

## *Live Lesson Notes*

# Ambitions

---

Click on a picture to take my online course!



### **What you will learn in this worksheet:**

Useful links  
Warm up questions  
Useful vocabulary  
What ambitions do you have?  
Idioms to talk about ambitions  
Ambitions - good or bad?  
Model answers

## Useful Links

How to answer the ‘**do you have any ambitions?**’ question.

<https://content.wisestep.com/answer-ambition-life-interview-question>

[Video about Ambition is killing us](#)

Click to get a complete **Mock IELTS** Test.

<https://takeielts.net/the-path-to-success-in-the-ielts-test/>

Use the CODE: **keith10** to get a 10% discount.

Find a teacher on **italki** so you can start practicing all the language you are learning here. Practice is the key!

<https://bit.ly/IELTSSpeakingitalki>

Collect my free materials here (and donate, if you like)

<https://keithspeakingacademy.com/ielts-speaking-free-live-lessons/>

Follow me on **social media**

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

[https://www.instagram.com/keith\\_speaking\\_academy/](https://www.instagram.com/keith_speaking_academy/)

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCiVm8XcbwS8-pcDEa5lFXIA=>

## Introduction

In this free IELTS Speaking lesson on the topic of AMBITION, you will learn how to talk about your own ambitions and whether ambition is a good or bad thing!

[Watch the complete video about this topic of ambition here.](#)

## Warm Up Questions

These are the kind of questions on this topic of business that you might find in IELTS Speaking.

Speak out your answer to the following questions!

*Are you ambitious?*

*What ambitions do you have?*

*Is it a good thing to be ambitious?*

## Useful vocabulary

**Ambition** (n.) *uncountable*

I have so **much ambition**

**Ambition** (n.) *countable*

I have **many** different **ambitions**

I am **ambitious** (adj.)

What is ambition? = a desire to do well, to achieve a goal and to succeed

I have an aspiration to make a lot of money

Intention

Goal

Plan

I want to + verb

I want to be rich

I have an ambition to improve my English skills

I **long to** travel around the world (*really want it*)

I **strive to** be fluent in English (*try very hard*)

I dream **of** being rich

I dream **about** having a big house

I am ambitious to **pass my exam with flying colours** (=do very well)

An ambition can be long term, for example,

*He is ambitious at work, he wants to **climb the corporate ladder** and become the CEO*

It can be short term, for example,

*She is quite ambitious, she wants to invite 500 guests to her wedding*

*I want to sell 1,000,000 copies of my new book!  
That's very ambitious, do you think you can do it?*

### **Common Collocations**

**Personal** ambition (run a marathon, have a big family, lose weight, visit Paris...)

**Professional** ambition (get a PHD, get a promotion, publish a book, speak at a conference...)

**Lifelong** ambition

It's a *lifelong ambition of mine* to \_\_\_\_\_

Having a **healthy** ambition can lead to success

I have a **burning** ambition to become a doctor

She is a person of **driving ambition**

You **lack ambition**

## What ambitions do you have?

(Typical job interview question)

If you get this kind of question in a job interview, you want to sound enthusiastic but not arrogant. So a short answer like this, is not so good.

*I want to be successful!!* 😞

You should be more **specific** (whether you are in a job interview or the IELTS speaking interview)

***I want to** do my job well, and one day get promoted **because** I think I have a lot to contribute, **such as** my ideas for teaching students in different ways.* 😊

This is much better. Notice the idea of giving

- 1) Idea
- 2) Reason
- 3) Example

## Idioms to talk about ambitions

### **Dig in your heels**

= *to be persistent*

I am going to publish my book, even though my friends say it's just a dream, **I am going to dig in my heels**

### **I will never throw in the towel**

= *give up, stop*

### **You need to stick at it**

= *to continue, persevere*

### **Carry on at all costs**

= *come rain or shine (even though it is difficult)*

**I have got a bee in my bonnet** about writing a book.

= *something you really want to do*

Publishing a book is **beyond my wildest dreams**

= *something so great, I can hardly imagine it*

I was losing the game, but I managed **to claw my way back** and win

= *make a come back, to be successful after a failure*

I'll have to **go to great lengths** to achieve this goal

= *do everything possible*

I reached my goal but it was **blood, sweat and tears** all the way.

= *very hard work*

I had to **fight tooth and nails** to reach my goal

= *fight and struggle hard*

I'm willing to **go the extra mile** to reach my goal

= *to do some extra work*

I will **keep my nose to the grindstone**

= *continue working hard*

## Ambition: Good or bad?

### Good

It's beneficial to have a **competitive spirit** and to **strive for success**

It helps you **keep on track with** your goals

It's good as long as you don't hurt others or **stamp on** others

### Bad

If it can be bad, if you see things as a **zero sum game** (*=a win - lose situation*),

and if your success is **at the expense of others** (*=other must lose, so you can win*)

So long as it is not **at the cost of** others

If you have an **arrogant ambition** it can **get in your way**, and make you lose time



## Model Answers

**Q: Do you have an ambition and what are your ambitions in life?**

**A:**

I wouldn't say I am a **particularly ambitious person**, but yes, I do have some ambitions, particularly, **professional ambitions**. I **do dream about** writing a book and publishing a book and so right now I am actually **going to great lengths to** write the script and start editing this idea I have for a book, and, yes, that's an ambition that I have.

**Q: Have the dreams you had as a child changed?**

**A:**

Oh, absolutely, I mean you know, it's a bit funny, but as a child, I **longed to be** a postman, because I thought postman had fantastic bicycles, but now, I think even as I was growing up as a young adult, **that dream changed significantly** and I think I **have become a little bit more ambitious** and I think certainly, **from a professional point of view**, I **have an ambition to be successful** in the work that I do.

I **long to be** a good teacher and to use innovative and creative ways of teaching and although I don't wanna **stamp on** other people,

I do want **to dig my heels in** and, you know, **do as much as it takes** to become successful in my area or my field as a teacher.

**Q: Have you ever achieved your ambitions?**

**A:**

That is a very good question.

I think I have had **several ambitions** in my life, and to be honest,

**I haven't achieved all of them.** One of them that I have not achieved is to be a kind of a famous guitar player.

When I was in my 20s, I used to play guitar in a rock band and **I used to dream of** being a famous rock star, and playing the guitar in big concerts and whilst I was happy playing the guitar in the band, I never really **achieved that level or status** of being a world renowned musician, but I have achieved my goal of building, you know, a happy family.

That was a personal goal that I wanted to, always, **I wanted to achieve.** I do feel that I have reached that. It's **been blood, sweat, and tears** sometimes because, obviously families have disagreements but I think we are getting there, we have gotten there.

**So, that's the ambition I feel I have reached**