



Live Lesson Notes

Free Time

Contents

- 1. Useful links**
- 2. IELTS Speaking Vocabulary: Free Time**
- 3. What are your Hobbies / Pastimes?**
- 4. 'Like to do' or 'Like doing?'**
- 5. Popular Hobbies**
- 6. IELTS Speaking Discussion**
- 7. IELTS Speaking Part 2: Model Answer**
- 8. Useful Phrases and Idioms**

1. Useful Links

My FREE online course for **Crack IELTS Speaking Part 1**
courses.keithspeakingacademy.com/p/crack-ielts-speaking-part-1

Get my **free materials** here
<https://keithspeakingacademy.com/ielts-speaking-free-live-lessons/>

Follow me on **social media**

<https://www.facebook.com/keithspeakingacademy>

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/KeithIELTSMastermind/>

https://www.instagram.com/keith_speaking_academy/

<https://www.youtube.com/@EnglishSpeakingSuccess>

2. IELTS Speaking Vocabulary: Free Time

Fill in the gap with one or two words

1. Whenever I have _____ time, I like to go for a stroll in the park
2. My favourite hobby is _____ music.

Answers at bottom of PDF

Vocabulary to develop your answers

Whenever I have _____
If I find myself with _____

Whenever I have free time
If I find myself with free time

Synonyms of 'free time'

Free time
Leisure time
Spare time
Time to kill
Time on my hands
Downtime

I am at a loose end = I have nothing special to do

3. What are your Hobbies / Pastimes?

You can answer this question in many ways, for example,

- Noun (gerund as a noun)

Reading, riding a bike, cooking....

- I like + noun (gerund as a noun)

I like reading

I like cooking

- I'm **into** + noun (gerund)

- I'm fond **of** + noun (gerund)

- I'm keen **on** + noun (gerund)

- I'm obsessed **with** + noun (gerund)

*I'm **into** cooking*

*I'm fond **of** sleeping in*

*I'm keen **on** studying English*

*I'm obsessed **with** listening to Kpop*

- I like to **dabble in / with** = take a not too serious interest in something (for a short time)

I dabbled in acting when I was at university

I sometimes dabble with new recipes

Remember to use adverbs

Really / quite

*I'm **really** into painting*

*I am **quite** fond of listening to music*

Saying why you like a particular hobby

- It helps me _____

- It's a great way to _____

unwind, relax, disconnect, kick back (verbs)

- I find it _____

therapeutic, relaxing, rewarding, satisfying (adjectives)

I like watching British films, it helps me to unwind and it's a great way to learn English too.

If you don't like an activity

Gardening isn't my thing

Gardening isn't really for me

If you don't have any hobbies

I don't have any hobbies as such, I struggle to find time, I am always swamped with work!

To be **swamped with** work = to have too much work

4. 'Like to do' or 'Like doing?'

Whenever I have free time, I **like to listen** to music

Whenever I have free time, I **like listening** to music

Both are correct, but the meaning is slightly different

A choice / a habit = I like to do

I like to get up at 6am on Fridays to go to the gym

I like to listen to music when I am at a loose end

Emphasise enjoyment = I like doing

I like getting up at 6 am because the sunrise is beautiful

I like listening to music when I am at a loose end

5. IELTS Speaking: Popular Hobbies

Which hobbies are these? (all popular in the UK)

1



2



3



4



Answers at bottom of PDF

The most popular hobbies in the UK

1. Reading
2. Cooking and Baking
3. Travelling
4. Socialising
5. Pets
6. Playing Video games
7. Gardening
8. DIY (Do it yourself....e.g. doing renovations at home)
9. Doing sport
10. Watching films
11. Running
12. Fishing
13. Photography
14. Painting

Ref: <https://www.statista.com/forecasts/997890/most-popular-hobbies-and-activities-in-the-uk>

6. IELTS Speaking Discussion:

How have hobbies changed over the years?

In the past, we **used to** _____

Previously, **we would** _____

Back in the day, we often _____ + **simple past**

- play outside
- go rambling, go hiking, go trekking
- get some fresh air
- explore nature

In the past, we used to play outside

Previously, we would play outside

Back in the day, we often played outside past

Nowadays, **we tend to** _____

These days, **we typically** _____

- be glued to our screens
- spend a lot of time indoors

Nowadays, we tend be glued to our screens

These days, we typically spend more time indoors

In the future, **we will** _____

In the future, **we might** _____

- All hobbies will be virtual
- We will be glued to our screens, even more than now
- There will be creative hobbies like blogging
- We might use augmented and virtual reality to travel virtually

7. IELTS Speaking Model Answer:

**An activity I enjoyed
in my free time
when I was young**

1. Listen and watch. What activity did I enjoy?
2. Listen again and **note any useful vocabulary** (collocations or idioms)

Answers below

1. Listen and watch. What activity did I enjoy?

Playing the guitar

8. Useful Phrases and Idioms

Well, **this is a tricky one** (=a difficult question) because as a kid, **as far as I remember** (=if I remember correctly), we had so much free time and I did so many activities,

whether it was **playing footie** (= football) or **playing tig** (= a child's game) in the park lots of outdoor activities.

It's difficult to choose.

But the one activity I'd like to tell you about is one that I **grew to love** as a teen, and it is playing the guitar.

So I **took it up** (= began a hobby) when I was about 15 years old. And I remember I took it up after listening to a famous guitarist, Eddie Van Halen, who has since **passed away** (= died).

And I **was smitten** (= to be in love). I loved it. I knew I wanted to play like him.

I think at that time I **wasn't really one for** (= I wasn't a fan of) hobbies.

My parents were always **going on at** (=to nag, to tell someone to do something they don't want to do) me to **pursue a hobby**.

They said it would look good on my CV and when **applying for a job**.

So in the end, I **took heed** (= to listen and follow advice) and I decided to take up the guitar. I **got into it big time**. (=I did it a lot)

I would **while away** (= to spend time do something) the hours practising, practising my scales, **playing by ear** (= to improvise) **picking up** (=to learn informally) tunes as I went along.

It was great.

I think for me it **was a great way to** disconnect from study.

In fact, so much so that I remember my parents **were quite on edge** (=worried or nervous), worried that it was interfering with my studies.

So we had to agree a fixed time for playing the guitar and a fixed time for study so I could only play in my **scheduled downtime** (= *planned free time*)

Talking about the impact on my life. I think it's been very beneficial for my life.

I joined a band at university, and **it was a great way to socialise** and meet other friends.

And for me, music has always kind of been a **major part of my life** since then and up until today.

ANSWERS

1. IELTS Speaking Vocabulary: FREE TIME

Fill in the gap with one or two words

1. **Whenever I have** _free / spare / leisure / got / down / some me / enough _____ **time, I like to go for a stroll in the park**
2. **My favourite hobby is** _listening to / enjoying / exploring / diving into / making / playing / classical / pop / folk / sharing _____ **music.**

If you are **professional** you can **compose, write, script, produce music**

3. IELTS Speaking: Popular Hobbies

1. Gardening
2. Doing puzzles, opening time with family and friends
3. Fishing
4. Photography, train spotting, travelling

Did you know you can get more live lessons when you join my online course

IELTS Speaking Success - Get a Band + GOLD



LEARN MORE