

IELTS Speaking vocabulary

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1 Family/ Person

Personal

- **Bring out the best**
cause someone to behave as his best
- **Partners in crime**
close friends who get in trouble together
- **to be the life and soul of the party:**
a fun person, someone who is the centre of activity
- **Confide in**
trust

Career

- **learn something the hard way:** learn something by experience, especially by an unpleasant experience
- **to bend over backwards:** to try very hard to help someone
- **easy-going:** relaxed and not easily worried about anything
- **extrovert:** an energetic person who likes the company of others
- **fair-minded:** to treat people equally
- **fun-loving:** to enjoy having fun
- **broad-minded:** prepared to accept other views or behaviors, he is so broad minded that I feel comfortable even to discuss about my family issues.
- Mr. Know-it-all : someone who act as if he knows everything bottom line
- **Vocabulary:**
- **to hide one's light under a bushel:** to hide one's talents and skills
- **good company:** enjoyable to socialise with
- **good sense of humour:** the ability to understand what is funny
- **introvert:** someone who is shy
- **laid-back:** see 'easy-going'
- **to lose one's temper:** to suddenly become angry
- **narrow minded:** opposite of 'broad-minded' (see above)
- **painfully shy:** very shy
- **to put others first:** to think of others before yourself
- **quick-tempered:** to become angry quickly
- **reserved:** shy
- **self-assured:** confident
- **self-centred:** thinks only of oneself
- **self-confident:** believes in one's own ability or knowledge
- **self-effacing:** to not try to get the attention of others (especially in terms of hiding one's skills or abilities)

- **to take after:** to be like (often another member of the family)
- **thick-skinned:** not easily affected by criticism
- **trustworthy:** can be trusted
- **two-faced:** not honest or sincere. Will say one thing to someone to their face and another when they are not present.
- **love someone/ something to the moon and back:** love someone/ something more than anything
- **get along well:** have a harmonious or friendly relationship
- **have ... in common:** to share interests or characteristics
- **take after:** resemble (a parent or ancestor)
- **partners in crime:** good friends who get in trouble together or get each other in trouble

impulsive (a): acting suddenly without thinking carefully about what might happen because of what you are doing

• **lost count:** to fail to be able to count someone or something, especially because there are so many

• **play the victim:** the act of pretending to be the one who has been done wrong to manipulate others or seek attention

• **back someone up = have one's back:** support or help someone

• **put the blame on = blame something on someone = blame someone**

for something: say that someone or something has done something bad

•• **in someone's defense:** used at the beginning of a sentence to indicate that the subsequent statement will justify some action or decision one made

Breadwinners

Who earns money in the family

2 Favorite e.g. Movie / Actor / Program / Novel / Sports

Favorite

best-loved, most-liked,
favored, dearest, treasured

Talking about a movie?

- **Lose count**
Forget how many times of something there are, especially because the number is so high
- **Sentimental**
Emotional
- **Couch potato**
(idiom): a person who spend a great deal of time watching TV
- **Channel surf**
(expression): change frequently from one channel to the other
- **Catch someone's attention** (expression): attracts someone
- **Emphasize (v):**
play special importance on something
- **Adversity (n)**
Difficulty
- **Broadcast (v):**
transmit by Radio or TV
- **Passionate (a)**
have a strong feeling for something
- **Watch the box** (idiom):
watch TV

Favorite song?

My favorite song/track/number is "Ekushe February"

It's a **timeless classic**

It's a **smash hit** (very popular)

The **melody** of this song is splendid. Even the instrumental piece (no words, only music) is great

- **Provoke (v):** stimulate something
- **Encounter (v):** meet or contend against
- **Be up to one's eyeballs** (idiom): to be very busy with something
- **Boost (v):** to make something increase, or become better or more successful
- **Complexity (n):**
the state of being formed of many parts; the state of being difficult to understand
- **Sentimental (a):**
producing emotions such as pity, romantic love or sadness, which may be too strong or not appropriate; feeling these emotions too much
- **Adaptation (n):**
a film/movie, book or play that is based on a particular piece of work but that has been changed for a new situation
- **Wounded (a):**
feeling emotional pain because of something unpleasant that somebody has said or done
- **Reconcile (v):**
to make people become friends again after an argument or a disagreement
- **Entertaining (a):**
interesting and amusing
- **Underlying (a):** important in a situation but not always easily noticed or stated clearly
- **Shout-out (n):** a message of congratulation, support, or appreciation
- **Hit rock bottom** (idiom): to reach the lowest possible level or be in the worst possible situation
- **Run out of:** (of a supply of something) be used up

3 City/ Hometown/Journey/Transportation

City

- **Separated from:** apart from, away from; in a different part of a place; "The children's play area is separated from the main part of the building"
- **hustle and bustle:**
describes the noise and high level of activity
- **city life in:**
"The city life in New York is famous for the variety of things you can do while there: Broadway shows, concerts, restaurants, bars, museums and so much more."
- **Over a nice cup of coffee/tea**
you are doing something, like visiting, while you drink a cup of tea;
- **hang out with my friends:**
to spend time with friends, talking, relaxing, visiting;
- **to make time for:**
to prioritize things so that you have time to do a certain thing that you want;
- **located on a quiet street**
- **hanging gardens:**
plants and flowers that are hanging in pots from the ceiling;
- **escape from reality**

Hometown

Journey

- **Set off:**
start a journey
- **all-in package/package holiday:**
a holiday where you purchase the travel and accommodation together
- **brehtaking view:**
an extremely beautiful view
- **charter-flight:**
a cheaper form of flying than a scheduled flight
- **check-in desk:**
the place at the airport where you register for your flight and deposit your luggage
- **Check in**
- **Take off**
- **Destination**
- **departure lounge:**
where you wait for your flight to be called
- **far-off destination:**
somewhere a long way away
- **to get away from it all:**
to take a holiday to escape a busy or stressful lifestyle

- **guided tour:**
an organised group shown around a place of interest by an expert
- **holiday brochure:**
a glossy publication with details of holiday packages
- **holiday destination:**
where you go for a holiday
- **holiday of a lifetime:**
a special holiday that you are unlikely to repeat
- **holiday resort:**
a place where lots of people go for a holiday
- **hordes of tourists:**
crowds of tourists
- **local crafts:**
objects produced locally
- **long weekend:**
an extended weekend holiday including Friday or Monday
- **out of season:**
outside of the main holiday period
- **picturesque village:**
very pretty village
- **passport control:**
the place where your passport is checked
- **places of interest:**
sites of interest to tourists
- **wildlife safari:**
a holiday, often in Africa, to observe wild animals
- **self-catering:**
a holiday where you supply your own food
- **short break:**
a short holiday
- **to go sightseeing:**
to look around the tourist sites
- **stunning landscape:**
extremely beautiful countryside
- **travel agent:**
a shop that specialises in booking holidays
- **tourist trap:**
somewhere where too many tourists go
- **youth hostel:**
a cheap form of accommodation

Memory/ feelings

- **Amiable**
Friendly
- **Amazement**
A feeling of great surprise
- **conventional**
Traditional ; ordinary

4 Workplace

Work

- **Manual work**
work that requires physical activities
- **To meet a deadline**
to finish a job on time
- **A heavy workload**
to have a lot of work to do
- **To be your own boss/run your own business/be self-employed:**
to have your own business
- **To be stuck behind a desk:**
to be unhappy in office job
Example: Working full-time in an office can lead to being stuck behind a desk.
- **One of the perks of the job:**
an extra benefit you get from a job
Example: Extra meal is one of the perks of the job, which make employees more satisfied
- **Volume of work:**
workload
- **Earn a good living**
Example: I had a substantial volume of work – private students and marking exams – and was able to earn a good living
- **Fast-track scheme:**
system for rapid training and promotion of talented staff
- **Move up the ladder:**
being promoted
Example: I was put on a fast-track scheme and was moving up the ladder fast
- **Throw a sickie:**
take a day off work pretending to be sick
Example: I don't like my job so I throw a sickie from time to time
- **Get the sack:**
be dismissed

Idioms (work)	Meaning	IELTS questions and answers or relevant sentences
To climb the corporate ladder	To move up in the hierarchy of a corporation	
To be called for an interview	to be invited to attend an interview	Although he has been called for an interview,

		he hasn't got a job yet.
Daily Grind	boring day to day work	
A nine-to-five job	a normal job that consists of an 8 hour a day	

5 Activity / Game / new task

Activity

- **commitment (n):**
the willingness to work hard and give your energy and time to a job or an activity
- **self-discipline (n):**
the ability to make yourself do something, especially something difficult or unpleasant
- **far-fetched (a):**
very difficult to believe
- **Go without saying (that)**
to be completely obvious or true
- **To some/a certain/a limited extent (phrase)**
partly, but not completely
- **Entrepreneur (noun)**
someone who uses money to start businesses and make business deals
- **Garment (noun)**
a piece of clothing. This word is used especially when talking about the production and sale of clothes
- **Acute (adj)**
used for describing the senses and abilities of someone who notices things very quickly and easily
- **Apparel (noun)**
a word for clothes, used especially in stores or other businesses

New Task

- Work flat out - work extremely hard
- Buckle down – start working seriously
- Go the extra miles – do more
- **appreciation (n):**
pleasure that you have when you recognize and enjoy the good qualities of somebody/something
- **in terms of:**
used to show what aspect of a subject you are talking about or how you are thinking about it
- **Face up to (something/somebody)** to confront with courage someone or something representing a threat or unpleasantness.
- **Compensation package (phrase)** the salary and other benefits that an employee receives
- **Comfort zone (idiom)** a situation or position in which a person feels secure, comfortable, or in control
- **Fulfill one's dream (collocation)** realize a dream, make dream come true

6 House/ Food / Restaurant

House

- Spacious & cozy
- Duplex building
- desirable location
- a famous landmark
- spectacular views
- the best vantage (a place or position affording a good view of something) point

Apartment

- **Low-rise building**
- **house-hunting**
looking for an accommodation
- rented accommodation
- put down a deposit
- **take out a mortgage:** to borrow a large amount of money, paid back over several years, in order to buy a house
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Food

- **to be full up:**
to eat to the point that you can no longer eat any more
- **to be starving hungry:**
an exaggerated way of saying you are very hungry
- **to bolt something down:**
to eat something very quickly
- **to be dying of hunger:**
an exaggerated way of saying you are hungry
- **to eat a balanced diet:**
to eat the correct types and amounts of food
- **to eat like a horse:**
to eat a lot
- **to follow a recipe:**
to cook a meal using instructions
- **to foot the bill:**
to pay the bill
- **a fussy eater:**
somebody who has their own very high standards about what to eat
- **to grab a bite to eat:**
to eat something quickly (when you're in a rush)
- **to have a sweet tooth:**
to enjoy sugary food
- **home-cooked food:**
food cooked at home from individual ingredients
- **the main meal:**
the most important meal of the day, usually eaten in the evening
- **to make your mouth water:**

to make you feel very hungry for something

- **to play with your food:**
to push food around the plate to avoid eating it
- **processed food:**
commercially prepared food bought for convenience
- **a quick snack:**
to eat a small amount of food between meals
- **a ready meal:**
see 'processed food'
- **a slap up meal:**
a large meal
- **to spoil your appetite:**
to eat something that will stop you feeling hungry when it's meal-time.
- **a take away:**
a cooked meal prepared in a restaurant and eaten at home
- **to tuck into:**
to eat something with pleasure
- **to wine and dine:**
to entertain someone by treating them to food and drink
- **to work up an appetite:**
to do physical work that leads to you becoming hungry

7 Device/ Technology / Gift

Device/Technology

- Getting off the grid
- the information superhighway
- go offline
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Gift

- **It is better to give to receive**
it's a nicer feeling to give someone a present than it is to get one yourself
- **Care package- (n.)**
box of stuff someone sends you, usually because you are away from home or having a tough time
- **Magnanimous- (adj.)**
extremely generous
- **Lavish- (adj.)**
extravagant; very expensive
- **sentimental value**
- **the value is irreplaceable**

Idioms

IELTS Speaking Idioms (family)	Meaning	IELTS questions and answers or relevant sentences
It's not rocket science	Not very difficult	
Bells and whistles	something has all of the additional pieces and add-ons	
You don't have to reinvent the wheel	you don't need to create a new process when there is one	

8 Entertainment/ Event / birthday party

Entertainment

- **Scream out loud:**
to give a loud, high cry, because you are hurt, frightened, excited, etc. (in this situation: excited).
Example: I screamed out loud when I saw my old friend.
- **lose my patience:** [verb phrase] to become annoyed or angry as a result of a delay.
Example: The train is now 1 hour late, and I am **losing my patience**.
- **stand [something]:** [verb] to dislike – used especially in negative sentences. Example: I like John, but I can't **stand** his sister, she is very rude.
- **the early hours:** [expression] early in the morning, for example about 2, 3 or 4 am.

Song

- vocal range
- hit the high note
- out of tune

Party

- **Trip down memory lane**
This idiom in English refers to an **occasion** when people remember or talk about things that happened in the past.

9 Education/ Study

Education

- **to attend classes:**
to go to classes
- **bachelors degree:**
an undergraduate course which usually lasts 3-4 years
- **boarding school:**
a school where pupils live during term time
- **distance learning:**
a way of studying where tuition is carried out over the Internet or by post
- **face-to-face classes:**
as opposed to distance learning the traditional way of studying in a classroom with colleagues and a teacher
- **to fall behind with your studies:**
to progress less quickly than others
- **to give feedback:**
to offer guidance on a student's work
- **a graduation ceremony:**
an event where a successful student receives his or her academic degree
- **higher education:**
education, usually in a college or university, that is followed after high school or secondary school
- **an intensive course:**
a course that offers lots of training in order to reach a goal in as short a time as possible
- **to keep up with your studies:**
to not fall behind
- **to learn something by heart:**
to memorize it
- **a mature student:**
a student who is older than average and who has usually returned to education after a period at work
- **masters degree:**
a period of study which often follows the completion of a bachelors degree or is undertaken by someone regarded as capable of a higher-level academic course
- **to meet a deadline:**
to finish a job or task in the time allowed or agreed
- **to play truant:**
to stay away from classes without permission
- **private language school:**
an independent school run as a business concern
- **public schools:**
exclusive independent schools in the UK
- **a single-sex school:**
a school where only boys or girls attend (as opposed to a mixed-sex school)
- **to sit an exam:**
to take an exam
- **state school:**
a school paid for by public funds and available to the general public
- **subject specialist:**
a teacher who has a great deal of knowledge about the subject they teach.
- **to take a year out:**
to spend a year working or travelling before starting university
- **tuition fees:**
the money paid for a course of study
- **to work your way through university:**
to have a paid job whilst studying to support yourself financially

10 Business

- **Run the business**
- **get the best offer/deal**
Ex: you should go to **street vendors** if you want to get the best offer
- **ask for a bargain**
Ex: you should ask for a bargain for whatever you buy or else you will be ripped off
- **merchandise**
Ex: there are plenty of merchandises I want to buy when going shopping
- **refund policy**
Ex: I never buy anything at a store that doesn't have refund policy
- **Competitor**
Ex: one of the things that companies face with is their competitors
- **Unpleasing product**
Ex: unpleasing products should be returned within 15 days
- **Customer base**
Ex: a healthy company is the one that has large customer base
- **Expand its chain**
Ex: after working in clothes industry for 5 years, the firm decided to expand its chain to Asian countries
- **Physical store**
Ex: I prefer going to physical store to online store