

IELTS SPEAKING EXAM – SAMPLE ANSWERS

Happy Marriage: Part 2 – Sample Answer

If someone asks me what I treasure most in my life, my answer would be one and only – my family, who are not only **my pillar of strength and support** but also inspire me in many ways. I wouldn't have become who I am today without my parents' guidance and their love for me, and, of course, for each other. I will never get tired of my friends telling me how awesome and adorable my parents are despite both being almost 60. According to them, my parents are real-life relationship goals. My dad, an intelligent, thoughtful, strong and honorable man to the core, started his own business 20 years ago and has been working hard to achieve what he deserves. He's married to a beautiful, loving and **strong-willed** woman who isn't afraid to **speak her mind**. My parents have known each other for almost five decades and been pretty much in love all that time. They usually tell us their legendary stories from when they were high school sweethearts until **tying the knot** and living their **happily ever after**, which often gets **exaggerated** though none of my siblings have ever complained. Though my parents work in different fields, they tend to seek the other's input and opinions on numerous cases. My dad always says mom is his greatest cheerleader in everything he does and she tells us he is her rock. One thing I have noticed about my parents is honesty and openness in the way they communicate. Just like any other couples, mom and dad have also experienced many difficulties but how they handle them is what makes them stronger. I am so grateful to have been born and raised in the family full of love where I can feel it every time coming home. It is hard to put into words all they have inspired in me. They have **molded** and shaped me into the person I am today and who I hope to be in the future.

Vocabulary for Cue Card

- **Pillar of strength:** a person who can be relied on to give a great deal of support and comfort
Eg: My mother is my pillar of strength.
- **Strong-willed:** determined to do what you want to do, even if other people advise you not to
Eg: John is a strong-willed man who would do anything for his loved ones.
- **Speak one's mind:** express one's feelings or opinions frankly
Eg: Rose spoke her mind to her father.
- **Tie the knot:** get married
Eg: Rose and John decided to tie the knot in December.
- **Exaggerate:** to make something seem larger, better, worse or more important than it really is
Eg: She exaggerated her sad story to gain attention.
- **Mould:** to strongly influence the way somebody's character, opinions, etc. develop
Eg: Children should be taught to mould their characters from a young age.

Happy Marriage: Part 3 – Sample Answer

If you are 35 years old without marriage, do you still wait for your true love? Why?

I would say it might be the case since I'd prefer to stay single rather than **end up with** the wrong person. It is not a surprise, I believe, because there are plenty of people who still enjoy their every moment without a life partner. On the one hand, the number of divorces or unhappy marriages have been increasing tremendously over the years and its consequences are upsetting such as **dysfunctional family, domestic violence, child neglect** and the list could go on. On the other hand, people can find happiness in different places and activities without committing their life to one particular person, especially those who aren't worth it. Therefore, I wouldn't **settle for anything less** than what I deserve.

Who will pay for the wedding cost? Man or woman or both? Why?

Budget planning for weddings can be an extreme headache and deciding who pays what might not be easy since there are tons of expenses to cover such as the rings, floral arrangements, honeymoon and so on. Hence, I believe depending on each couple's financial status, they should carefully discuss and choose a cost-splitting option that works best for them. For example, if both are **financially abundant**, they can share the cost equally. Otherwise, one who is more **well-off** can cover a greater portion of the expense.

Why use lots of money for weddings?

I myself can hardly understand why couples are constantly spending an **outrageous** amount of money on their weddings but I may have some thoughts. First of all, it's a once-in-a-lifetime event, at least for most people, hence, they want to have a **lavish** celebration which no one can ever forget. Whether it's a wedding invitation or reception venue, everything has to be of top quality. Secondly, big weddings might be a tradition in some countries. It's customary in many cultures to have several ceremonies and celebrations in order to have a fulfilling married life. Last but not least, they can afford it. Some well-off couples love to show off their wealth and wedding is an ideal occasion.

In a traditional family in your country, what does the male do in the family? And what about the female? Why?

It comes as no surprise that women are still responsible for most of the housework in a family, traditional or not. Even though **gender equality** is actively promoted in modern society, there is still an **imbalance** in household chores division. Housewives take care of almost everything from cooking, laundering, dish washing to house cleaning while their husbands are only concerned with some hard work occasionally such as mending pipes or gardening.

Do you think the man should take care of baby? Why?

Both mother and father have **fundamental** roles in a child's development from birth through adulthood, I believe. Hence, men should be more active in raising kids since they can boost their children, intellectually and socially. Research has shown that children who have a close father-child relationship are likely to have better

social skills and fewer behavioral problems since they are more emotionally secure. Meanwhile, a distant or non-existent father-child bond could **take a horrendous toll on** a kid's self-esteem and self-belief. Thus, if you want to raise a well-rounded kid, pay attention to them.

Vocabulary for Speaking Part 3

- **Roll up one's sleeves** : prepare to fight or work
Eg: John rolled up his sleeves and began the space coding venture.
- **Fundamental**: serious and very important; affecting the most central and important parts of something
Eg: Heart and lungs are the fundamental organs of human body
- **Take a toll on**: to have a bad effect on somebody/something; to cause a lot of damage, deaths, suffering, etc.
Eg: The natural disaster took a toll on Chennai in 2004.
- **Horrendous**: extremely unpleasant
Eg: The roads leading to the village were horrendous.
- **Imbalance**: a situation in which two or more things are not the same size or are not treated the same, in a way that is unfair or causes problems
Eg: Recruitment of women employees will reduce the gender imbalance in the company.
- **Outrageous**: very unusual and slightly shocking
Eg: She took an outrageous decision.
- **Lavish**: large in amount, or impressive, and usually costing a lot of money
Eg: Rose wanted a lavish wedding.
- **Delight**: a feeling of great pleasure
Eg: I was delighted to see my grandparents after a long gap.
- **Maturity**: the quality of thinking and behaving in a sensible, adult manner
Eg: Rose was mature enough to forgive him.
- **Once-in-a-lifetime**: very special because you will probably only have it once
Eg: It was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to meet the king of Bollywood.
- **Abundant**: existing in large quantities; more than enough
Eg: There was an abundance of wealth in his time.
- **Well-off**: having a lot of money
Eg: Rose belongs to a well-off family.
- **End up with**: to finish with the possession of someone or something or in the company of someone or something
Eg: I ended up having a coffee with my colleague.
- **Dysfunctional**: not working normally or properly
Eg: The machine is dysfunctional from last week.
- **Domestic violence**: family violence
Eg: In the olden days, there was a high rate of domestic violence

- **Child neglect:** a form of child abuse, and is a deficit in meeting a child's basic needs, including the failure to provide adequate health care, supervision, clothing, nutrition, housing as well as their physical, emotional, social, educational and safety needs
Eg: The punishment for child neglect is 10 years.
- **Settle for anything less:** commit to a person just because you feel like you can't do any better
Eg: Rose will not settle for anything less than her status.
- **Veil:** a covering of very thin transparent material worn, especially by women, to protect or hide the face, or as part of a hat, etc.
Eg: The bride lifted her veil with both hands.
- **Accompany:** to travel or go somewhere with somebody
Eg: My friend accompanied me to the park.
- **Attire:** clothes
Eg: I will change my attire, once the drama is over.
- **Cumbersome:** large and heavy; difficult to carry
Eg: These goods are cumbersome. We need 2 more people to carry.