UNIT 1: URBAN AND RURAL LIFE

SPEAKING

Exercise 1: In this unit, you will learn about the structure of IELTS Speaking Part 1, Part 2 and Part 3. Complete the information about the IELTS Speaking test with the phrases in the box.

1 minute	11–14 minutes	4–5 minutes	Fluency and Coherence	
Grammatical Range and Accuracy	Lexical Resource	Part 1	Part 2	Part 3
Pronunciation				

Time

1 total time for the test: _____

2 preparation time for your talk in Part 2: _____

3 total time for Part 3: _____

Sections

4 the part of the test where you speak at length on a familiar topic: _____

5 the part of the test where you have a more general and abstract discussion and explore a topic in more depth: _____

6 the part of the test where you talk generally about familiar topics: _____

Marking criteria

7 looks at how you link words and ideas together: _____

8 looks at sentence stress and intonation: _____

9 looks at how well you use vocabulary: _____

10 looks at how well you use tenses and structures: _____

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Exercise 2: **Match the good and bad advice in the box with the IELTS Speaking marking criteria.**

Practise using intonation and stress.

Speak slowly so you make no mistakes with tenses.

Try to sound as British or American as possible.

Try to speak as quickly as possible.

Try to speak with minimal repetition and self-correction.

Try to use idiomatic vocabulary where appropriate.

Use more complex structures.

Use simple vocabulary that is easy to understand.

1 **Fluency and Coherence**

Good advice:

Bad advice:

2 **Lexical Resource**

Good advice:

Bad advice:

3 **Grammatical Range and Accuracy**

Good advice:

Bad advice:

4 **Pronunciation**

Good advice:

Bad advice:

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Exercise 3: Read the statements. Then watch the video of three students doing IELTS Speaking Part 1. Choose True or False. (Video 1.1)

1 The examiner explains the format of the test.

◯ True ◯ False

2 The first set of questions is always about where you are from.

◯ True ◯ False

3 You only talk about one topic in this part of the test.

◯ True ◯ False

4 The examiner lets you know when the topic is changing.

◯ True ◯ False

5 If you don't develop your ideas, the examiner will help you.

◯ True ◯ False

6 The examiner gives you enough time to speak about all of the topics.

◯ True ◯ False

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Exercise 4: Read the information about achieving Band 8 in the IELTS Speaking test. Then watch the video of a student doing IELTS Speaking Part 1. How well does she do? Choose the correct examiner's comments for the marking criteria. (Video 1.2)

It is important to know what the examiner is looking for in the IELTS Speaking test. If you are aiming to achieve Band 8, you need to make sure you fulfil the following criteria.

Fluency and Coherence

- Speaks fluently with only occasional repetition or self-correction.
- Hesitation is usually content-related and only rarely to search for language.
- Develops topics coherently and appropriately.

Lexical Resource

- Uses a wide vocabulary resource readily and flexibly to convey precise meaning.
- Uses less common and idiomatic vocabulary skilfully and shows some awareness of style and collocation.
- Uses paraphrase effectively.

Grammatical Range and Accuracy

- Uses a wide range of structures flexibly.
- Produces a majority of error-free sentences with only very occasional basic errors.

Pronunciation

- Uses a wide range of pronunciation features with very few errors.
- Is easy to understand throughout.
- Student's native-language accent has little effect on understanding.

1 Fluency and Coherence

- ○ The student frequently repeats herself.
- ○ The student rarely repeats herself.

2 Fluency and Coherence

- ○ The student hesitates when she is thinking of content rather than language.
- ○ The student hesitates when she is trying to use more advanced words or grammar.

3 Lexical Resource

- ○ The student tries to use a wide range of vocabulary, but there are a number of inaccuracies.
- ○ The student uses a wide range of vocabulary accurately.

4 Grammatical Range and Accuracy

- ○ The student consistently makes grammatical errors, making it difficult to follow her.
- ○ The student makes very few errors, but still makes some basic errors.

5 Pronunciation

- ○ The student is easy to understand, but there are some errors with pronunciation.
- ○ The student is very easy to understand throughout the test, and she doesn't make any pronunciation errors.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Exercise 5: Read the information about IELTS Speaking Part 2. Then watch the video of a student doing IELTS Speaking Part 2. Which task card is the student doing? Choose the correct answer. (Video 1.3)

In IELTS Speaking Part 2, you will be given a task card to talk about for between one and two minutes. You will have one minute to make notes, and the examiner will give you a pencil and paper for writing on. If you speak for more than two minutes, the examiner will tell you to stop talking, but don't worry – you won't lose marks for this.

○ **Task card A**	○ **Task card B**
Describe a useful website that you visit frequently. You should say: how you found out about the website how often you use the website what you use the website for and give your opinion on the website.	Describe a useful website that you visit frequently. You should say: who told you about the website when you use the website how the website helps you and say what you don't like about the website.

Exercise 6: Read the task card. Then watch the video and complete the student's notes with the words or phrases that you hear. Write no more than two words from the video for each answer. (Video 1.4)

Describe a useful website that you visit frequently.

You should say:
how you found out about the website
how often you use the website
what you use the website for
and give your opinion on the website.

A useful website

How you found out about the website:
recommended by a_____ / an _____ suggested using YouTube to watch

How often you use the website:
_____a week / when I have spare_____

What you use the website for:
learn life skills, e.g. how to be _____, speak English properly, learn English in more _____

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Your opinion:
positive; TED Talks very _____website, _____people to be more confident

<u>Exercise 7:</u> Read the information about IELTS Speaking Part 3. Then watch the video of a student doing IELTS Speaking Part 3. Put the questions that the examiner asks in the correct order (Video1.5)

In IELTS Speaking Part 3, you will be asked more generally about the topic that you talked about in Part 2. It is important that you are able to speak about topics in depth as well as on a personal level.

What types of thing make a city a good place to live?

So, cities are getting larger and larger, as you said. What are the advantages and disadvantages of this?

Do you think this is only a positive development?

Will young people still want to live in cities as they get older, do you think?

Why do so many young people want to live in cities?

Do people in your country generally prefer to live in cities or in the countryside?

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Exercise 8: Read the information. Then watch the video of a student doing IELTS Speaking Part 3 again. Match the techniques for extending answers with the student's answers.(Video 1.6)

In IELTS Speaking Part 3, it is important that you *extend your answers* as fully as possible. There are different strategies for dealing with different question types.

If you are asked a question about the types of thing that make something good, you are required to provide a list of different things and reasons. In this situation, use discourse markers such as *firstly, secondly, finally,* etc. to help you move from point to point.

If you are asked a *Yes / No* question that asks for your opinion on a topic (e.g. *Do you think cities are becoming too overcrowded?*), try to use more creative vocabulary rather than just using *yes* or *no* for your response. For example, instead of *yes*, you could say:

I believe so, yes.
Absolutely!
Yes, I think so.

Instead of *no,* you could say:

Personally, I don't see it that way.
No, I don't believe that to be true.

expanding on the topic to see the bigger picture

explaining what might be happening now and in the future

explaining why something happens or happened

giving real life examples

providing a list of different reasons

stating or explaining your own view or preference

1 'First of all, I think the environment must be good … And secondly, I think transportation in a big city must be convenient … And thirdly, I think people should be friendly …'

2 'People wanted to move to big cities to improve their living standards.'

3 'I'd prefer to live in countryside because the air is much better.'

4 'The biggest advantage of cities getting larger is that it can improve the whole economy of our country.'

5 'For example, the city I lived in is Hangzhou, and the house price is really high.'

6 'Maybe some teenagers or young people want to live in a big city and want their next generation to study in a big city to get a good education.'

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Exercise 9: Read the information. Then complete the conditional sentences with the words and phrases in the box. Watch the video and check your answers.(Video 1.7)

In IELTS Speaking Part 3, you will need to talk about different *results and consequences.* It is therefore important to be able to use conditional sentences in different ways.

as long as you	as soon as they can	if	provided	will

1 _____ have friends and family nearby, I don't think it matters where you live really.

2 I don't think we _____ ever live on other planets unless technology improves dramatically.

3 _____ local or national governments don't introduce new laws, pollution will increase to dangerous levels.

4 I think most young people who live in small towns want to move to big cities _____ .

5 I don't think overcrowding will be a problem in cities, _____ local and national governments build enough houses for people.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

<u>Exercise 10:</u> You are going to do the full IELTS Speaking test. You will need some paper and a pencil.

Part 1

What languages do you speak?
Do you like learning languages?
Are there any languages you'd like to learn?
Should all children learn a foreign language at school?

Part 2

Describe a city that you have visited.

You should say:
- *where the city was*
- *why you were visiting*
- *how long you visited for*

and explain what you liked and disliked about your visit.

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Part 3

What types of things make a city a good place to live?
Do people in your country generally prefer to live in the city or the countryside?
Why do so many young people want to live in big cities?

LIVEWORKSHEETS