

IELTS Speaking Part One board game and useful language

Move around by using different kinds of language in the categories below.

will + be + v + ing	would like	your area	your dream...	START abroad
when you were	<p><i>You need one counter (e.g. an eraser) each. Place them on the START square. One of the other people in the group will ask you an IELTS Speaking Part One question about the topic or using the word(s) in the square you are on. You move around the board by using phrases with some of the functions on the following two pages, with one point for each phrase that hasn't been used by anyone yet (meaning no points for repeating phrases which someone has already used).</i></p> <p><u>Kinds of phrases you can get points for:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Checking (again) what the question means Commenting on the question/ Filling silence while pausing for thought/ Dealing with difficult questions Commenting on the match or possible (mismatch) between the question and the answer Vague language/ Saying you are not sure (e.g. you can't remember exactly) Changing your mind halfway through an answer/ Correcting wrong information Explaining things that the examiner might not know or understand (e.g. names of things which are specific to your country) Giving reasons Different (past, present or future) time expressions Different tenses/ Verb forms to talk about different times <p><i>Your partner will give one tick on the suggested language page for every new phrase you use, next to one of the phrases there if you use that, or in the blank space if you use something completely different. In the real exam you should generally tell the truth and only do those things if you have to, but in this game just concentrate on using as much of that kind of language as you can. You move one square for every point that you score.</i></p>			accommodation/ home
what sort/ kind of				day(s) off/ weekend
TV				art/ media
transport/ travel/ holiday				sport/ exercise/ keep fit
recent past				change
near future				ambition/ goal/ plan
distant past				desires/ wants
distant future				dish/ food
festivals/ celebration(s)				going out
school/ studies				family/ friend(s)
routines				retire
reading				films
prediction(s)				first/ last
now/ at the moment				going to
next	green space(s)			
name	have been + ing			
music	health/ healthy			
likes/ preferences	hobbies/ interests			
hometown	free time/ leisure			
language(s)	how long			
job/ work	is/ are + ing	in... years	if	IELTS

List for the person asking the questions and listening

Tick off any phrases below which are used for the first time, or put a tick in the blank space for any other phrases with the same function which are used (even if they are only a little different).

1 Checking (again) what the question means

Can I just check...?/ Just to check what the question is,...

Should I talk about... or...?/ Do you want to know... (or...)?

So, you're asking...?

Could you repeat the first/ middle/ last part of the question?

Could you say that another way?

Do you mean...?

I'm afraid I didn't understand the last word/ part of the question.

If I understand correctly, you want me to tell you...

What does... mean?

Sorry, I still don't understand./ I'm still not quite sure what the question means.

Other phrases with that function:

2 Commenting on the question/ Filling silence while pausing for thought/ Dealing with difficult questions

Let me think./ Let me see.

I'm just trying to remember.

Hmmm./ Weeeeeell,...

I've never really thought about that before...

No one's ever asked me that before.

That's an interesting question.

It's funny you should ask me that, because...

Other phrases with that function:

3 Commenting on the match or possible (mismatch) between the question and the answer

If... means..., then...

I guess you want to know..., in which case...

I don't know if this is what you are asking, but...

I don't... exactly, but...

Actually (in my case),...

I can't exactly answer that question (because...) but...

Other phrases with that function:

4 Vague language/ Saying you are not sure (e.g. you can't remember exactly)

I can't remember... (exactly) but...

I don't remember... but I can remember...

The only thing I can recall is...

... or something like that (anyway).

... or something of that sort.

more or less/ approximately/ something like...

Other phrases with that function:

5 Changing your mind halfway through/ Correcting wrong information

Sorry, I meant to say...

Ah no, that's wrong. It's actually...

Other phrases with that function:

6 Explaining things that the examiner might not know or understand (e.g. names of things which are specific to your country)

There is a word in my language...

There is something in my country which we call...
which can be translated as...

The usual/ direct/ word for word translation is...

which is a kind of/ a bit like...

which looks/ smells/ tastes/ feels (something) like....

Other phrases with that function:

7 Giving reasons

This is because...

The (main) reason for that is...

I'm not sure why exactly, but...

for some reason or the other

in order to...

so that...

Other phrases with that function:

8 Different (past, present or future) time expressions

the day before yesterday/ a couple of days ago

in a year or two

by the time...

when I was a... student/ in... school/ in my late teens

in the late 90s

later this afternoon

first thing tomorrow morning

the week after next

at the moment/ currently/ presently/ now

nowadays/ these days

once every two or three weeks

Other phrases with that function:

9 Different tenses/ Verb forms to talk about different times

is/ are going to

is/ are + ing

has/ have + been + ing

will + be + ing

will + have + PP

plan to/ be planning to

want to/ would like to/ would love to

Other phrases with that function:

Brainstorm similar phrases for these categories of useful language for your answers

Vocabulary related to accommodation

Vocabulary related to family

Vocabulary related to festivals and celebrations

Vocabulary related to transport and travel

Vocabulary related to food and drink

Vocabulary related to socialising

Vocabulary related to TV and films

Vocabulary related to music

Vocabulary for talking about reading

Vocabulary related to other arts and media

Other vocabulary related to free time

Ways of talking about likes and dislikes

Ways of talking about now

Ways of talking about the past

Ways of talking about plans

Ways of talking about desires/ wants

Ways of talking about predictions

Other ways of talking about the future