

FLUENT GRAMMAR

for _____

IELTS SPEAKING



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INTRODUCTION

This course is an intense workout to improve your **fluency** in the IELTS Speaking test.

It will help you,

- Speak more fluently
- Improve your intonation
- Build your confidence

The course is divided into three parts, like the IELTS Speaking Test.

The focus is on

- Learning to use '**chunks**' flexibly
- Building **coherence**
- Using **grammar effectively** and **effortlessly**

It follows a **grammar-based curriculum**.

The course also uses a '**question - answer**' format, so you can see how to use different tenses effectively in different parts of the test.

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■ Fluency in Part 1 Questions

Talking about yourself and your experience, past and present.

- Present Simple
- Present Perfect Continuous (past to present activity)
- Present Perfect Continuous (recent activity)
- Past habits (simple past, used to, would)
- Present Perfect (experiences)
- Comparatives
- Superlatives
- 2nd Conditional

■ Fluency for Part 2 Questions

Giving a talk about people, places, things, activities and events that may have happened in the past, present or future.

- Simple Past
- Past Continuous
- Past Perfect
- Relative Clauses
- 3rd Conditional

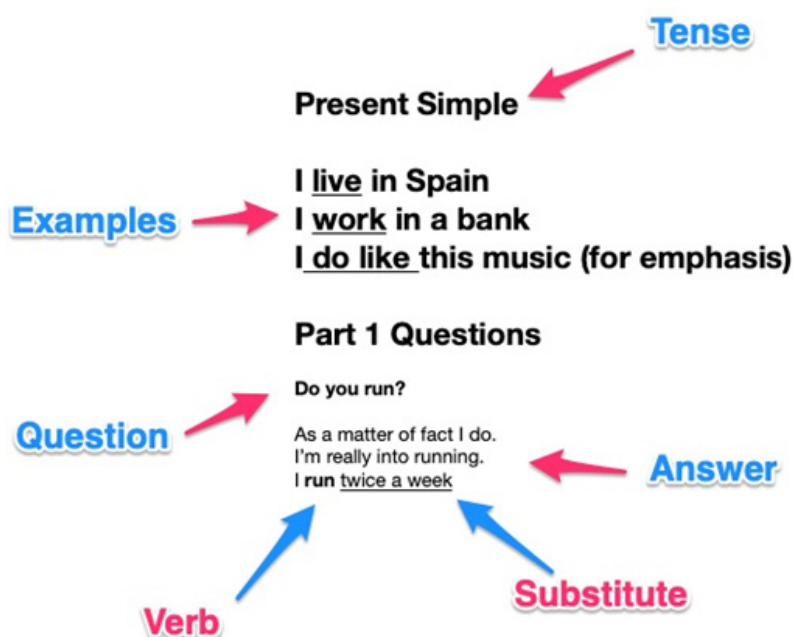
Fluency for Part 3 Questions

Giving your opinions, evaluations and speculations of more abstract topics, as well as exemplifying and justifying your ideas.

- Future - will / might / may
- 1st Conditional
- Present Perfect (result in present)



HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE



Read the introductory grammar point.

Watch the video.

When you hear an answer,

- Listen and repeat
- Listen to the intonation, and then repeat
- Finally, repeat the whole answer
- Where possible substitutes are given, repeat the answer again, and change the underlined phrase
- Finally, say an answer that is actually true for you.

For example, in unit 1, for the question **“Do you run?”**. If you run everyday, you could say, **‘As a matter of fact I do. I’m really into running. I run everyday’**

When practicing speaking, I strongly recommend you work with either the audio (or video) *without* looking at the PDF.

PART 1

Fluency for Part 1 Questions

UNIT 1

Present Simple

If you are talking about things that are true now, or your habits or things that happen regularly, you can use the present simple tense.

I / you / we / they + verb

- I **live** in Spain
- I **work** as a teacher
- I **do like** this music (use 'do' for emphasis)

NEGATIVE - I / you / we / they + DON'T + verb

- I **don't live** in Spain anymore
- I **don't like** this music

He / she / it + verb + S

- He **lives** in England
- My sister **works** in a hospital
- She **does like** her job (use 'does' for emphasis)

NEGATIVE - He / she / it + DOESN'T + verb

- He **doesn't live** in England now
- My sister **doesn't like** her job



Part 1 Questions

Q: Do you like reading?

A:

Yes **I am** big fan of reading.

I'm really into crime novels actually,

I do like Agatha Christie

Possible substitutes for crime novels:

Thrillers / biographies / romance novels

Q: Do you like reading?

A:

Not much

It's not really my cup of tea

I **tend to listen** to music

whenever I **have** any free time

Possible substitutes for any free time:

Time on my hands / a spare moment / time to kill

Q: Do you often run?

A:

As a matter of fact I do

I'm really into running

I **run** twice a week

Possible substitutes for twice a week:

most days / regularly / on a regular basis = a lot

once in a while / now and then / now and again = sometimes

Q: Do you cook?

A:

Yes I do,
I'm rather fond of cooking,
to tell you the truth.
I find it really relaxing.

Possible substitutes for relaxing:

Calming / exciting / therapeutic (=relaxing)

Q: Do you play water sports?

A:

Not really to be honest,
I **don't play** any water sports.
I **don't have** much chance
where I live

UNIT 2

Present Perfect Continuous (activity from past to present)

If you are describing events or states that began in the past, and continue now, you can use the present perfect continuous

Subject + have/has been + verb+ING

- I **have been living** here for 2 years
- I **have been studying** English for 10 years

*We use **for** to indicate a period of time*

For example: 2 years, one day, 3 weeks.

*We use **since** to indicate a point in time*

For example: last year, yesterday, last Tuesday



Part 1 Questions

Q: Do you run?

A:

I do as a matter of fact,
I've been jogging
for about 3 years now.
I love it.....

Possible substitutes for 3 years:

3 months / a good while / as long as I can remember

Q: Do you practice any water sports?

A:

Yes, I do.

I surf actually.

I've been surfing

since I was a kid

Possible substitutes for surf:

swim / water-ski / snorkel

Q: Do you drive?

A:

Yes, I do.

I've been driving

since I was 18

I usually drive to work everyday

Possible substitutes for was 18:

turned 18 / was a teenager / passed my driving test

UNIT 3

Present Perfect Continuous (recent activity)

We can also use the present perfect continuous to describe repeated activities that began in the past and still continue

Subject + have/ has been + verb+ING

Recently **I have been watching** a good TV series

Lately, **I have been going** to the gym a lot

She **has been working** out down the gym a lot lately

When speaking, we often contract the “have” and “has”

Recently **I’ve been watching** a good TV series

Lately, **I’ve been going** to the gym a lot

She’s **been working out** down the gym a lot lately



Part 1 Questions

Q: Do you cook?

A:

Yeah, I love cooking.

Recently,

I've been learning

some new Japanese recipes.

Possible substitutes for new Japanese recipes:

New dishes / new recipes / original ideas for new dishes

Q: Do you cook?

A:

No, not really

That said, **I've been trying to learn**
following some videos on Youtube

Possible substitutes for some videos on Youtube:

A new book I have / a programme on TV / some online classes

Q: Are you interested in science?

A:

Yes, I am a big fan of science.

Recently,

I've been listening

to a new podcast about science

Possible substitutes for science:

Biology / the planet earth / scientific issues

Q: How do you spend time by yourself?

A:

Well, actually, recently,
I've been learning how to meditate.
It's great fun, I must say

Possible substitutes for meditate:

Keep fit / paint / code /

UNIT 4

Past Habits

We can use,

- ***SIMPLE PAST TENSE***
- ***USED TO***
- ***WOULD***

to describe habits we had, or activities we repeatedly did in the past

SIMPLE PAST TENSE

Subj + verb+ED (regular)

- I **walked** a lot when I was young
- I **didn't walk** a lot when I was young

Subj + verb in past (irregular)

- I **swam** a lot when I was young
- I **didn't swim** a lot when I was young

USED TO

Subj + used to + verb

- I **used to swim** a lot in my childhood
- I **didn't used to swim** a lot in my childhood

WOULD

Subj + would + verb

- I **would swim** a lot as a child
- I **wouldn't swim** a lot as a child



Part 1 Questions

Q: Did you eat a lot of sweet things when you were younger?

A:

Yes, I did, to be honest

In my family

we **would have** a dessert

after dinner most days.

Possible substitutes for a dessert:

some kind of cake / something sweet / some kind of dessert

Q: Did you do water sports as a child?

A:

Yes, I did.

I **used to** swim a lot.

Most weekends actually.

Possible substitutes for Most weekends actually.

at least twice a week / most days, as a matter of fact / whenever I could

Q: Did you take art classes when you were a child?

A:

Yes, I **had** to do art classes at school,
it was mandatory, you know

Possible substitutes for do

Take / go to / take part in

Q: Did you enjoy learning English when you were a child?

A:

Not really, I **didn't like** it much.

I often **used to** skip English classes,
to tell you the truth.

Possible substitutes for to tell you the truth:

To be honest / if the truth be told / to be honest with you

UNIT 5

Present Perfect (experiences)

We can use the present perfect to describe experiences we have had in life

Subj + have/has + past participle

- I **have been** to Paris

When speaking, we usually make the contraction - I have becomes I've

- I've **been** to Paris
- I've **run** a marathon
- I've **never seen** a lion

If we continue to talk about this experience, the following sentences usually use the simple past tense.

I've run a marathon once. It was 2 years ago and took place in Australia.



Part 1 Questions

Q: Have you ever grown a plant?

A:

Actually, no I haven't.

I've never learnt how to do it
but I'd love to try

Q: Have you ever been to an art gallery?

A:

Oh yes. **I have been** to a few actually.
I went to a great one in Italy last year,
it had some famous masterpieces,
that were really impressive.

Q: Have you ever seen wild animals before?

A:

Yes, I **have seen** loads,
well, if animals in a zoo count.
I **have been to** the zoo in my city several times
and it's full of wild animals;
like gorillas and giraffes.

Possible substitutes for several:

A number of / a couple of / a handful of

Q: Do you play any water sports?

A:

Not really to be honest,
I've **never really liked** water sports.
I was brought up in the city,
so I didn't have much chance to practice them

Possible substitutes for was brought up:

Was raised / was born and bred / grew up

UNIT 6

Comparatives

We can use comparative adjectives to compare **2 things** (or two people, two places etc...)

With **one or two** syllable words (e.g. nice, long)

Adjective + er

- A is **nicer** / **longer** than B

With a one-syllable word with consonant + vowel + consonant, then we double the last letter: For example, **big** becomes **bigger**

- A is **bigger** than B

With **three or more** syllable words (e.g. expensive, comfortable)

MORE + Adjective

- A is **more expensive** than B

To emphasise the comparison we can use **much/far** or **way**

- A is **much/far/way** bigger than B
- A is **much/far/way** more expensive than B



Part 1 Questions

Q: Do you prefer to read a paper book or a digital book?

A:

To be honest, I prefer paper books
because they're **nicer** to hold **than** digital books
And just **much easier** to use too
That said, digital ones are actually **cheaper**

Q: Do you prefer to travel by train or plane?

A:

I usually travel by train
Because it's **far more comfortable than** a plane
It's also **way cheaper**
I know planes are **faster**,
but going to the airport is a bit of a hassle

Possible substitutes for hassle:

nuisance / pain / bother

Q: Do you prefer a long break or short breaks at work?

A:

Generally speaking,

I'd rather take short breaks

They're **far better** for my concentration and productivity

Possible substitutes for Generally speaking:

By and large / most of the time / on the whole

UNIT 7

Superlatives.

We can use superlatives adjectives to compare **3 or more things** (or three or more people, places etc...)

With **one or two** syllable words (e.g. nice, big)

THE + adjective + est

- A is **the nicest / longest**
- A is **the biggest** city in my country
- A is **one of the biggest** cities in my country

With a one-syllable word with consonant + vowel + consonant, then we double the last letter
For example, **big** becomes **the biggest**

With **3 or more** syllable words,

THE MOST + Adjective

- A is **the most expensive**
- A is **the most expensive** city in my country
- A is **one of the most expensive** cities in my country

To emphasise we can use **by far**

- A is **by far** the most expensive



Part 1 Questions

Q: Tell me about your hometown

A:

I come from Manchester which is up in the north of England.
It's ***one of the most beautiful cities*** in England,

Q: What do tourists like to visit in your hometown?

A:

Many tourists
will go to Manchester United's football ground
because it's **one of the most famous grounds** in the world

Q: What do people in your country like to do in parks or gardens?

A:

Well, **one of the most popular** pastimes is sunbathing,
if the weather is sunny.

Otherwise, many people will just go for a stroll to get some fresh air.

Possible substitutes for sunbathing:

jogging / community dancing / having a picnic

UNIT 8

2nd Conditionals.

We can use this tense to describe the consequences of things that could happen in future, but are **unlikely**.

If + past simple, would + verb

The two phrase can occur in any order;

- If I **won** the lottery, I **would buy** a new house
- I **would buy** a new house, if I **won** the lottery

*Also you can use a contraction in spoken English - **would** becomes 'd.*

- I'd **be** happy, if I **succeeded** in the IELTS test
- If I **succeeded** in the IELTS test, I'd **be** happy

Negatives can also be used in either clause.

- If I **didn't win** the lottery, I **wouldn't buy** a new house
- If I **didn't succeeded** in the IELTS test, I'd **be** unhappy

A close-up photograph of a silver and gold fountain pen lying diagonally across an open, spiral-bound notebook. The notebook has white pages with light blue horizontal ruling. The pen is positioned with its nib pointing towards the top left. The background is a dark, textured wooden surface.

Part 1 Questions

Q: How would you feel if someone gave you a pen as a gift?

A:

I **would** be delighted, if someone **gave** me a pen as a gift,
So long as it **was** a good quality one!

Possible substitutes for delighted:

Over the moon / well pleased / thrilled to bits

Q: How would you feel if someone gave you a pen as a gift?

A:

To be honest,

I'd probably be a bit annoyed, if someone **gave** me a pen as a gift

Possible substitutes for annoyed:

Put out / cross / disgruntled

Q: What kind of sports would you like to try?

A:

If I **had** a chance, I **would love** to try surfing

I think it'd **be** great fun

*We use the full form **would**, if we want to add **emphasis**.*

Q: Would you like to be famous?

A:

Yes, I **would** like to be famous, if I **didn't have** to speak in public

*We also use the full form **would**, when we use the negative*

Q: Would you like to be famous?

A:

No, I wouldn't like to be famous, if I had to give up my privacy



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