

Live Lesson Notes

Preparing for IELTS Speaking

Click on a picture to take my online courses:
*Still **discounted** for the New Year!*



What you will learn in this worksheet:

Useful links

10 questions you have about IELTS Speaking

Websites to help you prepare for IELTS

Do you have a **New Year's resolution?**

15 favorite **podcasts**

Useful Links

My **Free Online Course**

Crack IELTS Speaking Part 1

<https://keithspeakingacademy.com/crack-ielts-speaking-part-1/>

Free ebook: **Reading and Listening Materials for IELTS**

<https://keithspeakingacademy.com/free-ielts-study-material-book-listening-reading>

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

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

Get a 10% discount with the CODE: **keith10**

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/keithspeakingacademy>

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

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCiVm8XcbwS8-pcDEa5IFXIA=>

Introduction

In this free IELTS Speaking lesson we look at the Top 10 questions you have about IELTS Speaking.

We also look at great websites and podcasts you can use to prepare for the test.

[Watch the complete video about the Top 10 in IELTS Speaking here.](#)

Your Top 10 Questions about IELTS Speaking

You sent me hundreds of questions about IELTS Speaking and here are the most common ones with my answers.

I have grouped them into categories.

PRACTICING AT HOME

1. Can you tell me the common questions for speaking?

Yes the most common questions for **Part 1**, can be found in my free online course - **Crack IELTS Speaking Part 1**

For **Part 2**, there is huge list of questions, so it might be easier to prepare by looking at some of the common topics. You can find some of these **on my website here**

For **Part 3**, you can find some of the most common questions at the bottom of this **page about IELTS Speaking Part 3**

2. How can we identify our speaking level at home?

Well, you can start to identify your level by **using the IELTS Speaking Band Descriptors**. These are publicly available **here**.

You can also find a simplified version with a **simple explanation here**.

Whilst many students are good at identifying their own weaknesses, they are not so good at assessing their own level.

I would recommend **getting a qualified teacher** to do this. Platforms like **Cambly** and **iTalki** are good for this.

Alternatively, you could do an **online mock test**. There are **free ones here**, but I am not sure of the quality

I recommend **Take IELTS** as I have taken a mock test and like the accuracy and quality of the feedback. I think it is good value for money. You can get a **10% discount** on all their test using **the code: keith10**

FLUENCY

3. I've all the sentences in my brain. How can I make the way from my brain to my tongue easier? How can we keep the fluency when we are talking?

Do not try to memorise your answers, or even memorise whole sentences. If you do, you will not focus on fluency when speaking.

Try doing speaking practice (even for 10 minutes a day) where you choose a topic / question and talk about it **only using simple vocabulary** that you know. Forget the fancy words or words you have only just learnt, **just use words you know**. This will help you focus on and build fluency.

GETTING IDEAS

4. How can I develop ideas and organise them well in speaking Part 2?

- **Practice** speaking for 2 minutes. Time yourself, like you are in exam conditions.

You can use some of my **mock tests like this one**, to practice.

- **Research** - read and listen to a wide range of topics

- Also, **try the following 2 approaches**. I use both, and find they both work well.

- 1) Go with the flow
- 2) Use a 3 point structure

- Use Spoken **Cohesive devices** (connectors). Here are some useful ones.

First of all...

For starters....

On top of that....

Mind you / but.....

So, anyway.... (Changing topic)

So, finally....

In a nutshell.../ In a word....

GRAMMAR

5. Is Tense important? Sometimes I make silly mistakes regarding tense. Will it cost me a lot in IELTS SPEAKING?

Yes and no!

Yes, because **grammar makes up 25% of your mark**

However, grammar is not only about tense, it includes a lot more.

So a few mistakes in tense won't matter too much.

Also the score is across the whole test; including Parts 1, 2 and 3. So again, one mistake in one question, may not be a big problem.

The problem is when you make the same mistakes again and again, or even different mistakes but regularly.

Error-free sentences must be frequent to get a Band 7.

VOCABULARY

6. Is it ok to use both contractions and their full forms like first “gonna” or “wanna” and then later using “going to” or “want to” Am I penalised for that?

You **should try to use contractions** most of the time, as we use these in conversational spoken English.

So “gonna” and “wanna” and similar ones are fine to use.

You can also use the full forms sometimes, that’s fine and you won’t be penalised for that.

7. How can we differentiate between spoken English and written English?

This is hard, but I really do recommend to **practice your listening and speaking skills together.**

This way, as you learn new words from a podcast or video (someone talking) you know it is the kind of language you can use in speaking.

Generally speaking, the majority of idioms and idiomatic language tends to be spoken, rather than written.

Likewise, study reading and writing together, for the same reason.

TEST FORMAT

8. What should I say when asked about my hometown or other similar questions, when the actual answer would be too boring or too short?

Don't worry, **short is good!** (Especially for the introduction questions)

In the introduction questions, I recommend keeping your answers short and simple. This will take the pressure off you, help you relax, and make it less likely for you to make mistakes.

9. Is it possible to achieve band 8 when it's my first time having IELTS ? And do the questions change depending on my answers?

- Yes, it is certainly possible, but **it depends on your level and how well prepared you are.**

So, if your real level is Band 8 and you have prepared exam technique well, in particular being familiar with the test format and evaluation criteria, then it is possible.

- Regarding the questions changing, **in part 1 of the test, no they do not change;** they are fixed.

In Part 2, the examiner can choose which question to ask each candidate, but that question is then fixed and the topic will be fixed for Part 3.

Part 3 is where the questions can change depending on your answer. The examiner may make up questions to push you further and test different aspects of your language.

PRONUNCIATION

10. Is it ok to use both American English and British English when I speak? I already know that accent is not a problem but what about vocabulary?

It doesn't matter what kind of vocabulary you use when speaking, **it can be either American or British, or a mixture of both.**

Due to globalisation, you now find many native speakers mixing both and this is seen as acceptable.

Choosing one style is only important in the writing test, not in speaking.

Websites to help prepare for IELTS

These are websites that many of you are using and that I would recommend for different aspects of IELTS. For more details watch the full video of this live lesson.

IELTS Advantage

IELTS Speaking for Success Podcast

BBC Learning English

E2 Language

MyIELTS Classroom

IELTSLiz

British Council

IELTS Simon

Academic English Help

Read Theory

Ted Talks

Do you have a New Year's resolution?

*On New Year's Day, many people around the world decide to make a change, to stop a bad habit or start a good one. They may even set themselves a goal for the coming year. We call this a “**New Year's Resolution**”*

Here is some language we can use to talk about New Year's Resolutions

A resolution = goal

Yes,

I'm going to _____

I'm aiming to _____

I'm determined to _____

I really want to _____

My goal is to _____

I'm going to stop smoking!

Here are some useful idiomatic expressions you can also use for this topic.

I'm going to do it, come rain or shine (=whatever happens)

I'll do whatever it takes!

I am going to turn over a new leaf (=start fresh / anew)

I want to kick this habit (=stop)

15 Favourite Podcasts

Here are 15 podcasts that you like and that I also recommend to listen to help you prepare for IELTS.

For ESL/EFL students

Shelly Cornick's podcasts

All ears english, IELTS energy 7+,

IELTS speaking for success by Rory and Maria

Luke's english podcast

British council podcast

6 minutes English from BBC

For everybody (not aimed at students)

- BBC Outlook
- BBC Food chain
- BBC People fixing the world
- BBC Friday comedy night
- BBC Global News podcast
- Future tense from ABC Radio
- Michelle Obama's podcast
- Radiotopia australia
- The TED interview

Find **[more podcasts that I recommend here](#)**