**IELTS SPEAKING**

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1. **How each band scores are separated?**

**Band 6.0 - 6.5**

* **Fluency and Coherence:** At this level, the candidate can speak at length on familiar topics, though they may have noticeable hesitation when searching for ideas or language. They may use some cohesive devices but with limited flexibility.
* **Lexical Resource:** Vocabulary is adequate for familiar topics but may lack precision and appropriateness when dealing with less familiar topics. Paraphrasing and idiomatic usage may be limited.
* **Grammatical Range and Accuracy:** The candidate may make frequent errors with complex structures, although simple sentences are usually accurate.
* **Pronunciation:** Pronunciation is generally clear but may feature mispronunciations or influences from the speaker's first language. These do not severely impede communication but are noticeable.

**Band 7.0 - 7.5**

* **Fluency and Coherence:** The candidate speaks fluently with occasional hesitation. They can use a range of cohesive devices effectively and maintain a logical structure throughout their responses.
* **Lexical Resource:** A broader range of vocabulary is evident, and the candidate can discuss a variety of topics with some flexibility. Occasional errors in word choice may still occur, but they do not impede communication.
* **Grammatical Range and Accuracy:** There is a mix of complex and simple sentences, with fewer errors than in the 6-6.5 range. Mistakes may still occur, particularly with less common structures, but they do not often disrupt communication.
* **Pronunciation:** Pronunciation is generally clear, with minor issues that might occasionally affect understanding but not significantly. There is better control of intonation and stress compared to lower bands.

**Band 8.0 - 8.5**

* **Fluency and Coherence:** The candidate speaks with only occasional hesitation, usually related to content rather than language. Responses are coherent, with the use of a wide range of cohesive devices that contribute to a well-structured and logical flow of ideas.
* **Lexical Resource:** Vocabulary is varied and precise, with effective paraphrasing and idiomatic expressions. Errors in word choice are rare and do not impede communication.
* **Grammatical Range and Accuracy:** The candidate demonstrates a high level of grammatical accuracy with complex structures. Errors are rare, and when they occur, they are minor and do not hinder communication.
* **Pronunciation:** Pronunciation is clear and easily understood, with a good command of intonation, rhythm, and stress. The influence of the first language is minimal, and any errors do not affect communication

1. **MORE DETAIL INTO THE DIFFERENCES ACROSS EACH BAND SEGMENTS**

**Band 6.0 - 6.5**

* **Fluency:**
  + The candidate is generally able to speak at length but may experience frequent pauses and hesitations, particularly when searching for words or ideas. These pauses can disrupt the flow of speech but do not prevent communication.
  + The speech may include some repetition or self-correction as the candidate tries to express their ideas clearly.
* **Coherence:**
  + The candidate can organize their ideas but may struggle to maintain a clear and logical structure throughout their response. Some parts of the speech may seem disconnected or less well-organized.
  + The use of cohesive devices (e.g., conjunctions, linking words) is present but somewhat limited and may not always be used effectively. For example, the candidate might overuse simple connectors like "and" or "but" without varying their sentence structures.

**Band 7.0 - 7.5**

* **Fluency:**
  + The candidate speaks at length with only occasional hesitation, typically while thinking about the content rather than struggling with language. There is less repetition or self-correction compared to lower bands.
  + Speech is more fluid, with fewer and shorter pauses, allowing for a more natural flow of ideas.
* **Coherence:**
  + The candidate can logically organize their ideas and maintain a clear and coherent structure throughout their speech. There is a good use of a variety of cohesive devices, such as "however," "therefore," and "on the other hand," to link ideas together smoothly.
  + The response generally has a clear introduction, development of ideas, and conclusion, showing the candidate’s ability to present ideas in a structured manner.

**Band 8.0 - 8.5**

* **Fluency:**
  + The candidate speaks fluently and naturally with only occasional hesitation, which is more often related to the content rather than language issues. Any pauses are brief and typically occur when the candidate is considering their next point, rather than searching for words.
  + The speech flows effortlessly, with minimal repetition or self-correction, allowing the conversation to proceed smoothly and naturally.
* **Coherence:**
  + The candidate’s ideas are well-organized and presented in a logical, coherent manner throughout the response. There is a sophisticated use of a wide range of cohesive devices, such as “despite,” “nevertheless,” and “furthermore,” which are used effectively to connect ideas.
  + The response is highly structured, with a clear progression of ideas from one point to the next. The candidate can present complex ideas in a way that is easy to follow, demonstrating strong control over both structure and content.

**Key Differences Across Bands:**

* **Hesitation and Pauses:** As the band score increases, hesitation and pauses become less frequent and less disruptive to the flow of speech. At Band 6.0-6.5, pauses are more common and may interrupt communication, while at Band 8.0-8.5, they are brief and do not affect the overall fluency.
* **Use of Cohesive Devices:** Higher bands show a greater range and more effective use of cohesive devices to link ideas and create a smooth, logical flow in the speech. Lower bands might rely on simpler connectors and may struggle with coherence.
* **Organization and Structure:** As the band score increases, the ability to organize ideas logically and coherently improves. Band 6.0-6.5 might have some organizational issues, while Band 8.0-8.5 demonstrates a well-organized and clearly structured response with a clear progression of ideas.

1. **EXAMPLE OF BAND SCORES**

**IELTS Speaking Part 2 Question:**

**Describe a place you have visited that left a strong impression on you.** You should say:

* Where it is
* When you visited it
* What you did there and explain why it left a strong impression on you.

**Band 6.0 - 6.5 Transcript:**

**Fluency and Coherence:**

* The candidate speaks with some hesitations and pauses, particularly when searching for vocabulary or thinking of ideas. The response is somewhat structured but may have a few disjointed parts or repetition. Basic cohesive devices are used, but there may be some over-reliance on simple connectors like "and," "so," or "but."

**Transcript:** *"I want to talk about a place I visited last year. It was in Paris, France.(pause) I went there with my family during the summer. We visited many places, like the Eiffel Tower, the Louvre Museum, and the Notre-Dame Cathedral. I think the most impressive place for me was the Eiffel Tower. Uhh..It is very tall, and you can see the whole city from the top. We took a lot of photos there, and I felt really excited to be there. The reason it left a strong impression on me is because it’s a very famous place, and I always wanted to visit it since I was a child. Umm..When I finally saw it, it was like a dream come true. So, that’s why I liked it."*

**Band 7.0 - 7.5 Transcript:**

**Fluency and Coherence:**

* The candidate speaks with more fluidity and fewer pauses. Hesitations may occur but are less frequent and typically related to content rather than language. The response is well-organized, with a logical progression of ideas. A wider range of cohesive devices is used to link ideas effectively.

**Transcript:** *"One of the most memorable places I’ve visited is Paris, France. I had the opportunity to go there last summer with my family, and it was an unforgettable experience. We spent about a week in the city, exploring various attractions, but the one that stood out to me the most was the Eiffel Tower. Visiting the Eiffel Tower was something I’d dreamed about for a long time, and actually seeing it in person was even more incredible than I had imagined. We went up to the top and were treated to a breathtaking view of the entire city. I took countless photos, and we even stayed until evening to see the tower light up, which was truly magical. The reason this place left such a strong impression on me is that it symbolizes Paris and even France as a whole. It’s an iconic structure that I had only seen in movies and pictures, and being there in real life made me feel like I was part of something special."*

**Band 8.0 - 8.5 Transcript:**

**Fluency and Coherence:**

* The candidate speaks fluently with minimal hesitation, usually for content rather than language. The response is highly organized and coherent, with a clear and logical structure. A wide range of cohesive devices is used effectively, and ideas are developed thoroughly.

**Transcript:** *"A place that left a profound impression on me is Paris, specifically the Eiffel Tower. I visited Paris last summer with my family, and the experience was nothing short of extraordinary. We spent several days in the city, soaking in its rich history and culture, but the highlight of the trip was undoubtedly our visit to the Eiffel Tower. The sheer size of the tower is awe-inspiring, and standing beneath it for the first time was a moment of pure wonder. We ascended to the top and were greeted by a panoramic view of Paris that was both breathtaking and humbling. What made the experience even more special was watching the sunset from the tower and seeing the city gradually light up. The Eiffel Tower, with its intricate iron lattice structure, is not just an architectural marvel but also a symbol of human ingenuity and resilience. For me, this visit was more than just sightseeing; it was a reminder of the beauty and grandeur that exists in the world, and it left me with memories that I will cherish for a lifetime."*

**Key Differences Highlighted:**

* **Band 6.0 - 6.5**: The candidate demonstrates some fluency but frequently hesitates and struggles to maintain a smooth flow. The use of cohesive devices is basic, and the overall structure of the response may lack coherence in places.
* **Band 7.0 - 7.5**: The candidate is more fluent and organized, with fewer hesitations. The response is well-structured, with a logical progression of ideas. Cohesive devices are used more effectively.
* **Band 8.0 - 8.5**: The candidate speaks very fluently with almost no hesitation, showing strong control over language. The response is highly coherent, with a clear, logical structure, and a wide range of cohesive devices used to connect ideas smoothly. The content is rich and detailed, demonstrating an advanced level of fluency and coherence.

1. **Importance of the Answers:**
2. **Where it is**:
   * This establishes the context of the place being described. It's important for the examiner to understand the specific location the candidate is talking about. This part of the response sets the scene for the rest of the answer.
3. **When you visited it**:
   * Mentioning the time of the visit adds a temporal context to the narrative. It helps to clarify whether the experience is recent or from the past, which can influence the vividness of the description and the candidate's ability to recall details.
4. **What you did there**:
   * Describing the activities undertaken at the location provides depth to the answer. It allows the candidate to demonstrate their ability to narrate events and describe experiences, which is crucial for demonstrating fluency and coherence. This part also allows for a variety of tenses to be used, which can showcase grammatical range.
5. **Why it left a strong impression on you**:
   * This is arguably the most important part of the response, as it requires the candidate to reflect on their feelings and provide reasons for their emotional reaction to the place. This section tests the candidate's ability to express opinions and personal experiences, which is essential for achieving a higher band score.
6. **Advice from personal experience:**
   * 1. **How do you improve your English speaking in general**

I believe there are two parts of your English speaking, most of you assume that you could have better English fluency if you had known more vocabulary. Is that really the case? How many times you hear people speak and wonder oh that’s a word I didn’t know! In general, when speaking we don’t use any complex vocabulary. The problem is, you unfortunately cannot bring out the words you already know. Rather you keep stammering, bring filler uhh, umm or pauses, keep repeating a certain word eg very, like etc. Now how can you actually overcome this?

Improving English speaking isn’t just about learning more words; it’s about becoming more comfortable and confident in using the words you already know. By practicing regularly, focusing on clarity, reducing filler words, and gradually expanding your vocabulary, you can significantly enhance your fluency. Remember, the goal is to communicate effectively, not to use the most complex vocabulary.

**Fluency vs. Vocabulary: (currently your target is fluency)**

* It’s a common misconception that fluency comes solely from knowing a large number of words. While vocabulary is important, fluency is more about how smoothly and confidently you can express your thoughts using the words you already know.
* Often, the issue isn’t a lack of vocabulary but rather difficulty in retrieving and using the vocabulary you have during a conversation. This results in hesitations, filler words like "uhh," "umm," and frequent pauses.

**Possible Solutions**

* **Practice Speaking Regularly:** Set aside time each day to practice speaking English. This can be done by talking to yourself, practicing with a friend, or even recording yourself speaking on various topics. Could be what training session you will take tomorrow and rephrasing it in English or just explain your day, do it 15mins before going to bed. You can’t do that, u die, cs u do phone tipatipi. Just kidding!
* **Slow Down:** Don’t rush when speaking. Take your time to think about what you want to say. Speaking more slowly can help reduce the number of fillers and pauses. If needed you can write first and read them as you speak.
* **Practice Silence:** Instead of filling gaps with "uhh" or "umm," practice pausing silently. It’s perfectly natural to pause briefly while thinking, and this can actually make your speech sound more thoughtful and confident. You will see when I speak, sometimes I give pressure to some words, sometimes I even express that I am thinking, that I am happy, animating to what I say. Try to animate yourself as you speak, that helps you to use different monotones as you speak.
* **Record and Review:** Record yourself speaking and listen for filler words or repetitive phrases. Identify these and consciously work on reducing them.
* **Rehearse Common Scenarios:** Practice common situations like introducing yourself, ordering food, or asking for directions. Repeating these scenarios will help you respond more quickly and confidently in real life.
  + 1. **How maintain confidence during speaking exam**

This I am going to answers from my personal experience. Remember, you have two kinds of audiences, one that elevates you (giving a presentation) and the other is below you (taking training sessions). The confidence we need is actually for the first one. How do I remain calm in a situation when I am judged, marked or unskilled compared to my audience?

* Practice speaking in situations that makes you uncomfortable, eg in a park, walking and speaking at the same time etc
* Imagine that you have numerous tremendous opportunities, the Main reason we feel agitated that entails to our nervousness because we know it’s our only chance. Think as if it’s not, what’s the worst thing it can happen, you get less than 6.0. So what? you give exam again, u have money. Tilka, its not logical, giving exam again is hard and money! Who ever has enough, well I told you to imagine, not make it real.
* Another thing that I always do is to maintain a positive stature, being friendly, smiling just so that it creates a positive impression on my examiner, and please speak a bit loudly and maintain multiple monotones

Goodluck  
Tilka