

Unit Two Speaking Test A

Part 1: Introduction and interview (4-5 minutes)

[This part of the test begins with the examiner introducing himself or herself and checking the candidate's identification. It then continues as an interview.]

Now, in this first part of the test I'm going to ask you some questions about yourself.

Track 38

What do you use the Internet for?

Does everyone have access to the Internet in your country?

Do you think older people are scared of new technology?

Do you think young children should have mobile phones?

Part 2: Individual long turn (3-4 minutes)

Now, I'm going to give you a topic and I'd like you to talk about it for 1-2 minutes.

Before you talk you'll have one minute to think about what you are going to say and you can make notes if you wish. Do you understand?

Ok, here's some paper and a pencil to make notes, and here is your topic.

IELTS Speaking Exam: Part 2

- 8 Read this example Part 2 question. Give yourself one minute to plan your answer, making notes if you wish. Then talk for one to two minutes and record your answer.

Describe a piece of electronic equipment that you find useful.

You should say:

what the piece of equipment is

when and where you got it

what you use it for

and explain why you find it useful.

Note: *equipment* is uncountable, so do not say ~~an equipment~~ or ~~equipments~~. If you want to count it, use another noun: *a piece of equipment*. If you want to refer to it in a general sense, use the zero article: for example, *Equipment like this is indispensable*.

Listen to the sample answer. What phrase does the candidate use to introduce the talk?

Part 3: Two-way discussion (4-5 minutes)

We've been talking about a piece of electronic equipment that you find useful, and I'd now like to ask you some questions related to this.

Track 44

Technological developments

What have been the most significant technological developments of recent years?

In what ways have these developments changed society for the better and for the worse?

Are people in your country nostalgic about life before technology?

Speaking Test Information - 11-14 minutes total

The Speaking component is the same for both versions of IELTS (Academic and General Training). There are three parts.

The test is recorded.

Part 1: Introduction and interview (4-5 minutes)

The examiner introduces him/herself and asks you to introduce yourself and confirm your identity. The examiner asks you general questions on familiar topics, (e.g. family, work, studies and interests).

- Examiner asks set questions about familiar topics using a fixed framework.
- giving personal information
- talking about everyday issues and habits.
- expressing opinions

Part 2: Individual long turn (3-4 minutes)

The examiner gives you a task card that asks you to talk about a particular topic and which includes points you can cover in your talk. You are given one minute to prepare your talk, and you are given a pencil and paper to make notes. You talk for one to two minutes on the topic. The examiner then asks you one or two questions on the same topic.

- Candidate has to speak for about two minutes on a topic chosen by the Examiner. Candidate is given one minute to prepare and can make notes in that time.
- showing an ability to keep going without interlocutor support.
- managing language: organization and expression of ideas.
- using a range of language appropriately.

Part 3: Two-way discussion (4-5 minutes)

The examiner asks further questions that are connected to the topic of Part 2. This gives you an opportunity to discuss more general issues and ideas.

- Exploring the topic - developing a discussion.
- Examiner leads the candidate to consider more general issues related to the Part 2 topic. Candidate is encouraged to develop language of a more abstract nature.
- expressing views and opinions.
- explaining.
- displaying understanding of the conversational rules of English.

Tips

1. In the lead up to the Speaking test, make sure you take the time to practise speaking English – with friends, at work and on the phone. You should also consider recording yourself, so that you are confident speaking English during your test.
 2. There are no right or wrong answers in the Speaking test. The examiner will assess you on how well you can express your ideas and opinions in good English.
 3. It will help you to feel relaxed if you imagine you are talking to a friend.
Remember that you are not being assessed on your opinions, rather on your use of English.
 4. Try to avoid repeating the words used in the examiner's question. Use your own words to show the examiner your full ability.
 5. Speak clearly and at a natural pace. If you speak too quickly, you may make mistakes or pronounce words incorrectly.
 6. Answer in as much detail as you can. Don't just answer 'yes' or 'no'. Try to develop your response to each question – draw on your own experience and give examples. The examiner wants to hear whether you can talk at length on a range of topics.
 7. Use the correct verb tense when answering questions in the Speaking test. Listen carefully to the question and notice which verb tense is used. For example, if the question is 'What kind of music do you like?' (in the present tense) your answer should also be in the present tense (e.g. 'I like pop music best'). You can go on to use other tenses as you extend your response, e.g. 'I haven't always enjoyed that kind of music...'.
 8. Practise the pronunciation of numbers to be sure that your meaning is clear. For example, many numbers can sound very similar when spoken, so be sure to say them clearly, e.g. 'Thirty' and 'Thirteen', 'Forty' and 'Fourteen', 'Fifty' and 'Fifteen' etc.
 9. It is better to use simple, commonly used vocabulary and to use it correctly than to use advanced vocabulary that you are unsure about. However, to get a high score, you must show you know how to use more advanced vocabulary.
 10. In Part 2, the examiner will give you a task card and some paper. You then have one minute to prepare your answer. First think about the topic and then decide which is the most appropriate tense to use in your response. You should use the same tense(s) as the questions on the card.
 11. Try to answer as fully as possible and give reasons for your answers. This will help you to use a wider range of vocabulary and grammar.
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