



ENGLISH ASTIR  
STEPPINGSTONE TO 7.0

Ready for speaking



## Introduction

The IELTS Speaking module lasts between 11 and 14 minutes and has three parts.

The exam is recorded.

The examiner assesses your ability to communicate effectively in English.

## Part 1



Part 1 takes between four to five minutes. You will be asked general questions about yourself, such as family, your job/studies, or your interests, and a variety of similar and familiar topics. You will be assessed on your ability to give opinions and information on these topics.

- 1 Work with your teacher. Look at the two sets of Part 1 questions about Friends and Crafts and decide how you would answer each question. Then choose a set each and ask each other questions.

### Notes:

#### A Friends

Do you prefer to go out with one friend or a group of friends? Why?

What do you do when you go out?

Do you think it's important to keep in contact with friends you make at work or on courses? Why/Why not?

#### B Crafts

Do you like making things, e.g. cooking, pottery or painting? Why/Why not?

Do you think learning crafts is important in our lives? Why/Why not?

Tell me about a traditional craft in your country.

Do you think these will be popular in the future? Why/Why not?

- 2 Look at the following beginnings to possible answers to the three questions in set A. Decide which one is not suitable and why.

1 I like friends

2 We tend to go to the cinema or the theater, because ...

3 Yes, sometimes, because ...

4 There are many reasons, but perhaps the most important is ...

**3** Using the correct sentence rhythm and stress helps your intelligibility, and good pronunciation leads to a higher school. You can help yourself relax as you speak by developing a rhythm and breathing properly. Look at sentence 2 above. You can create a rhythm by stressing the important words like verbs and nouns.

*We **tend** to **go to** the **cinema** or **theater**, **because** ...*

Say these words and then read the sentence beginning. Take a shallow breath at the comma before the word because. Decide which words you should stress in sentence 4 above.

*There are many reasons, but perhaps the most important is ...*



**4** Work with your teacher. To help you understand the examiner better, decide which nouns and verbs the examiner will stress in the questions in set A. Then do the same with the questions in set B.

**Stressed words in set A**

**Stressed words in set B**

**5** Think of your own sentence beginnings for set B. Then decide which words to stress and practice saying the nouns and verbs as in exercise 3.

### **Possible beginnings for set B**

**6** Take turns asking and answering the questions again, using a different set from the one you chose in exercise 1.



## Part 2

In Part 2 the examiner will give you a Task Card with a topic from a wide range of areas. You will be given one minute to think about the topic and make notes before you speak. You should speak for one to two minutes. When you have finished speaking, the examiner will ask one or two questions to round off the topic. You will be assessed on your ability to speak at length about a topic, organize your ideas and use appropriate language.

1 Work with your teacher. Decide which Task Cards 1-6 the candidate notes a-f relate to.

**1** Describe a place where you enjoy studying.  
You should say:  
where this place is  
when you first visited this place  
what this place is like  
and explain why you enjoy studying there.

**2** Describe a skill that you would like to learn.  
You should say:  
what the skill is  
when you would like to learn this skill  
where you would like to learn this skill  
and explain why you would like to learn this skill.

**3** Describe something expensive you bought but you didn't use/haven't used.  
You should say:  
what the item is  
when you bought the item  
where you bought the item  
and explain why you didn't use/haven't used it.

**4** Describe a meeting with someone that changed your life.  
You should say:  
who this meeting was with  
when this meeting happened  
where this meeting happened  
and explain why this meeting changed your life.

**5** Describe something you have made that you are proud of.  
You should say:  
what you have made  
where you made it  
how you made it  
and explain why you felt proud about making the item.

**6** Describe a website that you like.  
You should say:  
what this website is  
how often you visit this website  
what special features this website has  
and explain why you like this website.

**a**  
maps  
weekly  
detailed maps  
see world  
learn  
have fun

**b**  
table  
carpentry class  
wood saw nails hammer  
polish  
challenging

**c**  
friend  
3 years ago  
course  
funny/laugh  
reliable  
helpful

**d**  
café  
near river  
month ago  
cheerful  
relaxing  
friendly  
great view

**e**  
guitar  
last August  
on holiday  
little time  
annoying  
not relaxing

**f**  
musical instrument  
soon  
class – irritating  
privately  
relaxing  
helps concentration  
healthy





**2 Work with your teacher. Decide how the words in the notes for the first two topics relate to each part of the topic.**

### **Task Card 1:**

**Describe a place where you enjoy studying:**

**where this place is:**

**when you first visited this place:**

**what this place is like:**

**and explain why you enjoy studying there:**

### **Task Card 2:**

**Describe a skill you would like to learn**

**what the skill is:**

**when would you like to learn this skill:**

**where would you like to learn this skill:**

**and explain why you would like to learn this skill:**





**3 Look at the possible answer for the topic in Task Card 3. Identify the paraphrase the speaker uses for the notes that they prepared.**

The item that I'd like to talk about is a musical instrument, a guitar that I had planned to learn how to play. I actually acquired it at the end of the summer when I had a few days off and was visiting my friend in another town. I saw it in a new music shop in the town centre. At first, I was going to buy the guitar online, but decided to buy it there and then. But I haven't actually played the instrument much at all, mainly because I haven't really had any spare time as I've been very busy at work and also socially with friends and family. So what happens is I keep putting off practising the guitar and it just sits there in the living room unused. And another reason is that I've never learnt to play a musical instrument before, so I've found it quite irritating and challenging when I've tried to do basic things on it. So, all in all playing the guitar's not good at helping me unwind and I should've thought about it before buying it. But friends've told me I should persevere and take classes as they say playing an instrument helps them to improve their ability to focus before studying or working, which I think would help me too.

**guitar:**

**last August:**

**on holiday:**

**little time:**

**annoying:**

**not relaxing:**



- 4  **Track 18** Listen to a candidate talking about Task Card 2 in exercise 1. Identify the differences between the notes about the candidate's answer.

musical instrument:

soon:

class - irritating:

privately:

relaxing:

helps concentration:

healthy:

- 5 Decide whether you think the changes make the answer better or not. Give reasons.

Notes:



- 6 Work with your teacher. Each choose a card for each other. Make your own notes or use the notes above. Then take turns talking about the topic on your cards. When you have finished speaking, give each other feedback using the checklist below.

Notes:



## Part 3



In Part 3, you will have a discussion with the examiner, which will last between four and five minutes. The discussion will be linked to the topic in Part 2, but it is more abstract so you are not encouraged to talk about personal experiences. You will be assessed on your ability to communicate and justify views and discuss and analyze issues.

**1** Work with your teacher. Look at the following Part 3 questions and discuss what you might include in your answers.



### Information on the web

How useful do you think websites are for bringing information to people? What about training or advertising?

In what ways can websites benefit small businesses?

In business terms, are people more influenced by what they see nowadays on the web than on television? In what ways?


### Distance learning

How can the web be used for distance learning?

Should the training that is available on the web be regulated more? Why? How?

How do people in your country feel about awarding degrees and diplomas based solely on learning over the internet? Give reasons and examples.

## Notes:

**2**  **Track 19** Listen to Part 3. Number the examiner's questions 1-6 below in the order that they are asked.

1. How essential do you think it'll be for workforces in the future to be proficient technologically?
2. Do you think it's important to keep acquiring new skills throughout one's life?
3. Should preparation of children and young people for work focus on computing skills at the expense of practical skills?
4. Do you think people will have to work longer in the future?
5. How can people ensure that work does not control their lives?
6. In what way do you think learning only computing skills can be a disadvantage in life?

**3** With your teacher. Take turns asking and answering the questions in exercise 1. Give each other feedback using the checklist below.



## IELTS Speaking Part 1

See the checklist for Part 3.

- 1 Did you paraphrase the question?
- 2 Did you develop your answer by giving simple reasons?
- 3 Were your ideas relevant to the question?
- 4 Did you avoid repetition of words and structures?
- 5 Did you use a range of grammar, vocabulary and complex structures?
- 6 Did you concentrate too much on accuracy rather than fluency?
- 7 Did you speak clearly?
- 8 Did you speak too quickly or slowly?
- 9 Did you speak using the correct rhythm or sentence stress?
- 10 Did you use the correct word/phrase stress?

Remember this section is personal not abstract.

## IELTS Speaking Part 2

See checklist for Part 3 and 1–5 below.

- 1 Did you make notes?
- 2 Were your notes short—no more than about ten words?
- 3 Did you answer all the parts of the question in order?
- 4 Did you refer to your notes as you spoke?
- 5 Were your notes easy to glance at as you spoke?

## IELTS Speaking Part 3

- 1 Did you paraphrase the question?
- 2 Was your answer organised?
- 3 Did you develop your answer by giving reasons and examples?
- 4 Did you also develop your ideas by expressing contrasts, causes, effects, purposes and conclusions?
- 5 Was your answer abstract as required or was it too personal?
- 6 Were your ideas relevant to the question?
- 7 Did you avoid repetition of words and structures?
- 8 Did you use a range of grammar, vocabulary and complex structures?
- 9 Did you concentrate too much on accuracy rather than fluency?
- 10 Did you speak clearly?
- 11 Did you speak too quickly or slowly?
- 12 Did you speak using the correct rhythm or sentence stress?
- 13 Did you use the correct word/phrase stress?

