

Useful Language for IELTS Part Two Tasks on People, Places, Actions, Times & Things

Brainstorm useful words and phrases for IELTS Speaking Part Two into these categories:

People

Ways of describing ages/ stages of life:

Ways of describing bodies:

Ways of describing hair:

Ways of describing faces:

Relationships:

Positive personality words:

Negative personality words:

Places

Parts of a town/ city:

Buildings in towns/ cities:

Buildings in the countryside:

Materials for making buildings:

Positive adjectives for places:

Negative adjectives for places:

Ways places can make people feel

Actions

Housework:

Actions connected to work:

Actions connected to study:

Things to do in the evening at home:

Things to do at the weekend at home:

Adverbs of manner:

Times

Future

Ways of talking about future times:

Ways of talking about how you feel about the future:

Present

Ways of talking about present routines:

Past

Past time expressions:

Verb forms to talk about the past:

Things

Materials:

Positive adjectives to describe things:

Negative adjectives to describe things:

Compare your answers with the next page. Are any of your ideas not on that list?

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Suggested answers

People

Ways of describing ages/ stages of life: baby, toddler, teenager, tween, middle aged, retired/ elderly

Ways of describing bodies: fat/ cubby/ plump/ big-boned, skinny/ slim/ thin/ bony, lanky, tall, short, medium height, medium build, muscular

Ways of describing hair: dark/ black/ dark brown, fair/ blonde/ red/ ginger, straight, curly, wavy, neck length, shoulder length, cropped, spiky, permed, dyed, grey, greying

Ways of describing faces: - round, square, narrow, plump/ chubby, wrinkled, tanned, freckly

Relationships: _____-in-law, stepmother/father, cousin, fiancé/ fiancée, partner, great grandparent, niece/ nephew, distant relation, ancestor, great uncle/ aunt, acquaintance, workmate/ colleague/ co-worker, classmate, drinking buddy, fellow alumni

Positive personality words: determined, ambitious, reliable, trustworthy, friendly, sociable, optimistic, honest

Negative personality words: stubborn, pushy, bossy, unreliable, unsociable, a loner, pessimistic

Places

Parts of a town/ city: city centre/ downtown, High Street/ Main Street, suburbs, outskirts, business district, industrial estate, housing estate

Buildings in towns/ cities: apartment, (terraced/ semi-detached/ detached/ shared) house, hostel, hotel, B&B, (student) halls/ dorm(itory), condo(minium), high rise, tower block,

Buildings in the countryside: cottage, barn

Materials for making buildings: brick, wood, tile, concrete, stone

Positive adjectives for places: peaceful, green, beautiful/ stunning, safe, clean

Negative adjectives for places: ugly, noisy, polluted, dangerous, chaotic

Ways places can make people feel: nostalgic, comfortable, at home, awe-inspired, impressed, fascinated

Actions

Housework: do the washing/ laundry, do the cleaning/ dusting/ hoovering/, do the washing up/ dishes, tidy up, take out the rubbish, hang out the washing, do the ironing, spring clean

Actions connected to work: commute, write, meet, arrange

Actions connected to study: revise, make notes, underline, use a highlighter pen

Things to do in the evening at home: watch TV/ channel hopping, watch a movie/ go to the cinema, go to bed early, social networking, surfing the internet

Things to do at the weekend at home: do the housework, have a lie-in/ catch up on my sleep, gardening, DIY

Adverbs of manner: quickly, briefly, half-heartedly, thoroughly

Times

Future

Ways of talking about future times: tomorrow, the day after tomorrow, next week/ month/ year, the... after next, in... days/ weeks/ years

Ways of talking about how you feel about the future: look forward to, dread, expect, hope, would like/ want, plan to, have arranged to

Present

Ways of talking about present routines: once a day/ week/ month/ year, once every two/ three/ four...s, rarely, almost always

Past

Past time expressions: yesterday, the day before yesterday, last_____, the _____ before last, _____ ago

Verb forms to talk about the past: would, used to, was/ were going to, was/ were + ing

Things

Materials: plastic, wood, paper, leather, metal

Positive adjectives to describe things: useful, compact, good value, hard-wearing, classic, fashionable, user-friendly

Negative adjectives to describe things: bulky, complicated, expensive, fake, fragile