

Welcome to the Dumaguete IELTS speaking part 2 recent questions book of samples

We have presented sample answers to 24 questions using our own answers and some regular scenarios that you can build on to create your own answers.

The purpose of this book is to:

- Give solid answer structures
- Provide ideas for you
- To provide natural language
- Equip you with all you need to do well in part 2.

Trevor Gordon.





IELTS speaking improvement lessons

Speaking part 2 guide for various topics.



Describe someone who speaks a foreign language really well.



You should say:

Who - the person is

What - language he/she speaks

Why - he/she learnt this language

Why - you think he/she speaks it well



How to prepare - here are some notes I made after I decided what I am going to talk about.

Write notes to give you the information you need for speaking.

Who – Old school friend, sister, colleague, friend

What – Japanese, Chinese, French, Spanish

Why – Job, travel, friends, marriage, migration

Why – Fluency, level, natural sound, confidence



Vocabulary related to languages

Fluency - The speed of delivery when talking. Lack of pauses.

Pronunciation - Sounds like a native speaker in tone and sound.

Dialect - Local language in different parts of a country.

immersion – living in a country and surrounded by the language.

practice - repeating the things you learn.

native – Someone from a country (local)

interaction – Speaking to another person/conversation with another person.

intonation - The rises and falls in pitch when speaking.

natural expressions - Things which native speakers say, which are often not taught.

Follow along with the topic and try to learn and memorize

I have a friend named Tracey from when I was at high school, who *I got on well with*. After we left school we *went our separate ways*, and I did not see her for many years.

I was out shopping recently when *I bumped into her* in a local mall. She was with another person who she introduced to me as *her work colleague*. We decided to go for a coffee *to catch up* on things. The 3 of us found a café, ordered, and sat down. *Her colleague, whose name was Kenji was Japanese, which I found odd* because I never knew her to have any Japanese friends.

She informed me that she had been to university to study business, and had landed a job in a Japanese company based in England, but she had to take frequent trips to Tokyo to visit the main office. Suddenly, after a few minutes *she burst into fluent Japanese* as the both of them talked for a minute or two. She told me that the Kenji did not speak English so she could only converse with him in his local *dialect*. I was amazed at her *pronunciation*, and if I closed my eyes *I could have sworn* she was a *native*, she was that good. I only know the language from listening to people or watching TV, but it seemed very *authentic*, and judging by Kenji's responses you could tell she was good. She had been studying it for the last 8 years, and at first she complained that it was extremely difficult, but gradually it became *second nature*. Because she spent a lot of time living in Japan, she was able to *immerse herself in the language and learnt many natural expressions*, which is important to get the trust of locals. I was actually quite jealous of her because I do not speak any other language, and it made me realize how lazy I am.



Practice the format, the vocabulary, and use them to fit the topic you are going to talk about, or use this topic.

You do not have to talk about a ‘real activity that you do’, just talk so you can answer the points and use the relevant vocabulary well, to enhance your score.

Please subscribe to our channel.

Good luck, and keep practicing.

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IELTS speaking improvement lessons

Speaking part 2 guide for various topics.



Describe a person who has interesting ideas or opinions



You should say:

Who - the person is

How – you know the person

What - the person does

Why – he/she has interesting ideas or opinions



How to prepare - here are some notes I made after I decided what I am going to talk about.

Write notes to give you the information you need for speaking.

Who – A friend, parent, colleague, family member.

How – Met through work/friends/travel, family, introduced.

What – A public speaker. A lecturer, a businessman, a shop worker, a student.

Why – Thought provoking. Refreshing, different, innovative, background.



Vocabulary related to ideas and opinions

Opinionated (adj) - Someone who has strong opinions about most things.

Pushy - pushes their opinions onto you.

Overbearing – synonym for pushy

Criticism(noun) saying (usually) negative things about someone or something.

Makes you think (phrasal verb) – When something someone says makes you think a lot.

A basis for (phrase) - the reason why

A freethinker (noun) someone who does not restrict their ideas or opinions.

Views – synonym for opinions.

Standpoint – synonym for opinions

Follow along with the topic and try to learn and memorize

About 5 years ago I was on a trip to Asia, when I met another traveller who was also making the rounds of Asia. He is American, and his name is David. We were introduced by another person I had met, and we hit it off instantly. He is in his late fifties, and was well travelled, and had a lot of life experience. He has lived all over The US, and his knowledge of the country was fascinating. He had lived on both the East and West coasts.

He was a freelance public speaker, which meant companies invited him to speak at their conferences, meetings, and exhibitions. His main topic was government. He was not keen on the way the country was ran and had lots of new ideas which he thought should be implemented.

Among those were the idea of free or low cost education, including university. He said that many students had been burdened with thousands of dollars worth of debt after 4 years of university, and it set them back before they even began to work. He told me of several ideas he had put forward but of course none of them were accepted. He also knew a lot about my country England, and praised the system there as being much better than his own country. He was very opinionated but also let others have their say. Some people like this can be overbearing or pushy, and not listen to what you say, but he was different. He is the sort of person you can learn a lot from. Especially about things which you lack knowledge in. He is what we call 'a walking encyclopedia' which is a term for someone who knows a lot about many things. I suppose if you are a public speaker you have to be able to express yourself well and have a wide range of views, and ideas.



IELTS speaking improvement lessons

Speaking part 2 guide for various topics.



Describe your favourite singer or band



You should say:

Who - the singer/band is

What – characteristics they/he or she has

What - kind of music they play/sing

Why - he/she/they are/is your favourite singer/band



How to prepare - here are some notes I made after I decided what I am going to talk about.

Write notes to give you the information you need for speaking.

Who – A singer, a band, a duo, a trio, a quartet.

What – flamboyant, loud, raw, smooth, original, wild.

What – Rock, blues, R'n'B, Soul, K Pop, Jazz, Rock'n'Roll Country.

Why – Talented, good songs, great lyrics, thought provoking.



Vocabulary related to singers or bands

- Solo** - A singer or artist who works alone.
- Lead Singer** – The main singer who is often the leader of the group.
- Front man** – synonym for lead singer
- Group** - A number of people who work together.
- Band** – synonym for group
- Concert** – Where bands/singers perform in front of an audience.
- Gig** – synonym for concert (sometimes in a small place)
- Album** - A collection of songs recorded.
- Release** - To start to sell your music
- Collaborate** - to work with different artists
- Live**- When a band/singer performs in front of an audience, but not recorded.
- Tour** – To go to different towns/cities to perform.
- Lyrics** – words to songs.
- Venue** - A place where a concert is held.
- Shun the limelight** – Stay away from publicity. (Do not want to be famous)

Follow along with the topic and try to learn and memorize

I listen to a lot of music and am fond of a lot of artists, but my favourite one is a band called Coldplay. They are a British group consisting of four members, who are all male. The lead singer and song writer is call Chris Martin, who also plays the piano.

The type of music they play is classed as Rock and Pop. They appeal to a wide audience and have been making albums since around 2005. They release about 2 albums a year, and do a lot of touring. They are also extremely popular in America. One of the main characteristics of the band is that they do not look like stars, and are very normal. They look like friends you or I may have, and they tend to shun the limelight. They are very serious about their music though.

Their style has changed since they began. From being more of a hard rock band, they have since mellowed into a more poppy/rocky, more for easy listening. I would describe their music as something you might listen to while you are driving. Their concerts are always sell-outs and it is difficult to get a ticket. They play huge venues which often hold more than 20, 000 people, and used to tour a lot, but they do about 30 -40 live gigs per year now.

The main reason I like them is their music has great melodies, and the songs have good lyrics, which are meaningful. Many bands these day tend to collaborate with other groups, which to me seems to be about making more money, but Coldplay have never done this and give people what they want. Unfortunately, although I have seen many concerts, I have not been able to see them live yet.



IELTS speaking improvement lessons

Speaking part 2 guide for various topics.

Today's topic is:



Describe a person who encouraged and helped you to achieve a goal



You should say:

Who - the person is

What - they encouraged you to do

How - How they helped you

Why - Their encouragement helped you



How to prepare - here are some notes I made after I decided what I am going to talk about.

Write notes to give you the information you need for speaking.

Who - family member, colleague, friend , classmate.

What - study, job, hobby, challenge, travel, academic.

How - introduction, plan, tutor, help, mentor.

Why - Give ideas, push, made me realize, give example.



Vocabulary related to encouragement.

To push (verb)– to encourage someone to do something.

Acoustic (adj)– Non-electric.

headlong(adv) – completely (full focus)

gathering dust (exp)– not being used.

all fingers and thumbs(idiom) – awkward.

to be cut out for (idiom)– to suitable for.

motivated (adj)– to receive motivation.

praised (verb)- synonym for encourage.

scolded (verb)- to tell off/ to tell someone they are doing badly.

apply(verb) – synonym for push.

Guitar (noun)– instrument with strings which is plucked or strummed.

sit in the corner (idiom)- placed into the corner of a room.

Follow along with the topic and try to learn and memorize

I am going to talk about one of my best friends who pushed me to learn how to play the guitar to a high level.

My friend named Ashley was a close friend of my family. We hung out together as kids, and our parents were good friends. He told me one day that his mum had bought him a guitar and he wanted to learn how to play. He showed me the guitar when I visited his house, and I tried to play it. It was incredibly difficult I thought. "good luck to you" I said, as there was no way I was ever going to learn. He went headlong into it, and he used to practice all the time. I could see an improvement every time I heard him playing, and I actually got quite jealous because by now, I wanted to be able to play. He told that I could borrow one of his spare guitars, and acoustic one, and try it out.

I took it home, but soon it was sitting in the corner gathering dust. I just found it near impossible to do anything. I was all fingers and thumbs, and perhaps I was not cut out for this. Eventually he asked for the guitar back, but I did not want to return it, and really needed to apply myself. So I asked for his help, and he agreed. We began practicing 2-3 times a week and he would give me lots of exercises to do, which I had to complete before he would give me another class. If I did not do them he would not teach me. (continued)

This really motivated me into creating a schedule and sticking to it, even when I did not feel like it. He praised me as I improved and scolded me when I was lazy. After around 2 years, I would say that I became quite good, and had a lot of confidence in my skills.

Unfortunately, as I got to my academic years, school studies, college and university overtook everything, and I eventually stopped playing and practicing. The good thing was that Ashley understood. He went on to form a band and played a lot of gigs. The band became well known locally, and actually made a few records.

Without him pushing me, I know I would have never go to the level I eventually reached, and I have always been grateful to him for this.



IELTS speaking improvement lessons

Speaking part 2 guide for various topics.



Describe a historical building you have been to



You should say:

What – it is used for now

Where - it is

What - What it looks like

What - you learn there

How - you feel about it



How to prepare - here are some notes I made after I decided what I am going to talk about.

Write notes to give you the information you need for speaking.

What - museum, tourist attraction, store, entertainment.

Where - China, Beijing

What - The Forbidden City.

What - Style, decoration, statues.

Why - History, people's lives, architecture.



Vocabulary related to historical buildings.

Heyday(noun) – During its most important period of time.

Emperor –(noun) A King or ruler.

Distinctive (adj) – easily recognized.

Conduct (verb) – synonym for behaviour

Splendor(noun) - elegance, beauty.

Grand (adj) – Big, main.

given the name (exp) – what someone calls you.

wander(verb) – walk around slowly (looking at something)

artifacts(noun) – items of historical importance.

craftsmanship(noun) skills when making something.

visual (adj) – to see

lacking (verb) – not enough

Dynasty (noun) - A period of time when kings ruled.

Follow along with the topic and try to learn and memorize

One of the most amazing buildings I have ever visited is The Forbidden City in Beijing, the capital of China. In its heyday, more than 600 years ago, it used to be the home of the Emperor of the controlling dynasty of the day.

The Emperor lived there with his many servants, assistants, advisors and so on. It is a huge palace surrounded by vast yards with many inner courts and buildings. They all have the distinctive roofs and the paintings. They also have the twin lions outside many building. At the centre of it all is the palace itself, where the emperor slept and conducted his business affairs.

Nowadays it is possibly the number 1 tourist attraction for both Chinese and foreign visitors. Millions of people come from all over china and from all over the world to admire the splendor of the building, the architecture, the history, and story of the number of Dynasty leaders who lived in this grand setting.

Among the thing that I learnt were, it commenced in 1406, and took 14 years to build, and needed more than 1 million workers. (continue)

It was given the name 'The Forbidden City' because common people were not allowed to enter without special permission. Only imperial or royal family members were allowed. The main dynasties were the Ming and Qing from 1368 - 1911. It was built by Emperor Chengzu of the Ming dynasty.

For me, the feeling I had as I wandered around looking at the various artifacts and pieces was a sense of history. I imagined what it would be like living in those times, and how the people actually lived. I was also amazed at the level of craftsmanship all those many years ago, which we do not have today. visual appeal was the most important thing in building in the past which is sadly lacking today.



IELTS speaking improvement lessons

Speaking part 2 guide for various topics.



Describe a time when you got up extremely early



You should say:

When - you did this

What – you did that day

Why - you got up early

How - you felt about it



How to prepare - here are some notes I made after I decided what I am going to talk about.

Write notes to give you the information you need for speaking.

When - Last year, a few months ago, when I was..... A long time ago.

What - Going on vacation, working, flying home, to finish some work.

Why - Schedule, flight times, travel, arrive early, before school.

How - Excited, nervous, anxious, exhausted, fatigued, wonderful.



Vocabulary related to getting up early

(The vocabulary will relate to what you did, but some references for waking up early are included)

Two hours away from – The time needed to travel a certain distance.

Get up early – To wake up early.

At the crack of dawn – At the beginning of dawn. (Dawn = the 1st daylight of the day).

in the middle of the night – when it is still dark (between midnight and 4-5am).

not sleep a wink – to not be able to sleep.

The 'Red Eye' – The night and early morning flights.

Set my alarm – Prepare my clock to wake me up.

check-in - at the airport where you get your boarding pass and give your luggage.

doze – synonym for sleep, only shorter.

Oversleep – sleep too long. Not wake up on time.

Terminal - The building where you catch your flight.

To 'grin and bear it' - to accept the situation.

Fruitless – not successful.

Follow along with the topic and try to learn and memorize

This happened a long time ago, when I was going on vacation to America to see my cousin. I had decided to go to New York to see my cousin and his family as I had not seen them for a long time and more importantly, I had never visited America before. I had heard and seen so much about the country, like most people who live outside of the country, but I really want to experience it firsthand.

When I booked my time off work, I did not really have that much money to spend so I decided to try to look for a cheap flight. I looked on the internet for flights in the lower price ranges which departed around lunch time or in the afternoon, because I lived about 2 hours away from the airport. It would be easy to get bus or train direct to the terminal.

After 2 days of fruitless searching I had to change my plan. Most of the cheaper flights were on the 'red-eye', which meant I would be departing at between 5 - 7 am. There was a significant price difference so I decided that I would have to 'grin and bear it' and arrange to get to the airport at the crack of dawn.

With the flight booked, I sent my cousin the information of the flight because he said he would pick me up at the airport in New York. I looked at all the travel information I could, and found that there was a direct bus from my local bus station to the airport leaving at 3am and would take 2 hours. I booked my ticket and organised all my things. On the day of the flight I woke up at 2am, it was still in the middle of the night. I had a taxi booked to go to the local bus station. Everything was already prepared and I had set my alarm and gone to bed at 8pm the previous evening. It did not matter because I could not sleep a wink, because I was so excited. I was worried that I might oversleep, but I needn't have worried.

Everything went to plan and I arrived at the terminal 2 hours before check-in. I did all the check in then went to have some breakfast. At this point I was beginning to feel quite sleepy. I was not too worried as I knew I could doze on the flight. The holiday was fantastic. My cousin and his family took me to all the famous places in the city and some great restaurants. Overall it felt wonderful to both see my cousin and visit the big apple.



IELTS speaking improvement lessons

Speaking part 2 guide for various topics.



Describe a person who made you laugh happily when you were a child



You should say:

Who - this person is

What - he/she did to make you laugh

Why - Why he/she made you laugh

How - you felt about it



How to prepare - here are some notes I made after I decided what I am going to talk about.

Write notes to give you the information you need for speaking.

Who – my friend, my uncle, a comedian on TV, my classmate.

What – told jokes, did impressions, magic tricks, stupid things.

Why- great jokes, exact likeness, mystifying, amazement.

How – Amused, happy, bemused, fantastic, in fits of laughter.



Vocabulary related to laughter/make one laugh

entertain (verb) – to do things for fun to keep people interested

Amuse (verb)– to make people laugh/happy

take off (idiom) – synonym for impersonate

Antics (noun) – crazy things

Hilarious (adj) – really funny

side-splitting (idiom) - to laugh until it hurts

drop by (phrasal verb) – visit

impersonate (verb) – to copy the way someone does something (eg: speak, walk)

(to be in) fits of laughter (idiom) – to laugh uncontrollably

Daft (adj) – synonym for stupid

Relate to (exp) – understand

fond memories (exp) - remember something nice

To be in stitches (idiom) - to laugh until it hurts

Follow along with the topic and try to learn and memorize

As children our house was always busy, with friends and family members dropping by, which made for a great atmosphere. I remember one uncle, who was my father's brother who I always looked forward to seeing. This was because he was a real entertainer. He could do so many things that I used to think he was superman. He could do magic tricks, he could impersonate famous people and other family members, and just do daft things, which had me in fits of laughter. Although all of these things were hilarious, his best thing was to tell jokes, or short stories. These were sometimes about daft things he did, like when he lost his keys to his house and got stuck on a ladder while trying to get in his house.

There were some who did not like him because he used to get most of the attention, especially from us children. We loved to listen to him and we called him 'Uncle Crazy' but his name was Steven. The main reason we loved him was because he was so different to my other uncles and aunts, and my parent's other friends. He was a big child himself, and that was the main reason we could relate to him.

I used to get really excited when my mum told me that he was coming over. I used to

get myself prepared to be 'in stitches' all day. He also did a great 'take off' of his cousin David, who had an unusual speaking voice, but when he did this, even the older folks used to be amused because he sounded exactly like my uncle David.

I look back at that time with fond memories and even though he is much older now, Uncle Steven has not lost his sense of humour.



IELTS speaking improvement lessons

Speaking part 2 guide for various topics.

Today's topic is:



Describe a foreign celebrity you want to meet in person



You should say:

Who - the person is

How - you know this person

What – this person does

Why - you want to meet him



How to prepare - here are some notes I made after I decided what I am going to talk about.

Write notes to give you the information you need for speaking.

Who - Robert Downey Jr (Iron Man).

How - From TV and watching movies, reading books, watching perform.

What - An actor, singer, athlete, politician, sportsman, businessman.

Why - He has an interesting life, good at his job, great personality.



Vocabulary related to foreign celebrities

- Admire (verb)** – synonym for like/respect
- Fan (noun)** – a person who follows a famous person
- Parts (noun)** – job as an actor in a movie
- Hollywood (noun)** – Where most American movies are made
- Alcohol (noun)** – drinks containing alcohol
- Drugs (noun)** – tablets, and pills, which make one feel good
- Films (noun)** – synonym for movie
- Typecast (adj)** - to play the same type of character in all movies.
- Early roles (noun)** – His first films
- Rave (adj)** – really good
- Leading role (exp)** – main character in a movie
- Stardom (noun)** – a star
- A trilogy (noun)** – 3 films together in a story
- A household name (exp)** – famous
- major breakthrough (exp)** – big chance/opportunity

Follow along with the topic and try to learn and memorize

A celebrity who I would really like to meet is a man named Robert Downey Jr. He is an American actor, who has been around for a while now, but is still very popular.

His early roles in acting included the leading role in the movie 'Chaplin' about the late great silent movie actor Charlie Chaplin. He won rave reviews for this part, and was on his way to stardom. He played a few more movies to critical acclaim, then his career went off the rails. He became addicted to drugs and alcohol, and had to go into clinics to clean himself up, but he kept getting into trouble with the law.

Eventually he managed to stay clean, and was then offered more roles in Hollywood. His major breakthrough was when he was offered the role of Iron Man in the movie of the same name. It was a roaring success, and he re-established himself among the elite.

Iron Man went on to become a trilogy, and he became a household name. He also played the same part in the series 'The Avengers' and has also played many other characters including Sherlock Holmes, the famous English detective.

The main reason I would like to meet him in-person is because he is a very talented actor and he seems to be a very laid back person, almost like the character 'Tony Stark' who he portrays in the Iron Man series. I would ask him lots of questions about his life before

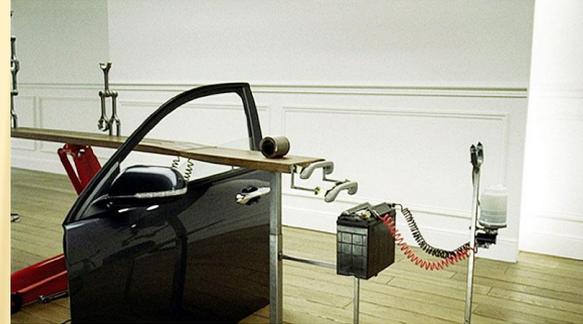
his *fame*, his ordeal with drink and drugs, and what his plans for the future are.

There are so many actors in the movie business who seem *false*, but does not seem to be one of them.



IELTS speaking improvement lessons

Speaking part 2 guide for various topics.



Describe an advertisement you remember well



You should say:

Where - you saw it

What - it was about

What - it was like

Why - you like it



How to prepare - here are some notes I made after I decided what I am going to talk about.

Write notes to give you the information you need for speaking.

Where – on TV, on the internet, in a magazine, on a billboard.

What – a car, a movie, a holiday, food, clothing, a computer game.

What - futuristic, flashy, expensive, visual, cryptic, strange.

Why – new idea, unusual, great product.



Vocabulary related to advertisements

Ad (noun) – short for advertisement

Advert (noun) – short for advertisement

Commercial (noun) – synonym for advertisement

Innovative (adj) – new / fresh /unusual idea

Mesmerizing (adj) – gets your full attention

Air (verb) – to show on TV

Components (noun) - Synonym for parts

Trigger (verb) – cause something to happen

Eye-catching (adj) – gets your attention

change the face of (idiom) – completely change

Promote (verb) – synonym for advertise

Fed up (adj) – cannot endure any more

On everyone's lips (idiom) – everyone is talking about it

Follow along with the topic and try to learn and memorize

An advertisement I distinctly remember from my teenage years is an ad by Honda the car makers for their latest model. Before this aired most commercials for car were the standard view of the car, people getting in it, and driving off. Or there was the car driving across beautiful scenery, which is still used in today's adverts.

It first appeared on TV and was a huge success. It involved different components of a car in a sequence of movements, where one piece would knock into another piece and each piece would hit the next piece and so on. Eventually, the sequence would trigger the car music system which would play a well known rap song and the car would be shown in full view.

The one thing which was constant was the fact that it was mesmerizing to the audience, who would have to watch it from start to finish. It was called 'The Cog' because cogs work together in a sequence and produce an end result.

The most eye-catching part was that it was not clear what the ad was about until it reached the end. It certainly changed the face of advertising. After this, manufacturers began looking for new and innovative ways to promote the vehicles instead of the same old boring

ideas they had before, which viewers were getting fed up of. Although I did not own a car at the time, some of my friends did, and this advert was on everyone's lips. That is how much of an impact it had.

Watch the advert here on YouTube.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z57kGB-mI54>



IELTS speaking improvement lessons

Speaking part 2 guide for various topics.



Describe an occasion when you invited your family or friends to dinner



You should say:

When - you invited them

Where - you had the dinner

Why – you invited them

How - you felt about it



How to prepare - here are some notes I made after I decided what I am going to talk about.

Write notes to give you the information you need for speaking.

When – A few months ago, last year, on my birthday, to celebrate....

Where – My house, at a restaurant, to my office, at a sports centre.

Why - promotion, birthday, wedding, meet friends, meet family.

How – homely, comfortable, happy, relaxed, a connection.



Vocabulary related to family/friends dinner

An invitation (noun) – when you ask people to join you to do something

Come over (phrasal verb) – to visit you at your home

To say grace (verb) – To pray before eating

Tuck in (phrasal verb) – To begin eating

To celebrate (verb) – to do something to remember an event

Approaching (adj) – getting near to (time)

House-warming (adj) – To welcome you to your home

To spend the day (exp) – To do something together for the day

Give... a break (exp) – Let someone relax and not work

Lost my touch (idiom) - Forget how to do something

Host (noun) - person who organizes an event at his or her home

To return the favour (idiom) – To do something for someone who has done something for you in the past

Flustered (adj) - To become anxious/worried that things will not be okay

Follow along with the topic and try to learn and memorize

About 10 years ago, when I had just bought a new house, it was approaching Christmas and I wanted to do something special to celebrate moving into my new house.

I had things to do in the house like repair some fixtures and upgrade my kitchen.

After I had finished all of these things I decided to invite my family over to spend Christmas day with me. Usually we gather at my mother's house, and she does most of the cooking, while we help, but this year I decided to give her a break and let me be the host.

I called them. My sister, older brother and my mum. They all agreed that it would be a nice way to also have a house-warming celebration.

Over the next few weeks I decorated the place, put up a Xmas tree, bought lots of food and drinks and decided what to cook. In England it is traditional to eat Turkey, but none of us are really keen on it, so I made the decision to get some beef and chicken as the main dishes.

On the morning of the 25th all of them arrived around 10am, so they could help me with the preparations. We got everything done, got the meat in the oven, and the table prepared. We relaxed for a while and opened our presents and had a few drinks. It was

great to see my mum relaxing, instead of getting flustered with everything which usually needs to be done. It was nice for me to return the favour after all the years we had gone to her house.

We sat down for lunch at 2pm, which is normal in the UK, and as my mother and sister are very religious, we always say grace before eating. My sister said grace, then we tucked in. the food was wonderful. **I was surprised at my cooking skills**. I had learnt to cook from my mother when I was a teenager, but had not done much since. It was good to see that I had not lost my touch.

I was so happy all day, and when they left to go home I felt quite sad, but overall it was a great day.

IELTS speaking improvement lessons

Speaking part 2 guide for various topics.



Describe an experience when you received a call from someone you don't know, in a public place.



You should say:

When - you received this call

Where - you received the call

What - you were doing at the time

What – the call was about

How - you felt about it



How to prepare - here are some notes I made after I decided what I am going to talk about.

Write notes to give you the information you need for speaking.

When – a few months ago, yesterday, last year, some time ago.

Where – in a café, at work, in a mall, on a beach, walking down the street

What - eating, shopping, relaxing, talking, reading...

What – selling, a job offer, a mistake, a wrong number.

How - suspicious, shocked, cautious, wary, happy.



Vocabulary related to receiving calls

cell phone / mobile phone - a device for receiving calls in public.

receive / get / take - verbs we can use for receiving calls.

anonymous - an unknown person.

cold call - a call from someone you don't know trying to sell something.

marketing - the business of trying to sell products.

privacy - the shielding of personal information.

personal information – the information which belongs to a person.

expecting a call - to know that someone is going to call you.

a wrong number – when someone calls the incorrect number.

To hang up – when someone ends a call suddenly.

to get cut off - when the call is disconnected for technical reasons.



Follow along with the topic and try to learn and memorize

A few weeks ago, during my lunch-hour I was sitting in a café having something to eat, when my phone rang. This in itself is nothing unusual, but on this occasion it was not someone I knew as the caller referred to me as 'Sir'. None of my friends or colleagues ever address me in this way.

I asked who the caller was, and she told me she was from a cell phone company and they had offers on new cell phone packages. I asked her what company it was, and was told that it was a different company to mine.

I thanked her and told her that I was not interested, but at the same time I wanted to know how she had my number, which is part of my private information. She refused to answer my question. This made me feel suspicious because I don't like strangers invading my privacy. At this point I hung up.

I then decided to find out how they got my number. I called my cell company who informed me that they use my information for marketing purposes, but would take me off their list if I was not happy about it. I told them to do it immediately. I had mixed feelings afterwards because I understand that companies need people's information to sell things, but shocked by the fact that my cell company had not asked for my permission.



IELTS speaking improvement lessons

Speaking part 2 guide for various topics.

Today's topic is:



Describe a time when you gave advice to someone



You should say:

Who - you gave the advice to

What - the advice was

Why – you gave the advice

How – you felt about it



How to prepare - here are some notes I made after I decided what I am going to talk about.

Write notes to give you the information you need for speaking.

Who – my friend, my sibling, my classmate, my mother/father

What – vacation destination, relationship, subject, move house

Why - they unsure, they asked, wanted input

How – Good, glad to help, satisfied, proud



Vocabulary related to advice

Very close family (exp) – good relationship with family

Advice (noun) – to tell someone what they should/can do

Get on with (phrasal verb) – synonym of close

Sibling (noun) – brothers and sisters

Suggest (verb) – to tell someone what you think they should do

Jealous (adj) – gets angry when others pay attention to girlfriend/boyfriend

jealous type (noun) – noun to describe person above

To confide in (phrasal verb) – to tell someone your secrets

(to have) mixed feelings (noun) – to feel good and bad at the same time

Bump into (phrasal verb) – meet someone without arranging/by accident

Keep in touch (idiom) – maintain contact

to catch up (phrasal verb) – talk about old times

To walk off (phrasal verb) – walk away when angry

Break up with (phrasal verb) - to end a relationship

Follow along with the topic and try to learn and memorize

I come from a very close family and my siblings and I always confide in each other when we have issues or have to make decisions. My younger sister had been dating a guy from her company who seemed to be a reasonably nice guy, and I got on with him quite well. However after several months my sister was not sure if she still had the same feelings for him.

She called me one day and asked if we could meet, as she did not want to talk on the phone. So I told her to come over to my place as I was alone at the time. When she arrived we had coffee, and I asked her what had changed her mind. She told me that one night when they were out together she bumped into one of her old college classmates who was male. They had been very good friends and still kept in touch occasionally. She introduced him to her boyfriend and the conversation continued. However, as my sister and Steve, the old classmate, caught up, her boyfriend began to get jealous, saying “we should go” but they weren’t going anywhere special. Then her boyfriend said he was going, and walked off. This made my sister angry, but she stayed silent. She wanted to break up with him as she does not like the jealous type. My response was that if she no longer liked him then she

should break up with him, even though he is a nice guy, I am not the one who has to spend time with him. I suggested that she talk to him, but she did not want to. She thanked me for my advice and the following day she broke up with him. He was upset, and said he would change, but people cannot change their character. She said that it was over.

I had mixed feelings about it because, as I said before, I liked him, but it is my sister's happiness which must take priority.



IELTS speaking improvement lessons

Speaking part 2 guide for various topics.



Describe a time that you solved a problem using the internet



You should say:

How - you solved it

What - the problem was

Where – how long it took to solve

How – you felt about it



How to prepare - here are some notes I made after I decided what I am going to talk about.

Write notes to give you the information you need for speaking.

How – backed up my data

What – Computer not saving files

How long - a few hours, the weekend, a few days

How – Relieved, relaxed, non-stressed



Vocabulary related to the internet

Web browser (N) - A piece of software that enables you to use the internet

Search engine (N) – an application to search for things (Baidu, Google, Bing..)

Wi-Fi (N)– Wireless internet, usually in a public place.

Laptop (N)- Portable computer

Desktop(N) - Fixed computer, usually at home or in an office.

Domain name (N) - The long name of a website (www.....)

Websites (N)– A collection of web pages together, often made by companies

Forum (N) - A site where many users ask questions and get information

Backup(V) - To save your files from your computer to a safe place (disk/cloud)

Crash (V)- When your device/computer stops working suddenly.

Follow along with the topic and try to learn and memorize

About 3 months ago, I was having some problems with my desktop computer. It was not saving some of my files and I was worried that I might lose some of my important work. I could not take the chance that it would continue to work without a problem.

So I decided to backup my files in case my computer crashed. I had never done this before, so I decided to get some instructions. I opened my browser and located my Google search engine, and started searching for information. I found a site named www.backup.com. It provided full details in a step-by-step guide. I looked through it and realised it was much easier than I thought it would be. It also had a forum where I could speak to other people and ask them questions, which was really helpful. I bookmarked the domain name so I could find it again easily. I had to also buy an external hard drive to back up the files to. This was my only expense, as the rest was software I downloaded from the web. After I got everything I needed, I arrange a suitable time to do the work. I estimated that it would take me about 3-4 hours, as I had a lot of data on my disk and did not want to delete any files. I could do that after the back up. So at the prescribed time I set to work.

I was very relieved that it was so painless. I did the backup successfully the 1st time, and now all my files are safe, which has made my life less stressful.

The whole thing from start to finish took 4 hours which was my guess.

The good thing is that if my computer dies then I can get it repaired and just put the files back onto it. I am also going to get a cloud account for extra security.



IELTS speaking improvement lessons

Speaking part 2 guide for various topics.



Describe an experience when the vehicle you were in broke down.



You should say:

When - it happened

Where - it happened

Who – you were with

What - impact it had



How to prepare - here are some notes I made after I decided what I am going to talk about.

Write notes to give you the information you need for speaking.

When – When I was 24 years old, last year, several years ago

Where – just outside of a town, in town, on a motorway/freeway

Who - my girlfriend, my family, my friends, a driver (taxi)

What – no sleep, expensive, missed appointment, hotel



Vocabulary related to vehicle breakdowns

Journey (noun) – to go from one place to another

Trip (noun) – To go to a specific place and return

Borrowed (verb) – to get something you must return

Gave up the ghost (idiom) – to completely stop working

Died (verb) – to break/break-down/stop working (machines)

In the middle of nowhere (idiom) – far from any place

Stranded (adj) – in a place you cannot leave

Tow truck (noun) – a truck collects broken down vehicles

Engine (noun) – the motor of a car

Club together (phrasal verb) – put all of our money together

Exorbitant (adj) – really expensive

A nightmare (idiom) – a really bad experience

Follow along with the topic and try to learn and memorize

About a year after I passed my driving test, when I was 24, I was living in a town away from my parents. My brother was also living there with me. We decided one day that we wanted to visit our mother, and I wanted to drive there so I could get some much needed practice. I managed to borrow a car from my friend's father. He did not use it much because he had another car, so he agreed to lend it to me. He told me that everything was working fine and that we would have no problems.

The drive to my mum's is about two and a half hours and round 150km. So on a Friday evening four of us set off at around 7.30pm. My girlfriend and I, and my brother and his girlfriend. I planned to arrive at around 10pm, when the roads would be much quieter. We were going along bypassing a main town, talking, listening to music and generally relaxing, when the car began to slow down, but I was not trying to slow down. Eventually it was going so slowly that I had to pull over to the side of the road. By now the engine had stopped running. I tried to start it several times but it was not doing anything. It had given up the ghost. We did not know what to do as we were on a motorway, and it was getting dark. Finally, another motorist stopped and asked us if we needed help. He said he would go ahead and call a tow truck to get us off the highway.

The truck arrived and towed us to a local garage. They assessed the damage and told me that the engine had died. It needed a new part, but it would take a few days. We clubbed together to pay for the part, and we also had to book a taxi to get to our mum's. We arrived at about 2am, in the middle of the night. We were all exhausted. The main impact of this was that it cost an exorbitant amount of money. Not only the repairs, the taxi fare, but also the cost to go back to pick up the car the following week. I was not happy. A simple trip turned out to be a nightmare.



IELTS speaking improvement lessons

Speaking part 2 guide for various topics.



Describe an water sport you would like to try in the future.



You should say:

What - the sport is

Where - you would do it

How - difficult it is

Why – you want to try it



How to prepare - here are some notes I made after I decided what I am going to talk about.

Write notes to give you the information you need for speaking.

What – surfing, kite boarding, windsurfing, kayaking

Where – in the ocean, at a wave park, in a lake, in a river

How - very difficult, easy, takes time, intensive

Why – need to get fit, for enjoyment, to socialize



Vocabulary related to water sports

Solo sport – a single person who does a sport

Compete – an activity in which the objective is to win

Training – to do exercises and activities to improve your skills

Practice – to do the sport to improve your skills

Leisure - thing we do in our free time for enjoyment

Kit – The clothes you wear to do the sport

Equipment – the things you need to take part in the sport

Board – the device which a surfer stands on when surfing

Artificial – not real

wave park - place where waves are created by a machine

Follow along with the topic and try to learn and memorize

I like many different types of water sport, but I am going to talk about something I have wanted to attempt for quite some time.

It is surfing. It originated either in America or Australia, I am not sure which one, and is now enjoyed in many countries. It involves taking a board out to sea (usually), waiting for waves to rise, and riding the waves for as long as possible while standing up. Different sizes of board from mini to full size, make it easier to get the hang of it. There are many other elements to it, but board selection and the basics are the main objectives.

The best way to go about learning how to do it, is to join a club, or to get together with some friends and learn it yourself. It takes considerably longer to teach yourself how to do it, with most tuition coming from observation or videos. I have decided that I am going to look for a local club and join it. That way I can learn it properly from instructors.

There are limited choices as to where you can surf. The obvious place is in the ocean, where there are natural waves, or the next best thing which is becoming more popular, and these are wave parks. These create artificial waves.

From all of the things I have heard, from both reading and talking to people, it is not an easy sport to learn. You have to spent several hours just learning how to stand up on the board. This done mainly out of the water, to help you learn how to balance correctly. Then this is followed by several more hours of trying to stand up on the board in the ocean, before you even get near to a wave.

I really want something new to do to keep me busy, and get me fit. In addition it will be nice to meet new people and have new friends to socialize with. I am already a keen swimmer, scuba diver, and I occasionally enjoy kayaking and canoeing, so this will add another notch on my water sports list. It will be along time before I am in a position where I can compete against others.



IELTS speaking improvement lessons

Speaking part 2 guide for various topics.



Describe a person who helps others



You should say:

Who - the person is

How - often they help others

Why - they help others

How - you feel about this person



How to prepare - here are some notes I made after I decided what I am going to talk about.

Write notes to give you the information you need for speaking.

Who – cousin, Policeman, volunteer, teacher

How – occasionally, every day, at weekends, once a month

Why - job, desire to help, calling

How – respect, admire, like, hold in high esteem, proud



Vocabulary related to helping others

Volunteer (noun)– a person who works for no pay

Profession (noun)– a job with a career path

Training (noun)– learning how to do something

University (noun)– a place of academic study

Part time (adj)– not all of the time

work with people (exp)– your job involves dealing with people

give your time (exp)– donate your time

selfless (adj)- not thinking about yourself

..on my mother's side (exp) – my mother family

..on the route of (exp) – following a path

resident physician (noun) – a local doctor

..on the odd occasion (exp) – sometimes

A calling (noun) – something you feel you are born to do

To draw (someone to something) (idiom) - to get your attention

Follow along with the topic and try to learn and memorize

I am going to talk about someone in my family. It is my cousin on my mother's side. His name is Joseph, and he is a doctor. He has been in the medical profession all of his working life.

After he left school, he went on the route of university, then straight on to medical school. He trained for 7 years, and had various posts before he got the job where he is now. He is the resident physician in his local hospital, which means he is the main person who deals with patients.

As you know, being a person who takes care of people's health, he works almost every day with members of the public, and rarely takes time off. He works 6 days a week and on the odd occasion he works 7 days.

Why does he do this job? Basically he told me that he believes that it is his 'calling' which is said to mean that this is what he was born to do. He has never thought about doing anything else. There are a few others in the family who are nurses, but neither of his parents work in this field, so I don't know what drew him to the field.

We only have one person in our family who has reached this position, so as you can imagine, we are all extremely proud of him for his dedication, his single-mindedness, but

above all his love of people. He says that his most satisfying moments in the job are when he tells his patients that they can go home, if they are in hospital, or that they are cured. He earns a lot of money, but that is not his driving factor.



IELTS speaking improvement lessons

Speaking part 2 guide for various topics.



Describe a game show or quiz you watched on TV or online



You should say:

Where - you watched it

What - it was about

How- often you watch it

Why - you like or dislike it



How to prepare - here are some notes I made after I decided what I am going to talk about.

Write notes to give you the information you need for speaking.

Where – on the TV, online

What – Deal or No Deal, The price is right, Jeopardy

How - twice a week, once a week, every day, occasionally

Why – audience participation, fun, big prizes, good entertainment



Vocabulary related to game or quiz shows

Host (noun) – a person who presents a show

Hosted by (phrasal verb) – the action of hosting

Contestants (noun) – people who try to win

schedule(noun) – time of the show

Rules (noun) – what instructions to follow

object of the game (exp) – what to do to win

Air (verb) – put on TV

Get down to (phrasal verb) – play until

play along (phrasal verb) – play the game yourself while watching

a departure from (idiom) – different from

Appeal (noun) - why something is liked

Follow along with the topic and try to learn and memorize

One of my favourite game shows on TV is a show named 'Deal or No Deal' it is hosted by a famous TV presenter named Noel Edmunds, who used to be a radio presenter and TV show host.

It is aired twice a week on a Saturday and Wednesday at 6pm, which makes it suitable for all audiences. It is known as a family show. The object of the game is for contestants to try to make as much money as they can. They do this by opening suitcases with numbers on them. Inside each suitcase is an amount of money, ranging from \$1 to \$250,000. Contestants have to get down to the last case. During the show they can be offered various amounts to finish the contest, to which they can say 'No Deal or Deal', hence the name of the show. There is only one contestant per show.

The good thing about the show is that the viewers and studio audience, can guess which cases they contestant will open. So you can actually play along and see if you can guess the number of the cases in sequence and see if you may have 'won'.

The show was a departure from most other shows where the contestants answered questions and won prizes like, holidays, cars, furniture etc..., This was based on skill and a certain amount of luck. It also introduced the 'banker' who would offer the contestant

a 'deal' if they think the contest might win big. The contestant could keep refusing until they get to the last case and win. I like the show because it allows a better way for viewers to participate. We used to play it against each other to see which one of us would 'win'. Of course we were not getting money like the real contestants, but it added to the appeal of the show.



IELTS speaking improvement lessons

Speaking part 2 guide for various topics.



Describe a practical skill you learnt



You should say:

What - it was

When - you learnt it

Why – you learnt it

How – you felt about it



How to prepare - here are some notes I made after I decided what I am going to talk about.

Write notes to give you the information you need for speaking.

What – guitar, cooking, driving, first aid, computers

When – when young, recently, for a long time, when older

Why - to be popular, to help improve life, for pleasure

How – proud, happy, fulfilled



Vocabulary related to learning skills

Practice (verb) – to do something repeatedly to get better

Dedication (noun) – To make yourself do something

Longevity (noun) – To be able to do something for a long time

‘tinker about’ (idiom) - mess about/ not do seriously

..featured heavily (idiom) – a large part of

..influenced (adj) – made me want to do it

..late twenties (exp) – between 27-29 years old

..encouraged (verb) – synonym for influenced

‘jam’ (idiom) - To play for fun / not anything specific

..dedicating the time (exp) – make the time

notation (noun) – the notes on paper which are music

..famous (adj) – known by a lot of people

..master (verb) – to become good at something

accomplish (verb) - synonym for achieve

Follow along with the topic and try to learn and memorize

The skill I am going to talk about is learning to play the guitar. I have played the guitar on and off since I was about 14 years old. I did not take it more seriously until I was in my *late twenties*. Before that I just *'tinkered about'*.

The main reason I decided to learn to play was because the guitar was 'all round'. Most pop songs featured the instrument, and a famous singer my uncle used to listen to *featured the guitar heavily*, so it *influenced* me a lot. Several of my friends played and this *encouraged* me. I wanted to be popular, and if you could play something you would be popular. One of my classmates played the drums and people liked him.

As I mentioned, I started playing again in my late twenties when I was a bit older and had *more time*. I bought several books and DVDs and my friends also used to invite me to *'jam'* with them at their houses. The most difficult part about learning to play any instrument is *dedicating the time* to practice, and to learn about musical *notation* and timing. I used to watch many *famous* players on TV and they always seemed to make it look so easy, so I often could not understand why I found it so difficult to *master* these

aspects. The one thing I can say is that I felt very happy that I learnt to, and can still play the guitar, and also a sense of pride for accomplishing something that there is no reward for other than the pleasure of playing for other people or for yourself.



IELTS speaking improvement lessons

Speaking part 2 guide for various topics.



Describe a prize you want to win



You should say:

What - the prize is

How - How you know about it

What - you have to do to win it

Why - you want to win it



How to prepare - here are some notes I made after I decided what I am going to talk about.

Write notes to give you the information you need for speaking.

What – Triathlon (swimming, running, cycling race) prize

How – I have seen it on TV, and it looks grueling

What - months of training, swimming gear, bicycle, running shoes, build up strength, practice

Why – to test myself, see what I am capable of, setting a goal, ambition, target.....



Vocabulary related to winning prizes

competition (noun) - an event in which people go against each other

a competitor (person) (noun) – a name of someone who enters a competition

win (verb) – to beat all others

active (adj) - likes physical things

beat (verb) – win (synonym)

overcome (verb) - to get over any difficulties

competitive (adj)- likes competition

victory /victorious (noun/adj) - win (synonym)

take part in (phrasal verb)– to enter

play-to-win (exp)– someone who only enters something only with the intention of winning

fiercely competitive (exp) – someone who put everything into winning

not a good loser (exp) - someone who does not like to lose

Follow along with the topic and try to learn and memorize

I am going to talk about something which I have wanted to compete in and hopefully win, for a long time.

The competition is called a triathlon, which gets its name from 3 events (tri), which are swimming, cycling, and running in that order. I first saw this event on TV several years ago, and because I am an active person, and enjoy sports, I thought that it would be good to go in for one of these events.

To prepare to enter this, you need certain qualities, such as; endurance, to be physically fit, perseverance, and dedication. Depending on your fitness level, you may have to train for 3-6 months by running 10km, cycling 50km, and swimming 5km. (continue)

I am a competitive person by nature, and I am not a good loser, so I would have to train especially hard if I want to win. But there are many competitors who take part in this event and most of them have been doing this for years.

You need to have the right equipment, like a good swimsuit for cold weather, a racing bicycle, and good running shoes.

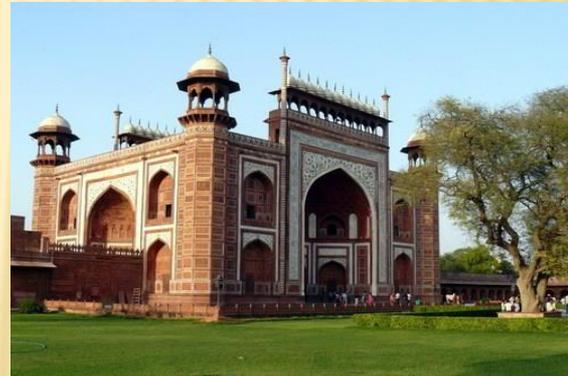
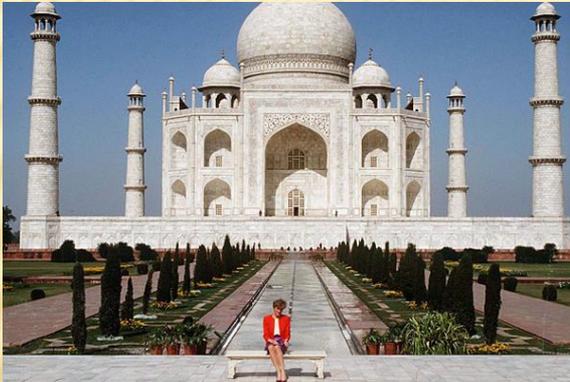
As I mentioned before, **I have thought about doing this , because I would really like to test myself to see if I have the attributes to do well, and it is also one of my ambitions.**



IELTS speaking improvement lessons

Speaking part 2 guide for various topics.

Today's topic is:



Describe something special you took from a tourist attraction



You should say:

What - it was

What - it was like

When - you bought it

Where - you bought it

Why - you think it is special



How to prepare - here are some notes I made after I decided what I am going to talk about.

Write notes to give you the information you need for speaking.

What – a picture, a souvenir, a gift, clothing

What – copy of famous picture, a model replica, a scarf

When - did not buy it, many years ago, recently, a few....ago

When - did not buy it, 5 years ago, a long time ago, recently

Why – it is unique, world famous, special memories



Vocabulary related to tourist attractions

Tourist spot (noun) – a place popular with tourists

A queue (noun) – a line of people waiting

World famous (noun) – known all over the world

buried (adj) - to be placed in the ground when you are dead

iconic (adj) - a symbol

dawn (noun) - early morning/first daylight

dusk (noun) - just before sunset

..known the world over (exp) – paraphrase of world famous

Teeming with (idiom) – very busy

..the midday sun (exp) – the sun at 12pm

..the sun was setting (exp) – paraphrase of dusk

..true to form (idiom) – as expected / when something happens you already know

..treasure (verb) - to keep precious / to always have a high regard for

Follow along with the topic and try to learn and memorize

Many years ago while I was travelling around India, I had the opportunity to visit the world famous Taj Mahal, which is a building built by a Maharajah, who is the same as a king, to bury his wife when she died and he is also buried there.

At the front of the building at least 100 metres away, before you walk to the building itself, there is a bench which is known the world over for **photos** of famous people.

When presidents, famous actors, sportsmen, politicians or royalty visit there, they always have a picture of them taken sitting on the bench it is an iconic place. On the days I visited the place it was teeming with tourists. I got up very early, around 5 am to see the building at dawn. The reason is that the building changes colour from yellow orange at dawn to gold at dusk. It is a trick of the sunlight. Me and the guide I hired, went around the building and he told me all about the history and other amazing facts. At around lunchtime most of the tourists went to get out of the midday sun and went to eat. **This gave us the opportunity I had been waiting for. I gave him my camera, while I sat on the bench and he took several shots of me sitting in the famous place. The best thing about it was that**

I did not have to pay anything to take the photos. You have to pay to enter, then you can take as many photos as you like. I revisited again at dusk, just as the sun was setting and true to form the colour had changed to a golden sheen. It was an amazing experience, with a photo that I will always treasure. All of the people I showed it to were either jealous or amazed.



IELTS speaking improvement lessons

Speaking part 2 guide for various topics.



Describe a piece of clothing you enjoy wearing



You should say:

Where - you bought it

What - it is

How - often you wear it

Why - you like wearing it



How to prepare - here are some notes I made after I decided what I am going to talk about.

Write notes to give you the information you need for speaking.

Where – in Stanley Market in Hong Kong, online, in a store, in a sale

What – a shirt, shoes, trousers, hat, belt, jacket

How - on special occasions, at weekends, regularly, rarely

Why – The style, the look, comfortable, feel



Vocabulary related to clothing

Avid (adj) - keen/ like to do something a lot

Style (noun) – category/type

buttons (noun) – used to secure clothes

occasions (noun) – a time when people do something special/a celebration

Chinese (adj) – of Chinese origin or style

Hong Kong (noun) – A major city

Market (noun) – where people buy a variety of items

Catch one's eye (idiom) – get one's attention

Barter (verb) – discuss a price

Traditional (adj) – something common to a country

Stalls (noun) – where sellers display their goods

Light (adj) – opposite of heavy

A conversation piece (exp) – something that makes people begin a conversation

Follow along with the topic and try to learn and memorize

I used to be an avid shopper years ago, but as I got older my taste in clothing changed, so I did not see or buy that many things.

But a couple of years ago I was on holiday in Hong Kong for a break and I went shopping in a traditional Chinese outdoor market in an area of the city called Stanley. It is known for its clothing, and although it was not my intention to buy anything in particular, while I was there I entered a small stall which had many shirts hanging up on the walls. I began browsing, and a particular shirt caught my eye. It was brown with a beautiful pattern of a dragon on the front and buttons from top to bottom in the style of button-and-loop, which is very common in this type of shirt. I asked the stall holder if I could try it on, and I went into the small changing room. It fitted perfectly and felt really cool. It was made of silk, and was thin, which let the air in.

After bartering successfully to get a good price I came away happy with my purchase. I never intended to wear it for everyday use, as it is very visual and draws attention to the wearer. I only really wear it when going to parties, special dinners, and I once wore it to a wedding reception. In England we go to wedding receptions dressed more

casually dressed , so it was a great opportunity to show it off. Many people have commented on it when I wear it. The most common thing they say is that it is so unusual and not something that is seen in The UK.

The main reason I like to wear it is because it is so comfortable. When you have it on it feel like you are not wearing anything. That is how light it is. It is also a good conversation piece, as people cannot help but ask me about it. One of my better purchases.



IELTS speaking improvement lessons

Speaking part 2 guide for various topics.



Describe a time when you got incorrect information



You should say:

When - you got it

How - you got it

How - you found it was incorrect

How - how you felt about it



How to prepare - here are some notes I made after I decided what I am going to talk about.

Write notes to give you the information you need for speaking.

When – Last month, recently, last year, several weeks ago

How – from a colleague, from the TV, the internet, friend

How - checked it, asked another person, called someone

How – angry, amazed, surprised, furious, happy



Vocabulary related to incorrect information

an error (noun) – synonym for mistake

miscommunication (noun) – where information is either given or received incorrectly

crossed-wires (noun) – paraphrase for miscommunication

..precaution (noun) - to be extra careful

..by mistake (exp) – to do something incorrect but not realize

..the wrong time (exp) – not the time agreed

passed on (phrasal verb) – to give information you received

pick up (phrasal verb) – collect in your car

fly in (phrasal verb) – synonym for arrive by plane

on the other end (idiom) – the person you speak to when on a call

half-asleep (adj) – not really awake

frantic (adj) – panic, worried, anxious

calm down (phrasal verb) – get someone to relax

crack of dawn (idiom) - the first daylight of the day

Follow along with the topic and try to learn and memorize

Several months ago, I was going to meet a friend at the airport. She was flying in from America, and ask me if would pick her up from the airport. I asked her if she could send me an e-mail with all the information so I would not forget. Also, if I wrote it down I might lose the paper it was on. I did not want there to be any miscommunication.

The next day she sent me the e-mail. I checked it and it confirmed the arrival of the flight at 10am on the 6th of the month. The e-mail was dated the 3rd, so I still had 3 days. During the next day I checked my car to make sure everything was ok, just as a precaution.

I printed the e-mail and also had a copy on my phone. So on the day of the flight, which was a Saturday, I was woken up by a phone call at around 4am. I was still half-asleep and eventually answered the call. It was my friend on the other end. She sounded frantic. I asked her what had happened, and she cried that she was waiting for me, and had been waiting for more than 2 hours. I thought that something was wrong, and I got her to calm down. I asked her why she was calling me at the crack of dawn when she was not due to
(continue)

be there for another 6 hours. “No, she said, I told you that I was arriving at 1am not 10am.” I checked my e-mail, which was also on my phone. “I have here 10am in your e-mail” There was a silence. “Oh my god, she said, I made a mistake I wrote 10 instead of 1, I am really sorry.”

No problem I replied. I told her to go and get something to eat and I would be there in about an hour. I got dressed and drove to the airport to meet her. We had definitely got our wires crossed. She had written down the wrong time by mistake.

I was quite relieved to know that it had not been my mistake and she had passed on the incorrect information. This was quickly forgotten and she had a great stay with me.



IELTS speaking improvement lessons

Speaking part 2 guide for various topics.



Describe an unusual travelling experience



You should say:

Where – you went for the vacation

Who – travelled with you

When - you went there

What - you did there

Why – it was unusual



How to prepare - here are some notes I made after I decided what I am going to talk about.

Write notes to give you the information you need for speaking.

Where – Hong Kong

Who – with my girlfriend with friends, alone, for business

When– 3 months ago, recently, last year, several years ago

What - theme park visit, street markets, new food, shopping

Why – mix of historic and modern, Giant Pandas



Vocabulary related to vacations

A city break (noun) = 2-4 days in a city

A beach vacation (noun) = based on beach activities

A hiking holiday (noun) = main activity is hiking

bustling (adj) = lots going on, lots of people

historic (adj) = full of history

nightlife (noun) = things to do at night

Cuisine (noun) = the food

Night Market (noun) = Markets open from 5-6 – midnight..

Giant Pandas (noun) = Giant bears found only in China.

in the flesh (idiom) - in real life

symbol of (phrasal verb) = represents something

Follow along with the topic and try to learn and memorize

Today I am going to talk about my recent vacation to **Hong Kong**.

About 3 months ago my girlfriend and I decided to go to **Hong Kong** because although *I had visited there before*, she had never been, and she really wanted to visit.

We spent 6 days during the summer, as this is *the best time of the year* because of the weather. It is warm *but not too humid*. *We spent one day at Ocean Park*, which is a well-known Theme Park due to the fact *that it has 2 Giant Pandas housed there*. We also *took a trip* to Times Square, which is *a huge shopping complex* on Hong Kong Island.

We spent another evening *browsing the stalls* at one of the many *'night markets'* which sell lots of 2nd hand and souvenir type goods. *The most enticing thing* was all of the small restaurants surrounding the market which *serve a variety of Chinese cuisine*. *On our final day*, we spent an evening on Nathan Road which is *a vast expanse of shops*, *which are renowned* for electronic gadgets such as phones, cameras, notebooks, and lots of computer accessories. I am *a real IT geek* so *I was in my element*. **We really enjoyed the city and its mix of modern and historic charm.**

(continue)

What really made the trip unusual, was to be able to see 2 Giant Pandas, which although I, like millions of others, have seen on TV, it was completely different to see them close up in the flesh. The Panda is the symbol of the WWF , which is the World Wildlife Fund, which is something dear to me. Something I will never forget.



IELTS speaking improvement lessons

Speaking part 2 guide for various topics.

Today's topic is:



Describe a time you went out with your friends and had a good time



You should say:

Where - you went

When - you went out

What - you did

Why - you had a good time



How to prepare - here are some notes I made after I decided what I am going to talk about.

Write notes to give you the information you need for speaking.

Where – *to the beach*, shopping, out to dinner, waterfalls

When – last year, a few weeks ago, a long time ago, recently

What - swimming, buying things, eating, playing sports

Why – get together, relaxing, relieve stress, enjoyment



Vocabulary related to going out with friends

A day out (noun) – To go somewhere for a day

organize (verb) – synonym for arrange

spend the day (exp) – actions you do during a day

picnic area (noun) – a place to have a picnic

hike (verb) – walk through hills

ridge (noun) – top of a hill

Waterfalls (noun) – water cascading from a high to low level

Keen on (phrasal verb) – likes

..takes in (phrasal verb) – can be seen / you can see

..shaded area (noun) – out of the sun

..spectacular (adj) – synonym for beautiful (view)

..headed back (phrasal verb) – return to

..(a good time) was had by all (exp) – we all had a good time

..most welcome (adj) – appreciated/ needed

Follow along with the topic and try to learn and memorize

Last year one of my good friends visited me for a few days and we decided that we wanted to have a day out together. He also had some other people to visit, **so we organized a visit to some local waterfalls and picnicking areas.**

My friend's name is David and he is keen on nature, that is why I thought that this would suit him perfectly. I also asked another friend and his girlfriend to join us so that they could meet David. **We cooked some chicken and sausages, and packed some snacks and drove through the hills to the falls. It is about 30 minutes drive from my house and takes in some beautiful countryside. When we arrived, parked the car, paid the entrance fee, and unpacked the food, we decided to sit under the smallest fall to cool off. It was a really hot day and the cool water was most welcome. After a time in the water, taking photos and swimming, we had lunch under a tree in a shaded area. We chatted some more and then we went for a hike in the forest surrounding the falls. It took about an hour to get to the top of a ridge and the views were spectacular. It was definitely worth the effort.**

(continue)

When we returned we went back into the water to cool off once more and then, in the late afternoon, we headed back and arrived home at about 6pm.

It was one of those days when everything went to plan, it was completely relaxing, both my friends got on well with David, and a good time was had by all.



IELTS speaking improvement lessons

Speaking part 2 guide for various topics.



Describe a park or garden you like visiting



You should say:

Where - it is

When - you visit it

What - it is like

Why - why you like visiting it



How to prepare - here are some notes I made after I decided what I am going to talk about.

Write notes to give you the information you need for speaking.

Where – My hometown, a theme park, a wildlife park

When – several times a year, often , once a year, whenever I can

What - It has a lake, lots of trees, in two parts, an old house

Why – it has everything, location, history, beautiful



Vocabulary related to gardens or parks

- Central (adj)** – in the middle of
- Vast (adj)** – synonym of very big
- Landscape (noun)** – the land you can see
- Lake (noun)** – an area of water
- Aviary (noun)** – an outside bird house
- Manor House (noun)** – an historical house once owned by a family
- Museum (noun)** – a building where historical things are displayed
- Sports facilities (noun)** – things provided for sport
- Bandstand (noun)** – a stand which bands play on
- prominent (adj)** – main/important
- acres (noun)** – a big ground area
- ..in this day and age (idiom)** – nowadays
- a multitude of (exp)** - many / a lot of
- ..preserve (verb)** - to keep the same

Follow along with the topic and try to learn and memorize

I am very proud of the park in my hometown. the town has been built around it and it is a prominent landmark.

I try to go whenever I have a few hours to spare, which is not so often now, but as I child I spent a lot of time there. We lived about 7-8 minutes walk from it and our parents let us go there as often as we liked, because it was safe, and there were acres of space to play in.

The park itself is vast and is split into 2 sections separated by a road. It has a varied landscape with huge trees, a lake, a waterfall, a garden section with different types of flowers. In addition it has an old manor house which is now a museum, an aviary, sports facilities, including tennis courts and a bowling green. For me the main attractions are the bandstand, where brass bands play, and the hill, which we used to ride our bicycles up and down.

One good thing is that the local government has not sold the land to develop housing or businesses, and they have kept it intact for the residents to use. This is a very good thing in this day and age of 'business first'. It is important for future generations to

enjoy the same benefits I enjoyed as a child. The main attraction about the park overall, is the beauty of it. People walking their dogs, the old folk feeding the pigeons by the lake, the old manor house which shows the history of the area, and the multitude of huge trees of which some are several hundred years old. The town's history needs to be preserved.