

101 IELTS Speaking Part Two tasks about people, places, actions, things and times

Save each section individually A to Z for future work

Although it is impossible to predict the most likely topic for an IELTS Speaking Part Two (at least 50% of my students who have done an IELTS preparation course report being given a question in the real IELTS exam that they had never seen something similar to in class), 80-90% of the questions fit into the categories of “people”, “places”, “actions” “things” and “times”. By organising your IELTS Speaking practice around these categories, you can ensure that students have the vocabulary and grammar to be able to deal with almost any question that comes up in the exam.

The sections below (“people” etc.) are in no particular order, but inside each section an attempt has been made to put the most typical IELTS questions near the top. The questions near the bottom of each section can be used to tie IELTS Speaking in with textbook topics and/ or give students an extra challenge.

IELTS Speaking Part Two Tasks about People

Describe a teacher who has greatly influenced you in your education.

You should say:

- Where you met them
- What subject they taught
- What was special about them;

And explain why this person influenced you so much.

Describe a friend who has played an important part in your life.

You should say:

- How you met this person
- How long you have known them
- The kind of thing you do or did with them

And explain why they have been important in your life

Describe one of your relatives

You should say:

- What that person looks like
- What that person's character is like
- What they are doing at the moment

And say which other relative of yours they are most similar to

Describe a friend that you often spend time with:

You should say:

- How often you see this friend
- Where you usually go together
- What things you do together

And say why you like spending time with this person

Describe a classmate, colleague or acquaintance

You should say:

- How well you know them
- When and how you first met them
- How long you have been working or studying together

And say whether you think you will get to know that person better in the future or not, and why

Describe a friend you have had or had for a long time

You should say:

- How you met
- What things you do or did together
- What things you have or had in common

And say why you think your friendship lasted a long time

Describe a classmate or colleague you often meet. You should say:

- Where you usually meet

- When you first met
 - What topics you usually talk about
- And say why you often meet

Describe a classmate you had at a previous school.

You should mention:

- What that person looked like
- What that person's personality was like
- What things that person liked doing

And say how that person was different to you

Describe a sportsman you know or know about.

You should say:

- What that person is like
- What sport they play
- How they reached their present position in that sport

And say if you think there is something special about that sportsman or not, and why

Describe someone you know or know about who has an interesting or unusual job.

You should say:

- What that person is like
- What that person's job
- What you think is interesting or unusual about that person's job

And say if you think that person's personality suits that job or not, and why

Describe someone you know or know about who has an unusual hobby.

You should mention:

- What the hobby is
- What is unusual about that hobby
- Why you think that person has that hobby

And say what kind of person you think would also like that hobby, and why

Describe a young child you know or know about.

You should say:

- What he or she looks like
- What he or she likes doing
- How that person has changed

And say what you think they might do in the future, and why

Describe someone who is well known in your town, area or country.

You should say:

- What they look like
- What they do
- Why they are well known

And say whether you would like to have this person's life or not, and why

Describe a musician, singer or other artist you like or know about.

You should say:

- What kind of thing they make
- How long they have been working
- How they are different from other artists

And say whether you like this person's work or not, and why

Describe a famous person you have met or know about

You should say:

- How famous that person is
- Why that person is famous
- What they are doing now

And say if you think they will become more or less famous in the future, and why

Describe an historical figure who you know about

You should say:

- Why they are famous or important
- What they did

- When they lived

And say if you think they have a good reputation now or not, and why

Describe someone you know or know about who is particularly skilful at something.

You should explain:

- What that person's skill is
- What that person needs to be able to do to do that thing well
- How you think that person learnt that skill

And say if you think you could pick up the same skill or not, and why

Describe someone you know or know about who has a lot of responsibility.

You should say:

- What that person is like
- What kind of responsibility that person has
- How well that person deals with his or her responsibilities

And say if you would like to have the same responsibilities or not, and why

Describe someone who is your hero, is the hero of someone you know, or is a hero of many people.

You should mention:

- What that person is like
- Why that person is a hero
- How that person is different from other people

And say if you think that person likes being thought of as a hero or not, and why

Describe someone you used to play with when you were younger.

You should say:

- What that person was like
- What kind of games you used to play
- Where you used to play

And say if you are still in touch with that person or not, and why

Describe someone you know or know about who does his or her job well.

You should say:

- What job that person does
- Where they work
- Why you think they do their job well

And say whether you think you could do that job well or not, and why

Describe an old person you know or know about.

You should mention:

- What that person looks like
- What he or she likes doing
- How that person has changed since they were younger

And say if you think that person is happy to be that age or not, and why

Describe someone who looked after you when you were younger.

You should mention:

- What that person was like
- How old you were when they looked after you
- What things they used to do with you

And say if you would look after a child the same way or not, and why

IELTS Speaking Part Two Tasks about Places

Describe a classroom that you study or have studied in. You should say:

- What it looks like
- What the good things about it are
- What the bad things about it are

And explain how it compares to other classrooms you have studied in before or since

Describe a room in the place you are living now

You should say:

- What it looks like
- What you usually use it for
- What things are in it

And say what you would change about that room if you could

Describe a place you have lived in or are living now

You should say:

- Where it is
- What are the good things about it
- What are the bad things about it

And say where you would like to live if you didn't live there

Describe a city, town or village you know well

You should say:

- Where it is
- What it looks like
- What kind of people live there

And say if you think it is a good place to live or not, and why

Describe a building that has made an impression on you.

You should say:

- What it looks like

- Where it is
 - What it is used for
- And say if you like that building or not and why

Describe a building, view or natural feature that impressed you.

You should say:

- What kind of place it is
- Where it is
- Why it impressed you

And say whether you think you will go there again or not, and why

Describe a workplace you have worked in or know about

You should say:

- What the building is like
- What facilities it has
- What things there are in the local area

And say if you think it is a good place to work or not, and why

Describe a school that you are studying or have studied in

You should say:

- Where it is
- What it looks like
- What facilities it has

And say if you think it is a good school building or not, and why

Describe a famous building you have seen or know about

You should say:

- What it looks like
- What it is used for
- Why it is famous

And say whether you would like to live in or near this building or not, and why

Describe a place you often go in your free time

You should say:

- Where it is
- Who you go with
- What you do there

And say how you feel when you are there and after you leave

Describe a place you often go. You should say:

- How often you go there
- Why you go there
- What you do there

And say if you enjoy going there or not, and why

Talk about somewhere foreign tourists would enjoy going in your town or country.

You should say:

- Why you think that place would be interesting or enjoyable
- What people can do there
- How long you would recommend staying there

And say whether many foreign tourists do visit that place or not, and why

Describe a place that you think is relaxing.

You should explain:

- What kind of place it is
- What you do there
- Why you think it is relaxing

And say whether you think most other people would think that place is relaxing or not, and why

Describe a place which you think is beautiful. You should explain:

- What that place is like
- How you can get there from here
- What kind of people usually go there

And say why you think it is beautiful

Talk about a place you have stayed in on holiday.

You should say:

- How you chose that place
- How long you stayed there
- What the advantages and disadvantages of that place were

And say whether you would like to stay in a similar place in the future or not, and why

Describe an historical place you have been to

You should say:

- What kind of place it is
- What it looks like
- Where it is

And explain something about the history of the place

Describe a famous natural feature that you have seen or know about:

You should say:

- Where it is
- What kind of place it is surrounded by
- What it looks like

And say why it is famous

Talk about a foreign country or other distant place you have been to on holiday.

You should say

- Where that place is
- Why it is a good place to go on holiday
- What things there are to do there

And say whether you think you will go there again in the near future or not, and why

Talk about a foreign country you are interested in but have never been to.

You should say:

- What you would like to do there
- What you think that place will be like
- How you first became interested in that place

And say if that place is popular with tourists from your country or not, and why

Talk about a place in your country you have never been to but would like to visit

You should say:

- Why you have never visited that place
- Why you would like to go there
- What you would like to do there

And say if you think most people would enjoy going to that place or not, and why

Talk about a day trip you have been on from your hometown or the place you are living now.

You should say:

- Where you went
- How you travelled
- How you had heard about that place

And say whether you would like to go to a similar place next weekend or not, and why

Describe a store in your hometown or the place you are living now. You should say:

- How to get there from your house or flat
- What things they stock
- What things most people buy there

And say whether that is one of the places you often go shopping or not, and why

Describe some countryside near your hometown or the place where you are living now. You should say:

- What it is like
- What people usually do there
- How you can get there from the place you are living

And say if you would like to visit that place soon or not, and why

Describe a park or other green space in your hometown or near where you are living at the moment.

You should say:

- How to get there from your house or flat
- What it is like
- What you can do there

And say if many people go to that place or not, and why

Describe a long distance journey you have been on. You should say

- Where you went
- What kind or kinds of transport you used
- What the good things and bad things about the journey were

And say whether you would like to go on the same journey again and why

Describe a place you want to go but have never been

You should say:

- Why you want to go there
- What things you could do there
- How you first heard about it

And say if you think you will go there soon or not, and why

Describe a place you often went as a child

You should say:

- How often you went there
- Why you went there
- What you did there

And say if you go there less often nowadays, and why

Describe your perfect workplace. You should say:

- What the interior would be look
- What facilities it would have
- What the local area would be like

And say if you think you will ever work in a place like that or not, and why

Describe the first place house or flat you remember living in.

You should say:

- How old you were when you remember being there
- What you remember best about the place
- What the good things and bad things about that place were

And say how that place compares to other places you have lived or stayed in

Describe a place that you have only been to once in your life.

You should say:

- Where it was
- Why you went there
- What you did there

And say if you think you will go there again someday or not, and why

Describe a place that your parents took you to. You should explain:

- What sort of place it was
- How you got there
- Why your parents took you there

And say whether you would take your own children to a place like that or not, and why

Talk about your next trip abroad.

You should say:

- Where you are going or would like to go
- What you want to do there
- What souvenirs you would like to bring back

And say whether you think your next trip overseas will be as you would like it to be or not, and why

IELTS Speaking Part Two Tasks about Actions

Describe one thing that you have to do regularly in your work or studies. You should say:

- How often you do it
- How good you are at this thing
- What you need to do in order to do this thing well

And say if you think most people would enjoy doing that thing or not, and why

Talk about a job you would like to do in the future.

You should say:

- What people have to do in that job
- Why you are interested in that job
- If there are any disadvantages or difficulties to doing that job

And say if you think you will be good at that job or not, and why

Talk about a subject you would like to study in the future.

You should say:

- What you need to study as part of that subject
- Where you can study it
- What you think the most difficult things about that subject would be

And say if you think studying that subject will be useful in your future life or not, and why

Talk about a sport you did or were interested in when you were a child.

You should say:

- Why you liked it
- How you first became interested in it
- Why you became less interested in it

And say if your friends were interested in the same sport or not, and why

Describe a project you had to do in your studies or job.

You should say:

- Who asked you to do that project
- What the main aim of the project was
- Who helped you with it

And say if you think that project as a success or not, and why

Talk about a hobby you are interested in but have never tried.

You should mention:

- Why you are interested in that hobby
- Why you have never tried it before
- What things you would have to do before you could start doing that hobby

And say if you think most people would also like to try that hobby or not, and why

Talk about one thing you are planning to do or might do next weekend.

You should mention:

- Where you can do that thing
- How you can get there
- Any equipment you need to do it

And say whether you are looking forward to doing that thing or not, and why

Talk about one thing you are planning to do after you pass this test.

You should mention:

- What you want to do
- Why you decided you wanted to do that thing
- How long you have had that plan

And say whether a good mark in IELTS will help you achieve that thing or not, and if so how

Talk about another language you would like to learn.

You should say:

- Which countries or regions it is spoken in
- How it is different from your language and from English

- Why you are interested in that language

And say if you think it is more or less difficult to learn than English and your language, and why

Talk about a foreign language apart from English that you are interested in learning.

You should say:

- Where it is the main language
- How that language differs from your language and from English
- How you first became interested in that language

And say if you think that would be an easy language to learn for you or not, and why

Talk about a sport you are interested in but have never played.

You should say:

- What equipment people use to play that sport
- How it is played
- What kinds of people usually play this sport

And say if you think you will do this sport in the future or not, and why

Talk about one method of learning English or another foreign language you have used.

You should say:

- How you found out about this method
- What it consists of
- How it compares to other methods of learning a language

And say if you think that is the best way to learn a language or not, and why

Talk about a test in English or another foreign language you have taken at school or elsewhere.

You should say:

- Where you took the test
- How long it was

- What skills and language knowledge was tested
And say if you think that was a good test of your language level or not, and why

Talk about a short term goal or ambition you have.

You should say:

- How you first decided on that goal or ambition
- Who you have told about it
- What your next step needs to be in order to achieve it

And say if you think it will be easy to achieve that goal or ambition or not, and why

Talk about a long term goal or ambition you have.

You should say:

- Why you have that goal or ambition
- When you would like to achieve that by
- When you think you will achieve that by

And say what you will do if you can't achieve that goal or ambition

IELTS Speaking Part Two Tasks about Things

Describe an item that you have that is important to you:

You should say:

- What it is
- When, where and how you got it
- How it helps you in your life

And say what you would do if you didn't have one of these

Describe an electronic item that is important to you:

You should say:

- What it looks like
- What it can do
- How it helps you in your life

And say what you would do if you didn't have one of these

Talk about something you use for your work or studies. You should say:

- What it looks like
- What it is used for
- How often you use it

And say if you would be able to do your work or studies without this thing, and if so how

Talk about a thing that is important to take with you when you go away on holiday.

You should say:

- What it looks like
- How you use it
- When you first started using it

And say if you think this thing is important to everyone or not, and why

Describe a present that you have received

You should say:

- Who gave it to you
- Why they gave it to you
- If you liked it or not

And say what kind of person that present might be suitable for

Describe a present that you gave someone

You should say:

- Who you gave it to
- Why you gave them a present
- Why you chose that present

And say if you think they enjoyed that present or not, and why

Describe a famous food from your hometown or country. You should say:

- What it looks like
- What it tastes like
- When and how it is usually eaten

And say why you think it is famous

Describe an item of clothing that you often wear:

You should say:

- What it looks like
- When and how you got it
- When you wear it

And say how it compares to other clothes you have

Describe an item of clothing that you have had for a long time

You should say:

- What it looks like
- How long you have had it
- How you got it

And say why you have had never got rid of it

Describe a possession that you have had for a long time

You should say:

- What it looks like
- How long you have had it
- How you got it

And say why you have had never got rid of it

Talk about a pet you have or have had. You should mention:

- What it looked like
- What its personality was like
- What you do or did with it

And say what kind of person a similar pet might be suitable for.

Talk about something that is in your bag or pocket now

You should say:

- What it looks like
- How and when you use it
- How and when you first got it

And say if you could live without it or not, and why

Talk about an English book you have read or used.

You should say:

- How you got that book
- Why you read or used it
- What you learnt from using it

And say if you would like to use a book like that again or not, and why

Talk about something you would particularly like to purchase.

You should mention:

- How much it costs
- Where it can be bought
- Why you want it

And say if you think you will be able to buy it in the near future or not, and why

Describe the transport system for commuters in your city or country. You should say

- What kind of transport is available
- Which kind of transport is the most popular
- What the good points and bad points of the transport system is

And say how you think it should be changed in the future.

Talk about a musical instrument you would like to be able to play but can't.

You should say:

- What the instrument looks like
- How it is played
- What kinds of music people play on it

And say if you think you would be able to learn to play that instrument well or not, and why

Describe a wild animal in your country. You should say:

- What it looks like
- Where it lives
- What it does

And say if you would like to live near one of these animals or not, and why

IELTS Speaking Part Two Tasks about Times

Talk about a future festival or celebration in your family or your country.

You should say:

- If it will be an important celebration
- What will be celebrated
- What you will do on that day

And say if you think you will enjoy that day or not, and why

Talk about a time when you visited someone else's house

You should say:

- When and how you were invited
- How you replied to the invitation
- If you took anything with you
- What you did in that person's house

And say if you prefer socialising in people's homes or in restaurants etc

Describe a party that you have been to:

You should say:

- Who gave the party
- Why you were invited
- Why the party was given

And say if you enjoyed the party or not, and why

Talk about an important day in your life.

You should say:

- When this day was
- If you were alone or with others
- Where you were and what happened

And explain why this day was important to you

Talk about a birthday you remember well.

You should say:

- What you did
- Who you spent the day with

- Why you remember that birthday so well

And say if you would like to have exactly the same kind of birthday again or not, and why

Describe a holiday you have had:

You should say:

- How you travelled
- What activities you did on holiday
- Who you went with

And say if you would recommend that holiday to a friend or not, and why

Describe your typical day when you are not working or studying

You should say:

- What things you do
- How long you spend doing those things
- What the most enjoyable thing you do is

And say if those days are usually the same or vary

Describe a typical festival or celebration in your country:

You should say:

- When the celebration takes place
- Why people celebrate at that time
- What people do during this celebration

And say if that celebration is important to you or not, and why

Talk about your last or a recent family gathering.

You should say:

- Why you got together
- Where you got together
- What you did together

And say if everyone enjoyed themselves or not, and why

Describe an important historical event in your country:

You should say:

- When it happened
- What happened
- Who the most important people involved were

And say why it is important to the history of your country

Talk about your favourite day of the year

You should say:

- When that day is
- What you like about it
- What you usually do on that day

And say if most people your age in your country feel the same way about that day

Talk about how your family usually celebrate the New Year. You should say:

- Where people usually go
- Who they spend time with
- What they do to celebrate the New Year

And say if New Year is one your favourite festivals or not, and why

Talk about the next time you will go away on holiday. You should say:

- Where you would like to go
- What you will be able to do in that place
- What preparations you have already made to go there

And say if you think that is a place you will go more than once in the future or not, and why