

# IELTS Prep

## Speaking Session 1



# Speaking Session 1

- The Speaking test is as close to a real-life situation as an exam can get.
- You will talk to a certified examiner in the IELTS Speaking test.
- The test is interactive and as close to a real-life situation as a test can get. The test will be recorded.

## Purpose of the test

The IELTS Speaking test is designed to assess a wide range of skills.

The examiner will score you on the following:

- Ability to communicate opinions and information on everyday topics and common experiences
- Ability to speak at length on a given topic using appropriate language
- Ability to organize your ideas coherently
- Ability to express and justify your opinions
- Ability to analyze, discuss and speculate about issues

Make sure that you relax and talk fluently. You will need to speak naturally.



# Speaking Session 1

**Timings: The IELTS Speaking test takes 11-14 minutes.**

SECTION	DURATION	INFORMATION
Part 1 Introduction and interview	4-5 minutes	The examiner will introduce him or herself and ask you to introduce yourself and will ask you to show your identification proof. The examiner will ask general questions on some familiar topics, e.g. home, family, work, studies and interests
Part 2 Individual long turn	3-4 minutes	The examiner will give you a Cue card which asks you to talk about a particular topic. You will be given one minute to prepare and make notes. You will then be asked to talk for 1-2 minutes on the topic. You will not be interrupted during this time, so it is important to keep talking. The examiner will then ask you one or two questions on the same topic.
Part 3 Two-way discussion	4-5 minutes	The examiner will ask you further questions which are connected to the topic of Part 2. These questions are designed to give you an opportunity to discuss more abstract issues and ideas



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## Assessment Criteria

You will be assessed on your performance throughout the test by certified IELTS examiners. You will be marked on the four criteria of the IELTS Speaking Test Band Descriptors:

1. Fluency and coherence
2. Lexical resource
3. Grammatical range and accuracy
4. Pronunciation

Scores are reported in whole and half bands.



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## Tips

- Give a full answer.
- Speak clearly and don't worry about your accent.
- Use descriptive words.
- Speak up.
- Don't use slang.
- Keep a steady pace. Don't speak too fast or too slow.
- Don't try to memorize answers to sample subjects.
- Explain names or words which are in another language.
- Practice speaking with a watch.
- Stay on topic.
- Have daily discussions with friends.



# Speaking Session 1

## Part 1

**Let's talk about your home town or village.**

- What kind of place is it?
- What's the most interesting part of your town/village?
- What kind of jobs do the people in your town/village do?
- Would you say it's a good place to live? (Why?)



# Speaking Session 1

## Model Response

Part 1 Introduction and interview. [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.]

### Transcript

**Examiner:** Now, in this first part, I'd like to ask you some more questions about yourself, OK? Let's talk about your home town or village.

### What kind of place is it?

**Candidate:** It's quite a small village, about 20km from Zurich. And it's very quiet. And we have only two little shops because most of the people work in Zurich or are oriented towards the city.

**Examiner:** What's the most interesting part of this place ... village?

**Candidate:** On the top of a hill we have a little castle which is very old and quite well known in Switzerland.



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**Examiner:** What kind of jobs do people in the village do?

**Candidate:** We have some farmers in the village as well as people who work in Zurich as bankers or journalists or there are also teachers and some doctors, some medics.

**Examiner:** Would you say it's a good place to live?

**Candidate:** Yes. Although it is very quiet, people are friendly and I would say it is a good place to live.





# Speaking Session 1

## Part 1: Practice Questions

### ACCOMMODATION

- Tell me about the kind of accommodation you live in?
- How long have you lived there?
- What do you like about living there?
- What sort of accommodation would you most like to live in?

### FAMILY

- Describe your family?
- Do you have a large or small family?
- How much time do you spend with your family?
- What do you like to do together as a family?
- Do you get along well with your family?



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## WORK

- What do you do?
- What are your responsibilities?
- How many hours do you work each day?
- Do you enjoy your work?
- Is there some other kind of work you would rather do?

## HOMETOWN

- What's special about it?
- Is it easy to travel around your hometown?
- What is it known for?
- What do people in your town do?
- What problems do you face in your hometown?
- What are the advantages of living in your hometown?



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## WEATHER

- What's the weather like in your country?
- Does the weather affect your mood?
- How do rainy days make you feel?
- What's your favorite season of the year?
- What do you like to do when it's hot?
- What do you usually do in the winter?
- How many seasons does your country have?

## TRAVEL

- Do you like to travel?
- What kind of places have you visited in your life?
- Which place would you really like to visit? Why?
- What's the best place you've ever visited?



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## COMPUTERS

- Do you think computers help society?
- Do you think computers are bad for health?
- How do you think computers have changed the world?

## FRIEND

- Describe a friend.
- How long have you known each other?
- What do you usually do together?
- What do you like the most about him / her?
- How often do you see each other?

## HOBBIES

- Do you have any hobbies?
- What are some of your hobbies?
- When did you first develop this hobby?
- What are some of the advantages of having a hobby? How much time do you spend on your hobby?



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## FESTIVAL

- What's the most important festival in your country?
- How do people celebrate this festival?
- What special food is associated with this festival?
- What special activities are associated with this festival?
- What do you enjoy most about this festival?
- Do you think festivals are important for a society?

## TELEVISION

- What do you usually watch on television?
- What are the most popular shows in your country?
- What kind of shows do you like to watch?
- What are some advantages of television?
- What are some of the disadvantages of television?
- What did you last watch on television?
- Why do you think certain TV shows are so popular?



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## Part 2: Cue Card 1

**Describe someone in your family who you like.**

You should say:

How this person is related to you

What this person looks like

What kind of person he/she is

and explain why you like this person



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## Model Response:

The person in my family I really like and also love is my mother. She is a very special person and I cannot imagine what I would be without her.

Physically, my mother is petite. She is only about 5 feet tall, and weighs about 110 pounds. She has fine, black hair and a fair complexion. One thing people often notice is that my mother always takes pride in her appearance. Even now, at the age of 80, my mother is a well-dressed, well-groomed and elegant woman, with her fine choice of clothes and matching accessories, jewellery and shoes.

Intellectually, my mother always loves learning. Even after her busy day, she won't go to bed without reading the newspaper. She was one of the few members of her family that completed a university education. She also has many creative and cultural interests such as literature, music and dance. Through her own enjoyment, she passed on this love of culture to all her children, including me.

Emotionally, my mother has a heart of gold. All her life, she has been ready, willing and able to help anyone who needs anything, with a smile on her face. She is of the old school - she remembers to wish friends and relatives on their birthdays and anniversaries, she attends their weddings, dinners and parties, and she visits them when they're hurt, unwell or in mourning. In fact, my mother has always been a kind soul and people of all ages love her as soon as they meet her. I think this is because she is good-hearted from the core, and her authenticity is what everyone relates to. She has taught me the meaning of being compassionate, loving, kind, helpful, and supportive and so much more. In fact, thanks to the unconditional love of both my wonderful parents, I feel I've been truly blessed in this lifetime.



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## Part 2: Cue Card 2

**Describe a game or sport you enjoy playing.**

You should say:

What kind of sport it is

Who you play it with

Where you play it

and explain why you enjoy playing it





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## Model Response:

I enjoy playing various kinds of brain games online. There are a number of different websites I visit on a regular basis in order to play these games by myself. The objective of the games is to exercise different areas of your brain so that you preserve and enhance your memory and also expand and develop your brain power. The games are of various kinds. Some enable you to practice your verbal skills. Others test logical reasoning, spatial skills and visual memory. I can keep track of my scores, so that each time I play, my goal is to do better than in the past – to outdo myself, so to speak. In addition, if I want, I can compare my scores with others who play online. This aspect is intriguing, but frankly it doesn't interest me much. I don't regard this as a competition with anyone else. It is something I do simply to sharpen my mental abilities and improve myself. In fact, one of my favorite games is supposed to be the best for brain fitness. It involves solving a number of simple math problems using addition, subtraction, multiplication and division as quickly as possible. I really hope these games will enable me to preserve my intellect and my memory into old age.



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## Part 2: Practice Questions

**Describe a story you have heard about.**

You should say:

- Who told this story
- When you heard about it
- What it was about
- And explain how you felt about it

**Describe an interesting neighbour.**

You should say:

- Who he/she is
- How you know him/her
- What you do together
- And explain why he/she is interesting



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**Describe something you do that can help you concentrate on work/study.**

You should say:

- What it is
- How it helps you concentrate
- When you do it
- And explain why it can help you concentrate

**Describe a time you used your cellphone/smartphone to do something important.**

You should say:

- When it happened
- What happened
- How important your cellphone/smartphone was to you then
- And explain how you felt about the experience



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**Describe a positive change that you made in your life.**

You should say:

- What the change was
- When it happened
- How it happened
- Who helped you
- And explain why it was a positive change

**Describe a special day out that cost you little money/didn't cost you much.**

You should say:

- When the day was
- Where you went
- How much you spent
- And explain how you felt about it



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**Describe a funny situation that made you laugh.**

You should say

- When this situation took place
- What happened
- How you reacted
- And why you found the situation funny.



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## Part 3: Two Way discussion

In part 3 of the speaking test you have a **two-way discussion** with the examiner. This is the part where the examiner will really be able to test your ability.

If you do very well on this part of the test and **give thoughtful extended answers that directly address the question**, it will show that you have a high band level (though of course your grammar will need to be good too in order to do very well!).

There is no right or wrong opinion of course.

These are just IELTS speaking samples - you need to answer the question that is asked and don't go off the topic, but the examiner is not grading based on whether they disagree or agree with what you say.



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## Sample Response

### **Do you think advertising influences what people buy?**

Yes, definitely. If there were no advertising and you went to a shop, then you would just buy what you wanted based on maybe what others have told you, what the product looks like, or, depending on the product, what it says on the label. Advertising builds up a brand and people then trust a certain thing because they have seen it on television or elsewhere. Also, there is so much advertising around, it must influence us. You can't escape, it as it is fed to us constantly in our daily lives – not only in magazines, radio and television, but on billboards, on TVs installed on trains and platforms, even in schools and universities. So yes, advertising influences what we buy.



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## Sample Response

**Do advertisements give correct information, or do they encourage people to buy things that they may not need?**

I think some do and some don't, but it's difficult to know which are giving us the correct information. For example, the skin whitening products – I do not believe that these work, but we see them everywhere in Asian countries, and we are encouraged to buy them even though they are not actually necessary. The adverts, though, tell us they are necessary as they will improve our lives and we will become more accepted and successful. This then, is an example of advertising encouraging people to buy something that one does not need. I do think there are checks in most countries these days to make sure that adverts are giving the correct information and not misleading people, but I think it is still easy for advertisers to exaggerate or to do this without breaking regulations.





# Speaking Session 1

## Sample Response

### **Is advertising really necessary in modern society?**

It is a necessary evil, as I mentioned before, there is so much choice that we need someone to guide us in what to buy or to give us some extra information about products. Without this, it would be difficult to know where to start. However, that said, I'm not sure that I would regard it as 'necessary' as overall, I think it may do more harm than good. As we just discussed, advertising encourages people to buy things they possibly do not need. We live in a consumerist society and many people are in debt because we are encouraged to buy and buy, and I'm sure advertising plays a major role over there. Without advertising, we could just do our own research and decide what we really need. So, I would not say that advertising is necessary in modern society.



# Speaking Session 1

## Sample Response

**Now we'll move on to the influence of the internet.**

**Do you think people take notice of advertisements on the internet?**

Despite the fact that there are many adverts on the internet these days, I think actually many people tend to ignore them, or at least that is my experience. People usually go onto the internet to find something specific that they are looking for, which may be a product, or to read about something, so they will ignore what is not relevant to that. But of course there is no doubt that some people take notice of them. Advertising on the internet is a practice most companies partake in now, and they have to pay quite substantial sums to advertise on highly ranked sites. Of course they would not do this if it were not attracting customers towards them.



# Speaking Session 1

## Sample Response

### **How do you think it will change people's buying habits in the future?**

Buying from the internet is becoming more and more popular. For example, we've seen many book shops close down because people can buy online at cheaper prices from sites such as Amazon. It makes life much easier if products can be delivered directly at our door, especially with our busy modern lifestyles. I think this will only increase in the future as more people feel safe to buy online products. Also, I think our lives are only going to become busier, so more people will choose to shop online.



# Speaking Session 1

## Sample Response

### **Are there any disadvantages to shopping on the internet?**

There certainly are some. Firstly, buying clothes can be a problem. When you go into a shop you can check if what you are buying fits and suits you, but it is obviously not possible to do this online. Shopping does not become less of a hassle if you have to send something back by post. Another problem is the security. We have to give out our bank details to people we don't know. There have been several recent reports in the press about sites that have had their security breached and credit card details have been stolen. So far this is fairly uncommon, but it is a risk none the same. Another disadvantage is to society as it could destroy local shops and businesses if people do not patronize shops in their local area.



# Speaking Session 1

## Sample Response

**Tell me about some of the environmental problems that are affecting countries these days?**

Well, there are a lot at the moment. Although it has not been proven for sure, there is a great deal of consensus about the fact that global warming is leading to severe weather changes and this is resulting in many problems. We are seeing a lot of countries with the same problems that they have always had but on a much larger scale. For example, in the United States there seem to be far more hurricanes and tornadoes than in the past, with more devastating effects. There seems to be constant news of serious flooding in many countries from Asia to Europe. Forest fires also seem to be getting worse, particularly each year in Australia.



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## Sample Response

**Do you think that governments around the world are doing enough to tackle the problems?**

No, usually I don't think they are doing enough. There are countries that do what they can do to help their people when problems occur, and they are trying to come up with measures to mitigate the effects, but when it comes to the major issue of global warming countries are not doing enough. We see time and again that no agreement can be made on how to reduce carbon footprints. This is usually because governments know that to make a serious reduction in carbon dioxide emissions, they will have to sacrifice economic growth and they are not prepared to do that. Governments think on a short-term basis. They know that if there is economic decline, then they will be voted out.



# Speaking Session 1

## Sample Response

### **Why do some people not consider environmental problems to be serious?**

I think there are several reasons for that. In some cases, it is simply because people are not affected on a day-to-day basis so it does not concern them. They just see it on the news affecting other people. It does not mean they do not care but they will soon forget about it. Also, some big organizations can be responsible for putting the wrong information out. For example, oil companies have a vested interest in making sure people do not believe in global warming as it could affect their profits, so they play the issue down. Also, some people think as it is a long-term problem, they will be dead by the time it will affect them, so they think it is not important for them.



# Speaking Session 1

## Sample Response

**Now we'll look at environmental problems and disasters caused by humans.**

**What do you consider to be the world's worst environmental disaster caused by humans?**

I think that maybe it is the nuclear disaster in Chernobyl, Ukraine. In that case, there was an explosion and nuclear meltdown. It caused great loss of life. The environment was badly affected, and it is still affected today, and could be for many years. There are many people who suffer from radiation effects as a result of that disaster and no one can live anywhere near the site. Of course, there are many other serious ones, some more recent such as the oil spills in Africa and the US.





# Speaking Session 1

## Sample Response

### **Why do you think environmental disasters caused by humans happen?**

It could be for different reasons. In some cases, it is simply because not enough care is taken. Maybe procedures and penalties are not good enough. It could also be because the drive for profit means that there is cost cutting and that again could mean that safe procedures are not in place. There is usually a situation when a disaster happens where blame will be deflected and it is difficult to establish exactly who is responsible. Nobody wants to admit responsibility because it means they will have to pay compensation. Sometimes a disaster can happen because of a simple human mistake and yet it is only human to err but at what costs.



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## Sample Response

**Do you think there will be more environmental disasters caused by humans in the future?**

I don't think there will necessarily be more. Procedures are always getting tighter, so in theory there should be fewer, but mistakes will always happen, so I'm sure they will continue unfortunately. Governments must continue to prosecute any company that causes environmental problems or disasters, so that they are less likely to happen again.





*Thank you*