



ENGLISH ASTIR
STEPPINGSTONE TO 7.0

Getting ready for IELTS speaking



Speaking worksheet: Part one

This worksheet is divided into three sections:

- Before you watch
- As you watch
- After you watch

Before you watch

1. Look at questions a–f from the three Speaking Part 1 videos. Then answer 1–3 below.

- a. Is it a town or a city?**
- b. And what is special about the city?**
- c. Do you live in a house or a flat?**
- d. Let's go on to talk about learning English. Are you studying at the moment?**
- e. What difficulties do you have in learning English?**
- f. And what opportunities do you have to speak English?**

- 1 Which questions require fairly short answers?**
- 2 Which questions require some explanation in response?**
- 3 Do any of the questions require evaluations, reasons or examples?**

2. Answer questions a–f.

- a. Is it a town or a city?
- b. And what is special about the city?
- c. Do you live in a house or a flat?
- d. Let's go on to talk about learning English. Are you studying at the moment?
- e. What difficulties do you have in learning English?
- f. And what opportunities do you have to speak English?

3. Look at the following extract from the third video. Do you think the candidate's responses to the *italic* questions require some explanation? If so, how?

Examiner: Which TV programs do you watch?

Candidate: I watch a lot of documentaries, like ... natural history programs.

Examiner: *Why?*

Examiner: *And have you ever watched a TV program in a foreign language?*

As you watch

1 Watch the three Speaking Part 1 videos. Check your answers to exercises 1–3 above.



First video

Examiner: Now in this first part I'd like to ask you some questions about yourself. Let's talk about where you live. Is it a town or a city?

Candidate: It's a city.

E: And what is special about the city?

C: It's got ... lots ... of old buildings which are very famous so there are lots of tourists.

E: Do you live in a house or a flat?

C: I live in a flat with some friends ... it's ... close to my school, about one kilometer away.



Second Video

Examiner: Let's go on to talk about learning English. Are you studying at the moment?

Candidate: Yes. I'm a student, but I also work part-time in a coffee shop in the city center to improve my English.

E: How much time do you spend studying English each week?

C: ... Three hours in class but ... about ... two hours a day outside the class.

E: How many languages do you speak and what are they?

C: I speak two: Chinese and ... English.

E: What difficulties do you have in learning English?

C: Ah ... well it's difficult to practice speaking outside the classroom.

E: And what opportunities do you have to speak English?

C: I speak English with my teacher and my classmates and people in the school, and at my work, and ... ah ... and some English people that I meet, but not with many English people as I would like to.



Third video

Examiner: Which TV programs do you watch?

Candidate: I watch a lot of documentaries, like ... natural history programs.

E: Why?

C: I like finding out about the world ... especially countries and places I don't know about and ... countries I like to visit like ... Russia and Australia.

E: Why?

C: They're very big countries and ... really exciting places and ... very different from my home country.

E: And have you ever watched a TV program in a foreign language?

C: Yes. I have watched many documentaries ... the documentaries are easier than the film because they are factual but with films are usually have ... subtitles.

E: When was the last time you watched something in English?

C: Last night. I watched a short documentary about oceans

E: And do you think that watching TV programs in a foreign language is a good way to learn the language?

C: It is difficult at the beginning but yes, definitely.

E: Why?

C: Because it is natural ... it is at a natural pace to improve my listening and understanding.

E: Thank you.

- 2 Watch them again and use the following checklist to help you analyze the candidate's responses

The candidate:

- 1 is fairly fluent
- 2 doesn't hesitate very much.
- 3 is accurate most of the time.
- 4 looks at the examiner when speaking.
- 5 uses some vocabulary that is not common.
- 6 develops his answers where he needs to.
- 7 responds promptly to the questions

After you watch

- 1 Write your own questions about your interests, family, events in your own life and culture.

Speaking Worksheet : Part 2

Before you watch

1 Look at the Task Card and the candidate's notes.

Describe a street that you visit frequently.

You should say:

where the street is

how often you go to this street

what you do in this street

and explain why you visit this street frequently.

Notes:

home

daily

shop

friends

new friends

library

café

shops

space/trees

Now decide:

1 why the candidate has written the notes.

2 why the candidate has written the notes vertically.

3 if the candidate could write the notes in any order.

4 why there are no sentences.

5 whether the candidate can paraphrase his notes spontaneously as he speaks.

6 how the candidate can use the notes as he speaks.

7 if the candidate can glance at the notes as he speaks.

8 whether speaking without notes is wise

2 Look at the candidate's notes above again. Identify the words that relate to:

- location, time and reasons for going to the street
- reasons for liking India Road.

As you watch



Speaking part 2

Examiner: Right, remember you'll have one to two minutes for this, so don't worry if I stop you. I'll tell you when your time is up. Can you now start speaking, please?

Candidate: The street I would like to describe is one near my home which leads into the city center. It's ... called India Road. I go there ... most days to ... shop, to meet friends and to ... relax. I tend to go there often, because it is close to my home and it's on my way to my school. And one of my friends from my school works there in a really ... nice restaurant and so sometimes in the morning on my way here, I meet him there and we have a coffee and something to eat. It's ... got ... a ... The street attracts lots of students so it's a good place for meeting people because there are lots of students from the university and sometimes we talk to them. I also like going there because it has a library with Wifi and a nice café and I could study there with my friends and listen to music while I work. I also enjoy going there because it has lots of shops in a nice open space with trees and a fountain so it's really popular. There's ... ah ... little traffic on the roads and people don't rush around the way they do in the city center. It's very relaxing walking along there and sitting there ... I really like it.

1 Write down words/phases the candidate uses:

1 to begin the talk:

2 to describe the frequency of his visit:

3 to give his purpose for going to India Road:

4 to talk about what his friend does:

2 Write your own notes about the candidate's explanation as to why he likes going to the street.

Notes:



3 Watch and choose two phrases you can recycle elsewhere to develop and explain ideas.

Example:

which leads into the city center

4 Check which two of the following statements are false.

- 1** The candidate does not hesitate at all.
- 2** The candidate is fluent when speaking.
- 3** The candidate speaks clearly.
- 4** The talk is organized.
- 5** The candidate only glances at the notes.
- 6** The candidate is mostly accurate.
- 7** The candidate develops his notes well and clearly.
- 8** The candidate does not speak for a sufficient amount of time.

After you watch

- 1** Reflect on your own performance using the statements in exercise 4 in the previous section

Notes:

Speaking worksheet: Part 3

Before you watch

1 Complete the examiner's questions 1–4 below with the phrases a–d.

- a How important is it for people ...
- b Which are more popular in your country ...
- c Would you agree ...
- d Why do you think ...

1 Let's talk about green spaces such as parks in urban areas.

_____ people visit green spaces in cities?

2 _____ : parks or shopping centers? And why do you think that is?

3 _____ to have their own private space?

4 Some people think that having open spaces in cities is more important than new housing _____ ?

2 The examiner expects the candidate to use the question to help organize their response. Match questions 1–4 in exercise 1 to the descriptions below.

- a Evaluation with reasons and examples
- b A selection from two places with an evaluation and reason(s)
- c An explanation with examples
- d Opinion/argument about two items (with reasons and examples)

3 Check which of the items 1–8 below distinguish Speaking Part 3 from Part 1 questions?

In Speaking Part 3, you:

- 1 have to process longer questions.
- 2 give longer answers.
- 3 process abstract concepts.
- 4 talk about abstract concepts.
- 5 talk about personal details.
- 6 evaluate concepts and give an opinion.
- 7 talk about preferences in your personal lives.
- 8 talk about likes and dislikes

As you watch

1 Watch the four Speaking Part 3 videos and complete the beginning of the candidate's response to the four questions in exercise 1. Write no more than five words

- 1 I think it's ...
- 2 I think it ...
- 3 I think it's ...
- 4 I think it's ...



First video

Examiner: We've been talking about places to visit and I'd like to ask you one or two more general questions about places related to this. Let's talk about green spaces such as parks in urban areas. Why do you think people visit green spaces in cities?

Candidate: I think it's to help ... them ... relax. Cities can be very tiring and so anywhere where people can slow down and escape ... the pressures of modern life is ... definitely good



Second video

Examiner: You mentioned earlier that the street you visit a lot was popular because of the open space with trees. Which are more popular in your country: parks or shopping centers? And why do you think that is?

Candidate: I think it depends on people's age. Younger people tend to ... go ... to the shopping center as they are modern and there are lots of things to see and do. Older people are more ... likely to ... visit ... parks, but ... that's not always the case as ... young people sometimes are involved in different sports in the parks.



Third video

Examiner: How important is it for people to have their own private space?

Candidate: I think it's crucial. People need to be able to escape somewhere private which they can call their own. Such places help people to... to... recharge their battery but ... having said this, in future there will be considerably less space available for everyone to aim to have their own private space.



Fourth video

Examiner: Some people think that having open spaces in cities is more important than new housing. Would you agree?

Candidate: ... I think it's important to have both. If we get ... rid of all the open spaces like parks and just have buildings, there is no ... relief from the concrete Parks, even small parks, help a city to breathe, ... but cities are under pressure to provide more accommodation. Provided there's a balance I think it's acceptable. I mean they could also build more ... high-rise apartment blocks to house the influx of new people.

2 Watch the four videos again. Match the ways **a–d** that the candidate uses to develop his initial response to the beginnings **1–4** in exercise 1 above:

- a** explanation of the adjective crucial
- b** explanation with reason and result
- c** reason with hypothetical situation and result
- d** election from two alternatives given followed by reason



After you watch

1 Check which of the following items **1–12** are important for performing well in Speaking Part 3.

- 1 Understanding the question from the word point of view
- 2 Understanding the question from the structure point of view
- 3 Understanding the question from the meaning point of view
- 4 Understanding the question from the purpose point of view
- 5 Beginning the answer
- 6 Relating the beginning of the response to the question
- 7 Maintaining fluency without too much hesitation.
- 8 Keeping on message
- 9 Being sensitive to the examiner's desire to ask questions
- 10 Not being afraid to ask for the question to be repeated
- 11 Dealing with long questions
- 12 Processing the question

2 Watch the four videos again. As you watch, think about which of the items **1–12** the candidate demonstrates.



First video

Don't forget!

- Answer the questions that you are asked.
- Be spontaneous and flexible.
- Organize your answer as you speak.
- Speak clearly and fluently, but not quickly.



Second video



Third video



Fourth video

Speaking Worksheet answer key:

Speaking Part 1

Before you watch

1

1 a–d. b is a short answer but it could involve some explanation.

2 e, f

3 e, f

2 Student's own answers.

3 Yes – by giving reasons and examples.

As you watch

2 1–7 are all true.

After you watch

1 Student's own answers

Speaking Part 2

Before you watch

1

1 a summary of what he is going to say

2 they are easier to read

3 no

4 quicker to write and to read when speaking

5 yes

6 as prompts to hang his ideas on

7 yes

8 no

2

• Home, shop, daily, friends

• Reasons: new friends, library, café, shops, space, trees

As you watch

1

1 The street I would like to describe is...

2 most days; tend to go there often

3 I go there ... to shop, to meet friends and to relax

4 ...because it is close to my home and on the way to my school

5 works there...in a really nice restaurant

2

Possible answers

• attracts lots of students, good place for meeting people, lots of students from the university, sometimes we talk to them

• library with WIFI and a nice café, could study there with friends, listen to music while work

• lots of shops, nice open space with trees, a fountain, really popular

• little traffic on the roads, people don't rush around like in city center

• very relaxing to walk along or sit in

3

Possible answers

• ...which leads into the city center

• The street attracts lots of students so it's a good place for meeting people.

• I tend to go there often because it is close to my home and it's on my way to my school.

• And one of my friends...

• I also like going there because it has a nice open space with trees and a fountain

• ...so it's really popular.

• There's little traffic on the roads and people don't rush around the way they do in the city center.

4 1 and 8

After you watch

1 Student's own answers

Speaking Part 3

Before you watch

1

1 d

2 b

3 a

4 c

2

1 c

2 b

3 a

4 d

3

1, 2, 3, 4, 6 relate to Speaking Part 3.

5, 7, 8 relate to Speaking Part 1

As you watch

1

1 to help them relax.

2 it depends on people's age.

3 it's crucial.

4 it's important to have both.

2

1 b

2 d

3 a

4 c

After you watch

1 All of 1–12 are important. See notes below on 1–4:

1 It is essential to understand the words that the examiner is using and paraphrase if possible/necessary, when replying.

2 It is important to think about how the question is structured and fit your answer to the structure. Compare the different structures in the question in the Before you watch section.

3 It is vital to understand the meaning, for example is the examiner asking about cause and effects, evaluations etc.

4 You should think about why the question is being asked. The examiner needs to know if you can process information from the three points of view mentioned in 1–3.

2 The candidate demonstrates all items 1–12 in the videos except 10.

