

IELTS Speaking Part 2

This is an Introduction to Part 2 of the IELTS Speaking Exam

IELTS Speaking Part 2

- ▶ What is Part 2?
- ▶ Part 2 Example Task Cards
- ▶ What English speaking ability do you need for Part 2?
- ▶ What strategies do you need to be successful for Part 2?

What is Part 2?

- ▶ For Part 2, you will talk about one topic for 1-2 minutes. It is recommended that you aim to talk for 2 minutes!
- ▶ First you will receive a [task card](#).
- ▶ You will have 1 minute to take notes about the topic before you begin talking.
- ▶ Then you will talk for 1-2 minutes.
- ▶ Finally, the examiner may also ask 1-2 follow-up questions.

Example Task Cards

Topic: “Country Flag”

- Describe your country’s flag.
- What does it symbolize?
- Where did it come from?
- What does it mean to you?
- Do you like your country’s flag?

Topic: “An Interesting Place in Your City”

- Describe an interesting place in your city.
- Why is it important?
- What is the history?
- What does it mean to you?

Topic: “A Book You Have Read”

- Tell me about a book you read.
- What was it?
- What happened in the book?
- How did it make you feel?
- What did you learn from it?

Topic: “A Movie You Watched When You Were Little”

- Tell me about the movie.
- What was it?
- What happened in the movie?
- How did it make you feel?
- What did you learn from it?

Part 2 Tests Different Aspects of Your Speaking Ability

- ▶ Part 2 tests your ability like any other part of the test, but there are some specific skills you need to be sure to have for Part 2 in order to achieve a higher band score:
 - ▶ Ability to add details
 - ▶ Ability to change between tenses in your speech
 - ▶ Ability to speak at length
 - ▶ Ability to use discourse markers
 - ▶ Ability to transition

Ability to Add Details

- ▶ For Part 2, most times you will have to talk about an event or something that happened in the past. In order to do this, you need to be able to tell a story and add details to the event that happened.
- ▶ For example, the task card might ask you about a time that you learned something new. You will need to be able to talk about what happened, when it happened, how it happened, and who was involved. To answer all of these questions you need to [provide details.](#)

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Providing Details

- ▶ Here is an example story, the details are **underlined in bold.**
- ▶ We went on a trip to **the beach last summer.** It is **far** from the city where I live, but it was such a **nice** trip! I went **with my family and my best friend.** We **got on a bus** and **rode the bus for 3 hours** to get to the beach. The beach was **amazing**, and so **beautiful!** I really loved that trip!
- ▶ Details answer the questions like, who, what, where, when, and how. Using descriptive words is also another great way to add details.

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Ability to Change Tenses

- ▶ In Part 2, the task card will ask you about the past and the future. You may even need to use the present tense depending on your answer.
- ▶ For example, the task card will say: “Tell me about a book you read. What was it? What happened in the book? How did it make you feel? What did you learn from it?”
- ▶ All of the questions are in the past tense, but you have to be careful about the [last question!](#)

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Ability to Change Tenses

- ▶ “What did you learn from it?”
- ▶ This question is in the past tense, but you answer will use the past tense and possible the future or present tense. See the example answer below:
- ▶ *“I learned that you should always be nice to people you meet. Now, when I meet someone new, I try to be as nice as possible.”*
- ▶ Here the past tense is learned, but the the answer shifts to the present, with the word “*now*” showing the present.

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Ability to Speak at Length

- ▶ Since Part 2 requires you to speak for 1-2 minutes, it is really testing your ability to talk about a topic at length. Meaning, can you talk about the topic for a long enough time.
- ▶ You need the vocabulary necessary to talk about the topic!



Discourse Markers

- ▶ Using discourse markers is necessary for achieving a higher band score. And during Part 2 of the IELTS Speaking Exam this is a great opportunity to use them!
- ▶ For example, when talking about our experience we can use the discourse marker, “*anyway*”. Let’s use the same example about the book:
- ▶ “*The book told a story about how it is important to help people. Anyways, now, whenever I meet someone new, I try to help them!*”

Transitions

- ▶ Transitions go along with discourse markers and changing between tenses. For Part 2, you need to be able transition between ideas smoothly and naturally.
- ▶ One way to do this is by being able to use various discourse markers, transitional phrases, and your ability to change between tenses.

Strategies for Part 2

- ▶ **A Good Note Taking Strategy-** A strategy for how you should take notes.
- ▶ **A Transition Strategy-** A strategy for what you should talk about first, second, third, last.
- ▶ **Getting Stuck-** A strategy to use when you get stuck and cannot think of what to say.
- ▶ All of these strategies will help you stay organized in your response, use transitions, and be sure to talk at length for Part 2. We will talk more about these strategies in a later lesson.