IELTS Improving Speaking Fluency

Fillers for fluency

To avoid long pauses while you are thinking use fillers...

Umm.....	*And~...*
Ahh...	*But~...*
let me see...	*So~...*
Let me think...	*Because~...*
What else...(?)	*You know...*
Well...	*Yeah,...*

Other fluency strategies

- **Repeat the question**

- **Paraphrase the question**, "*Well, there are many* (reasons/ causes/ problems)...*but one of the main* (reasons/ causes/ problems) *is*..."

- **Paraphrase your answer**

- **Communicate with the examiner** openly (if you have a problem tell the examiner, e.g. "*Oh, I forgot the question - could you ask me again, please*?"

- Avoid answering the question if you are not 100% clear about the meaning. Ask the examiner to **repeat** or **clarify** the question;

  "Could you repeat that please?",
  So you mean.............? So, by …......you mean........?
  What do you mean by...................? Do you mean …......?

- Do not speak too fast, or too slow, and avoid any repetition, hesitation or long pauses.

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