

When you are writing quickly, it is easy to make silly mistakes. Use the final few minutes to carefully check what you wrote.

Check:

- **your spelling** – Check for careless spelling mistakes.
- **your grammar** – Check verb and subject agreement and check your tenses.
- **your punctuation** – Have you marked the end of a sentence with a full stop? Do any of your words need a capital letter?
- **your handwriting** – Are any words unclear that you need to write more clearly?

2.2  These words are some of the words most commonly misspelt by IELTS candidates. The parts of the words that often cause problems have been underlined. Look at the words in A for one minute, then cover them and try to correct the mistakes in the words in B.

A

governnment
until_
nowadays
believe
because
countries
people__
opportunities
between__
environment
technology
important
experience
competition
their
modern
conclusion
children
restaurant
society

B

govenment
untill_
nowdays
belive
becuse
contries
people
oppotunities
betwen__
enviroment
tecnology
importent
expereince
competition
thier
morden
concluson
chidren
restaurant
soceity

Don't forget to check your punctuation. The most common mistakes are

- with capital letters.
- full stops.
- commas.

2.3 Correct the punctuation in these sentences.

- 1 According to the survey, the population will grow more and more, it is predicted that by 2050 the population will have increased by 30%.
- 2 Many famous film stars are american.
- 3 My conclusion; therefore is that teaching children to be good members of society is the job of both parents and the school.
- 4 the pie chart gives us information about the causes of land degradation worldwide.
- 5 Many children spend hours playing video games which can lead to health problems.
- 6 However, we can see that the rate of both National and international calls increased from 1995 to 2010.
- 7 Nowadays in many universities around the world university students can study any subject they like.



Study Tip Students often repeat the same mistakes. Get to know your own common mistakes and make sure you deliberately practise these – especially if the mistakes are spelling mistakes you repeatedly make.

3 Assessing your language

3.1 To help you try to assess the different band scores on the IELTS Writing paper, read these features of Bands 4, 6 and 8.

Band 4

- ideas are clear but there may be a lot of repetition
- uses only basic vocabulary which may be used repetitively
- uses only a very limited range of grammatical structures and rarely accurately
- makes frequent spelling mistakes
- errors may cause problems for the reader

Band 6

- organises information and ideas clearly
- uses an adequate range of vocabulary for the task
- uses a mix of simple and complex sentence forms
- attempts to use less common vocabulary but with some mistakes
- makes some errors in grammar, punctuation and spelling but they don't cause problems for the reader

Band 8

- uses a wide range of vocabulary fluently and flexibly
- uses a wide range of structures and the majority of sentences are accurate
- makes only very occasional mistakes
- skilfully uses uncommon vocabulary but there may be occasional mistakes
- errors in spelling are rare

- 3.2** Now look at these extracts from three different Writing Task 2 answers. Match extracts A–C to the band score you think they received (4, 6 or 8).

A Television in general is one of the most important tools of our daily life now. From children to adults, every age group enjoys watching the television programmes of their interest. TV in its early days was mainly used for news broadcasting and other important awareness for the public. But now it heavily influences our lives and it almost became an addiction.

In today's world, with the discovery of satellite television, almost every channel reaches our home and we have plenty of choice. In my opinion TV plays a great role in our lives as it is a major source of information of happenings around the world and one has enough information about another country before they have a chance to visit the place physically. In today's household one keeps track of programmes and can record them to watch it at a later more convenient time. So TV is not only a great tool for the enhancement of knowledge on every subject but also it is an entertainment package as without it life would be very dull and monotonous.

B Nowdays, with the developing of science and technology, more and more people use computers, computers are getting popular, people use computer to type their essays, get information from internet, and computers are used in everywhere such as bank supermarket and so on. However, it has been widely noted that some people don't know how to use computers. It makes them inconvenient and uncomfortable in their lives. People who do not know how to use computers are becoming more and more disadvantaged. Some people believe that government should make means to solve this problem. In my opinion, people who don't know how to use computers make them disadvantaged in three ways.

C Nowadays, technology is an essential part of education. The use of computers in a classroom is so common that it is almost impossible for students to follow their studies if they do not have computer skills. However, if the computer dominates the major role of education, what should be done with the teachers?

Firstly, not all schools can provide computers for their students. In this case, colleges situated far away from big centers or better, in small towns, depend on teachers as the main source of knowledge for their children. Another point to be considered is the fact that not all the students are keen on working with computers or have enough skills to work with these modern machines.

- 3.3** Look again at the band score descriptions. Which do you think is closer to a description of your own writing?

IELTS Speaking

How long is the Speaking paper?

The Speaking test is an interview with an examiner that lasts between 11 and 14 minutes.

What will I need to talk about?

The interview has three separate parts and is divided up as follows.

Part	Timing	What will I need to talk about?
1	4–5 mins	The examiner will ask you questions about familiar topics (e.g. hobbies, likes and dislikes, daily routine).
2	3–4 mins	The examiner will give you a booklet showing a topic and some suggestions on it. You need to talk about the topic for 1–2 minutes. You have one minute to write notes before you begin. The examiner may ask you some follow-up questions.
3	4–5 mins	The examiner will ask you more detailed and more abstract questions linked to the topic in part 2.

How is the Speaking paper assessed?

The examiner will listen carefully to your answers and will assess your speaking according to the following criteria.

Criteria	What do these criteria mean?
Fluency and Coherence	Do you speak in a fluent way that is easy to understand? Do you link your ideas together clearly?
Lexical Resource	Can you accurately use or attempt to use a wide range of vocabulary accurately and effectively? Can you explain your ideas even if you do not know a particular word? Can you use or attempt to use higher-level vocabulary accurately?
Grammatical Range and Accuracy	Can you use a wide range of grammatical structures rather than repeating basic structures? Are your sentences accurate, or do you often make grammatical mistakes?
Pronunciation	Is your spoken language clear and easily understood? Do you use stress and intonation to add extra meaning? With individual words, do you use stress accurately?

How can I improve my Speaking paper score?

You can improve your score by making sure you answer each question fully and remembering the test tips in this unit. This unit will also tell you the speaking skills you need to practise in order to achieve your best score. Before the test, practise speaking as often as you can and make sure that you can talk for two minutes on a topic. **Do not** try to learn answers for the test. Studying all aspects of English including pronunciation, vocabulary and grammar will also help improve your IELTS score.

Speaking skills

1 The Speaking Test – Part 1

In this unit you will practise:

- getting ready to speak
- talking about familiar topics
- using the correct tense
- Grammatical Range and Accuracy

1 Getting ready to speak

The test has three different parts (Part 1, Part 2 and Part 3) and the examiner will use a script. This helps to make sure that the Speaking tests all follow the same pattern.

- 1.1**  **Video 1** Watch the video and focus on what the examiner says.
Complete part of the examiner's script below.

Can you tell me your 1 , please?

Thank you. And what 2 ?

And can you tell me 3 ?

Can I see your 4 , please?

Thank you, OK, that's fine.

Now, in this first part, I'd like to ask you 5

Let's talk about 6

- 1.2** What do you need to bring to the Speaking test?

- 1.3** Watch again and this time, focus on Sanem, the candidate. As you watch, answer the questions below.

- 1 Choose the best adjectives to describe Sanem: shy, anxious, friendly, tense, calm, abrupt, confident.
- 2 Which **TWO** descriptions below (A–E) apply to Sanem?
 - A She often looks down and avoids looking at the examiner.
 - B She makes good eye contact with the examiner.
 - C Her body language shows she is listening carefully.
 - D Her body language shows how nervous she is.
 - E The way she is sitting makes her seem a little rude.



Test Tip Make good eye contact with the examiner from the moment you enter the room, and answer in a polite and friendly way. Your body language is an important part of communicating.

The Speaking test is a formal situation, so it is important to use appropriate body language.

1.4 Put a tick (✓) or a cross (✗) to show which of these would be appropriate in the Speaking test.

- A chewing gum because it helps you to stay calm
- B drinking from a bottle of water
- C checking your mobile phone
- D using your mobile phone to time your interview
- E wearing jeans and a T-shirt
- F asking the examiner your score at the end of the test
- G shrugging your shoulders to show you don't know or understand
- H asking to leave the room for a moment during the test

 **Test Tip** Make sure you arrive early for your test, so that you are not hurrying and have time to relax. If possible, visit the test centre before the day of your test, so that you are familiar with where you need to go.

1.5 If you can, video yourself being interviewed and think about your own body language. Are there any things you can improve?

2 Part 1 – talking about familiar topics

Part 1 will last for approximately five minutes. The examiner will ask you about familiar topics such as your family, or likes and dislikes.

2.1 Look at the questions below on the topic of home, and think about how you would answer them.

Let's talk about where you live.

- What do you like most about your home town/city? [Why?]
- Is your home town/city a popular place for tourists to visit? [Why/Why not?]
- Do you think your home town/city has changed much in recent years? [Why/Why not?]

2.2 At the end of each question, there are follow-up questions in brackets. Why do you think the examiner sometimes uses them?

2.3  **Video 2** Watch a candidate called Emanuele answering the questions. As you listen, decide which statement below applies to Emanuele's answers.

- A His answers are a little too short – the examiner needs to ask follow-up questions.
- B He is clearly giving a prepared speech.
- C He answers naturally and fully.

 **Test Tip** The Speaking test should be a natural conversation. If you try to give a prepared speech, the examiner will interrupt you and ask you a different question.

2.4 Practise by answering the questions below. Record yourself if possible. Don't use any notes or learn a prepared answer.

- What food is typical of your home country? [Why do you think that is?]
- Are there any special festivals or celebrations in your town/city? [Can you tell me about that?]
- What advice would you give to a visitor to your town/city? [Why?]

2.5 Listen back to your answers. Did you answer the questions fully? Would an examiner need to have used the questions in brackets?

3 Using the right tense – Grammatical Range and Accuracy

Your examiner will use four different criteria to assess your speaking level. One of these is Grammatical Range and Accuracy. To achieve a high score in this criterion, you need to use a range of tenses and structures accurately. In Part 1 of the Speaking test, you will be asked questions about two or three familiar topics. The questions will feature a variety of tenses.

3.1  **Video 3** Watch a candidate called Saida answering questions about writing and music. As you listen, complete the examiner's questions below. You may need to watch more than once.

- 1 What different types _____ ?
- 2 Do you prefer _____ ?
- 3 Do you write _____ ?
- 4 Do you like to _____ ?
- 5 Let's talk about _____ ?

3.2 What tense should you use to answer each question? Listen again to see if Saida showed a range of tenses.

3.3 Look at these extracts from Saida's answers. Three of them contain a grammatical error. Find the mistakes and correct them.

- 1 I prefer to email.
- 2 If you send a letter by yourself, it means you are very appreciate this person.
- 3 It depends on the situation. For example, for my studies, I prefer to type on a computer, but for my essays, I prefer to write by hand.
- 4 I think less, because technology nowadays are really go fast.
- 5 Not actually.
- 6 I listen to music because it gives me energy.

 **Test Tip** It's important to listen carefully to the examiner's questions so that you can answer in the correct tense. When answering yes / no questions, it is important to answer the question and then give reasons for your answer. Don't simply answer Yes or No.

Here are some other familiar topics that you may be asked about.

- computers
- reading
- food
- hobbies
- studying
- music

3.4

Try to say one sentence about your past, present and future experiences of each of the topics above. Pay attention to tenses.



Study Tip Spoken language is different to written language, and you may make more grammatical mistakes when you are speaking because there is less thinking time. Try recording yourself as you give the answers to the questions in these units. Then, write out your answers to see the type of mistakes you are making.

3.5

Think about how you would answer these questions.

- 1 Do you like to read the newspaper? [Why/Why not?]
- 2 Did you enjoy studying when you first started school? [Why/Why not?]
- 3 Would you like to do any further study? [Why/Why not?]
- 4 Do you often go out at the weekends?
- 5 Have you always liked the same kind of music? [Why/Why not?]

3.6

Which of the answers in the box can be used with questions 1–5?

- | | | | |
|---------------|-----------------|-------------------|----------------|
| Not really. | Yes, I do. | No, I didn't. | No, I haven't. |
| Yes, I have. | Yes, there is. | No, there aren't. | |
| Yes, I would. | No, I wouldn't. | Yes, I did. | No, I don't. |

The answers in the box are a good start, but you need to give more detail and explain your answer.

3.7

Watch Emanuele giving full answers to the following questions about music. As you listen, make a note of the information that he gives, and the different tenses that he uses. Correct any mistakes you hear.

- 1 Let's talk about music. How often do you listen to music?
- 2 Why?
- 3 So, do you prefer to buy CDs or download music from the internet?
- 4 Have you always liked the same kind of music?
- 5 And is there a musical instrument that you would like to learn to play?

3.8

Answer each of the questions in 3.5 and 3.7 for yourself using an appropriate answer from the box. Give specific details.

2 Part 2 – Giving a talk

In this unit you will practise:

- understanding the task • improving your Fluency and Coherence
- keeping going • organising your notes and your talk

1 Understanding the task

In Part 2 of the Speaking test, you will be asked to talk about a specific topic. The examiner will give you a booklet showing your question, and the ideas you need to talk about. You will have time to make notes first.

1.1 Video 5 Watch the video and answer the following questions.

- 1 How long should you speak for?
- 2 How long will you have to make notes?
- 3 Will you need to bring paper and a pen?
- 4 Can you write on the booklet?
- 5 How will you know when to stop talking?

There are four instructions on your booklet telling you what to talk about. It is important to address each one. You will usually be asked to choose a person, place, time or thing and explain why you chose them. Also, you may be asked to describe one or two specific examples and talk about your own feelings or reactions.

1.2 Look at the task that Emanuele was given.

Describe a time when you helped someone.

You should say:

who you helped and why
how you helped this person
what the result was
and explain how you felt about helping this person.

Before your talk, you will be given extra paper to make notes on. You need to make sure your notes cover **each** of the points listed. Writing down the key words in the task will help you to organise your thoughts and ideas.

1.3 Fill in the notes below using key words from 1.2.

Notes: a time when I helped someone

- Who I helped • How • How I 3
- 1 • 2