
C. SPEAKING

Exercise 1: In this unit, you will learn about how to structure your response to the task card in IELTS Speaking Part 2. Read the information about IELTS Speaking Part 2. Then read the tips. Choose the correct answers to complete the tips.

In IELTS Speaking Part 2, you will be given a task card with a topic that you must talk about for between one and two minutes. Before you start speaking, you will have one minute to think about what you are going to say. You will be given some paper and a pencil to make notes.

On the task card, there will be a short description of a topic along with ideas about what to include in your talk. Remember that the examiner won't speak during your talk. When you have finished speaking, or when the two minutes have passed, the examiner will ask you one or two extra follow-up questions about the topic to conclude Part 2.

- 1 It is a good idea to give an introduction to your talk.
 - ☐ Ask the examiner questions to see what they know about the topic.
 - ☐ You can do this by paraphrasing the question.
- 2 You need to have enough to say about the different points on the task card.
 - ☐ Try to memorise the different task cards that you have seen when practising Part 2.
 - ☐ Try to think of two or three examples for each point.
- 3 You should use the one-minute preparation time effectively.
 - ☐ Use the time to make short notes about each of the points.
 - ☐ Use the time to write down as much as you can in full sentences.
- 4 You need to use language that will help you to structure your talk.
 - ☐ Make sure you speak clearly and don't use contractions.
 - ☐ Use a variety of connectors rather than short sentences.
- 5 It is important to keep talking for the whole two minutes.
 - ☐ Decide what you are going to talk about quickly, and make something up if you need to.
 - ☐ Take your time to choose something that you can talk about.

Exercise 2: Read the information. Then read the task card. Match the notes a student has made about the novelist David Mitchell with the points from the card.

In IELTS Speaking Part 2, you will be given one minute to make notes.

Try to keep your notes short by not writing too much. It is a good idea to write two or three ideas for each point that appears on the task card, as this will ensure that you have enough to talk about.

Organising your points in the same order as they appear on the task card will help you to locate them easily during your talk.

Describe someone whose creative or artistic work you like.

You should say:

what you know about the life of the person

what kind of creative work this person does / did

*why you like this person's work
and describe the way this person's work makes you feel.*

excellent writing ability

from the UK

very convincing / compelling characters

has son with autism

like on a roller coaster ride

Cloud Atlas – set of interconnected stories

writes novels and short stories

always feel entertained

Bone Clocks – science fiction story

English teacher in Japan

what you know about the life of the person

what kind of creative work this person does / did

why you like this person's work

describe the way this person's work makes you feel

Exercise 3: Read the information. Then put the sentences from the introduction to the IELTS Speaking Part 2 response in the correct order. Watch the video of a native English speaker doing Part 2 and check your answers. (Video 3.1)



In IELTS Speaking Part 2, it is important to structure your talk. Giving a good introduction is one good way of making sure you do this.

Two of his novels are among my favourite novels of all time.

I'll start by saying that I'm afraid I don't know much about the background of David, except that he is from the UK, that he once worked as an English teacher in Japan and that he has a son who suffers from autism.

OK, the person I'm going to talk about is David Mitchell.

Well, he is a novelist. In fact, he is an acclaimed prize-winning author, and I think he's published about seven novels – well, seven that I know of, anyway – and many short stories, too.

But I suppose the important question is, what is it that he does that is creative?

Exercise 4: Read the information. Then read the sentences in bold. Put the words in the correct order to complete the more complex sentences.



It is important to use clear, grammatically accurate sentences so that the examiner understands the different ideas you are talking about. In addition, it is a good idea to use more complex grammatical structures and vocabulary to improve your Grammatical Range and Accuracy and Lexical Resource marks.

1 I'm going to talk about Brian Smith.

To person I'm the about is talk going Brian Smith .

2 I really like two of his novels.

Favourite among of his novels my are two of all time .

3 I think he has published seven novels.

To the best he novels of my has seven knowledge,
published .

4 I've liked his work since I was young.

I an have age his work from early greatly admired .

5 I think it's his best work.

It his be I to work believe greatest .

6 The books I've read of his are very good.

All the have read are books of his I real page-turners .

Exercise 5: Read the information. Then complete the IELTS Speaking Part 2 response with the correct forms of the verbs in brackets. Watch the video and check your answers. (Video 3.2)

Using incorrect verb tenses is one of the most common mistakes made by students in the IELTS Speaking test. It is vital that the majority of the sentences that you produce in the test are error-free in order to achieve a higher band.



OK, the person I'm going to talk about is David Mitchell. I _____ (start) by saying that I'm afraid I _____ (not / know) much about the background of David, except that he is from the UK, that he once _____ (work) as an English teacher in Japan and that he has a son who suffers from autism. But I suppose the important question is, what is it that he does that is creative? Well, he is a novelist. In fact, he is an acclaimed prize-winning author, and I think he _____ (publish) about seven novels – well, seven that I know of, anyway – and many short stories, too.

Two of his novels _____ (be) among my favourite novels of all time. One is called *Cloud Atlas*, a set of stories from different times and places together that are interconnected in interesting ways. It almost feels like several different types of literature in the same novel. However, my favourite novel of his is called *Bone Clocks*, which is a kind of science fiction story that _____ (follow) the life of one character from childhood to old age. I really couldn't put it down. In fact, it was so good that as soon as I finished reading it, I _____ (start) it again.

Anyway, so turning to why I _____ (admire) David. I guess first and foremost it is for his writing ability. All the books of his that I _____ (read) were real page-turners, combining original and, at times, highly intricate plots with very convincing and compelling characters who the reader could emotionally invest in. That, I would say, is his talent – to take you on a roller-coaster ride through another world and keep you entertained throughout and rooting for the characters. I would even go so far as _____ (say) that he is one of the greatest living novelists in the world today. OK, so that's it really.

Exercise 6: Read the information. Then read the answers to some IELTS Speaking Part 2 follow-up questions. Match the questions in the box with the answers.

Remember that in IELTS Speaking Part 2, the examiner will ask you one or two follow-up questions at the end of your response.



Do you enjoy listening to audiobooks?

Do you enjoy reading books from other authors?

Do you enjoy reading books of other genres?

Do you enjoy reading other forms of literature, such as magazines?

Do you ever read books in another language?

Do you read many books?

1

Yes, I really like to read books written by Charles Dickens.

2

Certainly. I particularly enjoy crime thrillers.

3

Not particularly. I find it hard to concentrate when listening to a book.

4

I try to! I normally read about two books per month.

5

I do, yes. Particularly those which cover global events.

6

Absolutely! I think it's a great way of improving your vocabulary.

Exercise 7: Read the information. Then read the statements and listen to part of another response to the IELTS Speaking Part 2 task card. Choose True or False. (Track 3.1)

Make sure you show the examiner what you know. You should try to use a wide range of vocabulary and grammar structures.

Describe someone whose creative or artistic work you like.

*You should say:
what you know about the life of the person*



what kind of creative work this person does / did
why you like this person's work
and describe the way this person's work makes you feel.

- 1 The student introduces the topic.
☐ True ☐ False
- 2 The student covers the points on the topic card.
☐ True ☐ False
- 3 The student speaks for the whole two minutes.
☐ True ☐ False
- 4 The student speaks without noticeable effort.
☐ True ☐ False
- 5 The student uses less common vocabulary.
☐ True ☐ False
- 6 The student uses a wide range of discourse markers.
☐ True ☐ False
- 7 The student uses connecting language.
☐ True ☐ False
- 8 The student uses a wide range of complex grammar structures.
☐ True ☐ False
- 9 The student doesn't make errors with grammar.
☐ True ☐ False
- 10 The student has clear pronunciation throughout.
☐ True ☐ False

Exercise 8: Read the information. Then complete the sentences with the words in the box to form collocations.

To achieve a higher Lexical Resource mark in IELTS Speaking, it is important to have a good awareness of collocations and to be able to use them.

bustling childhood considerable greatest greatly imaginative
prestigious prolific

- 1 He grew up in a _____ city. The crowded streets and hectic scenes are often included in his work.
- 2 I have a _____ interest in his work.
- 3 I have _____ admired his work since I was young.
- 4 He really is an _____ author, and I don't know how he comes up with his ideas.
- 5 The story is based on a _____ memory from when he was at school.
- 6 I think that piece of work is probably her _____ achievement.
- 7 In 2001, she won a _____ award for her painting.
- 8 He has written over 20 novels, so he really is a _____ author.

Exercise 9: Look at the useful phrases for IELTS Speaking Part 2 in the box. What are their functions? Complete the table with the phrases.

There are several reasons ... Moving on to ... Anyway, to sum up ...
If I think about my own circumstances ... As for ...
It was for those reasons that I decided to talk about ...
I decided to talk about this because ... Well, let me think ...
The topic / person / place I've decided to talk about is ... In my opinion ...
I've decided to talk about ... What else can I tell you about ...?

introducing your talk 	avoiding hesitation 	moving to the next point
giving reasons 	adding your own ideas 	coming to a conclusion

Exercise 10: You are going to do IELTS Speaking Part 2. You will need some paper and a pencil.

Describe an artist or entertainer who you admire.

You should say:

who the artist or entertainer is and what he / she does

how he / she became successful

how you found out about him / her

and explain why you admire that artist or entertainer.

D. LISTENING

Exercise 1: In this unit, you will practise the skills you need to answer map labelling, multiple-choice and sentence completion questions in the IELTS Listening test. The topic of this unit is architecture. Read the information. Then choose the correct synonyms for the words and phrases in bold in the sentences.

The speakers you will hear often use *synonyms* or *paraphrases* of the words or ideas in the question. Before you listen, it is a good idea to think about other ways of saying a word or phrase.

- We had our new kitchen **fitted** yesterday. It's much better than the old one, but it was quite expensive.
☐ estimated ☐ put in ☐ repaired
- The old building will be **torn down** next week and replaced by a new set of apartments overlooking the sea.
☐ demolished ☐ improved ☐ renovated
- Due to a number of health hazards, the building has been **condemned** and residents will be temporarily rehoused until permanent accommodation can be found.
☐ criticised ☐ declared unsafe ☐ demolished
- The leak was found and **fixed** early enough to avoid any major damage to the apartment.
☐ agreed ☐ renovated ☐ repaired