Although French, German, American and British pioneers have all been credited with the invention of cinema, the British and the Germans played a relatively small role in its worldwide exploitation. It was above all the French, followed closely by the Americans, who were the most passionate exporters of the new invention, helping to start cinema in China, Japan, Latin America and Russia. In terms of artistic development it was again the French and the Americans who took the lead, though in the years before the First World War, Italy, Denmark and Russia also played a part. Integrate

In the end it was the United States that was to become, and remain, the largest single market for films. By protecting their own market and pursuing a vigorous export policy, the Americans achieved a dominant position on the world market by the start of the First World War. The centre of filmmaking had moved westwards, to Hollywood, and it was films from these new Hollywood studios that flooded onto the world’s film markets in the years after the First World War, and have done so ever since. Faced with total Hollywood domination, few film industries proved competitive. The Italian industry, which had pioneered the feature film with spectacular films like “Quo Vadis?” (1913) and “Cabiria” (1914), almost collapsed. In Scandinavia, the Swedish cinema had a brief period of glory, notably with powerful epic films and comedies. Even the French cinema found itself in a difficult position. In Europe, only Germany proved industrially capable, while in the new Soviet Union and in Japan, the development of the cinema took place in conditions of commercial isolation.

Hollywood took the lead artistically as well as industrially. Hollywood films appealed because they had better constructed narratives, their special effects were more impressive, and the star system added a new dimension to screen acting. If Hollywood did not have enough of its own resources, it had a great deal of money to buy up artists and technical innovations from Europe to ensure its continued dominance over present or future competition. From early cinema, it was only American slapstick comedy that successfully developed in both short and feature format. However, during this ‘Silent Film’ era, animation, comedy, serials and dramatic features continued to thrive, along with factual films or documentaries, which acquired an increasing distinctiveness as the period progressed. It was also at this time that the avant-garde film first achieved commercial success, this time thanks almost exclusively to the French and the occasional German film.

Of the countries which developed and maintained distinctive national cinemas in the silent period, the most important were France, Germany and the Soviet Union. Of these, the French displayed the most continuity, in spite of the war and post-war economic uncertainties. The German cinema, relatively insignificant in the pre-war years, exploded on to the world scene after 1919. Yet even they were both overshadowed by the Soviets after the 1917 Revolution. They turned their back on the past, leaving the style of the pre-war Russian cinema to the émigrés who fled westwards to escape the Revolution. General Training Reading sample task – Matching features The other countries whose cinemas changed dramatically are: Britain, which had an interesting but undistinguished history in the silent period; Italy, which had a brief moment of international fame just before the war; the Scandinavian countries, particularly Denmark, which played a role in the development of silent cinema quite out of proportion to their small population; and Japan, where a cinema developed based primarily on traditional theatrical and, to a lesser extent, other art forms and only gradually adapted to western influence.

**Questions: 1 – 7**

Look at the following statements (Questions 1-7) and the list of countries below.

Match each statement with the correct country, A-J. Write the correct letter just beside the sentence.

1. It helped other countries develop their own film industry.
2. It was the biggest producer of films.
3. It was first to develop the 'feature' film.
4. It was responsible for creating stars.
5. It made the most money from 'avant-garde' films.
6. It made movies based more on its own culture than outside influences.
7. It had a great influence on silent movies, despite its size.

**List of Countries**

A France

B Germany

C USA

D Denmark

E Sweden

F Japan

G Russia

H Italy

I Britain

J China

**Questions 8:** Give a suitable the title to this text?

**Ans:**

**Questions 9:** What is your opinion on your country’s film industry? Write no more than 30 words.

**Ans:**

**Cue Card Topic 1:**  
**Describe someone in your family who you really admire.**  
You should say:

* Who is s/he
* How often you see this person
* What you do together and explain why do you admire this person.

**Cue Card Topic 2:**

**Describe a friend who you really like to spend time with.**  
You should say:

* When and how you met
* How often do you meet
* What kind of personality your friend has and say why do you like to spend time with this friend.

## Things you do or like/ your favourite.

**Cue Card Topic 1:**

**Describe your favourite restaurant.**  
You should say:

* What it is
* What it looks like
* What kinds of foods it serves and explain why this is your favourite restaurant.

**Cue Card Topic 2:**

**Describe a book that had a major influence on you.**  
You should say:

* What is it & who is the writer
* What is the story of the book
* Who recommended it to you and how this book influenced you.

**Cue Card Topic 3:**

**Describe a website you often browse.**  
You should say:

* What is it
* How long have you been using it
* What the website is about and explain why you often browse this website.

**Cue Card Topic 4:**

**Describe the best gift/ present you have received.**  
You should say:

* What it was
* Who gave it to you
* On what occasion you got it And explain why it is the best gift / present you have received ever.

**Cue Card Topic 5:**

**Describe your favourite movie.  
You should say:**

* What is it
* What is the story of it
* When you watched it and explain why this is your favourite movie.

**Cue Card Topic 6:**

**Describe one of your favourite photographs.**  
You should say:

* When it was taken
* Who was in this photo
* What significant memory do you have about it and explain why it is your favourite photograph.

**Cue Card Topic 7:**

**Talk about your most favourite Season in your country.**  
You should say:

* What is it and when it comes
* Why you like this season
* What changes happen in this season. And explain why this is your favourite season.

## Places and Journey

**Cue Card Topic 1:**

**Describe a journey you went on.**  
You Should say:

* Where you went
* Why you went there
* What you did and who was with you and explain why you liked or disliked this journey.

**Cue Card Topic 2:**

**Describe a historical place that you know about.**  
You should say:

* What the place is
* Where it is located
* What is the historical significance of this place and describe what you know about this place.

**Cue Card Topic 3:**

**Describe a museum that you have visited.**  
You should say:

* When you visited the museum
* Describe the museum
* How you felt after going there and describe your experience of the visit.

**Cue Card Topic 4:**

**Describe a library that you visited.**  
You should say:

* Where it was
* What it looked like
* What types of books were there and explain why you liked your visit there.

**Cue Card Topic 5:**

**Describe a foreign country you have planned to visit.**  
You should say:

* What is it
* When are you planning to go
* Why you want to go there and explain details of your planning to visit the country.

**Cue Card Topic 6:  
Describe a shopping centre you often go to.**  
You should say:

* Where is it
* How often do you go there
* What things are available there and explain why you go there often.

**Cue Card Topic 7:**

**Describe a river or a sea you have visited.**  
You should say:

* Where it is
* When you went there
* What you did there and explain your visit there.

**Cue Card Topic 8:**

**Describe a city you have visited.**  
You should say:

* what is it and where is it
* when you visited it.
* What are the attractive spots of this city and explain what influence the city had on you.

**Cue Card Topic 9:**

**Describe a garden you remember visiting.**  
You should say:

* where it is
* what it looks like
* what people do there and explain why you remember it.

## Memory and Events

**Cue Card Topic 1:**  
**Describe one of your childhood memories.**  
You should say:

* What is it
* When it happened
* How it affected you in your life and explain why you still remember it.

**Cue Card Topic 2:**

**A speech that somebody delivered and you heard.**  
You should say:

* Who gave the speech
* What was it about
* What was the occasion and explain why you liked / disliked the speech.

**Cue Card Topic 3:**

**Describe a happy event of your life.**  
You should say:

* What was the event
* When it occurred
* What happened and explain why it was a happy event for you.

**Cue Card Topic 4:**

**Describe a sporting event you attended.**  
You should say:

* What kind of sports event is was
* What happened in the sports event
* why you attended it and explain why you consider this event to be interesting.

**Cue Card Topic 5:**

**Describe an occasion or event when you were congratulated.**  
You should say:

* What was the occasion
* When was it
* Who congratulated you and why and explain how did this make you feel.

## Things or Tools

**Cue Card Topic 1:**

**Describe a newspaper or a magazine.**  
You should say:

* What is it
* How often you read it
* What content it serves and explain if you like to read this newspaper or magazine.

**Cue Card Topic 2:**

**Describe an important letter that you received.**  
You should say:

* Who wrote it
* What it was about
* How you felt after reading it and explain why it was important to you.

**Cue Card Topic 3:**

**Describe a thing that you possess and which is important to you.**  
You should say:

* What is it
* What's the speciality of it
* Would you ever give it to someone else and explain why it is important to you.

**Cue Card Topic 4:**

**Describe something you own which is very important to you.**  
You should say:

* Where you got it from
* How long you have had it
* What you use it for and explain why it is so important to you.

**Cue Card Topic 5:**

**Describe a building / structure with architectural interest.**  
You should say:

* What is it
* what is the architectural significance of it
* Why should we preserve it and describe the building / structure in details.

## A Person

**Cue Card Topic 1:**

**Describe someone you know who is a good cook.**  
You should say:

* Who is s/he
* How you know him/ her
* What kinds of food he/she cooks and explain how good this cook is.

**Cue Card Topic 2:**

**Describe one of your neighbours.**  
You Should Say:

* Who is s/he
* How often you meet
* How is he/ she and explain why do you like/ dislike this neighbour.

**Cue Card Topic 3:**  
**Describe a teacher from your past who you remember.**  
You should say:

* What class the teacher taught you
* What subject he taught
* What are special characteristics of the teacher and explain why do you liked/ disliked her/ him.  
  Interest, Hobby and Activities

**Cue Card Topic 1:**  
**Describe your holidays.**  
You should say:

* Where do you go on the holidays
* Who you go with
* Talk about any interesting things happened then and explain why it was interesting.

**Cue Card Topic 2:**  
**Describe a practical skill you have.**  
You should say:

* What is it
* How often you use it
* Who taught it to you and explain how it help you.

**Cue Card Topic 3:**

**Describe something healthy you enjoy doing.**  
You should say:

* What you do
* Where and why you do it
* Who you do it with and explain why it is healthy.

**[Click here for the Sample Answer of this cue card](http://www.ielts-mentor.com/cue-card-sample/660-describe-something-healthy-you-enjoy-doing" \o "IELTS Cue Card Sample 50 - Describe something healthy you enjoy doing)**

**Cue Card Topic 4:**

**Describe an outdoor activity that you did for the first time.**  
You should say:

* What you did it
* Where and when you did it
* How you felt later and say if you would recommend this activity to your friends.

**Cue Card Topic 5:**

**Describe an unusual or interesting thing you did recently.**  
You should say:

* Where you did it
* When you did it
* Who you did it with and describe why it was unusual or interesting.

**Cue Card Topic 6:**

**Describe a club you organised or involved** **in.**

You should say:

* What type of club it is
* What is your involvement there
* what do you do for it and explain why it is important to you.

**IELTS Speaking Part 2 - Cue Cards**

Describe a child that you know.

You should say:

* Who the child is
* How you know the child
* When you see the child

Explain why you like/dislike this child.

Describe someone who has had an important influence on your life.

You should say:

* Who the person is
* How long you have known him/her
* What qualities this person has

Explain why they have had such an influence on you.

Describe an old person that you know.

You should say:

* What your relationship is to this person
* How often you see them
* What people think about this person

Explain why you like them.

Describe a lake, a river or a sea you have visited.

You should say:

* Where the lake is
* How often you have visited it
* What activities you do there

Explain why you like this particular place.

Describe a present you have given someone.

You should say:

* Who you gave it to
* What kind of present it was
* How it compared to other presents you have given

Explain why you decided to give this particular gift.

Describe a sporting event you attended.

You should say:

* What kind of sport is was
* How it compared to other events you’ve been to
* How often it takes place

Explain why you consider this event to be of interest.

Describe a TV show that you enjoy.

You should say:

* What type of show it is
* How often it is on
* How popular it is with other people in your country

Explain why you like it.

Describe a happy childhood event.

You should say:

* When it happened
* Who was involved
* How you felt at the time

Explain why you remember this particular occasion.

### People

#### Creative person

Describe a creative person you admire

You should say

who the person

how you know that person

what they do that is creative

And explain why you admire that person so much

#### An older person

Talk about an older person you admire.

You should say:

who this person is

how long you have known him/her

what qualities he/she has

And say why you admire him/her

#### An adventurous person

Describe an adventurous person who you know.

You should say

who the person is

how you know the person

what risks the person takes

And explain why you think that person likes to take risks

#### Someone in the news

Describe someone in the news you would like to meet.

You should say:

who the person is

what they do w

why they are in the news

And explain why you would like to meet them

#### An interesting person

Describe an interesting person who you spend a lot of time with.

You should say:

how long you have known this person

how  often you see each other

what you do together

And explain why this person is interesting to spend time with

#### A well-dressed person

Describe a person you know who think is well-dressed. You should say

who the person is

how long you have known him or her

what clothes they like to wear

And explain why the person dresses so well

#### Member of your family

Describe a member of your family you admire

You should say

who the person is

what they do

what their best quality is

And explain why you admire that person so much

#### A collector

Describe someone you know who collects things

You should say

what they collect

how the collection is stored

how long they have had a collection

And explain why they enjoy collecting that thing

#### A good language speaker

Talk about a person you know who can speak two languages.

You should say

who the person is

how long you have known them

what languages they can speak

And explain why it is helpful to speak more than one language

#### New home

Describe someone you know who recently moved home.

You should say:

who the person is

how you know the person

what kind of accommodation they moved to

And explain why they moved home

#### Talk about a good cook

Describe someone you know who is good at cooking.

You should say:

who this person is

how you know him or her

what kinds of food they cook

And explain why you think this person is good at cooking

#### A teacher

Describe someone you think is a good teacher

You should say

who the teacher is

how you know them

what they teach

And explain why you think they are a good teacher

#### An ambitious person

Talk about an ambitious person you know

You should say

who they are

how you know that person

what their ambition is

And explain how important their ambition is

#### An important job

Talk about a person you know whose job is important to society.

You should say

who the person is

what their job is

what they do at work

And explain why their job is important to society

#### Outdoors activities

Describe someone you know who enjoys outdoors activities

You should say

who the person is

what activities he/she does

how often he/she practises

And say why you think they enjoys outdoors activities

#### Funny

Describe a person who makes you laugh

You should say

who the person is

how you know him/her

how she/he makes you laugh

And explain how important laughing is in your life

### Places

These cue cards ask you to talk about places you know or have been to

#### Tourist attraction

Describe a tourist attraction that you have visited. You should say

What the attraction was

When you visited it

Why you went there

And say whether you enjoyed the visit or not

#### A house or apartment

Talk about a house or an apartment you would like to live in.

You should say

where it would be

what it would look like

how big it would be

And explain why you would like to live there

#### A favourite room

Describe your favourite room

You should say

what the room is

what furniture it contains

what you do in it

And explain why it is your favourite room

#### A place to travel

Describe a place that you would like to travel to.

You should say:

where you would like to go  
how you would go there  
who you would go with  
And explain why you would like to go to this place.

#### A restaurant

Describe a restaurant you know.

You should say:

where this restaurant is

what type of food the restaurant serves

how often you go to this restaurant

And explain why you would recommend this restaurant.

#### A tall building

Talk about a tall building where you live

You should say

what the building is

where it is

what people do there

And say what you think the advantages and disadvantages of tall buildings are

#### A garden

Describe a garden you remember visiting.

You should say:

where it is

what it looks like

what people do there

And explain why you remember it.

**A street**

Describe a street that you like to visit

You should say

where the street is

how often you there

what buildings are on the street

And explain why you like to visit that street

#### Somewhere to relax

Describe you like to go to relax

You should say

where it is

when you go there

what you do to relax there

And explain why it is a good place to relax

#### A shop

Describe a shop you often go to

You should say

where it is

how often you go there

what things you buy there

And explain why you choose to buy from that shop

#### A museum

Describe a museum you enjoyed visiting

You should say

where the museum is

when you visited it

what exhibits the museum contains

And explain why you enjoyed visiting that museum

#### A hotel

Describe a [HOTEL](http://www.dcielts.com/ielts-speaking-topics-part-2/" \l "1891884" \o "Click to Continue > by Ads) you have stayed in.

You should say:

where it is

what facilities it has

when you stayed there

And say whether you would recommend it to a friend

#### A place to read

Describe a place where you read

You should say

where the place is

how often you go there

what things you read there

And explain why it is a good place to read

#### A public park

Describe a public park you visit

You should say

where the park is

how often you go there

what people do there

And say how important public parks are

### Experiences

#### An important decision

Describe an important decision that you made

You should say:

what the decision was

how you made your decision

what the results of the decision were

And explain why it was important

#### A historical event

Describe an important historical event

You should say

when it happened

what happened

who were the most important people involved

And say why you think it was important

#### A wedding

Describe a wedding you attended

You should say

when it was

who got married

what happened at the wedding

And explain whether it was a typical wedding ceremony

#### A musical event

Describe a musical event in your country

You should say

What the event it is  
Where it takes place  
What kind of music is played  
And you should explain why you enjoy it

#### A news story

Describe some interesting news that you have recently read about or heard about

You should say:

what the story was  
who was involved in the story  
where you read or heard about this story  
And explain why this news story was interesting to you.

#### A group or club

Describe a group or a club you joined. You should say:

what the group was  
when you joined the group  
where the group met  
And explain why you enjoyed being part of the group

#### A short trip

Talk about a short trip you regularly make

You should say

how often you make the trip

where you go to

how you travel

And say whether you enjoy making that trip

**A conversation**

Describe a conversation that was important to you

You should say

who you talked to

when you had the conversation

what you talked about

And explain why the conversation was so important to you

#### A school rule

Talk about a school rule you had as a child

You should say

what the rule was

what the punishment was for breaking it

why it was made

And say whether you think it was a good rule or not

**A long journey**

Describe a long journey you have been on

You should say

how you travelled

where you went

who you travelled with

And say whether  you enjoyed the journey or not

#### A team

Describe a team you have been a member of

You should say

what the team was

when you joined it

what your role in the team was

And explain why you enjoyed being a member of that team

#### An indoors game

Describe an indoors game you played as a child

You should say

what the game was

who you played it with

how often you played it

And say whether you enjoyed playing that game

#### Extreme weather

Talk about a time you experienced some extreme weather

You should say

when it happened

what the weather was like

how long the weather lasted

And say how you dealt with the extreme weather

#### A new dish

Describe a time when you tried a new dish

You should say

what the dish was

where you ate it

who prepared it

And say whether you enjoyed eating the dish or not

#### A mistake

Talk about a time when you made a mistake

You should say

what the mistake was

when it happened

why the mistake happened

And say what happened as a result of that mistake

#### A bad film

Talk about a film you did not enjoy

You should say

what the film was

when you watched it

who you watched it with

And explain why you did not enjoy it

### Feelings

These are experience type questions that ask you to talk about how you felt on a particular occasion.

#### A happy experience

Describe a recent happy experience

You should say

when it was

what happened

who you shared the experience with

And say why that event made you so happy

#### A time you forgot something

Describe a time you forgot something

You should say

what you forgot

why you forgot it

when it happened

And say what you did afterwards

#### A disappointment

Describe a time when you were disappointed

You should say

when it happened

why you were disappointed

who else was involved

And how you dealt with your disappointment

#### Angry situation

Describe a situation that made you angry

You should say

what the situation was

where you were when it happened

who else was there

And say what you did to resolve the situation

#### Imagination

Describe a time when you had to use your imagination.

You should say

when it was

why you had to use your imagination

what you did

And say  if you found it easy or difficult

#### A time you were late

Talk about a time when you were late for something

You should say

when it happened

what you were late for

why you were late

And what you did after you were late

#### Some good news

Talk about some good news you received

You should say

what the news was

how you were told it

how you reacted to it

And explain why the news was so good

#### Disagreement

Talk about a time when you have had a disagreement

You should say

when it happened

who you disagreed with

what you disagreed about

And explain what happened as a result of your argument

#### A change of plans

Describe a time when you changed your plans

you should say

when it happened

what you planned to do

how you changed your plans

And say whether you were right to change your plans

### Habits and likes

#### A country

Describe a country you would like to visit

You should say

what the country is

when you would go there

what you would do there

And explain why you would like to visit it

#### A purchase

Describe something special you want to buy in the future.

You should say:

what it is

where you will buy it

when you intend to buy it

And explain why you want to buy it.

#### Exercise

Describe an activity you do to keep fit

You should say

what it is

how often you do it

where you do it

And explain why you chose to do that exercise

#### An expensive activity

Describe an activity you do that is expensive

You should say

what the activity is

who you do it with

when you do it

And explain why you choose to spend money on that activity

#### Website

Describe a website you regularly visit

You should say

what the website is

how often you visit it

how you found out about it

And say why you visit it so often

#### App

Describe an app on your computer or phone that you often use

You should say

what the app is

what you use it for

how often you use it

And say why you use that app so often

#### Music

Describe a piece of music you like listening to

You should say

what the music is

when you first hear it

when you listen to it

And explain why you enjoy listening to that piece of music

#### Something to study

Describe something you enjoy learning about

You should say

what it is

when you study it

how you study it

And explain why you enjoy studying it so much

#### Restaurant

Describe somewhere you like to eat out

You should say

where it is

what kind of food they serve

how often you eat there

And explain why you choose to eat there

#### A place

Describe a place that means a lot to you

You should say

what the place is

when you visit it

what you do there

And explain why that place means so much to you

#### Winter activity

Describe something you enjoy doing in winter

You should say

what you do

where you do it

what clothes you need

And explain why you like doing it in winter

Talk about an activity you enjoy doing in your free time.

You should say

what the activity is

when you do it

who you do it with

And explain why you choose to do that activity

#### Television programme

Talk about a television programme you often watch

You should say

what the programme is

how often you watch it

who you watch it with

And say why you enjoy watching that television programme

#### A festival

Describe a festival in your country

You should say

when it happens

where it happens

what people do during it

And say how important you think that festival is for people in your country

#### A large company

Describe a large company that you are interested in

You should say

what the company is

how you know about it

what it does

And explain why you are so interested in that company

### Objects

These sample IELTS speaking topics ask you speak about objects.

#### A work of art

Describe a work of art you admire

you should say

what the work of art is

when you saw it

how it made you feel

And explain how important art is in your life

#### An item of clothing

Describe a favourite item of clothing

You should say

what it is

when you bought it

why you bought it

And explain why you like it so much

#### A photograph

Talk about a photograph you remember

You should say

when it was taken

who took it

what was in the photograph

And explain why you remember that photograph

#### A book

Talk about a book you have been reading

You should say

what the book is

when you read it

how long you have been reading it

And say why you enjoy reading it

[Sample answer](http://www.dcielts.com/talk-about-a-book/)**– book**

#### Newspaper or magazine

Talk about a newspaper or magazine you sometimes read

You should say

what the newspaper or magazine is

what it contains

how often you read it

And say what you learn from reading that newspaper or magazine

#### Something old

Describe something old you have kept

You should say

what the object is

where it is kept

how often you use it

And say why you decided to keep its

#### An item of furniture

Describe your favourite item of furniture

You should say

what it is and looks like

where it is

how long you have had it

And explain why you like it so much

#### Something you lost

Talk about something you once lost

You should say

what it is

when you lost it

what you did to find it

And say how important the loss was to you

#### Something borrowed

Talk about something you once shared with someone else

You should say

what it was

when you shared it

who you shared it with

And say why you decided to share it

#### A means of transport

Describe a means of transport you regularly use

You could say

what it is

how often you use it

who else uses it

And explain why you choose that means of transport

#### A present

Talk about a present you have bough recently

You should say

what the present was

who you bought it for

where you bough ti

And say why you chose that present

#### A souvenir

Talk about a souvenir you have bought

You should say

what the souvenir is

when you bought it

why you bought it

And say what memories that souvenir has for you