

Quick IELTS

(Speaking Tests)

With Answers and Sample Interviews



In the Name of God

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(Speaking Tests)

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Ali Mansouri Chalanchi

www.khatesefid.com



► Table of contents

Introduction

About IELTS.....	8
Exam day tips.....	8
IELTS Speaking test: Key facts.....	15
Lesson 1 : Your background.....	20
Lesson 2 : Your English background.....	22
Lesson 3 : Family and friends.....	25
Lesson 4 : Leisure time.....	29
Lesson 5 : Holiday.....	33
Lesson 6 : Relationships.....	37
Lesson 7 : Technology.....	41
Lesson 8 : Sports.....	45
Lesson 9 : Food.....	49
Lesson 10 : Education.....	53
Lesson 11 : Work.....	57
Lesson 12 : Health.....	61
Lesson 13 : Books and Films.....	65
Lesson 14 : Accommodation.....	70
Lesson 15 : Clothes & Fashion.....	74
Lesson 16 : Personality.....	78
Lesson 17 : Business.....	82
Lesson 18 : Physical Appearance.....	86
Lesson 19 : Town and City.....	90
Lesson 20 : Pollution.....	94
IELTS Grammar Focus.....	98

▶ IELTS Speaking Test Key Facts

Duration: Between 11 and 14 minutes.

Participants: Candidates interviewed individually. The test is recorded.

Format: The test consists of three parts.

Part 1 (Interview)

Part 1 of the IELTS Speaking test lasts between 4 and 5 minutes. The examiner will ask some simple 'getting-to-know-you' questions which will help the examiner find out a little about you and help put you at ease. These will be general questions such as about your family, your studies, where you come from or what your interests are.

▶▶ Example Questions

Q: *Where are you from?*

Q: *Why are you studying English?*

Q: *Have you visited any English speaking countries?*

Q: *Do you play any sports?*

Tips!

Giving full, relevant answers to the examiner's questions will help get the interview off to a good start.

1 Avoid giving short, uncommunicative replies.

Q: *Where are you from?*

A: *I'm from Ilam in Iran. (Don't stop there!) It's about 180 kilometers*

Kermanshah. It's not a modern city but with a lot of history and a lovely place to live.

2 Avoid short, 'yes', 'no' answers to closed questions. (These are questions beginning 'Have you ...', 'Do you ...', 'Is it ...' etc which can be answered simply with a yes or no answer)

Q: *Have you visited any English speaking countries?*

A: *Yes. (Don't stop there!) I went to Emirates last year and spent two weeks seeing the sights. A couple of years ago I went to Kwait with my parents and had a great time.*

Q: *Do you play any sports?*

A: *No. (Don't stop there!) I'm not really interested in playing sports. I like watching sport on TV and I really enjoy keeping up with the Olympics recently.*

3 Offer examples to help you explain a statement.

Q: *Why are you preparing for the IELTS exam?*

A: *Because I need it for my studies. (Don't stop there!) I've been preparing myself for abroad school entrance exam and I need to show my level of English is good enough.*

Part 2 (Long Turn)

Part 2 of the IELTS Speaking test lasts between 3 and 4 minutes (including 1 minute preparation time). The examiner gives you a task card and you have to speak about the subject without interruption for between 1 and 2 minutes.

▶▶ Example Task

Example 1 Describe a place you have visited that you have fond memories of.

You should say:

where this was

why you went there

what you did there

and what it was about the place that makes it so memorable.

Example 2 Describe your favourite personal possession.

You should say:

what this possession is
when you first got it
when you use it
and why it's so important to you.

Tips!

- 1 Use your 1 minute preparation time wisely and make notes of the points you'd like to make.
- 2 The question will help you with the structure of your talk. The introduction can include the item itself and maybe a brief description. The main body of your talk could describe the situation when you acquired the object and go on to explain when you use it. You can then end with an explanation of why the object is so important.
- 3 Try to avoid giving a very dry, unimaginative introduction such as '*The object I'm going to describe is ...*'. Get your talk off to a memorable start with something on the lines of: '*If I was about to lose everything and could only save one thing it would be my ...*', or '*I've got several things that mean a lot to me but the one that really stands out is my ...*'
- 4 If you're concerned about not having enough to talk about for 1 to 2 minutes or running out of time before you've finished, the answer is to practise as often as possible. Time yourself and ask a friend for feedback

part 3 (Two-Way Discussion)

In Part 3 of the test, which lasts between 3 to 4 minutes, the examiner will ask you questions linked to the topic in Part 2.

▶ Example Questions

(Based on example topics in Part 2 above)

Q: *It is sometimes argued that local cultures are being destroyed by tourism. Why do think people might feel this?*

Q: *What benefits do people get from travelling to other countries?*

Q: *Do you think people are becoming too materialistic?*

Q: *To what extent are people's buying habits affected by advertising?*

Tips! ◀

1 If you need time to collect your thoughts use expressions (sparingly) like: *'That's a good question.'*, *'Well, let me think ...'*.

2 Don't forget to avoid short, 'yes', 'no' answers. Try to offer examples to back up a statement.

3 Help make your contributions memorable. Try explaining a point using a short, personal anecdote.

4 If the examiner asks a question that you don't understand, take control of the situation with questions such as those that appear below. Responding like this will show evidence of your communication skills.

A) If the examiner uses a word or phrase that you don't understand, say something like:

"Sorry but could you explain what you mean by" or

"I haven't come across that word/expression before. Could you explain what you mean?"

B) If you simply didn't hear something that was asked, respond with:

"Excuse me, I didn't quite catch that. Could you say that again?"

"I'm sorry, but would you mind repeating that?"

Technology

Topic Vocabulary

The subject of ‘Technology’ frequently comes up in the IELTS Speaking exam. You may be asked to talk about something you own, your favourite websites, how technology has impacted on education etc. You’ll need to show the examiner your ability to express yourself using as wide a range of vocabulary as possible.

Read the following IELTS-style questions and answers below and pay attention to the phrases in **bold**. Use the ‘Definitions’ section at the bottom of the page to check the meaning of any phrases you don’t understand.

Part 1

Style questions

Examiner: Do you enjoy using technology?

Reza: Well ... I wouldn’t call myself **a techie** or a **computer buff** but I enjoy using computers ... I’d like to find out more about how they work ... when my **computer crashes** I never know what to do.

Examiner: Do you use the Internet for your studies?

Reza: Yes ... I’d be lost without it ... I do lots of **video conferencing** to practise speaking ... and I **download podcasts** that teach English vocabulary and grammar.

Examiner: Do you have your own computer?

Tina: Yes ... I have a laptop ... I use it all the time ... for **word processing** ... **browsing websites** and catching up with TV programmes I've missed.

Part 2 / Style task

Describe an item of technology you have that is very important. You should say:

- what the technology is
- when you got it
- how often you use it

and say how different your daily life would be without it.

Mehdi: I don't have many **gadgets** ... just a computer ... a laptop and my mobile phone ... but I'll talk about my computer as it's so useful ... it's funny really ... 2 years ago I was still learning to use computers ... how to use email ... **send attachments** how to **access websites** ... then I decided to do a **digital editing** course for video and photography ... and so I bought the laptop when I started the course ... my husband had a **desktop PC** but it was very slow so I decided **to upgrade** to a powerful one because we do a lot of video editing on the course ... it's a **high-spec** laptop ... very fast ... the latest **operating system** ... it **boots up** really quickly and it's fun to use so it makes working a pleasure ... I've become a competent computer user now ... if I didn't have it I daresay I'd have to spend more time at college using their computers ... but on the positive side I suppose I'd read a lot more if I didn't have it ... I probably waste a lot of time **surfing the web** ... but hopefully I won't have to be without it ...

Part 3 / Style questions

Examiner: What do you think are the important things people need to learn when they start using computers?

Ahmad: Well ... there are things like how to use the Internet ... how **to enter a web address** ... how **to navigate websites** ... that kind of thing but it's also important to know how **to back up** your files in case your computer crashes ... and all about **Internet security**.

Examiner: What kind of technological developments have made the biggest impact on our lives?

Fereidun: In my lifetime it has to be the Internet of course but I also think wifi has made a huge difference to how we interact with the Internet ... **wireless networks** at home and public **wifi hotspots** mean we can **go online** easily ... **access our mail** ... log into our work intranet and basically be connected wherever we are.

Examiner: Do computers make it much easier to study?

Jamshid: Definitely yes ... researching information is much easier with the Internet .. you can **bookmark webpages** for future reference and writing essays is much easier ... being able **to cut and paste** sections of text is another thing you can do.... so yes ... compared to years ago when you had a pile of books on your desk and a pen and paper ... it's now much easier.

Definitions	
<i>1. to access websites/email</i>	to locate
<i>2. to back up files</i>	to make a copy of files in case of a computer problem
<i>3. to boot up</i>	to start a computer
<i>4. to bookmark a webpage</i>	to mark a webpage for future reference
<i>5. to browse websites</i>	to look at websites
<i>6. a computer buff</i>	an expert computer user
<i>7. to crash</i>	to suddenly stop working
<i>8. to cut and paste</i>	to move text or images from one place in a document to another place

9. a desktop PC	a computer that isn't portable and remains in situ on a desk
10. digital editing	to edit digital materials like audio or video files
11. download (podcasts):	to save a copy of a file from the internet to your own device
12. enter a web address	to type the address of a website into the address bar of your browser
13. a gadget	a technological tool like a mobile phone or camera
14. to go online	to start using the Internet
15. high-spec (laptop)	powerful computer with top quality components
16. Internet security	Internet safety
17. intranet	a network of connected computers within an organisation that is not accessible by unauthorised visitors
18. to navigate a website	to find your way around a website
19. operating system	the software that tells the computer how to work
20. send an attachment	send an email with an accompanying file
21. to surf the web	to look at a series of websites one after the other
22. a techie	somebody who has an interest in technology
23. to upgrade	to obtain a more powerful or feature-rich computer or piece of software
24. video conferencing	to see and hear people from different locations using the Internet
25. wireless hotspot	a public place where you can access the Internet
26. wireless network	a network where users can access the Internet without the use of fixed cables
27. word processing	producing written texts on a computer

Expressing hopes, plans and intentions

Use **be going to + verb** to talk about plans you've decided on. Use **will + verb** with maybe, probably, I guess, or I think to talk about possible plans before you've made a decision.

توجه از ساختار **be going to + verb** برای بیان اعمالی استفاده می شود که قبلا در مورد انجام آنها در آینده تصمیم گرفته اید. و احتمال انجام دادن آن کارها توسط شما بسیار بالایی باشد.

اما از ساختار **will + verb**

برای بیان اعمالی استفاده می شود که احتمال کمتری می رود که شما آنها را در آینده انجام دهید

A: Where are you going to go? B: I'm **going to go** to the beach.

B: I'm not sure. **Maybe I'll** catch up on my studies.

B: I'm **not going to take** a vacation.

B: **I guess I'll** stay home.

B: I don't know. **I think I'll** go camping.

The difference between **continuous aspect** with verbs like **plan, hope, intend** and **think**, it feels as though we are thinking about it, we are not sure yet, or the plan is not definite.

توجه اگر فعل های بالا در حالت استمرار بیان شوند یعنی این که فرد مطمئن نیست و برنامه هنوز قطعیت ندارد.

▶▶ Example

I'm **planning** to start IELTS soon. (I'm not sure yet, it's not definite).

I **plan** to start IELTS soon. (I'm sure, it's definite)

Joining two sentences using relative pronouns

The relative pronoun is used to substitute the noun used in the first sentence. So, the noun is not repeated in the second sentence.

توجه ضمیر موصولی برای جایگزینی اسم به کار برده شده در جمله اول استفاده می شود بطوری که آن اسم در جمله دوم تکرار نشود.

▶▶ Example

I am from Tehran. **Tehran** is a big city.

I am from Tehran **which** is a big city.