The Official Cambridge Guide to IELTS

Speaking

Criteria & Rubric

How long is the Speaking paper?

- ✓ The Speaking test is an interview with an examiner that lasts between 11 and 14 minutes.

Criteria & Rubric

What will I need to talk about?

- ✓ The interview has three separate parts and is divided up as follow.

Part	Timing	What will I need to talk about?
1	4-5 minutes	Questions on familiar topics (e.g. hobbies, likes and dislikes, etc.).
2	3-4 minutes	You will be given a booklet with a topic (e.g. describe a good friend) and some suggestions. You need to talk about the topic for 1-2 minutes. You have about one minute to write notes before you begin.
3	4-5 minutes	The examiner will ask you more detailed and more abstract questions about the topic in Part 2 (e.g. How important is friendship?).

Criteria & Rubric

How is the Speaking paper assessed?

- ✓ The examiner will listen carefully to your answers and will assess your speaking according to the following criteria.

Criteria	What do these criteria mean?
Fluency and Coherence	Do you speak in a fluent way that is easy to understand? Do you link your ideas together clearly?
Lexical Resource	Can you accurately use or attempt to use a wide range of vocabulary accurately and effectively? Can you explain your ideas even if you do not know a particular word? Can you use or attempt to use higher-level vocabulary accurately?

Criteria & Rubric

How is the Speaking paper assessed?

- ✓ The examiner will listen carefully to your answers and will assess your speaking according to the following criteria.

Criteria	What do these criteria mean?
Grammatical Range and Accuracy	Can you use a wide range of grammatical structures rather than repeating basic structures? Are your sentences accurate, or do you often make grammatical mistakes?
Pronunciation	Is your spoken language clear and easily understood? Do you use stress and intonation to add extra meaning? With individual words, do you use stress accurately?

How can I improve my Speaking paper score?

- ✓ You can improve your score by making sure you answer each question fully and remembering the test tips in this unit. This unit will also tell you the speaking skills you need to practise in order to achieve your best score. Before the test, practise speaking as often as you can and make sure that you can talk for two minutes on a topic. Do not try to learn answers for the test. Studying all aspects of English including pronunciation, vocabulary and grammar will also help improve your IELTS score.

The Speaking Test – Part 1

In this unit you will practise :

- getting ready to speak
- talking about familiar topics
- using the correct tense
- grammatical Range and Accuracy

The Speaking Test – Part 1

1. Getting ready to speak

The test has three different parts (Part 1, Part 2 and Part 3) and the examiner will use a script. This helps to make sure that the Speaking tests all follow the same pattern.

The Speaking Test – Part 1

1.1 Watch the video and focus on what the examiner says. Complete part of the examiner's script below.

Can you tell me your 1 _____ _____ , please?
Thank you. And what 2 _____ _____ _____ _____?
And can you tell me 3 _____ _____ _____?
Can I see your 4 _____, please?
Thank you, OK, that's fine.
Now, in this first part, I'd like to ask you 5 _____ _____ _____ _____.
Let's talk about 6 _____ _____ _____.

Can you tell me your 1 ___full___name___, please?

Thank you. And what 2 __shall___I___call___you__?

And can you tell me 3 __where___you're___from__?

Can I see your 4 __identification__, please?

Thank you, OK, that's fine.

Now, in this first part, I'd like to ask you 5 ___some___questions___

__about__yourself__.

Let's talk about 6 __where___you__live__.

The Speaking Test – Part 1

1.2 What do you need to bring to the Speaking test?

The Speaking Test – Part 1

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A kind of identification: passport

The Speaking Test – Part 1

1.3 Watch again and this time, focus on Sanem, the candidate. As you watch, answer the questions below.

(1) Choose the best adjectives to describe Sanem :
shy, anxious, friendly, tense, calm, abrupt, confident

(2) Which TWO descriptions below (A-E) apply to Sanem?

A. She often looks down and avoids looking at the examiner.
B. She makes good eye contact with the examiner.
C. Her body language shows she is listening carefully.
D. Her body language shows how nervous she is.
E. The way she is sitting makes her seem a little rude.

The Speaking Test – Part 1

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The Speaking Test – Part 1

1.4 Put a tick (V) or a cross (x) to show which of these would be appropriate in the Speaking test.

A. chewing gum because it helps you to stay calm
B. drinking from a bottle of water
C. checking your mobile phone
D. using your mobile phone to time your interview
E. wearing jeans and a T-shirt
F. asking the examiner your score at the end of the test
G. shrugging your shoulders to show you don't know or understand
H. asking to leave the room for a moment during the test

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The Speaking Test – Part 1

1.5 If you can, video yourself being interviewed and think about your own body language. Are there any things you can improve?

The Speaking Test – Part 1

2. **Part 1 – talking about familiar topics**
   Part 1 will last for approximately five minutes. The examiner will ask you about familiar topics such as your family, or likes and dislikes.

The Speaking Test – Part 1

2.1 Look at the questions below on the topic of home, and think about how you would answer them.

Let's talk about where you live.

- What do you like most about your home town/city? [Why?]
- Is your home town/city a popular place for tourists to visit? [Why/Why not?]
- Do you think your home town/city has changed much in recent years? [Why/Why not?]

The Speaking Test – Part 1

2.2 At the end of each question, there are follow-up questions in brackets. Why do you think the examiner sometimes uses them?

The Speaking Test – Part 1

2.3 Watch a candidate called Emanuele answering the questions. As you listen, decide which statement below applies to Emanuele's answers.

A. His answers are a little too short – the examiner need to ask follow-up questions.

B. He is clearly giving a prepared speech.

C. He answers naturally and fully.

The Speaking Test – Part 1

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B. He is clearly giving a prepared speech.

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The Speaking Test – Part 1

2.4 Practise by answering the questions below. Record yourself if possible. Don't use any notes or learn a prepared answer.

- What food is typical of your home country? [Why do you think that is?]
- Are there any special festivals or celebrations in your town/city? [Can you tell me about that?]
- What advice would you give to a visitor to your town/city? [Why?]

The Speaking Test – Part 1

2.5 Listen back to your answers. Did you answer the questions fully?

Would an examiner need to have used the questions in brackets?

The Speaking Test – Part 1

3. **Using the right tense – Grammatical Range and Accuracy**
   Your examiner will use four different criteria to assess your speaking level. One of these is Grammatical Range and Accuracy. To achieve a high score in this criterion, you need to use a range of tenses and structures accurately. In Part 1 of the Speaking test, you will be asked questions about two or three familiar topics. The questions will feature a variety of tenses.

The Speaking Test – Part 1

3.1 Watch a candidate called Saida answering questions about writing and music. As you listen, complete the examiner's questions below. You may need to watch more than once.

(1) What different types _____?

(2) Do you prefer _____?

(3) Do you write _____?

(4) Do you like to _____?

(5) Let's talk about _____?

The Speaking Test – Part 1

3.1 Watch a candidate called Saida answering questions about writing and music. As you listen, complete the examiner's questions below. You may need to watch more than once.

(1) What different types of writing do you do, for example letters, emails, reports or essays?

(2) Do you prefer writing with a pen or using a computer?

(3) Do you write more now or less than you did a few years ago?

(4) Do you like to write stories or poems?

(5) Let's talk about music. How often do you listen to music?

The Speaking Test – Part 1

3.2 What tense should you use to answer each question? Listen again to see if Saida showed a range of tenses.

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(5) Let's talk about music. How often do you listen to music?

The Speaking Test – Part 1

3.3 Looking at these extracts from Saida's answers. Three of them contain a grammatical error. Find the mistakes and correct them.

(1) I prefer to email.
(2) If you send a letter by yourself, it means you are very appreciate this person.
(3) It depends on the situation. For example, for my studies, I prefer to type on a computer, but for my essay, I prefer to write by hand.
(4) I think less, because technology nowadays are really go fast.
(5) Not actually really.
(6) I listen to music because it gives me energy.

The Speaking Test – Part 1

3.3 Looking at these extracts from Saida's answers. Three of them contain a grammatical error. Find the mistakes and correct them.

(1) I prefer to email.
(2) If you send a letter by yourself, it means you are very appreciate this person.
(3) It depends on the situation. For example, for my studies, I prefer to type on a computer, but for my essay, I prefer to write by hand.
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The Speaking Test – Part 1

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(2) If you send a letter by yourself, it means you are very appreciate this person.

→ If you send a letter yourself(by hand), it means you really appreciate this person.

The Speaking Test – Part 1

3.3 Looking at these extracts from Saida's answers. Three of them contain a grammatical error. Find the mistakes and correct them.

(4) I think less, because technology nowadays are really go fast.

→ I think less because technology nowadays is really developing quickly.

The Speaking Test – Part 1

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(5) Not actually really.

→ Not really.

The Speaking Test – Part 1

Here are some other familiar topics that you may be asked about.

- computers
- hobbies
- reading
- studying
- food
- music

The Speaking Test – Part 1

3.4 Try to say one sentence about your past, present and future experiences of each of the topics above. Pay attention to tenses.

The Speaking Test – Part 1

3.5 Think about how you would answer these questions.

1. Do you like to read the newspaper? [Why/ Why not?]
2. Did you enjoy studying when you first started school? [Why/ Why not?]
3. Would you like to do any further study? [Why/ Why not?]
4. Do you often go out at the weekends?
5. Have you always liked the same kind of music? [Why/ Why not?]

The Speaking Test – Part 1

3.6 Which of the answers in the box can be used with questions 1-5?

Not really. / Yes, I do. / No, I didn't / No, I haven't / Yes, I have. / Yes, there is. / No, there aren't. Yes, I would. / No, I wouldn't. / Yes, I did. / No, I don't.

The answers in the box are a good start, but you need to give more detail and explain your answer.

The Speaking Test – Part 1

3.5 Think about how you would answer these questions.

1. Do you like to read the newspaper?
   Yes, I do / Not really
2. Did you enjoy studying when you first started school?
   No, I didn't / Not really / Yes, I did
3. Would you like to do any further study?
   Yes, I would / No, I wouldn't / Not really
4. Do you often go out at the weekends?
   Not really / Yes, I do / No, I don't
5. Have you always liked the same kind of music?
   No, I haven't / Yes, I have / Not really

The Speaking Test – Part 1

3.8 Answer each of the questions in 3.5 and 3.7 for yourself using an appropriate answer from the box. Give specific details.

The Speaking Test – Part 1

3.8

1. Do you like to read the newspaper?
Not really. It's too long and boring.

2. Did you enjoy studying when you first started school?
Yes, I did. At the beginning of the study, most of the subjects were easy, and there was no exam.

3. Would you like to do any further study?
Yes, I would. I like learning new things and I would like to learn completely different things like new language or computer skills.

The Speaking Test – Part 1

3.8

4. Do you often go out at the weekends?
Yes, I do. I try to spend my weekends with friends outside. It's the only time I can catch up with my friends.

5. Have you always liked the same kind of music?
Not really. When I was young, I was crazy about rock music, but now I tend to like soft music such as ballads, or Jazz.

The Speaking Test – Part 1

3.7

(1) Let's talk about music. How often do you listen to music?
Almost every day. I always listen to music when I go to school.

(2) Why?
There's nothing much I can do in the crowded bus, so it's a good way to kill my time in the bus.

(3) So, do you prefer to buy CDs of download music from the internet?
Definitely downloading. I don't even have a CD player.

The Speaking Test – Part 1

3.7

(4) Have you always liked the same kind of music?

Yes, I've always been a rock music fan. Bon Jovy is my favorite.

(5) And is there a musical instrument that you would like to learn to play?

Guitar. It seems easier than any other instruments, and it can play most of the music by itself.

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