

b) You should try and answer these Part 1 questions with 2 or 3 sentences. Think about giving a reason for why you like or dislike something, give an example. Now go to https://www.ielts.org/-/media/pdfs/115041_speaking_sample_task_-_part_1.ashx?la=en and practise answering these questions again. Record your answers on your phone. Listen to your recording.

Ask yourself:

- did I have to think about some words that I needed?
- did I give reasons for things?
- did I give examples?

Compare your answers to Part 1 here with the answers you gave on Day 1.

c) Watch a candidate do Part 1 of the test. Go to https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cAf41I68HD8&list=PLSAx4faA_rjNEb16E7FGDnQTSn9dAuDPv&index=14&t=41s

What did he do well or less well?

What topics was he asked about?

Look at the examiner's comments.

d) Now practise a Part 1. Read the questions and record your answers.

Let's talk about what you do. Are you a student or do you work?

What do you like about your work/studies?

Is there anything you don't like? Why?

What do you plan to do in the future?

Now let's talk about shopping. Do you prefer to shop online or go to real shops? Why?

Do you like shopping alone or with friends?

What sort of things do you most enjoy buying?

Do you find it difficult to buy presents for friends and family?

Let's turn to sport. Do you do any sport? Why?

What do you enjoy most about this activity?

What are the good things about doing a sport with other people?

Are there any sporting activities you would like to try in the future?

e) Look at the timer on your phone. Did answering the questions take between 4 and 5 minutes?

If yes, well done.

If no, how could you have said more? Did you give reasons and examples where appropriate? Answer the questions again, giving more information.

Day 3 In Part 2 you are given a card with a topic on it. You will have to talk about that topic for 2 minutes. You will have one minute to prepare your talk. Use this time to make brief notes – one or two words – to help you while you are speaking.

a) Look at this topic card. Time yourself and make notes for one minute, then talk for 2 minutes.

Describe a person who you like or admire.

You should say

- who the person is
- what they have done in their life
- why you like or admire them

And say how they have affected you.

b) Go to <https://takeielts.britishcouncil.org/take-ielts/prepare/free-ielts-practice-tests/speaking/part-2> and practise a Part 2 topic. Follow the instructions and when you have finished speaking, listen to the audio recording.

Did you

- speak for 2 minutes?
- hesitate trying to think of words you needed?
- correct grammar mistakes as you were talking?
- repeat yourself?
- connect your talk and ideas with linking words?

Notes:

If you can't think of the exact word(s) you need, try to paraphrase, that is, think of another way of saying the same thing.

Don't over-correct if you hear yourself making grammar mistakes because this will interfere with the fluency of your talk.

Compare your Part 2 talk here with the talk you gave on Day 1.

c) Watch a candidate do Part 2 of the test. Go to https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m0UGhSufSJK&list=PLSAx4faA_rjNEb16E7FGDnQTSn9dAuDPv&index=3&t=5s

- What did she do well or less well?
- What topic was she asked to talk about?
- Look at the examiner's comments.

Day 4 In part 3 you will discuss issues connected with the topic you spoke about in Part 2 of the test. In this part of the test, you need to generalise more rather than talk about personal experiences, express opinions and support them, speculate about the future and make comparisons. This part lasts between 4 and 5 minutes.

a) In Part 2 you spoke about something that was important to you, something you valued. Go to <https://takeielts.britishcouncil.org/take-ielts/prepare/free-ielts-practice-tests/speaking/part-3> and practise answering the Part 3 questions that follow on from this topic. As before, record your answers.

- Did you answer the questions about people in general rather than about yourself?
- Did you use different tenses to talk about status in your parents' time (past simple/used to/would), how that has changed (present perfect) and how things are now (present simple)?
- Did you use comparatives to compare things in the past with now?
- Then listen to the recording of a test taker. How do your answers compare with him/her?
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Compare your Part 3 answers here with the answers you gave on Day 1

b) To get a better Band Score for Grammatical Range and Accuracy, try to vary the tenses and verb forms you use. There are different ways to talk about the past. As well as using past tenses, you can use 'would' and 'used to do'. Go to <https://learnenglish.britishcouncil.org/grammar/intermediate-to-upper-intermediate/past-habits-used-to-would-and-the-past-simple> and do the exercises.

c) Watch a candidate do Part 3 of the test.

To watch and listen to a Band 6 test taker, go to

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IBkffRImTwE&list=PLSAx4faA_rjNEb16E7FGDnQTSn9dAuDPv&index=4&t=0s

What did he do well or less well?

What general topics was he asked questions about?

Look at the examiner's comments.

To watch and listen to a Band 7 test taker, go to

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=STR6tv_VkCY&list=PLSAx4faA_rjNEb16E7FGDnQTSn9dAuDPv&index=8&t=50s

What did she do well or less well?

What general topics was she asked questions about?

Look at the examiner's comments.

To watch and listen to a Band 8 test taker, go to

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GebKN7OVorg&list=PLSAx4faA_rjNEb16E7FGDnQTSn9dAuDPv&index=11&t=0s

What did he do well or less well?

What general topics was he asked questions about?

Look at the examiner's comments.

Day 5 If possible, work with a friend or family member who speaks a little English. Ask them if they will be your examiner.

Part 1

Examiner: Let's talk about where you live. Is your hometown a big place or a small place?

You:

Examiner: What sort of things do you do with your friends in your town?

You:

Examiner: How do you usually travel around your town?

You:

Examiner: Is there anything you don't like about your town? Why? / Why not?

You:

Examiner: Let's talk about hobbies. Do you have a hobby?

You:

Examiner: How much time do you spend on your hobby?

You:

Examiner: Do you have friends who share the same hobby?

You:

Examiner: Did you have different hobbies when you were younger?

You:

Examiner: Let's turn to pets. Do you have a pet? Why? / Why not?

You:

Examiner: Did you have a pet when you were younger?

You:

Examiner: What is the best animal to have as a pet? Why?

Part 2

Examiner: Now I will give you a topic to talk about for one to two minutes. Before you talk, you will have one minute to think about what you are going to say. You can make some notes if you wish. Do you understand? I'd like you to talk about a place that is special.

Describe a place that is special.

You should say

- **where the place is**
- **who you go there with**
- **what you do there**

And explain why it is special.

Examiner gives the test taker one minute

Examiner: Can you start speaking now, please? I'll tell you when the time is up.

You:

Examiner gives the test taker two minutes to speak.

Examiner: Thank you. How often do you go to this place?

Part 3

Examiner: We've been speaking about a place that is special for you. Let's talk about places more generally.

Examiner: Do you think most people have a place that is very special to them?

Examiner: Children often have a favourite place where they can hide or play. Why do you think that is?

Examiner: Why do you think people get homesick when they are away from their home?

Examiner: Places obviously change over time. Do you think that the changes we see today are positive or negative?

Examiner: Can you give me examples?

Examiner: How do you think that places such as cities and towns will change in the future?

Examiner: Thinking about more distant places. A lot of money is spent on exploring space and the possibility of people in the future living on different planets. Do you think this is a good use of money?

Examiner: Do you think people will be living in space in the future?

Examiner: What would be the benefits for the human race if we could live on other planets.

Examiner: Thank you, that is the end of the Speaking test.