part 2 and part 3 questions, please visit my speaking page on www.ieltsliz.com. You will also find model answers and free video lessons.

IELTS Speaking & Writing Vocabulary

- Studies -

- I'm currently a student at ...
- I go to school. I'm in the 10th form/grade.
- Finish school
- Graduate from university (= uni)
- I'm a university student.
- I'm a 3rd year student at ... (name of the university)
- My major is Economics.
- I'm majoring in Economics.
- I study Law/Economics/Management etc.
- I'm an undergraduate/graduate/postgraduate student at ...

Degrees

- I have a degree in Management
- I'm studying for my Bachelor's in Economics.
- I'm studying for my MA in Economics. (Master's)
- I've got a Master's in Management.
- I hope to do a Master's degree in ...
- I'm thinking of doing a Master's Degree.
- I'd like to enter Cambridge University.
- I'm hoping to get a student grant.
- I'd like to apply for a scholarship to study medicine.
- I'm doing some research into ...
- Taking exams is by far the most challenging thing.
- Sit exams
- Do tests
- Make presentations
- Do research
- Hand in essays
- Enroll on a course
- Written assignments
- Course papers
- Graduation paper
- Credits

- A thesis or dissertation
- I'm writing my thesis at the moment.
- Attend lectures and seminars
- Lecturers and professors, tutors
- University students
- Classmates or Peers
- Meet deadlines
- It's sometimes hard to keep up with my studies
- Learn things by heart
- Face-to-face classes
- Distance learning
- Tuition fees
- Live on campus
- Live in the hall of residence
- To fall behind with my studies
- A graduation ceremony

Adjectives

- ✓ fascinating
- ✓ exciting
- ✓ dull
- ✓ tedious (=boring)
- ✓ exhausting
- ✓ stressful
- ✓ challenging
- ✓ prestigious university
- ✓ demanding
- ✓ educational
- ✓ entertaining
- ✓ intensive
- ✓ practical
- ✓ theoretical

What else to say for a high score?

- If I had more money, I'd enter ... (name of the university)
- I wish I could go to Oxford
- I'm in two minds about my future
- I've been studying ... for 3 years

IELTS Speaking & Writing Vocabulary

- Work / Occupation -

- I work as a/an ...
- I'm currently a/an ...
- I'm responsible for...
- My main responsibility is to ...
- I enjoy socializing with my colleagues.
- I'm interested in accounting.
- I don't want to be stuck behind a desk doing something dull.
- I don't want to end up in a dead-end job
- I'd like to be my own boss one day
- Meet deadlines
- Run my own business
- Heavy workloads
- To slave away
- Work round the clock
- Be a good team player
- My dream is to be a successful ... one day.
- I feel dead tired when ...
- Sit in front of a computer screen
- I have to deal with overwhelming workload.
- I have a very hectic schedule
- I'm up to my ears in deadlines.
- I'm in two minds about my future career.
- Pursue my dream to become a/an ...

Adjectives

- ✓ flexible
- ✓ well-paid
- ✓ full-time
- ✓ part-time
- ✓ manual
- ✓ stressful
- ✓ challenging
- ✓ exciting
- ✓ demanding
- ✓ hardworking
- ✓ fascinating
- ✓ boring
- ✓ dull

- ✓ tedious (=boring)
- ✓ exhausting
- ✓ voluntary
- ✓ prestigious
- ✓ rewarding
- ✓ temporary

Grammar

- I've been working for Nike for 5 years
- I've been working as a sales manager for 6 years
- Being a doctor is challenging because ...
- If I could change my job, I'd become a ...
- I wish I could work less
- If I had a choice, I'd ...