

IELTS Speaking

Part 2



Topic from the IELTS Question Bank

Work



IELTS Speaking

Part 2



Part 2 Cue Card

Describe a person who you enjoyed working / studying with.

You should say:

- Who the person was**
- Where you worked/studied with them**
- Why you enjoyed working/studying with them**

and explain how you felt about your relationship with them

Similar Part 2 questions

Describe a friend or a person who encouraged you to achieve a goal.

Describe a person who has interesting ideas or opinions.

Describe an old person who has inspired you

Describe a person who speaks a foreign language well

1. Ideas

A woman with dark hair, wearing a grey blazer over a dark top, is seated at a white table in a meeting room. She is looking towards a man whose back is to the camera. The room has a white wall with two blue posters and a whiteboard in the background. A black object, possibly a pen holder or a small box, is on the table in the foreground. The entire image is overlaid with a purple tint.

You could talk about...

A boss, a peer, a subordinate, a colleague...

A teacher, a classmate, a friend, a family member...

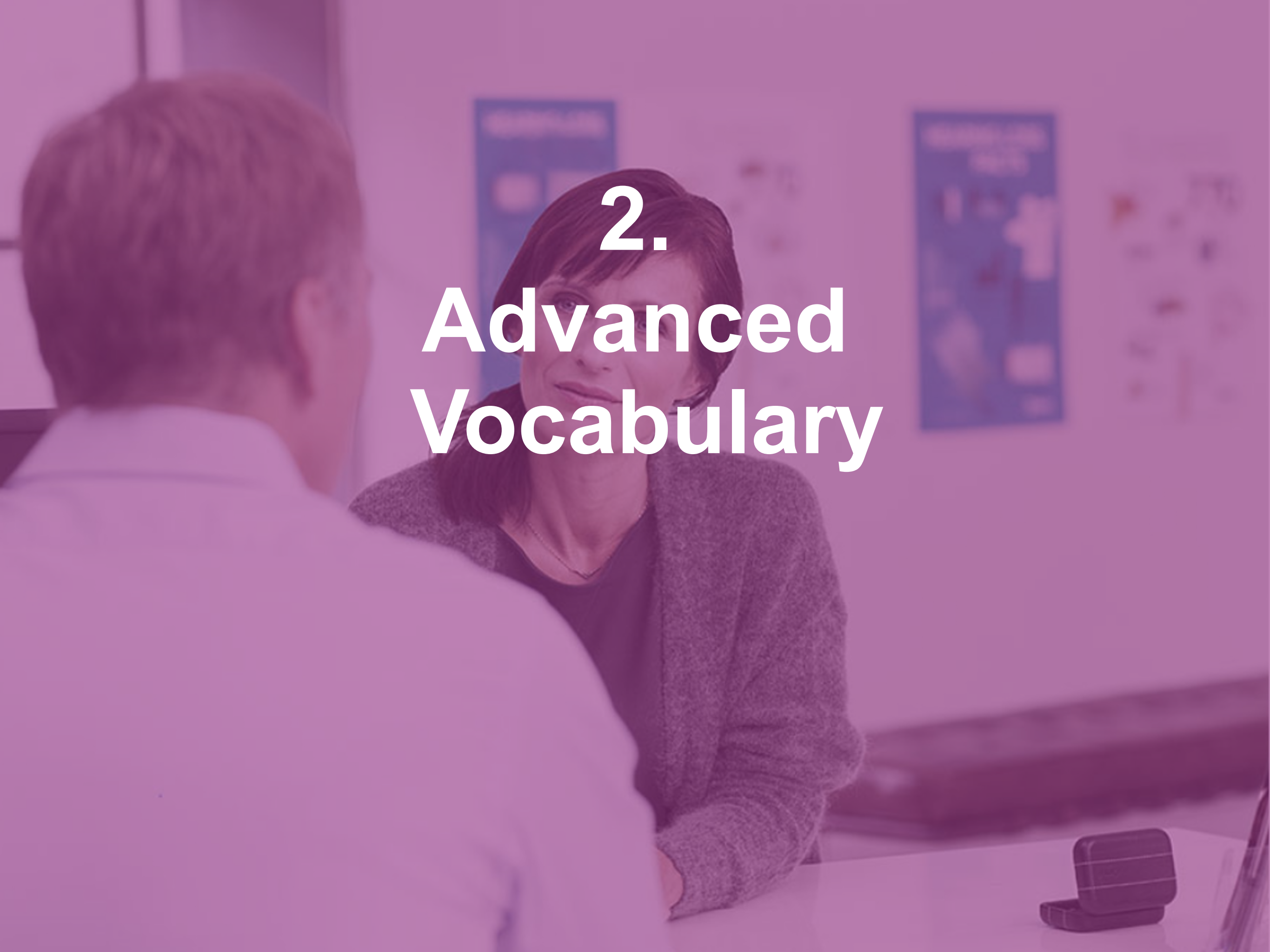
Someone you worked or studied with for a short time, like at a conference or training course.

Remember to focus more on the person, than the job or activity

You can talk about...

Personality, appearance, special skills or abilities

Make sure your focus is mainly on the past

A woman with dark hair, wearing a grey blazer over a dark top, is seated at a desk and looking towards a man whose back is to the camera. The man is wearing a white shirt. The background shows an office environment with blue posters on the wall. The entire image has a light purple overlay.

2. Advanced Vocabulary

Personality


- Down to earth
- Amenable
- Charismatic
- Get up and go
- Gregarious
- Reliable
- Upbeat

Skill-set, abilities

- Creative
- Have a knack for doing something
- Good at picking things up
- Quick off the mark
- On the ball
- Astute
- Have good people skills

Collaboration

- to get along well
- to get on like a house on fire
- to work hand in hand
- to pull your weight
- to go along with an idea
- to join forces

A woman with dark hair, wearing a grey blazer over a dark top, is seated at a white table and looking towards a man whose back is to the camera. The man is wearing a white shirt. The background shows a white wall with two blue posters and a whiteboard with some papers pinned to it. The entire image has a light purple overlay.

3. Model Answer

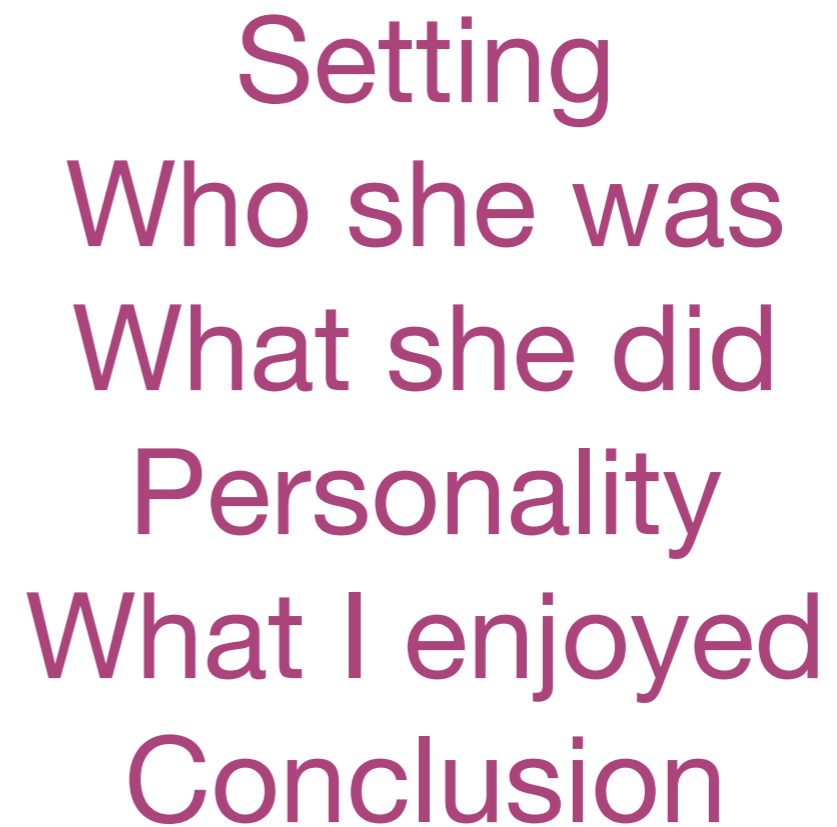
Part 2 - Structure

Who the person was

Where you worked/studied
with them

Why you enjoyed working/
studying with them

How you felt about your
relationship with them



Setting
Who she was
What she did
Personality
What I enjoyed
Conclusion

I once did a conference presentation with a colleague from another department and it went like a dream, mainly thanks to that colleague.

Indicating time

I once did...

= at some 'unknown' point in the past

Idiomatic expression

It went like a dream

= *it went well and smoothly*

At the time, **I was working** for an educational company, and **had been slaving** away on a particular project for about a month, **when** this opportunity to do a joint presentation at a conference **popped up**. As you might have guessed, I jumped at the chance.

Tenses

I was working..., and had been doing..., when....happened.

I was + verb ING (past continuous)
= action was interrupted in the past

I had been + verb ING (past perfect continuous)
= started in past and continued to a point in past



At the time, I was working for an educational company, and I had been **slaving away** on a particular project for about a month, when this opportunity to do a joint presentation at a conference popped up. As you might have guessed, I jumped at the chance.

Advanced Vocabulary

*To **slave away** on / at something*

= to work hard (like a slave) on something

Collocation

an opportunity popped up

= an opportunity came up

*To **jump at the chance***

= to take the opportunity immediately

The idea was for me to work together with Zoe, who from the marketing team, and I remember she was just so **easy-going**, yet really **on the ball**.

Advanced Vocabulary

Easy-going (adj.)

= relaxed, laid-back, casual (adj.)

Idiomatic expression

To be on the ball

= *to be alert to new ideas, quick to see new ideas.*

She was meant to just design the presentation slides and make sure they were on brand, but she **had a gift for seeing the big picture**, and in the end, helped my craft the whole structure of the talk.

Advanced Vocabulary

to have a gift for doing something

= to be talented, to have a knack for...

To see the big picture

= able to see most important facts of a situation

Collocation

Be on brand

= follow brand guidelines

I have a tendency to over-reach, but her sense of timing **was spot on**. So when I explained that we had up to 15 minutes for the talk, she urged me to **cut** some stuff **out**. She instinctively knew we would go over time, otherwise.

Collocation

To have a tendency to do something

= to often do something (usually not good)

A sense of timing

= ability to know how long things last

Idiomatic expression

To be spot on

= to be perfect

To cut out

= to leave out, not include

What I really enjoyed about working with her, was that she was so **upbeat**. Even the smallest detail was worth getting excited about **in her eyes**. I found her enthusiasm really infectious.

Advanced Vocabulary

To be upbeat

= to be lively, optimistic, cheerful

In her eyes

= in her opinion

Collocation

Infectious enthusiasm

= feeling of enthusiasm that spreads to others

In the end, the presentation **ran like clockwork**, and to be honest, it's a shame it was a one-off event, as **I would have loved to have worked** more with her.

Idiomatic expression

To run like clockwork

= to work well and as expected

Tenses

I would have + verb ED to have verb ED

Perfect conditional (part of 3rd Conditional)

= I didn't do something, but I wanted to.

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