

101 IELTS Speaking Part Two tasks about the past, present and future

The most challenging and least likely tasks in the exam are the tasks that are mainly about the future (towards the bottom below), with the easiest and most likely being the tasks that mainly need present tenses (in the middle). Each section is also organised so that the most typical and easiest tasks are near the top of the section.

IELTS Speaking Part Two tasks about the past (Past Simple, Past Continuous, Present Perfect Simple, Present Perfect Continuous, “used to” and Past Perfect)

Describe a gift you gave someone

You should say:

- Who you gave it to
- What the occasion was
- Why you chose that present

And say if you think that person still uses that present or not, and why

Describe a gift that you someone gave you

You should say:

- Who it was from
- Why you were given a gift
- How you felt when you got that gift

And say why you think that person chose that gift for you

Talk about a toy you had when you were a child, saying:

- How old you were when you had it
- How you used to play with it
- How long you had it

And say if you would give the same toy to your own child if he or she was the same age or not, and why

Describe the town, city or village you were born in or grew up in.

You should say:

- What kind of place it is
- How you can get there from where you are now
- What things you can do there

And say if that is the place you would most like to be living in now or not, and why

Describe a school friend you had when you were younger. You should say:

- What that person looked like
- What that person was like
- What that person liked

And say whether you are still friends with that person or not, and why

Talk about the last time your whole family were together. You should mention:

- Where you were
- What you did
- How long you were together

And say if you think your family will get together again soon or not, and why

Describe a friend that you haven't met for a long time. You should say:

- Why you haven't seen that person
- Where and when you last met
- What you think that person has been doing since that time

And say whether you think you will meet him or her again in the near future or not, and why

Describe a relative you haven't met for a long time. You should mention:

- What that person's relationship to you is
- Why you haven't met that person
- Where and when you last met them

And say whether you think you will meet them again soon or not, and why

Describe a friend who has played an important part in your life.

You should say:

- How you met this person
- How long you have known them
- How you spend or used to spend time together

And explain why they have been an important part of your life

Describe a friend you have had or had for a long time. You should say:

- How you first met
- What things you do or did together
- What things you have or had in common

And say why you think your friendship lasted a long time

Talk about a pet you or someone you know used to have. You should mention:

- What it looked like
- What it liked doing
- How it needed to be looked after

And say if you would like to have a similar pet in the future or not, and why

Talk about a job you or someone you know did in the past

You should say:

- What the duties were
- What the work place was like
- What clothes and equipment were needed

And say if you think it was a good job or not, and why

Talk about something you used to use to help you in your past work or studies.

You should say:

- What it looked like
- What it was used for
- How often you used this thing

And say if you still use that thing now or not, and why

Describe a classroom that you used to study in.

You should describe:

- What you studied there
- Its position
- The facilities and equipment in it

And say how it compares to other places you have studied

Describe a school that you used to study in

You should say:

- How big it was
- What it looked like
- What the interior was like

And say if you enjoyed studying there or not, and why

Talk about a school subject you liked when you were younger

You should say:

- When you studied it
- How long you studied it
- Why you liked it

And say if you think you will study that subject again in the future or not, and why

Describe a workplace you or someone you know used to work in

You should say:

- What the exterior of the building looked like
- What the interior of the building was like
- What facilities there were in the building and the local area

And say if you would like to study somewhere like that in the future or not, and why

Describe a project you had to do on your own or with others as part of your studies or work

You should say:

- What the purpose of that project was
- What you had to do
- How well the project was completed

And say if you think it would have been easier to complete that project on your own or with other people, and why

Talk about a book, newspaper or magazine you read recently

You should say:

- What kind of publication it was
- Why you decided to read that
- How long it took you to read it

And say if you would like to read something else similar or not, and why

Describe a movie you have seen which you remember well.

You should say:

- What kind of movie it is
- When and where you saw it
- What your favourite part was

And explain why you it made an impression on you

Describe a party that you attended:

You should say:

- Who invited you
- Where you were invited
- What the party was celebrating

And say if took anything with you to the party or not, and why

Talk about a birthday you can remember well.

You should say:

- How you celebrated
- Who you were with
- Why you remember that day

And say how it was different from other birthdays you have had before or since

Describe a traditional festival or celebration in your country. You should say:

- How long people have been celebrating this way
- How it first started
- If the festival or celebration has changed over time

And say if you think this festival or celebration will change in the future or not, and why

Describe a conversation you had recently.

You should say:

- What the topic of the conversation was.
- Who you were speaking to
- How the conversation started

And say whether you would like to spend more time talking about the same topic again or not, and why

Describe something you ate recently.

You should mention:

- Where you ate it
- Why you decided to eat that thing
- When you had previously eaten the same thing

And say if you enjoyed eating that thing or not, and why

Talk about a piece of music that you have heard recently

You should mention

- Where you heard it
- What kind of music it was
- What kind of equipment it was playing on

And say whether the music matched well with your mood and the atmosphere of the place you were or not, and why

Talk about an item of clothing that you don't have any more.

You should say:

- How long you had it
- When you used to wear it
- Why you don't have it anymore

And say how it compares to clothes that you wear nowadays

Talk about a possession that you used to have

You should explain:

- How long you had it
- What you used to use it for
- How often you used to use it

And say whether you would like to buy a similar item of clothing again or not, and why

Talk about somewhere you went on holiday.

You should say:

- How you got there
- What activities you did there
- Who went with you

And say if you would recommend that holiday or not, and why

Talk about one thing you did last weekend.

You should mention:

- Why you did it
- How long it took
- What you had been doing just before that

And say how you would change what you did if you could, and why

Talk about something you did yesterday.

You should mention:

- Where you did it
- How long it took
- What the result was of doing that thing

And say how your day would have changed if you hadn't done that thing, and why

Describe a journey you have been on. You should say

- Where you went
- What kind or kinds of transport you used
- How long the journey took

And say how the transport you used could be improved

Talk about a foreign country you have been to on holiday or business. You should say

- Where that country is
- Why you went to that place
- What things there are to do there

And say whether you think you will go there again in the near future or not, and why

Describe an incident you remember well from when you were very young.

You should mention:

- What happened
- How old you were
- How you reacted

And say why you remember that incident well

Talk about a hobby you had when you were younger but no longer do now:

You should say:

- How long you had that hobby
- Why you liked it
- Why you stopped doing it

And say if you think most young children nowadays would enjoy that hobby or not, and why

Talk about a day trip you have been on.

You should say:

- Where you went
- How you travelled
- Why you chose to go to that place

And say whether you would like to go back to the same place again or not, and why

Talk about a hotel, bread and breakfast, campsite etc. you have stayed in on holiday.

You should say:

- Why you chose that place
- How long you stayed there
- What the good and bad things about it were

And say whether you would like to stay in the same place again, and why

Talk about one method of learning a foreign language you have used.

You should say:

- What you did
- How long you used this method for
- How it compares to other methods of learning a language

And say if you will use that same method in the future or not, and why

Talk about an English language book you have read or used.

You should say:

- Why you bought or used that book
- What you learnt from using it
- If it was difficult or easy to use

And say if you would use a similar book again or not, and why

Talk about a language test you have taken.

You should say:

- Where you took the test
- How long it took
- What skills and language knowledge you were tested on

And say if you think that was a good test of your language level or not, and why

Describe the first place that you can remember living in

You should say:

- Approximately how old you were when you first started living there
- What you remember best about the place
- If you moved away or not, and why

And say if you remember that as being a good place to live or not, and why

IELTS speaking Part Two tasks about the present (Present Simple and Present Continuous, likes and dislikes/ “What is it like?”, tend to etc.)

Talk about something you use in your work or studies. You should describe:

- Its appearance
- Its uses
- How often you need to use it

And say if you think it is well designed and well made or not, and why

Talk about a job someone you know does. You should say:

- How long they have had that job
- What things they like about their job
- What things they dislike about their job

And say if you think that job suits that person or not, and why

Describe one thing that you do as part of your work or studies. You should say:

- Why you have to do it
- How often you do it
- What would happen if you didn't do it

And say if you would prefer a job or subject where you didn't have to do that thing or not, and why

Describe a workplace you or someone you know works in. You should say:

- What it looks like
- What it is like inside
- What the local area is like

And say how you think it could be improved

Describe a classmate or colleague you often meet. You should say:

- Where you usually meet or met
- When you first met
- What things you talk or talked about

And say whether you would say this person is a close friend or not, and why

Talk about a sport you enjoy. You should say:

- How often you do or watch this sport
- Who you do or watch it with
- Where you usually do or watch it

And say if you would like to do or watch it more often or not, and why

Describe a typical day when you are not working or studying

You should say:

- Where you go
- What you do
- Who you spend your time with

And say if you tend to have a similar routine or do different things, and why

Describe a TV programme that you often watch or radio programme you often listen to

You should say:

- When and how often it is on
- How long it lasts
- What kind of programme it is

And say what kind of people usually watch it or listen to it, and why

Describe a place where you often go on your days off

You should say:

- Where it is
- How you get there
- What you do there

And say if you would also like to work in that place or not, and why

Describe a friend who you often meet

You should say:

- When you usually see this friend
- Where you usually go together
- Who usually suggests meeting up

And say if you think you will spend more or less time together in the future, and why

Describe one of your relatives

You should say:

- What that person looks like
- What that person's personality is like
- What things they are interested in

And say if you think you are similar to them or not, and why

Talk about a job someone in your family does

You should say:

- How long he or she has had that job
- What he or she has to do in their job
- When and where he or she works

And say if you think that is a good job for that person or not, and why

Describe a classmate, colleague or acquaintance

You should say:

- How well you know them
- When and how you first met them
- How long you have been working or studying together

And say whether you think you will get to know that person better in the future or not, and why

Describe a family member that you have a good relationship with.

You should mention:

- What kind of character they have
- What their likes and dislikes are
- What things you usually do together

And say how your relationship with that person compares to your relationship with other members of your family

Talk about a thing you always take with you when you go away on holiday.

You should say:

- How big it is
- What you use it for
- Why you first started using it

And say how you think it could be improved

Talk about an activity you like doing when you are away on holiday. You should say:

- Where you usually do it
- Who you do it with
- What equipment you need

And say whether you think you will do it next time you are on holiday or not, and why

Describe a city, town or village you know well

You should say:

- Where it is
- What it looks like
- What kind of people live there

And say if you think it is a good place to live or not, and why

Describe a famous food from your hometown or country. You should say:

- What it looks like
- What it tastes like
- When and how it is usually eaten

And say why you think it is famous

Describe a landmark in the place you are living now

You should say:

- What it looks like
- What makes it stand out
- What its history is

And say if it is popular or not, and why

Describe something well known in your hometown or local area. You should say

- What it is
- Why it is well known
- How well known it is outside your hometown or local area

And say how you feel about that thing

Talk about something tourists like doing in your town, area or country.

You should say:

- What kind of people do it
- Where it can be done
- Why it is popular

And say if you think it is well known outside your town, area or country or not and why

Talk about a means of transport that you often use. You should mention:

- Where you usually use it to go
- Why you choose that method of transport
- If you think it is convenient and good value for money or not

And say how you think it could be improved

Talk about the home of someone you know. You should say:

- Where it is
- What it is like
- Who lives there

And say if you think it is better than where you are living or not, and why

Describe a typical festival or celebration in your country: You should say:

- When it is
- What people do
- If there are any traditional foods, music or clothes

And say if you think young people enjoy that tradition or not, and why

Describe your favourite festival or celebration. You should say:

- What time of year it is
- What you enjoy about it
- What preparation you need to do before that day

And say if you think the same festival or celebration is the favourite of most people in your country or not, and why

Talk about how you usually celebrate the New Year. You should say:

- Where you usually go
- If you usually celebrate with your friends or family
- If there are any superstitions or other traditions

And say if you think New Year is one of the most important enjoyable festivals or not, and why

Talk about your favourite day of the year

You should say:

- When it is
- What the weather is usually like
- What you like about that day

And say how you would like to spend that day the next time it comes around

Talk about a hobby of someone you know.

You should say:

- How often they do it
- Where they usually do it
- Who they usually do it with

And say if you would like to do that hobby or not, and why

Describe your favourite part of the place you are living in now

You should say:

- What it looks like
- What you usually use it for
- Why you like it

And say if there is anything you would change about it if you could

Describe the place where you are living now

You should say:

- Where it is
- How it is possible to travel there
- What the advantages and disadvantages of living in that place are

And say what you would change about that place if you could

Describe the area near the place where you are living now

You should say:

- What the local landmarks are
- What green spaces and natural features there are
- What things there are to do

And say what you would change about the area if you could, and why

Describe a house or flat that you know well.

You should say:

- Who lives there
- What it looks like
- What the local area is like

And say what kind of person that house or flat would suit, and why

Talk about the place where someone you know lives. You should say:

- How far it is from where you live
- How it is possible to get there
- What the local area is like

And say if you would like to live in that place or not, and why

Describe some countryside or green space near the place where you are living now. You should say:

- What it is like
- What people usually do there
- How far it is from your home

And say whether you often go to the place or not, and why

Describe the transport system in the place you are living now. You should say

- What kind of transport is available
- Which kind of transport is most popular
- What the advantages and disadvantages of the transport system is that place is

And say if you think most people are satisfied with that transport system or not, and why

Describe a shopping area in your hometown

You should say:

- What things are available there
- What the most popular stores are
- What kind of people usually shop there

And say what you would change about that shopping area if you could, and why

Describe a park or other green area near where you are living.

You should say:

- How to get there from you home
- What facilities there are
- What people usually do there

And say what you would change about that place if you could, and why

Describe a store near where you are living now. You should say:

- How to get there from your home
- What it sells
- How it compares to other shops

And say whether you often shop there or not, and why

IELTS Speaking Part Two tasks about the future (would like to, will, might, going to, Present Continuous for future arrangements, Present Simple for timetabled events etc.)

Describe a job you would like to do in the future.

You should say:

- What a typical work day for people in that job is like
- What qualifications and experience you will need in order to do that job
- What your next step will have to be in order to get that job

And say if you think you will be able to get that job in the near future or not, and why

Talk about a subject you would like to study in the future

You should say:

- How you first became interested in that subject
- What things about that subject you find particularly interesting
- Where and how it is possible to study that subject

And say if you think you will start studying that in the near future or not, and why

Talk about a goal or ambition you have.

You should say:

- When and why you first got that goal or ambition
- What you need to do to make it come true
- What your next step needs to be

And say if you think you will achieve that goal or ambition or not, and why

Talk about a foreign country you have never been to and would like to visit:

You should mention:

- How that place is similar and different to your country and other countries you have visited
- Why you are interested in going there
- What you would like to do there

And say if you think you will go to that country in the near future or not, and why

Talk about your plans for your next long holiday. You should say:

- Where you are thinking of going
- Who you would like to go there with
- What you would like to do there

And say if you think you will do what you are planning or not, and why

Talk about a job you would like to do in the future.

You should say:

- What people have to do in that job
- Why you are interested in that job
- If there are any disadvantages or difficulties to doing that job

And say if you think you will be good at that job or not, and why

Talk about a subject you would like to study in the future. You should say:

- What you need to study as part of that subject
- Where you can study it
- What you think the most difficult things about that subject would be

And say if you think studying that will be useful in your future life or not, and why

Talk about a new hobby you would like to take up. You should mention:

- What the advantages of the hobby are
- What the difficulties of doing that hobby would be
- How you first became interested in that hobby

And say if you think you will do that hobby in the near future or not, and why

Talk about the next festival or celebration in your family or country, including:

- What is being celebrated
- What most people will do on that day
- What you are planning to do on that day

And say if you think you will enjoy that day or not, and why

Talk about something you would like to buy. You should mention:

- What it looks like
- What it is used for
- Why you want to buy it

And say if you think you will buy it or not, and why

Talk about another language you are interested in learning. You should say:

- Where it is spoken
- How it is different from your language and from English
- Why you are interested in that language

And say if it is popular to learn that language in your country or not, and why

Talk about one thing you're planning to do after passing IELTS, mentioning:

- When you think you will do it
- Why you want to do it
- How long you have had that plan

And say whether there are any other options that you could also do which are just as good

Talk about your next trip abroad. You should say:

- Where you are going or would like to go
- What you want to do there
- What souvenirs you would like to bring back

And say whether you think your next trip overseas will be as you would like it to be or not, and why

Talk about a musical instrument you would like to be able to play but have never tried. You should say:

- What the instrument looks like
- How you play it
- What kinds of music are played on it

And say if you think you will learn to play that instrument or not, and why

Talk about a sport you think is interesting but have never played. You should say:

- What equipment is needed
- What some of the rules are
- What kinds of people this sport is popular with

And say if you think you will do this sport in the near future or not, and why

Describe your dream job. You should say:

- What you would do in that job
- What the pay and conditions would be like
- What kind of place you would work in

And say if you think people who really have a job like that are happy in their work or not, and why

Talk about your dream holiday. You should say:

- Where you would like to go
- What kind of accommodation you would like to stay in
- What activities you would like to do

And say if you ever think you will go on a holiday like that or not, and why

Describe your dream workplace. You should say:

- What the place would be like
- What your colleagues would be like
- What the local area would be like

And say if you think such a workplace really exists or not, and why

Give a short presentation about a film that you have never seen but would like to.

You should say:

- If any famous people are connected with this film
- What kind of film it is
- What other films it is similar to

And say if you think you will see that movie soon or not, and why

Talk about a book you have never read but would like to.

You should mention:

- If it is famous it is
- Why that book interests you
- Why you haven't read it before

And say if you think it will become one of your favourite books or not, and why

Talk about an instrument you would like to be able to play but cannot play.

You should say:

- Why that instrument interests you
- When you have seen or heard other people playing that instrument
- Why you haven't learnt how to play it before

And say if you think it is a difficult instrument to learn or not, and why

Talk about a pet you have never had but would like. You should mention:

- Where and how you can buy it
- Where you would keep it
- How it would need looking after

And say if you think you will have a similar pet in the near future or not, and why

Describe your dream home

You should say:

- How you would look like the outside to look
- How you would like the inside to look
- What area you would like to live in

And say if you have really seen a house that is similar or not, and if so how it was similar

Talk about one thing you are going to do next weekend.

You should mention:

- Where you are going to do it
- Who you are going to do it with
- Any equipment you need to do it

And say whether you are looking forward to it or not, and why

Talk about a part of your country you have never been to but would like to visit

You should say:

- Why you have never been there before
- If or when you think you might go
- Why you would like to go

And say how you first became interested in going to that place

Talk about your plans for your next long vacation.

You should say:

- Where you want to go
- Who you want to go there with
- What you want to do when you get there

And say how likely you are to do what you have planned, and why