

PART 1 Introduction and Interview



Part 1 deals with familiar topics, related to everyday life, and makes you feel more relaxed.

Red Sea, Sinai Peninsula, Egypt

A About the task

- 1 Read the information about Part 1. Then look at some notes a student made. Are the notes true (T) or false (F)?

The Part 1 task tests your ability to talk about familiar topics, related to everyday life. For example, the examiner might ask you questions about your job or studies, where you live, or your hobbies. This part of the test lasts for approximately four to five minutes. As this is the first part of the Speaking test, it starts with introductions between you and the examiner, as well as an ID check. The examiner then goes on to ask you a series of questions about different topics.


Here are the basic rules for the Part 1 task:

- In this part of the test, you are showing that you can give information and opinions about everyday topics. Typical topics include home and family life, work and study, hobbies and interests, and likes and dislikes.
- Another purpose of this part is to help you settle in to the test and get over your nerves, so the questions are not meant to be too challenging.
- For each topic in the Part 1 task, the examiner asks you a number of questions covering different topics.
- When answering the examiner's questions, don't just say 'Yes' or 'No'; give your answer and also add a reason, explanation or example.

Speaking Part 1

- 1 The questions in Part 1 are about everyday topics.
- 2 This is the hardest part of the Speaking test.
- 3 You normally talk about one topic in Part 1.
- 4 This part of the test lasts for four to five minutes.
- 5 Don't give any extra information when answering the questions.

B Sample questions

- 2**  **Answer the questions. Use the rules about the task from Section A to help you. Then watch Speaking test video 1 (Part 1) and listen to a candidate answering these questions and compare your answers. Which questions did you find difficult?**

IELTS PRACTICE TASK

PART 1

WORK/STUDY

- Do you work or are you a student?
- What are you studying? *or* What's your job?
- Why did you choose to study this subject? *or* Why did you choose this job?
- Have you made many friends on the course? *or* Do you plan to stay in this job for a long time?

HEALTH AND FITNESS

Let's talk about keeping fit and healthy.

- What do you do to stay healthy?
- Do you do any exercise? (What kind?)
- How active were you when you were a child?
- How important is it for children to be active?

WEATHER

Let's talk about the weather.

- What kind of weather do you like best? (Why?)
- Have you noticed any changes in the weather recently in your country?
- What do you like to do in winter?

C Tips and tactics

- 3** **Work in pairs. Read the tips and tactics and discuss these questions.**

- a** Which tips and tactics do you think are the most useful?
- b** Did you use any of these tips and tactics when you answered the sample questions in Section B?
- c** Which tips will you use in the future?

- 1 In the exam room, be friendly and polite. Make eye contact regularly while taking part in the conversation.
- 2 Be aware of your pronunciation. Focus on speaking clearly and carefully and take your time. Speak loudly enough so that the examiner can hear you.
- 3 Listen carefully to the examiner when he/she asks you a question. If you don't hear it or understand it the first time, you can ask the examiner to repeat the question; for example, you can say, 'I'm sorry, can you repeat that, please?'
- 4 The questions in Part 1 are supposed to be fairly easy, but if the examiner asks you a difficult question, you can use a filler expression such as 'That's a very good question ...' or 'Well, I've never really thought about that before, but ...' to give yourself a little more time to think about your answer.
- 5 Avoid giving one- or two-word answers to the questions. Try to extend your answer a little by giving a reason or an example. A full answer in this part of the test can be two or three sentences long.
- 6 If you can't think of the perfect word to use to express your meaning, don't worry about it. Just use another word or expression instead and move on. Your ability to paraphrase (to say something in a different way) is a positive thing. Avoid using expressions like 'How do you say ...?', as they just draw attention to the vocabulary you don't know.
- 7 If you make a mistake, try not to worry about it: just keep going! It's natural to make the occasional mistake when speaking. The examiner knows this and will assess you on your overall performance on the whole test.

D Skills-building exercises

Q FOCUS

Talking about your home

- 4** Work in pairs. In Part 1 of the IELTS Speaking test, you may be asked to talk about your home. Look at the questions below. How would you answer them? Practise asking and answering the questions.

PART 1

HOME

- Do you live in a house or apartment?
- How long have you lived there?
- Is there anything you don't like about living there?
- What sort of accommodation would you like to live in?



- 5**  **35** Look at the box below. Then listen to the conversation between a candidate and an examiner and tick (✓) the expressions that you hear.

ACCOMMODATION

house	living room	bed	spacious
apartment	bedroom	sofa	cramped
townhouse	bathroom	desk	comfortable
dream home	kitchen	chair	tidy
garden	balcony	table	messy

- 6** How did the candidate's answers compare with your responses in Exercise 4? Choose the best option (a, b or c).

- a She gave longer answers.
- b She gave shorter answers.
- c Our answers were about the same length.

Q FOCUS

Identifying common errors (1)

- 7** Work in pairs. Be careful when you answer the examiner's questions. Here are some common errors that candidates make. Discuss what is wrong with each candidate's answer.

- 1
Examiner: Is there anything you don't like about living there?
Candidate: No. ✗
- 2
Examiner: How long have you lived there?
Candidate: I have moved into this apartment about six months ago, when I have moved to this city. ✗
- 3
Examiner: What sort of accommodation would you like to live in?
Candidate: Well, if I would live here in this country, I would buy a house with a swimming pool. ✗

▶▶ For more information and practice of tenses, see Grammar Resource Bank pages 303–310.

Q FOCUS

Talking about likes and dislikes

- 8** Work in pairs. In Part 1 of the IELTS Speaking test, you may be asked to talk about your likes and dislikes. Look at the questions below. How would you answer them? Practise asking and answering the questions.

PART 1**CLOTHING**

- Do you like going shopping for clothes?
- Is fashion important to you?
- What styles of clothes do you like wearing?
- Are there any colours that you dislike wearing?

- 9**  **36** Look at the box below. Then listen to the conversation between a candidate and an examiner and tick (✓) the expressions that you hear.

LIKES AND DISLIKES**LIKE**

I (absolutely) love ...
I'm crazy about ...
I (really) like ...
I'm really into ...
I'm a big fan of ...
I'm quite keen on ...

UNDECIDED

I don't mind ...
I have mixed feelings about ...
I don't (really) have any strong feelings about ...
... is OK.

DISLIKE

I hate ...
I can't stand ...
I don't (really) like ...
I'm not (really) into ...
I'm not a big fan of ...
I'm not that keen on ...

- 10** How did the candidate's answers compare with your responses in Exercise 8?

- a She used a wider range of vocabulary and grammar.
- b She used a smaller range of vocabulary and grammar.
- c We used about the same range.

Q FOCUS

Identifying common errors (2)

- 11** Work in pairs. Here are some common language errors that candidates make. Discuss what is wrong with each candidate's answer.

- 1
Examiner: Do you like going shopping for clothes?
Candidate: Yes, I like. ✗
- 2
Examiner: Do you like going shopping for clothes?
Candidate: Yes, I absolutely like it. ✗
- 3
Examiner: Do you like going shopping for clothes?
Candidate: No, I dislike it. ✗

▶▶ For more information and practice of tenses, see Grammar Resource Bank pages 303–310.

Q FOCUS

Talking about habits and routines

- 12** Work in pairs. In Part 1 of the IELTS Speaking test, you may be asked to talk about your habits and routines. Look at the questions below. How would you answer them? Practise asking and answering the questions.

PART 1**DAILY ROUTINES**

- Tell me about a typical day in your life.
- What do you like to do at weekends?
- Is there anything that you would like to change about your daily routine?
- How important is it for you to have time to relax?

- 13**  37 Look at the box below. Then listen to the conversation between a candidate and an examiner and tick (✓) the expressions that you hear.

 DAILY ROUTINES	
TYPICAL WEEKDAY ACTIVITIES get up get dressed have breakfast/lunch/dinner go to work/school/university/the library catch the bus/train	TYPICAL WEEKEND ACTIVITIES sleep in catch up with friends hang out with friends go shopping go out for lunch play sports
ADVERBS OF FREQUENCY always usually often regularly sometimes occasionally rarely never	
ADVERB PHRASES during the week at weekends when I get the chance every so often from time to time hardly ever almost never once a week every day	

- 14** How did the candidate's answers compare with your responses in Exercise 12?

- a She spoke more fluently, with less hesitation.
- b She spoke less fluently, with more hesitation.
- c We spoke at about the same speed.

Q FOCUS

Identifying common errors (3)

- 15** Work in pairs. Here are some common language errors that candidates make. Discuss what is wrong with each candidate's answer.

1
 Examiner: What do you like to do at weekends?
 Candidate: Oh, I usually do my homework. I have always a lot. ✗

2
 Examiner: What do you like to do at weekends?
 Candidate: Oh, I have to get up early. My baby sister usually is awake early. ✗

3
 Examiner: What do you like to do at weekends?
 Candidate: Oh, I am sometimes surfing the Internet. ✗

▶▶ For more information and practice of adverbs, see Grammar Resource Bank page 314.

IELTS PRACTICE TASK

Speaking test video 2 (Part 1)

PART 1

WORK/STUDY

- Do you work, or are you a student?
- Where do you work, or what are you studying?
- Why did you choose that job or course?
- Do you think you will remain friends with the people from your course or job in the future?

FAVOURITE PLACE

Let's talk about your favourite place.

- What is the place that you most like to visit?
- Why do you like it there?
- How often do you go there?
- Is it easy to travel there?
- Is it a popular place for other people to visit?

DAILY ROUTINE

Let's talk about your daily routine.

- Tell me about a typical weekday for you.
- Do you work or study better in the morning or the afternoon?
- What would you like to change about your daily routine?
- Is there a balance between your work time and your leisure time in your daily routine?

Which statement best describes how you feel about Part 1 tasks?

- I feel confident about doing Part 1 tasks.
- I did OK, but I still need to do more work on Part 1 tasks.
- I need more practice with Part 1 tasks. I need to focus on ...

▶▶ For further practice, see the DVD-ROM.