

Live Lesson Notes

Prizes

Click on a picture to take my online courses!



What you will learn in this worksheet:

Useful Links

Different kinds of prizes

Part 3 Tip

Essential vocabulary

Prizes - good or bad?

Idioms

Prizes in the workplace

Useful Links

My Present to you - **Free Online Course**

Crack IELTS Speaking Part 1

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

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 on the topic of Prizes, you will learn how to talk about different kinds of prizes and the advantages and disadvantages of awarding people prizes.

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

Different Kinds of Prizes (school / work)

These are the most common kind of prizes that you might want to talk about, at school and in the workplace.

At school

Money
Certificate
A high quality pen
Scholarships
Books
Gift voucher

For sport

Trophies
Cups
Badges
Medals

At work

Perks at work (gym membership, branded bag, half day holiday)
Promotion (a reward)
Money

Tips for IELTS Speaking Part 3 Questions

A common question in IELTS Speaking Part 3 is

Do you think.....?

OR

_____, what's your opinion?

Many people are on automatic pilot and just reply 'I think...'

*This is ok, but you can gain some positive points by **training** to use different forms, such as*

The way I see it...

As far as I am concerned....

As far as I can see...

It seems to me....

I reckon...

Do you think it's good to award children prizes for good school work?

The way I see it, yes, it's a great idea because it can motivate them to study more, for example, at my school there was a small cash prize every month for the best reader, and so lots of children would borrow books from the library and read more.

Essential vocabulary

Here is some essential language to talk about the IELTS Speaking topic of Prizes

Prize (n.) (v.)

Award (n.) (v.)

These are won in a contest or competition

Reward (n.) (v.)

This is given for doing something good /well

To **give** s.o. a prize / an award / a reward

To **present** s.o. a prize / an award / a reward

To **award** s.o. a prize

To **get/win** a prize

To **deserve** a prize

I got it **as** a gift **off** my wife

Word Family

A prize (n.)

To prize something (v.) = to value it

A prized gift (adj.) = valued, cherished

Collocations

I got the **prize for** best student

A **prestigious prize** (well-known, highly valued)

A **consolation prize** (prize for last last)

An **academic prize**

A **cash prize**

A **non-monetary prize**

A **runner-up prize** (for 2nd or 3rd place)

I **came in** first / second / third **place**

I **came in** first / second / third

I **came** first / second / third

Prizes - a good or a bad thing?

Here are some ideas why they are good:

It seems to me, they are a good thing because they **boost morale**

They can **motivate** people to do well

They can **incentivise** people to train and do well

It's a great way to **push people forward** and help them **excel** at whatever they are doing

Here are some ideas why they might be bad:

I'm **in two minds about that**, they can be bad because they **make** some people **jealous**

Awards can **demotivate** people, if they never win.

They are **a waste of time** at school, because it's always the same students who win. This can be very **disheartening** for others.

They can be a **double-edged sword**, they can **encourage** people, but also **discourage** some people.

Sometimes, they can make the winner **proud** and possible **arrogant**,

Idioms to talk about Prizes

No prizes for guessing who won the football match = *the result is obvious*

I **hit the jackpot** with this job = *I got a good result, it's going well*

He won, and he was **head and shoulders above the rest** = *he was much better*

I won the first time I tried, it **was beginner's luck** = *luck you get when you try something for the first time*

I won first prize and it **was** completely **out of the blue** = *unexpected*

As luck would have it, I got first prize = *Luckily for me*

I won that competition three years in a row, I had **a lucky streak** = *series of lucky wins*

Break a leg = *good luck!*

He was a **dark horse** in that competition, then out of the blue he won! = *the one you don't expect to do well (we also call this person 'the underdog')*

All the following mean very happy:

*I was on **top of the world** / **over the moon** / **chuffed to bits** / **like a dog with two tails** / **on cloud nice** / when I won first prize*

Should companies give their employees prizes?

Yes, because it can improve **employee retention**

Employee recognition is really important, so giving prizes is a good way to recognise and reward a job well done

Absolutely, prizes can help **keep staff motivated**

If they get a prize, this can not only motivate them, but also help them **achieve their goals** at work

Hard work should be **valued** and giving a prize is a good way of doing that.

Employers should **prize hard work**

Sample Answers

Q1. Keith Tell us about a prize you won recently

I am gonna tell you about a prize I won a couple of months ago.

I was reading the newspaper and, you know, I like to do the **crosswords** (= a kind of puzzle), it's **one of my favourite pastimes**, and there was a competition.

It was a special competition for people who could finish the crossword and they **go into a lucky draw** and they would win a special book all about intelligence and IQ and EQ, emotional intelligence.

So, I decided **to try my luck** (= to have try). By and large, I don't consider myself a very lucky person. I don't **have a great track record** of winning prizes, other than one prize when I was at school.

I thought I would have a go, it's worth a try, and so I finished the crossword, because I am quite good at crosswords, and I **put in my entry** and, would you believe it, **low and behold** (=surprise, surprise), **as luck would have it** (= luckily for me), I won first prize.

It was totally **out of the blue** (= suddenly), because I thought thousands of people must have entered, but **to my great surprise**, I won first prize.

They **notified** me and they sent me the book by post and it's something I have **prized** and **cherished** ever since. Not only 'cuz it's quite unique for me to win a prize but also, because the book was really useful and I **a really good read**. And, that is a prize I won recently.

Q2. Keith, tell us about a person who recently won an award and if he/she deserved it

I'd like to tell you, actually, about my niece. My niece is, I think, **if I remember rightly**, she's five or six years old, and her mother was **ever so proud** (= *very proud*) the other day to tell me that she had won a competition.

It was a painting competition. Now my niece **is a big fan of** painting. She spends a lot of time with water paints, colour paints, easels and canvases, **making a huge mess** on the canvas but often producing some beautiful paintings.

And so her mother decided **to enter her for this competition**. It was a district competition in our city, and I think there were literally hundreds of children her age, in her age group, who had entered this competition.

As luck would have it (= *luckily for her*), she got into the final, the final ten and then, in the end, **out of the blue**, she was chosen as the winner and **she was awarded** a lovely canvas with a brand new painting set with brushes and paintings.

She **was tickled pink** (= *very happy*). You know, her mother was **chuffed to bits** (= *very happy*) because she was so proud her daughter had won.

And I think yes she absolutely deserved it because, not only is she a great painter you know, I think she's also really creative and she was a bit shy and unsure whether she wanted people to look at her work and criticise it, but she **took the plunge** (= *to decide to try something difficult*) and she decided to enter the competition.

So, she was quite brave so, I was delighted and I think she absolutely deserved to win.