



Live Lesson Notes

Work

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Some Useful Links

My **online course** for IELTS Speaking

<https://courses.keithspeakingacademy.com/p/ielts-speaking-get-band-7-gold>

How to answer 'what do you do?'

<https://www.themuse.com/advice/7-better-ways-to-answer-what-do-you-do>

Get my **free materials** here

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

Download my e-book: **10 Most Common Mistakes** in IELTS Speaking

<https://keithspeakingacademy.com/sign-up-download-10-mistakes/>

Follow me on **social media**

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

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

IELTS Speaking Vocabulary: Work

Warm up!

Fill in the gap with one word

1. He works ____ a chef
2. He is responsible _____ keeping the kitchen clean
3. I don't work, I'm a _____

Answers at bottom of PDF

IELTS Speaking: Do you work or are you a student?

At the beginning of the IELTS speaking test, you will be asked your name, and then the following question:

Do you work or are you a student?

If you have a job, tell the examiner you work and talk about your job.

If you are a student, at school, university, or doing part-time study (like preparing for IELTS), you can say so and talk a little about the subject you study.

In this lesson we will look at what to say **if you work** (outside or inside the home), and the how to answer the typical follow up questions you may get in Part 1 of IELTS Speaking

What do you do (for a living)?

I work in a / an _____ [place]

I work in a bank / a school / a hospital

I work in _____ [field/industry/area]

I work in finance / education / health care

I work as a / an _____ [job/profession]

I work as a banker / a teacher / nurse

I'm a / an _____ [job/profession]

I'm a banker / a teacher / nurse

Templates and Sentence Stress

Here are some simple templates to use. Remember you need to stress the nouns and verbs in particular. This will help you sound more natural. When practicing, stress these words (underlined below) more than usual: Exaggerate!

I work as a _____

I've been doing this job for _____ years / months and I _____ it.

I work as a teacher

I've been doing this job for 20 odd years and I love it.

I work as a teacher

I've been doing this job for around 20 years and I kind of like it.

Other ways of saying you like it **just a little**.

- *I don't mind it*
- *It pays the rent*
- *It's not bad*

I work as a _____ and I **help people** _____

I work as a teacher and I help people learn English and build their confidence in speaking

IELTS Speaking: Part 1 Work Questions

Why you do that job?

It's rewarding / challenging

I get to __ (do something) __

What I really like about my job is _____

I get to meet lots of interesting people, and help them become confident communicators

What I really like about my job is meeting lots of interesting people, and help them become confident communicators

What responsibilities you have?

I have to look after sick people

I'm responsible for look**ING** after patients

It's up to me to make sure the correct medicine is given **My main duties are** giving medicine, caring for patients, checking the correct dosage

Future job

I wouldn't mind being a fire fighter

I'd love to be a doctor


Interesting ways of answering 'What do you do?'

<https://www.themuse.com/advice/7-better-ways-to-answer-what-do-you-do>

Listening Task

1. Listen to someone talk about their work, and can you guess their job? (click the image below to listen)

I work as a [1] _____
I've been doing this job for
around 10 years and
I [2] _____ it.
I help people create spaces
where they feel comfortable
and happy with their friends



2. Watch again and try to fill in these gaps

I work as a [1] _____ I've been doing this job for around 10 years and
I [2] _____ it.

I help people create spaces where they feel comfortable and happy
with their friends.

Yes, it's [3] _____ and I have to coordinate with the client and other
workers on site, but I get to [4] _____ my creativity.

Problems always pop up in the implementation stage, and it's up to me
to make sure solutions are found and of course I am responsible for
making sure [5] _____ are met.

Answers at bottom of PDF

What if you don't work (outside the home)?

What if you don't work outside the home? So maybe you look after the family, or you might be unemployed or even retired.

Here are some useful phrases you can use.

- I am unemployed (this is a bit negative)
- I'm between jobs (this is more positive)
- I'm looking for a job
- I'm job hunting
- I am a job seeker
- I'm transitioning careers
- I am not working at the moment

*I am **taking time off** work*

*I'm **taking a gap year** (this is where recently graduated students take time off the travel before finding a job)*

*I'm taking a **sabbatical** (a rest or break from work, usually one year)*

*I'm **on sabbatical** at the moment*

Actually I'm retired, so I no longer work. I used to...

The following are different ways to say you work at home looking after the home and family.

I'm a home maker

I'm a stay-at-home mum / dad

I'm a housewife

I'm a househusband

- I take care of the housework, look after the kids and **what not** (=and so on)
- I **do the school run** (=take the kids to school)
- It's **up to me to** do the weekly shop and prepare the meals.
- I **handle** family finances / the cooking / the washing
- I do some part-time work
- I have to be a multi-tasking genius!

IELTS Topic: How the job market has changed

Useful collocations (in bold)

More **workplace flexibility**

Many companies **have flexitime**

Remote working

Working from home

The **gig economy** has grown (this includes freelancers and consultants)

Increase in **online working** means a growing demand for more technical skills

Zero-hour contracts are more commonplace (=a contract where the employer does not guarantee a minimum number of hours work)

A shift towards e-commerce means fewer shop assistants and more warehouse workers

Rises in the **minimum wage**

Less **job security**

The **unemployment rate** has risen

More people do **part-time work**

IELTS Speaking: Idioms about WORK

To **suit someone down to the ground** = To be perfect for someone

*This job **suits me down to the ground***

To **never do a stroke of work** = to be lazy and do the least work possible

*She is so lazy, she never **does a stroke of work***

To **pull your weight** = to do your fair share of work

*We always complain about him because he **doesn't pull his weight***

To **hit a glass ceiling** = To reach an invisible barrier stopping someone from rising up in a company

*A **glass ceiling** stops many women from advancing in many industries*

If someone asks you to do a difficult task you can say,

It's a tall order

It's a big ask

Expressions to say **I am very busy**

I have a **lot on my plate**

I am **snowed under** with work

I am **bogged down** with work

I am **swamped** with work

I am **up to my neck/ears** in work

Warm up: ANSWERS

Warm up!

Fill in the gap with one word

1. He works **as** a chef
2. He is responsible **for** keeping the kitchen clean
3. I don't work, I'm **a student /homemaker / stay-at-home mum or dad**

Listening Task: ANSWERS

I work as a [1] **builder**. I've been doing this job for around 10 years and I [2] **love** it.

So, I help people create spaces where they feel comfortable and happy with their friends and family

Yes, it's [3] **challenging** and I have to coordinate with the client and other workers on site, but I get to [4] **unleash** (=release) my creativity.

Problems always pop up/appear in the implementation stage, and it's up to me to make sure solutions are found and of course I am responsible for making sure [5] **deadlines** are met.

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

[IELTS Speaking Success - Get a Band + GOLD](#)

