

The official Cambridge IELTS Speaking practice:

Last-minute IELTS



Getting started

Now that you have downloaded your ebook, we want to give you some guidelines so that you know how to use it and you can get the most out of it.

Book your session. First and foremost, make sure you have chosen your perfect tutor and booked your first session. If you haven't done it yet, don't worry. **Click here**, pick your tutor, choose the day and time that works best for you and you're done.

Start reading. Then, you can start reading the ebook. It's divided up by session so we suggest reading the chapter related to your upcoming session. However, if you're really excited, you can have a look at the next sections of the ebook as well.

Complete the activities. Throughout the ebook, we provide you with different activities to do to get ready for your next session. Complete them and take advantage of your sessions with your tutor for clarification or to ask them any questions. At the end of each session, your tutor will give you an interesting activity to maximise your learning!

How to get the most out of your course

When you learn something new, it's very important to put it into practice as soon as possible. Could you imagine a theoretical dance class? Fluentify offers you a new, practical and customised approach to learning a foreign language. Each course is structured in a way that helps you practise and learn the English you really need. Your tutor will guide you through your English journey, but you will be the boss.

Take your first steps. Are you scared of the webcam? Do you find yourself postponing your first session week after week? Stop worrying. Our tutors have experience teaching at all levels and will put you at ease from the beginning. Once you do your first session it will be smooth sailing. So get out of your comfort zone and start practising.

Be consistent. Like when you go to the gym, or start working out, consistency is crucial. If you want to see results, set your own goals, try to meet them and keep track of your progress. We suggest booking all of your sessions in advance, creating your personal routine and trying to stick to it. If anything unexpected comes up, you will be able to reschedule your session up to 6 hours before the start. **Schedule your sessions now.**

You never stop learning. What makes our courses so special? The opportunity to customise them according to your needs and goal. You finished a course and you want to keep practising your English, but you're not quite sure what to do? You can buy an additional pack with your tutor, or you can decide to change tutors.

The following icons indicate your path through the sessions:

Before the session



During the session



After the session



Before the session



REFER TO THE
SAMPLE SPEAKING
TASK ON PAGE 4



During your first session with your tutor, you will look at the *IELTS* Speaking test Part 1. Your tutor will give you information about how the *IELTS* Speaking test is assessed and ideas for what you need to work on to achieve success in your test.

In order to get the most out of these sessions, we will give you activities to do on your own so you can prepare for the session. There are three activities for you to complete before Session 1. These activities will give you information about the test, and language to practise to improve. In the session your tutor will give you feedback and will give you tips and strategies to help you.

Task 1

What's in Part 1 of the Speaking test?



In the *IELTS* Speaking test Part 1 the examiner will ask you questions on familiar topics such as your education, your hometown and your likes and dislikes. The examiner will ask about two different topics and you should provide full answers. This part lasts for 4–5 minutes.

Look at the sample task and answer the following questions:

- What topics are the questions about?
- Are the questions about you or people in general?
- Why is the follow-up question 'Why?' in brackets at the end?
- What kinds of vocabulary and grammar could you use to answer these questions?

Now, think about the answers you can give to these questions. You will practise them in the session.

Task 2

What are examiners looking for?



During the session the tutor will give you more information about the *IELTS* Speaking test and the way that it is assessed. Before the session find out more about *IELTS* from www.cambridgeenglish.org/images/23436-ielts-information-for-candidates.pdf

Try to find out as much of this information as possible.

- The scores you can get are called 'bands'. How many bands can you see?
- What is the highest score?
- What is the lowest score?
- Speaking is marked in four categories. What are the names of the categories?

Task 3
Think about your goals



Think about the following things. Which of the assessment groups in the box below are they related to? Which things do you want to focus on most? Choose the three most important things for you.

- Speaking at length
- Using some unusual phrases or sayings
- Making errors in word choice
- Producing complex sentences
- Mispronouncing individual words
- Using less common expressions
- Linking sentences
- Producing error-free sentences
- Speaking clearly

Assessment criteria	
Fluency and coherence	Lexical resource
Grammatical range and accuracy	Pronunciation

Speaking sample task - Part 1
During the session

During the session, you will complete the *IELTS* Speaking test Part 1 with your tutor, and they will give you feedback so you can improve your performance. You'll review the activities you completed before the session. Remember to take notes when they give you feedback so you are able to correct those mistakes in the future.

COMPLETE TASKS
1-3 BEFORE YOUR
TUTOR SESSION



Let's talk about what you do.

- Do you work or are you a student?

(Work)

- What work do you do?
- What do you like most about your job? [Why?]
- Do you think it's more important to enjoy your work or to earn a lot of money? [Why?]

(Study)

- What course are you doing? [Why?]
- Was it difficult to get a place on this course? [Why/Why not?]
- What do you like most about your course? [Why?]

Now let's talk about things you like to do outdoors or outside.

- Which outdoor activities (e.g. walking, cycling, football) do you enjoy most? [Why?]
- How much time do you spend outdoors in the open air? [Why/Why not?]
- Were outdoor activities important at your school? [Why/Why not?]
- Do you think people today spend enough time outdoors? [Why/Why not?]

The following tips offer extra guidance and ideas for you to practise ahead of the sample task. Your tutor will not give feedback on these.

 **Tips**

Fluency and coherence

It's important to be able to link ideas together. It's good to use a range of ways to do this, but you need to use them accurately. You don't need to use complex ways of connecting ideas. Using words such as *but*, *because*, *although*, *also* is fine. When you are using these accurately, try some more ways to show your range of language.

Strategy: Choose a few connecting words that you like and practise using them correctly.

Example:

<i>I like studying English</i>	<i>but</i>	<i>I find the pronunciation difficult.</i>
<i>I work as a waitress</i>		<i>I'd like to work in fashion design.</i>
<i>I've tried to listen to English music</i>		<i>I can't always work out the lyrics.</i>
<i>It's important to be nice to the customers at work</i>		<i>It's not always easy with more difficult ones.</i>
<i>I love being in the outdoors</i>		<i>It's difficult to find the time to go out.</i>
<i>I really enjoy swimming in the sea</i>		<i>I don't live near the coast.</i>

 **Tips**

Lexical resource

In Part 1 you answer questions about yourself and your family. Don't just repeat the vocabulary in the examiner's question. Try to use different words to say the same thing.

Strategy: Keep a notebook of synonyms divided into topics for Part 1.

Example:

I work in a restaurant at the weekends. I don't earn much money, but I make a lot in tips. The only downside is the unsociable hours.

Tips (n) = extra money from customers

Unsociable hours = times which most people don't work e.g. Saturday evenings

Prepare your own example about your life and what you do. In the session you will practise this with your tutor. Think about ways to say the same thing. Use the following examples to help you:

Example:

exercise = keeping fit
running = jogging
gym = leisure centre
difficult = hard, tough, not easy
easy = not hard/difficult, simple

 **Tips**

Grammatical range and accuracy

It is important to become aware of your own errors if possible and spend some time trying to improve these areas. You can do this by recording yourself doing practice exercises. Listen and try to identify any errors. If you know anyone who speaks English well (friend, colleague, teacher) you could ask them to help you.

Make a list of typical mistakes you make. This could be a type of mistake, for example, using articles, or it could be a specific mistake, for example, 'I am at my university for two years so far' (this should be 'I've been at my university for two years so far').

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

 **Tips**

Pronunciation

A good way to develop more natural rhythm is by pausing at the right place in sentences. English speakers use pauses between chunks of meaning. You can practise this easily.

Strategy: Read a short text aloud, pausing where you think the chunks begin and end. You could mark this out on the text with a pen before reading it.

Example:

*The reason why/ I love running/ is because/ it helps me think/
and keeps me fit.*

After the session



After the session, your tutor will send you a follow-up activity to review what you've done or to prepare for the next session. One thing you should always do in addition to what your tutor gives you is read the information for the next session.

Before the session



REFER TO THE
SAMPLE SPEAKING
TASK ON PAGE 9



During your second session with your tutor, you will look at the *IELTS* Speaking test Part 2.

There are three activities for you to complete before Session 2. These activities will give you information about the test, and language to practise to improve. In the session your tutor will give you feedback and will give you tips and strategies to help you.

Task 1

What's in Part 2 of the Speaking test?



Look at the sample task on page 9 and answer the following questions:

- What is the topic of the task card?
- Is the card about you or people in general?
- How many points do you need to talk about?
- What are these points?
- What kinds of vocabulary and grammar could you use to answer these questions?
- How long do you have to prepare?
- How long must you speak for?
- Is Part 2 a conversation?

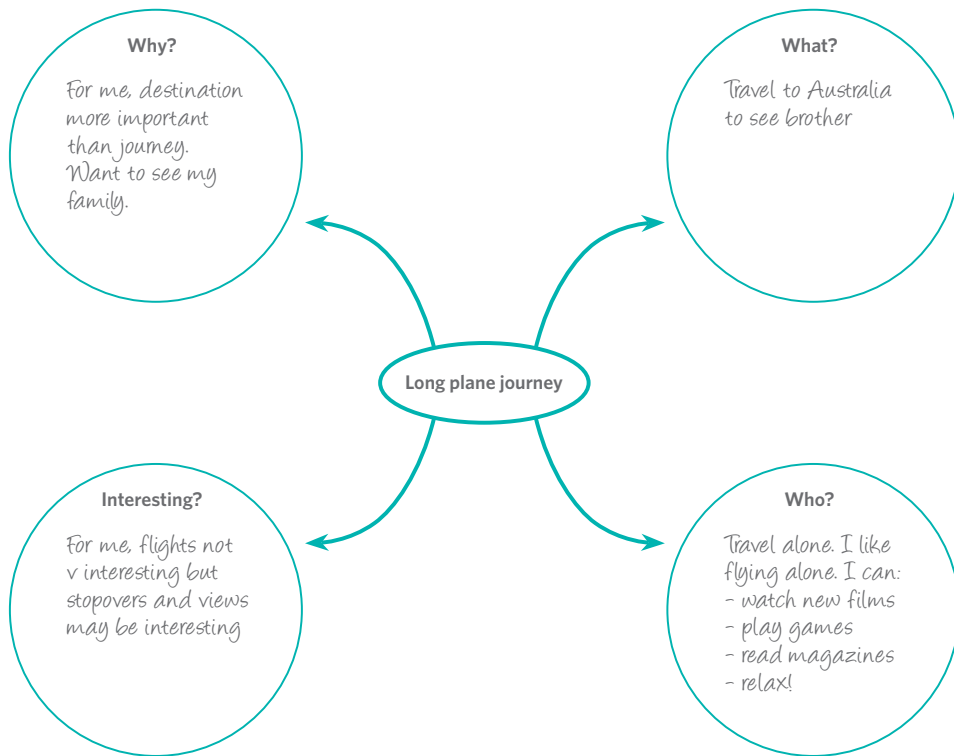
Task 2

Preparing to talk

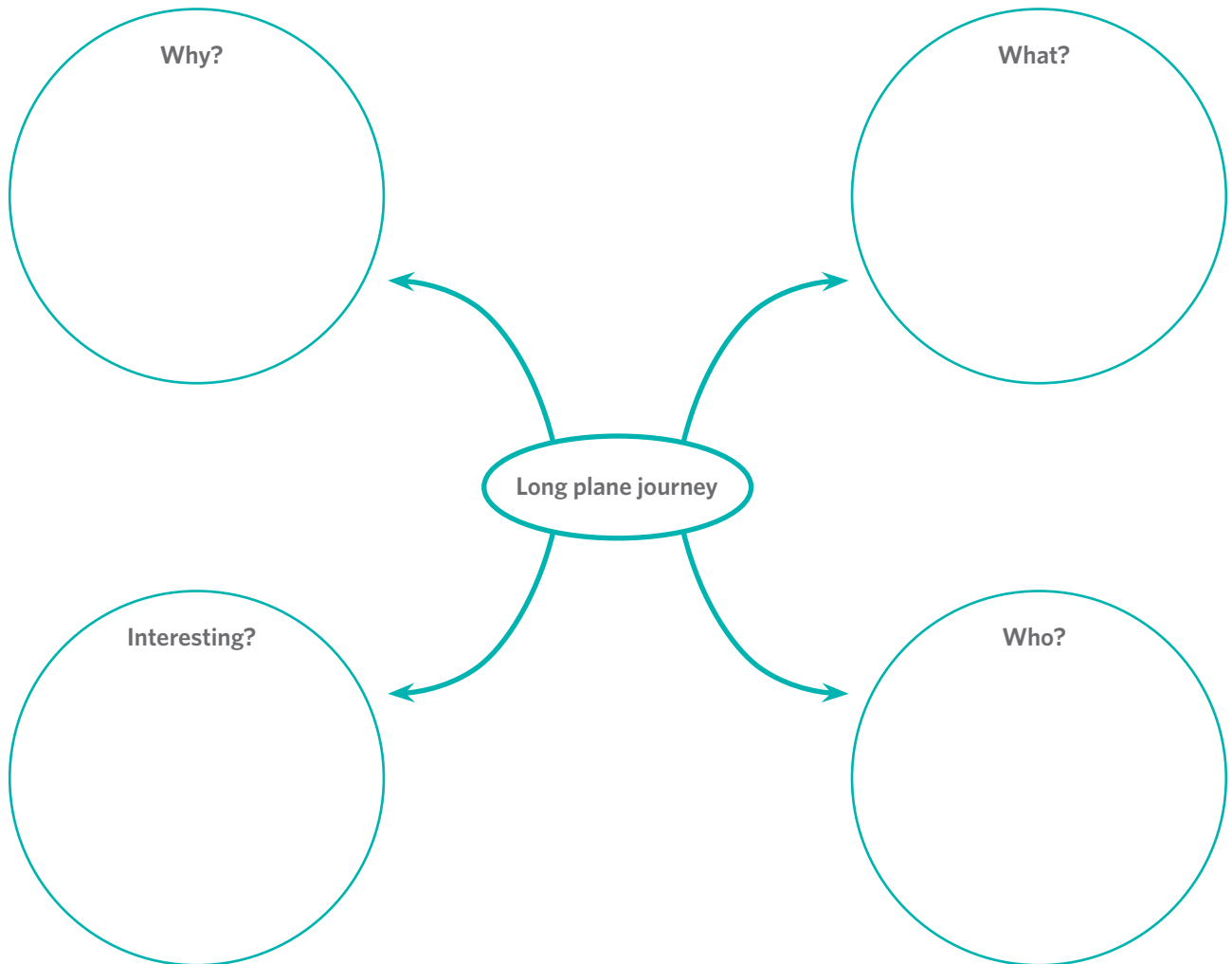


For Part 2, you need to be prepared to talk about a topic for a long time: you can think of this like telling a story. It's a good idea to use your 1-minute planning time to make effective notes on the topic. Mind maps are one way to help you remember to cover and extend points. When talking, move around the mind map subjects. Look at this example of a mind map for the *IELTS* Speaking test sample task:

Session 2 continued



Now prepare your own mind map on the same question.



Task 3

What's in Part 2 of the Speaking test?



Look again at the Part 2 task. Practise doing the task and using the mind map and tips below to help you improve. Remember that your tutor will ask you some questions on the topic as well.

Speaking sample task - Part 2 During the session

During this session, you will complete the *IELTS* Speaking test Part 2 with your tutor, and they will give you feedback so you can improve your performance. You'll review the activities you completed before the session. Remember to take notes when they give you feedback so you are able to correct those mistakes in the future.

COMPLETE TASKS
1-3 BEFORE YOUR
TUTOR SESSION



Describe a long journey by plane that you would like to make in the future.

You should say:

what the journey is

who you would like to go with

what would be interesting about the flight

and explain why you want to make this journey.

The following tips offer extra guidance and ideas for you to practise ahead of the sample task. Your tutor will not give feedback on these.

Tips

Grammatical range and accuracy

Try to use more complex structures where possible.

Strategy: To do this, always think of how you could give extra information about the points on the topic. This will help you extend your ideas and your structures.

Example:

I loved visiting theme parks ...

I loved visiting theme parks when I was younger ...

... but I can't stand them now.

... although I didn't get much chance to go because we lived very far from the nearest park.

... even now, I still enjoy visiting them, but I don't get much chance as I work.

 **Tips**

Lexical resource

You will need to have some variation in your vocabulary for a good score, so think about how you can do this.

Strategy: Look at the task card, and if you can, think of synonyms and phrases you can use to vary the language on the card.

Example:

Describe a long journey by plane that you would like to make in the future.

You should say:

what the journey is

who you would like to go with

what would be interesting about the flight

and explain why you want to make this journey.

 **Tips**

Pronunciation

To make sure you address all parts of the card, ensure you emphasise certain words.

Strategy: Stress words which convey the importance of what you want to say. You can practise this in your speaking.

Example:

I'm not sure who I'd like to go with.

I've always wanted to travel to Australia.

After the session



After the session, your tutor will send you a follow-up activity to review what you've done or to prepare for the next session. One thing you should always do in addition to what your tutor gives you, is read the information for the next session.

Before the session



REFER TO THE
SAMPLE SPEAKING
TASK ON PAGE 12



During your third session with your tutor, you will look at the *IELTS* Speaking test Part 3. There are three activities for you to complete before Session 3. These activities will give you information about the test, and language to practise to improve. In the session, your tutor will give you feedback and will give you tips and strategies to help you.

Task 1

Preparing to talk



Referring to the sample questions above, answer the questions below:

- What are the topics of the questions above?
- Are the questions about you or people in general?
- What kinds of vocabulary and grammar could you use to answer these questions?
- Is Part 3 a conversation?
- How long will Part 3 last for?

Task 2

Preparing to talk



For Part 3 you need to ensure you are able to express agreement and disagreement. Try to do this in a variety of ways. Pick a few key expressions from the box below, to learn which express your opinions. Practise using them and also say why you think that.

Example:

'I think air travel should be banned. What do you think?'

Agree 100%	<i>'I couldn't agree more.'</i>	+ Reason
Somewhat agree	<i>'I agree up to a point.'</i>	
Don't know	<i>'I can't make up my mind.'</i>	
Somewhat disagree	<i>'I'm not so sure about that.'</i>	
Disagree 100%	<i>'I'm totally against it/that.'</i>	

Task 2

What's in Part 3 of the Speaking test?



Look again at Part 3 of the *IELTS* Speaking test. Practise doing the task and think about how you can use the expressions for agreeing and disagreeing. Remember that these questions are the starting point for discussion and your tutor will ask you more questions.

Use the prompts below to help you improve your performance:

- Is flying the best way to travel?
- Why do some people think life was better before plane travel?
- What effects can living near an airport have on the local community?
- Should people stop flying in order to protect the environment?
- How could governments regulate the air industry?

Speaking sample task - Part 3 During the session

During the session, you will complete the Part 3 Speaking task with your tutor, and they will give you feedback so you can improve your performance. You'll review the activities you completed before the session. Remember to take notes when they give you feedback so you are able to correct those mistakes in the future.

COMPLETE TASKS
1-3 BEFORE YOUR
TUTOR SESSION



In Part 3 of the *IELTS* Speaking test, you will have a discussion with the examiner. This will last approximately 4–5 minutes.

Look at the sample questions below. These are *starting points* for discussion. You will be asked other questions about the answers you give.

- Is flying the best way to travel?
- Why do some people think life was better before plane travel?
- What effects can living near an airport have on the local community?
- Should people stop flying in order to protect the environment?
- How could governments regulate the air industry?

The following tips offer extra guidance and ideas for you to practise ahead of the sample task. Your tutor will not give feedback on these.

 **Tips**

Fluency and coherence

Extending answers in Part 3 is slightly different from other parts, but you still need to do it.

Strategy: To extend your answers in this part, think of how you can talk about causes, consequences, or others' opinions on the issues.

Example:

'Is flying the best way to travel?'

'In some respects, yes. It's certainly the quickest way to travel. Friends of mine say that flying is the only practical way to see lots of other countries. I see their point, but we have to think of the environment. Flying has terrible consequences for the environment. So, although it's best for convenience, we have to think of other things.'

 **Tips**

Grammatical range and accuracy

Try to include some complex structures in your speaking.

Strategy: Complex structures are not as difficult as they sound! Look at these structures below. They are all complex forms. Try to know how to use a few of these and then practise them.

Example:

'Why do some people think life was better before plane travel?'

'People who were born before popular plane travel might think their lives were better then. Although it might seem better to them, I think life is better now. We can travel anywhere and experience anything we want. After plane travel became popular, people were able to mix with different cultures and I think that's a wonderful thing. I think older people just prefer the idea of life before plane travel because they have a positive view of all aspects of life in the old days.'

 **Tips**

Pronunciation

You can use word stress to emphasise your opinion.

Strategy: Put word stress on adjectives and quantifiers to stress the degree to which you agree or disagree.

Example:

Education is much more important than health.

I completely understand why people might think that.

After the session



After the session, your tutor will send you a follow-up activity to review what you've done or to prepare for the next session. In the next session, you are going to do a full Speaking test with your tutor. To prepare, look again at the three sessions you have completed to make sure you are ready for your IELTS Speaking test practice.

Before the session



REFER TO THE
PREPARATION
EXERCISE
BELOW



During your final session with your tutor, you will complete a whole *IELTS* Speaking test.

Before the session you should revise all the tips for the different parts to make sure you are ready for the practice test. Look again at your notes from Sessions 1, 2 and 3 and think about the language and strategies you have been working on.

Speaking sample task - Part 2 During the session

During the session, you will complete a practice test with your tutor. For Part 2 you will need to use this candidate task card:



Describe something you own which is very important to you.

You should say:

where you got it from

how long you have had it

what you use it for

and explain why it is important to you.

You will have to talk about the topic for 1-2 minutes.

You have 1 minute to think about what you're going to say.

You can make some notes to help you if you wish.

Rounding-off questions:

- Is it valuable in terms of money?
- Would it be easy to replace?

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