

Test format in detail

Listening	Academic Reading	General Training Reading	Academic Writing	General Training Writing
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IELTS Speaking description

Paper format	The Speaking test consists of an oral interview between the test takers' and an examiner recorded.
Timing	11–14 minutes
Task types	There are three parts to the test and each part fulfils a specific function in terms of interaction and test takers output.

IELTS Speaking in detail

A detailed look at the paper with links to related resources.

Task type and format	<p>In this part, the examiner introduces him/herself and checks the test takers' identity. They takers general questions on some familiar topics such as home, family, work, studies and consistency, questions are taken from a script.</p> <p>Part 1 lasts for 4–5 minutes.</p>
Task focus	This part of the test focuses on the ability to communicate opinions and information on ev common experiences or situations by answering a range of questions.
No. of questions	Variable

Part 2 – Long turn

Task type and format	<p>Part 2 is the individual long turn. The examiner gives the test takers a task card which ask about a particular topic, includes points to cover in their talk and instructs the test takers to the topic. Test takers are given one minute to prepare their talk, and are given a pencil an The examiner asks the test takers to talk for 1 to 2 minutes, stops the test takers after 2 m or two questions on the same topic.</p> <p>Using the points on the task card effectively, and making notes during the preparation time takers think of appropriate things to say, structure their talk, and keep talking for 2 minutes.</p> <p>Part 2 lasts 3–4 minutes, including the preparation time.</p>
Task focus	This part of the test focuses on the ability to speak at length on a given topic (without furth examiner), using appropriate language and organizing ideas coherently. It is likely that the draw on their own experience to complete the long turn.
No. of questions	Variable

Part 3 – Discussion

Task type and format	In Part 3, the examiner and the test takers discuss issues related to the topic in Part 2
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Task focus	This part of the test focuses on the ability to express and justify opinions and to analyze and speculate about issues.
No. of questions	Variable

IELTS Speaking - How it's marked

Marking and assessment

Speaking performances are assessed by certificated IELTS examiners. All IELTS examiners hold relevant qualifications and are recruited as examiners by the test centers and approved by the British Council or IDP: IELTS Australia.

Scores are reported in whole and half bands. Detailed performance descriptors have been developed which describe performance at the nine IELTS bands. These are available on the [How IELTS is scored](#) page.

Fluency and coherence

This refers to the ability to talk with normal levels of continuity, rate and effort and to link ideas and language in coherent, connected speech. The key indicators of fluency are speech rate and speech continuity. The key indicators of coherence are logical sequencing of sentences, clear marking of stages in a discussion, narration or argument, and the use of cohesive devices (e.g. connectors, pronouns and conjunctions) within and between sentences.

Lexical resource

This criterion refers to the range of vocabulary used and the precision with which meanings and attitudes are expressed. The key indicators are the variety of words used, the adequacy and appropriacy of the words used and the ability to paraphrase (e.g. around a vocabulary gap by using other words) with or without noticeable hesitation.

Grammatical range and accuracy

This refers to the range and the accurate and appropriate use of the test takers' grammatical resource. The key indicators of grammatical range are the length and complexity of the spoken sentences, the appropriate use of subordinate clauses, and a range of sentence structures, especially to move elements around for information focus. The key indicators of grammatical accuracy are the number of grammatical errors in a given amount of speech and the communicative effect of these errors.

Pronunciation

This criterion refers to the ability to produce comprehensible speech to fulfil the Speaking test requirements. The key indicators will be the amount of strain caused to the listener, the amount of the speech which is unintelligible and the overall clarity of the speech.

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