

IELTS SPEAKING



Part 1: INTERVIEW: FAMILIAR TOPICS

STUDY

Do you work or study?

I'm currently a student at Queen's University, Belfast.

What do you study?

I study law because it's a really well thought of degree and future

Is it a popular subject at your university?

Very popular, in fact it's one of the most sought after courses. I believe there are about 350 people reading law at Queen's. I think lots of student's parents want them to study law because they can get a good job after they graduate.

Do you enjoy studying it?

It's such a huge subject that there will always be parts you like and parts you don't like. I find Human Rights fascinating because it can really make a difference to peoples' lives. On the other hand, modules like Land Law and Equity are really boring.

Do you plan to use the subject you are studying in the future?

Yes, I've already started to apply for jobs as a lawyer. We normally have to secure a job a year before we graduate and then work very hard to get a high overall mark. After that, I will probably do a Masters in law to become a specialist in one particular area.



Easy Ways to Extend Your Part 1 Answers:

1. Involve your feelings and opinions

What do you like to do in your spare time?

Short answer: 'I like shopping.'

Longer answer: 'I like shopping because I love trying on new clothes and I always **feel** more confident when I'm wearing a new outfit.'

2. Contrasting details

How long have you worked there?

Short answer: I've worked there for three years.

Longer answer: I've worked there for three years, **but** I'm going to change careers next year.

3. Combining Details

Do you live in a flat or a house?

Short answer: I live in a house.

Longer answer: I live in a house with my two brothers and my mum. We've also got a dog and a cat.

Easy Ways to Extend Your Part 1 Answers

4. Past Comparisons

Do you play sport?

Short answer: I play football.

Longer answer: I **used to** love basketball, but now I play football more because that's what my friends are in to.

5. Adding Reasons

Do you like your job?

Short answer: Yes, I really love my job.

Longer answer: Yes, I really love my job **because** I get to help people with their problems **everyday**.

6. Future

Do you work or study?

Short answer: I'm at university at the moment.

Longer answer: I'm at university at the moment, but **I'm graduating next year** and **I will** hopefully get a job in advertising.

Easy Ways to Extend Your Part 1 Answers

7. Contrast Opposite Opinions

Is your hometown a nice place for tourists to visit?

Short answer: Yes, it has a really nice beach.

Longer answer: Yes, it has a really nice beach, although it is getting really busy these days, so it's not as pristine as it used to be.

8. Giving Examples

Do you get along with your brothers?

Short answer: No, we're not in to the same things.

Longer answer: No, we're not in to the same things, like when we are both watching TV we always fight about what show to watch.

9. Frequency

What do you do at the weekends?

Short answer: I watch TV and play computer games.

Longer answer: I usually watch TV and play computer games, but sometimes I go out for a drink with my friends.

Rule of Thumb

- ✓ Sound natural
- ✓ Avoid giving too short and too long answers
- ✓ Reply spontaneously
- ✓ Practice 'slow and fast'
- ✓ Be flexible: Combining two or three of the above structures in a single answer is very impressive.
- ✓ Avoid using too 'complex structures': they normally leads to mistakes.
- ✓ Your main goal is to show you can communicate effectively and fluently



IELTS Speaking Part : An Individual Long Turn: A Monologue

Speaking test part 2: candidate task card

Describe something you own which is very important to you.

You should say:

- where you got it from
- how long you have had it
- what you use it for; and
- explain why it is important to you.

You will have to talk about the topic for 1 to 2 minutes.

You have one minute to think about what you're going to say.

You can make some notes to help you if you wish.

IELTS Speaking Part 2 Tips

- ✓ You Don't Have to Talk About Every Bullet Point
- ✓ Have a Strategy
- ✓ Preparation:
 - Don't memorize answers
 - Focus on fluency and pronunciation
 - Learn functional language
 - Time yourself so you know how much you have to speak in 1-2 minutes.
- ✓ Use 1 Minute Wisely: short notes and key words
- ✓ Personal Experiences Are Best (but telling a lie is OK too.)
- ✓ Expand Your Ideas (Who, what, why, where, how)
- ✓ Mistakes are OK

IELTS Speaking Part 2 Strategy: How to prepare for 1 minute?

✓ Make an outline:

Introduction

Past

Description

Opinion

Future

✓ Write keywords beside each of these headings

Introduction: I'd like to talk about. I choose this topic because

Past: Used to + infinitive to talk about past habits or states that are now finished.

Would + infinitive to describe past habits.

Past simple to talk about things you did in the past that you no longer do or are no longer true.

Past continuous to talk about the background of a story or how you felt at a particular time.

Past perfect to say something happened before something else in the past.

IELTS Speaking Part 2 Strategy: How to prepare for 1 minute?

Description: *So let me tell you about (X) in a little more detail.*

SPECIFIC VOCABULARY!

Opinion: *'If you ask me/In my view/I would say + (opinion on topic)*

I strongly believe that...

As far as I'm concerned...

I'm strongly against...

I'm strongly in favour of....

I'm skeptical of the idea that...

I must admit, I think....

Future: *'With regards to the future...*

Present continuous to talk about fixed arrangements.

Be going + to + infinitive to talk about future plans.

Will or won't + infinitive is used with predictions based on opinions or experiences. It can also be used to talk about hopes and assumptions.

The future perfect- will have + past participle- is used to say something will have happened or will have been completed by a certain point in the future.

IELTS Speaking Part 3: Two-way discussion: Generally speaking

- FAQs:

- what to do if you don't understand the question

Ask to repeat or clarify

- What if I need time to think? Or I can't think of an answer

Use time fillers: That's a difficult question, let me think for a second.

That's a very interesting question, let me think.

It's very difficult to know exactly, but I think/but I believe/perhaps....

- how do I extend my answer?

- Paraphrase
- Explain why
- Give examples
- Make Concessions

Part 3 Common questions

7 Common Question Types:

Opinion– What do you think about ‘this’? *As I see it; Personally, I’m convinced that*

Evaluate– What do you think about someone else’s opinion? *I can’t agree with you more; this is exactly what I feel; I’m afraid I disagree*

Future– What do you think will happen in the future? *It’s probable that, It’s likely that*

Cause and Effect– What caused ‘this’ and/or what effects has ‘it’ had? *Because, as a result, due to; as a consequence, means that*

Hypothetical– Talk about imaginary or unreal situations. *If + (subject 1) + past participle, then (subject 2) + would + verb*

Compare and Contrast– Talk about the difference and/or similarities between two things. *comparative adjective + than e.g.*

Past – How were things different in the past and how have they changed? Used to + infinitive to talk about past habits or states that are now finished.

Would + infinitive to describe past habits.

Past simple to talk about things you did in the past that you no longer do or are no longer true.

Past continuous to talk about the background of a story or how you felt at a particular time.

Past perfect to say something happened before something else in the past.

Speaking Part 3 Tips

- 4-5 abstract questions- deeper, more complex answers:
 - How have mobile phones changed the types of relationships people make?
 - Some people think that children should not be allowed to use mobiles, do you agree?
 - How has mobile phone use changed in the last 10 years?
 - How will mobile phones change in the future?
 - If you could add any new feature to a smart phone, what would it be?
- ✓ Don't try to finish quickly
 - ✓ Know that the examiner is trying to stretch you
 - ✓ Always give an answer
 - ✓ Think about what structure the examiner is testing (wide range of structures):
 - How have mobile phones changed the types of relationships people make? – opinion/past/present
 - Some people think that children should not be allowed to use mobiles, do you agree?- evaluating someone's opinion
 - How has mobile phone use changed in the last 10 years?.- past to present (perfect tenses)
 - How will mobile phones change in the future?- future/prediction
 - If you could add any new feature to a smart phone, what would it be?- hypothetical

Useful resources:

- <http://www.ieltsadvantage.com>
- <http://www.ieltsspeaking.co.uk/ielts-vocabulary/>
- <http://ielts-simon.com/>
- <http://www.ielts-exam.net/>
- Vocaroo.com

