

IELTS Speaking Part Two Tips and Useful Language

Cross off any of the tips below which you don't think are a good idea

Before you start

- If you think the topic is too difficult, ask for another one
- If you really can't talk about the topic, ask for another one
- If there is anything on the question sheet you don't understand, just ask
- If you are not sure if what you have thought of matches the task, just ask
- The examiner will take the task back, so copy it onto the paper for your notes
- Write your notes in your own language to save time
- Write your notes as full sentences to help your grammar when you are speaking
- If you have finished your preparation early, ask if you can start
- If you need another minute or so to complete your notes, say so
- If you need a couple more seconds to finish your notes, say so

Starting

- Start by repeating what is on the task sheet
- You can use the same starting phrase every time you do a Speaking Part Two task
- Use a more creative and specific starting phrase if you can

Middle

- Correct all your own mistakes
- Correct yourself if the information you gave is wrong
- Use as many words from the sheet as you can
- Avoid repeating words
- Use lots of presentations language like "My presentation is divided into four parts"
- Make sure you get through all four points
- You have to deal with the four points in the same order as the task sheet
- Try to add extra interesting information that isn't asked for on the task sheet
- If you go off topic, make it short and quickly get back on topic
- If you have problems such as not being able to read your notes, forgetting what you are going to say, not being able to think of the right word or needing to look at your notes, keep speaking while you are sorting it out
- Look at your notes all the time to make sure you don't forget what to say
- Check if the examiner knows or has heard of the thing that you are talking about
- Don't look at your notes at all
- The examiner can't see the task sheet, so repeat the questions on it so that they can understand

Ending

- If you come to a stop and the examiner just waits in silence, that probably means that you've spoken for less than one minute so you should find something else to say
- Clearly mark when you have finished your presentation
- If the examiner is trying to interrupt you, quickly finish off the rest of your presentation.

Self-study

- Brainstorm useful vocabulary for this part of the exam with the help of your dictionary and then learn it

Compare your answers with other people, then check with the teacher or answer key

Brainstorm useful words and phrases to do the things that aren't crossed off (i.e. the good tips), e.g. "I'm afraid I can't speak about the topic on this card because..."

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Suggested answers

Before you start

- If you think the topic is too difficult, ask for another one – Not a good idea as in principle you have no choice of topic. The examiner might ask you to explain why it's impossible for you or give you an even more difficult one!
- If you really can't talk about the topic, ask for another one – "I'm sorry. This topic is impossible for me because..."
- If there is anything on the question sheet you don't understand, just ask – "Excuse me. Can I ask what one word means?" "Sorry. Could you explain this word here?"
- If you are not sure if what you have thought of matches the task, just ask – "Can I speak about...?" "Is it okay to speak about...?" "Is... a kind of...?"
- The examiner will take the task back, so copy it onto the paper for notes – Not true, so not necessary
- Write your notes in your own language to save time – Not a good idea
- Write your notes as full sentences to help your grammar when you are speaking – Not necessary
- If you have finished your preparation early, ask if you can start – "I think I'm ready." "Can I start?" "Shall I start?" "Is that one minute?"
- If you need another minute or so to complete your notes, say so – Not possible
- If you need a couple more seconds to finish your notes, say so – "Okay, nearly ready"

Starting

- Start by repeating what is on the task sheet – Not really negative but a bit of a waste of time
- You can use the same starting phrase every time you do a Speaking Part Two task – "I'd like to speak about..." "I'm going to talk about...", "I've chosen to talk about..."
- Use a more creative and specific starting phrase if you can – "I'm really glad I got this topic because..." "There were many things I could have spoken about but..." "It's a strange coincidence that I got this topic because just yesterday..."

Middle

- Correct all your own mistakes
- Correct yourself
- Use as many words from the sheet as you can – Not a good idea, you should rephrase as much as you can
- Avoid repeating words – "that", "it", "one", "the... that I mentioned", "the former", "the latter"
- Use lots of presentations language like "My presentation is divided into four parts" – Not necessary or realistic
- Make sure you get through all four points – Not necessary, just make sure you keep on topic and keep progressing through the points
- You have to deal with the four points in the same order as the task sheet – Not true, al-

though it is usually the most logical order

- Try to add extra interesting information that isn't asked for on the task sheet – Not necessary, and you shouldn't go too far off topic.
- If you go off topic, make it short and quickly get back on topic – “Anyway,…” “Where was I? Oh yes,…” “Getting back to the questions on the sheet,…”
- If you have problems such as not being able to read your notes, forgetting what you are going to say, not being able to think of the right word or needing to look at your notes, keep speaking while you are sorting it out – “Just let me…” “Sorry, I just need to…”
- Look at your notes all the time to make sure you don't forget what to say – Not a good idea. It is better to look up and make eye contact.
- Check if the examiner knows what you are talking about – Not a good idea as it will interrupt your monologue
- Don't look at your notes at all – Not necessary
- The examiner can't see the task sheet, so repeat the questions on it so that they can understand – Not true and so not necessary. It's also better to avoid words on the sheet if you can.

Ending

- If you come to a stop and the examiner just waits in silence, that probably means that you've spoken for less than one minute so you should find something else to say – “What else can I say? Well, I suppose…”
- Clearly mark when you have finished your presentation – “That's all I can think of to say.” “That's it” “
- If the examiner is trying to interrupt you, quickly finish off the rest of your presentation – No need. Just let them interrupt you.