

*A book for IELTS Students*

# **SUCCEED IN IELTS SPEAKING**

The Ultimate Guide

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## Contents:

1. Visualise
2. Imagine you are speaking to a new friend
3. Get excited about the test
4. Breathe and smile
5. Take your time
6. Talk with feeling
7. Use my favourite, natural fillers
8. Use good spoken connectives
9. Expand your answers
10. Tell short personal stories
11. Use adjectives well
12. You can give a short answer (sometimes)!
13. Speak naturally
14. Mirror the examiner
15. Relax, don't panic.

*Nothing can replace the long, hard hours you need to study and practice to get better at speaking English.*

*Getting better at speaking and communicating in English is the secret to a high score in IELTS.*

*There is no magic, it takes time.*

*But...sometimes, we also need some quick advice,*

*...some simple ideas to guide us*

*...some quick tips to get us through the test!*

*This is what this guide offers.*

*15 quick and easy steps to guide you to success on the day of your IELTS speaking test.*

*For more tips and advice on getting your best score in IELTS Speaking, visit*

**<https://keithspeakingacademy.com>**

# 1. Visualise

So, just before the test, find a quite place.

Close your eyes.

See yourself entering the test room confidently, sitting down, and talking.

Listen to your great answers.

See yourself, and the examiner, smiling.

See yourself leaving and feeling great.



## 2. Imagine you are speaking to your best friend

In the test, this will just help you relax.

The more you relax, the better you will speak.



## 3. Get excited about the test.

This feeling will show in your voice and body language.

Excitement will create a change in tone and intonation. That's good.

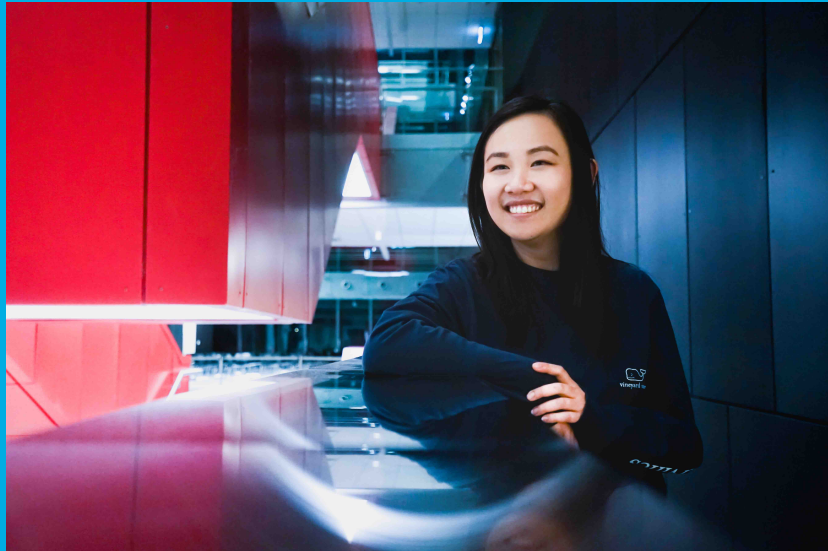
Imagine the test is a trial, not the real thing.

Don't take it too seriously.

## 4. Breathe and smile.

Examiners try to be a little serious in the test, to look professional, but most of them like smiling candidates...

...oh, and breathing ones too!



## 5. Take your time

Take time to listen to the question carefully, and to think.

You are allowed to think.

Speak at a medium pace, not too quickly.

Fluency is not about speed.

It's more about control.



## 6. Talk with feeling

This can show off your good intonation.

Remember a lot of candidates will be repeating memorised sentences and sounding like a robot.

The examiner will see a lot of candidates, and many will sound very similar.

You can stand out, by speaking with some feeling.

Give examples which include personal stories and then it will be easier to add feeling.

## 7. Use my favourite, natural fillers

Fillers give you time to think.

Use them when you need time to think about an answer.

Here are some of my favourites;

*That's a tough one...*

*Let me think for second...*

*I need to think about that...*

*Just give me a moment...*

*Just a sec...*

## 8. Use good spoken connectives

Good connectors (or connectives, or discourse markers) to 'connect' your ideas, are key to getting a high score.

However, try to use spoken ones, not written ones.

Some common ones are here below.

These are guidelines. We sometimes use the ones on the left in speaking, but those on the right are more common.

Usually Written	Usually Spoken
From my point of view	<i>I think, I reckon, I'd say..., I suppose, I guess,</i>
In the first place	<i>firstly, to kick off, for starters...</i>
In second place	<i>also, besides that..., on top of that..., as well as that...</i>
In summary	<i>overall, in a nutshell, summing up</i>
For example,	<i>like..., such as...,</i>
In addition,	<i>and, also</i>
Following that,	<i>then, after that...,</i>

## 9. Expand your answers

Give extra information.

Explain why you think something is true.

Give examples.

Longer answers also let you show off fluency and intonation over longer sentences.



## 10. Tell short personal stories

Stories help you relax and sound more natural.

Remember stories can be short, even just one or two sentences.

Examiners like stories, so long as they are not too long.



## 11. Use adjectives well

Giving lots of descriptions is a chance to show your wider vocabulary.

You can learn more adjectives by studying synonyms and antonyms.

Learning good collocations, is also really important to improve your vocabulary and accuracy.

Good Excellent Amazing  
Wonderful Exceptional  
World Class  
Outstanding Terrific Splendid  
Fantastic Unbelievable  
Out of this world

## 12. You can give a short answer (sometimes)!

If you have little to say on a question, that's fine, say little.

Wait for the next question where you can talk more confidently.

## 13. Speak naturally

Don't memorise answers.

They make you sound unnatural and the examiners are trained to spot this.

It doesn't make them happy.

You want a happy examiner.



## 14. Mirror the examiner

Did you know that if you sit in the same position as the examiner, and follow their posture or movement, you immediately build a bond with them?

You put yourself on the same wavelength, and it makes them feel good.

If used some of the time, and not too obviously, this can be a powerful technique.

Practice with a friend first.



## 15. Relax, don't panic.

If you go blank, just say 'one moment', to get some time.

Then focus on your breathing.

Count your breath, one, two...

Then start speaking.

The examiners know you might be nervous.

They also know this technique and many will smile to help you.

**That's it!**

**If you focus on enjoying and succeeding you are more likely to do so.**



### **Bonus tip:**

The truth is, most examiners (not all, I am afraid, but most) want you to do the best you can!

That's good to know, they are not out to trick you.

Thank you so much for reading this e-book.

I hope it can be useful.

If you want more tips and ideas to help you succeed in the IELTS speaking test, go over to my website and sign up for the newsletter.

**<https://keithspeakingacademy.com>**

Keith O'Hare, B.A., MSC, TESOL Dip, has taught English to students from all over the world and now runs the website **The Keith Speaking Academy** and Youtube Channel [English Speaking Success](#)

# **SEE YOU SOON!**

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