



IELTS **Speaking** Success

Maps and getting lost



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THE RIDDLE

What is black and white and read all over?

Answer: A newspaper

IELTS QUESTIONS

Please note, in Part 3 the examiner is free to make up a lot of the questions.

So, it is difficult to predict exactly what questions you will get.

Questions listed here are the kind of questions you may be asked.

You may get different questions.

Some useful Links

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.

Free **IELTS Listening** course from the British Council

<https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/understanding-ielts-listening>

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<https://bit.ly/IELTSSpeakingitalki>

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Part 3

Techniques

Develop your answers

For example, give

- 1) Opinion
- 2) Reason
- 3) Example

Speak generally, not just about you and your life.

Avoid giving lists

Go into details

Give very specific examples

The examiner will listen to what you say and often make up the next question based on what you said.

Don't worry if the examiner cuts you off. It's normal.

Part 2 CUE CARD

Describe a time you got lost in a place that you don't know

PART 3 QUESTIONS

Are maps important for travelling?

Why do some people never use maps?

How has the way we find directions changed over time?

Do some people have the skills to find directions faster than others?

Part 3

Are maps important for travelling?

Note: this is a common Part 3 question type.

Are _____ important for _____?

You can sometimes use a template like this to answer it.

'It depends ..

If...

On the other hand, if....'

A place you **know like the back of your hand** (=know very well)

Help you **find your way** / orientate yourself

Especially for places (where) I have never been before

I have a **terrible sense of direction**, so yes, I need a map

Useful for planning your **itinerary** / your **journey**

Nowadays, we have websites where you can use **digital maps** to plan your route / journey, book hotels, and that,

and then share your itinerary **in real time** (=live, as it happens) with friends on social media

If we are talking about digital maps - like google maps - they are

- useful
- invaluable
- worth their weight in gold (= very useful)

However, if we are talking about paper maps - without a compass, they are

- pretty useless
- a waste of time
- ineffective
- worthless

Why do some people never use maps?

Note: this is also a common Part 3 question type.

Why do some people _____?

For this kind of question, you can think about WHICH PEOPLE you want to talk about.

This will help you focus and answer more easily, as well as helping you show off a wider range of vocabulary.

If we are talking about....

- Holiday-makers
- Tourists
- Millennials
- Retired people / **folk**

Maybe they **have a good sense of direction**

Some people like to **wing it** (not to plan = to improvise)

Some people prefer to **play it by ear** (not to plan = to improvise)

Point me in the direction of.. (= to show me the way to...)

Google maps is useful to **point me in the direction of** local coffee shops.

Retired folk might need **reading glasses**

They find GPS maps on phones **too fiddly** (=detailed and difficult to use)

The user interface is too

complex (=complicated)

clumsy (=too big and difficult to use)

fiddly (=detailed and difficult to use)

Maybe they are **technophobes** (= a person who hates technology)

Actually I reckon most people do use maps nowadays - especially digital ones such as GPS devices

How has the way we find directions changed over time?

In days gone by (=in the past)...

We used to..

ask people the way

ask people **for** directions

We even used the sun to know where north was.

Now, it has become **digitalised**

We have become rather **over-dependent** on GPS tools

Nowadays, **not only** can we find directions, **we can also** find restaurants, museums, in fact you name it, almost **anything** in the **vicinity / in that area**

Not only + inversion _____, we also....

Not only do we use google maps to find our way, **we also use** it to find local restaurants or other facilities.

in fact you name it = everything

Do some people have the skills to find directions faster than others?

I guess some people have an **innate** sense of direction

Innate = something you are born with, natural

Some people are **quick off their feet** and can find their way instantly.

Others are **prone to** getting lost

To **be prone to** = to be likely to suffer from (negative)

E.g. 'I am prone to accidents / headaches'

'He is prone to getting lost'

Others are, you might say, '**directionally challenged**'

We use this form of

Adverb + challenged

in a humorous way to talk about people who find something difficult or are bad at something.

It is euphemistic.

For example ,

I am **directionally challenged** = I am terrible at finding the way

I am **vertically challenged** = I am short

I am **intellectually challenged** = I am stupid