

IELTS

SPEAKING SAMPLES

PART 1-2-3

FORECAST

from May to August

IELTS

SPEAKING PART 1

❖ Advertisements

1. How do you feel about advertisements?

→ I'm sick and tired of them, so I always try to find ways to bypass ads on any media platform. For example, when I use the Internet, I make use of a program that blocks advertisements and pop-ups on any web page. As for TV, I don't watch it that often, so commercials are not really a problem to me.

2. Are there many advertisements in your country?

→ There are more than anyone could ever ask for. Seriously, it's hard to go anywhere without seeing or hearing some kind of product commercial. It doesn't help that advertisers in my country aren't very good when it comes to making funny or clever content.

3. What are the various places where we see advertisements?

→ I think we are exposed to them mostly through media platforms such as TV, newspapers or the web. However, ads also take on some physical forms. Sometimes it could be a giant billboard, sometimes it could be your neighbour who gets commission for promoting a product.

4. Why do you think there are so many advertisements now?

→ I think there could be various reasons advertisements are so commonplace these days. Personally, though, I guess when businesses are competing so hard with each other, bringing the image of their product to the customers is as important as the product itself.

5. What kind of advertisements do you like the most?

→ Like I have mentioned, I don't like ads. Though if I must pick one kind, then I would choose TV commercials, for the simple reason that I don't watch TV, so they don't bother me.

The types of commercials that win me over must be creative and clever in some way. For example, I love shampoo ads for Old Spice because they feature an angry muscular man screaming at the audience about the product's superiority. The tongue-in-cheek humor and over-the-top effects never fail to catch my attention.

6. Do advertisements influence your choice about what to buy?

→ They do and I don't like that fact. I'd prefer to be informed about my purchase, do research, price-match and all that stuff. Still, the number of products and brands are overwhelming, so exposure through ads inevitably impacts my buying habits.

7. Do you think advertising plays an important role in today's world?

→ I don't think so. I agree that they are being plastered in every imaginable part of our lives, however we could and should live without them. No one ever says "I'd love a commercial to interrupt my favorite TV show, man".

8. What sorts of advertisements leave the deepest impression on people?

→ I can't speak for everyone, but in general there are two kinds of ads that get talked about: those with catchy tunes and those that are designed to trigger sympathy and compassion in its audience.

❖ Bicycle

1. Do you know how to ride a bicycle?

→ Yes, of course, I love cycling. When I was in high school, I used to ride my bicycle to school every day since it was very near to my house. You know what...it is a good way for me to keep fit.

2. How old were you when you first learned to ride a bicycle?

→ Well, I guess...around 5, when my father first taught me how to ride. He bought me a pink bike with fairy pictures on it and encouraged me to try. I was very scared at first, but then gradually enjoyed and learnt quickly.

3. Are bicycles popular in Vietnam?

→ Yes, definitely, Vietnam is still the country of two-wheel vehicles so bikes and motorbikes are still pretty popular here. However, people are switching to cars nowadays and that is why we may see less bicycles then before.

4. Would you say it's difficult to learn to ride a bicycle?

→ No, it is way too easy. You can learn to ride one in just 5 minutes. Every child, including myself, may be a little bit nervous the first try but they will eventually be fascinated by the speed and movement. The only problem is keeping balance, but it's not really a big issue though.

5. What kinds of people ride bicycles?

→ I suppose most riders are older people, since bicycles are very slow and time-consuming, it is more suited to people with lots of free time.. you know – retired people. Besides, it is also an excellent way to exercise.

6. Do you think it's safe to ride a bicycle in the city?

→ It can be safe if you drive in the park or on less crowded roads, but it can be dangerous to ride on large streets with too much traffic. For example, I would not choose the main street to ride a bike since a car may accidentally crash into cyclists without even noticing.

❖ Art

1. Do you like art?

→ Yes, I do. It is a great way to escape from the busy daily life. Some forms of art that are worth mentioning are painting, dancing, singing and even writing, out of which dancing is probably the most enjoyable activity for me.

2. Do you think art classes are necessary? (Why?)

→ As I mentioned before, the busier life is, the more necessary it is to get lost in an artistic activity. I personally believe that modern people should learn to balance their lives between materialistic and spiritual values. Everybody should go to art class once in a while.

3. How do you think art classes affect children's development?

→ Nobody can deny the effect of music on brain development of babies which is the reason why pregnant women usually let their children listen to instrumental music. It is believed that the right brain will become more developed under the influence of soft and melodic sounds.

4. What kind of paintings do people like?

→ I don't have lots of knowledge about painting but what I know is people enjoy what they draw themselves. For example, we sometimes keep our first drawings from first grade as a memento or reminder. When we grow up, we have less time for activities like painting or drawing so we usually just buy them to decorate our houses.

5. What benefits can you get from painting as a hobby?

→ Well, I have never thought about it before... give me a minute to think.. well, painting can be a fun way to escape from your current busy schedule and reward yourself after a hard-working day. Besides, maybe you can discover an inborn talent as an artist when you try painting since most people do not have chance to ever try it.

6. How often do you visit art galleries?

→ It is so embarrassing to admit that I have never been to an art gallery because I am not really the artistic type of person. However, I have a friend who is a designer and she is fascinated with pictures and paintings. She told me many things about the galleries that she had been to all over the world which sounds quite intriguing.

7. What kinds of things do you like to draw?

→ I'd like to draw natural landscapes since painting requires hours of looking at the same thing over and over again. It would be nice to look at something beautiful, and to be honest, I find it hard to take my eyes off a stunning scene in nature.

8. Is it easy to learn how to draw?

→ It is too easy to learn to draw. The fact is even a child can draw something on paper like a house, a cat, a toy or something like that. However, being able to draw professionally and earn an income out of it is not an easy task. I think it requires inborn talent and a huge passion in art to do this.

❖ Names

1. Do you like your name?

→ Yes, of course, I do like the name my parents gave me. It's not only a part of my identity but also symbolizes the love from my beloved parents.

2. Does your name have any special meaning?

→ Yes, it does. Well, you know, almost every name in Vietnam has a meaning behind it. Mine is the South. My father named me after the loss of the Southern Vietnam regime. Besides, it can be also used for someone who is really manly.

3. What kinds of names are popular in Vietnam?

→ I don't know much about preferences when giving names to babies in Vietnam, but I guess some neutral names that can be used for both men and women are pretty trendy these days.

4. Are there many Vietnamese people who have the same name as you?

→ I guess so. You know, since my name is very easy to think of, it is suitable for some parents who are struggling to find the perfect name for their offspring.

5. Is there any tradition about naming babies?

→ Well, normally the father will name his child, but in some cases, grandparents also want to join in the process of naming. Apart from that though, the family name of newborn babies must follow their father's family name.

❖ Hometown

1. What's (the name of) your hometown (again)?

→ Well, I was born and brought up in Tram Chim town, which is located in the Mekong Delta. This place is well-known for its spectacular national park which preserves thousands of bird species, including some endangered ones.

2. Is that a big city or a small place?

→ I'd have to say it is a very small and rural area. I mean there are only a few people residing there, and you can hardly find any modern facilities like cinemas or supermarkets, like in big cities.

3. Please describe your hometown a little.

→ If I had to choose one word, it would be "peaceful". I mean noises, pollution or hectic workloads will never be a problem there. You can enjoy fresh air with no pollution, get up late without worrying about deadlines or deactivate your mind with the tranquility of the natural beauty.

4. How long have you lived there?

→ Well, I had been living there since I was born until the day I went to college for further education in a big city. However, whenever I take long holidays, I still set aside time for returning to my hometown to see my parents.

5. Do you like living there?

→ Yes of course, as I was saying, I love the peacefulness in my hometown. You know, I am planning to return to where I was born for my retirement.

6. What do you like (most) about your hometown?

→ Besides the peacefulness, I am really into the natural beauty of my hometown. You know, almost every spare meter there is covered with greenery. I mean you can hardly find a place without any trees or flowers. This really makes my hometown a picturesque place.

7. Is there anything you dislike about it?

→ Although I really love my hometown, I have to admit that it is quite boring to live there. There aren't many types of entertainment. Also, the transportation is not very good. I mean the streets are poorly constructed and there are many holes in them.

8. Do you think you will continue living there for a long time?

→ Not for now you know. But as I was saying, I will return to my hometown permanently when I retire.

9. Where would you like to live in the future?

→ In the future, of course my hometown is the number one priority, but I'd still consider somewhere with a mild climate like Da Lat or Sapa. I am working very hard now to save enough money to afford a place to live there.

❖ Photography

1. Do you like to take photographs? (Why?)

→ Yes, definitely. I think photography is great since it helps us to document our life and keep our memories from fading, and the photographic process is also fun.

2. Do you prefer to take photos yourself or to have other people take your photo? Why?

→ To be honest, I like to take photos by myself so that the precious moments are captured from my perspective. Moreover, as I'm not really good at posing for pictures, I always find it embarrassing when being a model for someone.

3. What kind of photos do you like to take? Why?

→ Well, I think the kinds of photos do not matter. I tend to capture things that are not moving, since it is easier for me to catch the right angle to make the picture more eye-catching.

4. How (why) did you become interested in photography?

→ Well, my father, who is a very seasoned photographer, has taught me many principles of photography. Thanks to him, I won first prize in a photography contest when I was 10 years old and have fallen in love with it ever since.

5. Do you prefer to take pictures of people or of scenery?

→ Oh I could say without hesitation that landscape photography is more appealing to me as I was born and lived for quite a long time in Can Tho, a small city whose population is low but the scenery is gorgeous. I've shot lots of great pictures there.

6. How often do you take photographs?

→ In the past, I used to take photos on a weekly basis as I was really addicted to it. However, as I've grown up and have had many tasks to deal with, I rarely use my camera anymore.

7. How do you keep your photos?

→ I usually print them out and keep them in albums so they will be protected. Besides, I also store my photos on my computer disk and on the internet for backup.

8. Do you frame (or have you framed) any of your photos?

→ No, I don't. To me, photos frames can take up lots of space so I would rather use albums or just save them on my phone.

9. Do you prefer to send postcards to people or to send photos that you took yourself? (Why?)

→ Sending photos which I have taken might be more valuable because I can use the contents of the photos to express my current feelings towards the receiver. Take beaches as an example. When I'm happy, I often shoot the scene of children running around and playing water sports, while I like to capture a peaceful sunset when I am feeling down in the dumps. In contrast, postcards are made by other people so they are just meaningless to me.

❖ Jewelry

1. What do you think about jewelry?

→ Without a shadow of doubt, jewelry is a crucial accessory for people to beautify their appearance or even show their social status.

2. What kind of jewelry do you like to buy?

→ As you know, there is a wide range of jewelry including necklaces, rings or earrings, but the one which always comes out on top of my list is bracelets since it makes my wrist look more graceful. I often buy them in PNJ store, the place selling bracelets for reasonable prices.

3. Why do so many people choose to buy expensive jewelry?

→ As the general GDP of citizens is increasing much more compared to the past, people can now spend more money to buy pricey jewels to make themselves more beautiful. It is undeniable that a shining ruby necklace can really make people stand out from the crowd.

4. How often do you wear jewelry?

→ Not very often, to be honest. I tend not to wear jewelry very often when going out as I'm afraid of robbery. However, I do wear bracelets and earrings on some formal occasions such as wedding parties or weekly meetings at work.

❖ Sleep

1. How many hours do you sleep every day?

→ It depends on how heavy my workload is on that day. But I usually try to get around 7 to 8 hours of sleep so that I can always be wide awake and work effectively for the whole day.

2. Is it necessary to take a nap every day?

→ Yes, I believe that people need to have a snooze after lunch because after eating, we can start to feel sleepy and lose focus. Therefore, a quick nap can bring our energy back and help us become more productive after that.

3. Do old people sleep a lot? Why?

→ Actually, I think elderly people generally have the same amount of sleep as young people. But the thing is they often find it hard to fall asleep, so they go to bed earlier than young adults, which makes us think that they sleep a lot.

4. What time do you usually go to bed?

→ To be honest, I'm a night owl. I usually go to sleep at around 1 or 2 a.m. I know it is not a healthy habit but if I can't get all my work done, it's very hard for me to get to sleep.

5. Do you always have a good sleep?

→ I'm a busy person. I go to work from 9 a.m to 9 p.m, so at the end of the day, I often feel extremely exhausted and sleep like a rock.

❖ Dictionary

1. How often do you use your dictionary?

→ As an English learner, I use dictionaries to look up new words regularly. Without them, it would be really hard for me to write a complete IELTS essay or understand an English article.

2. Do you like paper dictionary or electronic dictionary?

→ E-dictionary, absolutely. It's very convenient and portable. I can use my smartphone and look up new words whenever and wherever I want without having to carry a heavy book with me all the time.

3. What kinds of dictionaries have you used before?

→ I've used quite a lot of dictionaries; but 3 dictionaries that I make use of the most are Cambridge Dictionary, Collocation dictionary, and Thesaurus dictionary. All of them are absolutely necessary for any English learner, I believe.

4. How will dictionaries change in the future?

→ Given that technology has become more and more developed, it is highly likely that unique kinds of dictionaries like a visual dictionary will be created and developed, which allows users to acquire vocabulary quickly and effectively.

❖ Sunshine

1. Do you like sunshine?

→ Definitely, I do. Summer days always bring me a lot of energy and excitement. I really love the moment when I open the curtains, let the soft warm rays of sunshine in and abandon myself to the soothing dawn chorus. Besides, on sunny days, I can go out and enjoy many activities with my friends.

2. Do you like a place with more sunshine or less sunshine?

→ I don't know about other people, but I would go for a place with more sunshine. As a matter of fact, the sun can strongly affect our mental health. I have read somewhere that exposure to natural sunlight can energize and protect us from negative emotions.

3. What do you think of when we mention the word "sunshine"?

→ Wow, this question really stirs my imagination. Actually, the word reminds me of an old song named "You Are My Sunshine". Throughout my childhood, the melody haunted my mind because I heard it thousands of times, though my English at that time was not good enough to understand the lyrics.

4. Do you like to sun bathe?

→ Of course, I do. An ideal summer day would be when I could indulge myself on a sandy beach, feeling the warm sunrays beating down on my skin and enjoying my favorite smoothie.

❖ Gift

1. How often do you buy gifts for other people?

→ I have been in the habit of buying gifts on important occasions such as birthdays or house-warming parties because I consider it as a way to express my affection to others.

2. Do you like to buy expensive gifts?

→ Actually buying high-cost gifts is a no-no for me. In fact, I'm really into giving hand-made gifts so that receiver can feel my love and care for them.

3. What kinds of gifts are popular in your country?

→ Birthday gifts such as clothes, flowers, cakes, books or jewelry are some kinds of popular gifts that adults prefer to give in my country, whereas children tend to choose teddy bears or souvenirs for their friends.

4. Why do people send gifts?

→ In my opinion, sending gifts is considered a way to convey love and care for each other, which means that the relationship between the two people is precious to cherish. Besides, this act may show affection, gratitude or asking for forgiveness.

❖ Smart phone app

1. What kinds of apps do you often use?

→ Well, like anyone else, I use social media networks on a daily basis to communicate with people who have similar interests with me. In addition, these platforms also help me to keep up-to-date with what is happening in the world at the moment.

2. What kinds of apps would you like to have in the future?

→ I guess my future preference is health-tracking apps. Because of the increasing risk of physical as well as mental health problems, I want to monitor my health, checking in with an app to make sure that everything from my diet to my workout regime is on track.

3. What's the most popular app in your country?

→ That's definitely Facebook. Some people use Facebook so excessively that they do not talk to each other. For example, whenever I go to a coffee shop, it's really common to see a couple checking their newsfeed rather than talking to each other.

4. What was the first app you used?

→ If my memory serves me right, the first app I used was a mathematics game. This app is not only entertaining but also educational. It helped me to improve my academic performance pretty much, particularly in math.

5. Do old people in your country like to use apps?

→ I would say no to this question. The elderly are usually reluctant to use smart phones because having weak eyesight becomes a hindrance for using these phones. Therefore, it is kinda obvious that apps on smart phones are not preferred by the old.

❖ Transportation

1. What form of transport do you usually use? And Why?

→ I always travel around by my car because I don't wanna get exposed to the sun and heat outside. Therefore, my appearance is always perfect and the skin on my face won't dry out or experience sunburn and heat shock.

2. What vehicles (or, what means of transport) do people in Vietnam most often choose to use?

→ Motorbike, absolutely and I believe if you ask any Vietnamese person this question, you will receive the same answer as mine. Due to traffic congestion and small roads, riding bikes is the fastest choice to get to work or school on time.

3. What will become the most popular means of transportation in Vietnam?

→ From my perspective, motorbikes will be gradually replaced with subways in the future. Subway systems are under construction at the moment and they are the most feasible remedy to the increases in traffic jams and air pollution nowadays.

4. What do you think about the transport system in your hometown?

→ My hometown is HCM city which has a terrible traffic situation. Due to the dense population, you are likely to get stuck in traffic jams in rush hours and waste a lot of time getting home. Plus, some people are drunk while driving, which causes many severe accidents on the roads.

5. Would you say transport costs are high in your hometown?

→ Well, it depends on what means of transportation you are using. If you use public transport such as buses to commute, the fees are quite affordable. There are even some discounts for students and older people. However, when it comes to cars or other high-quality transport, you have to pay much higher costs.

6. How has the transport system in your hometown changed in the past few decades?

→ In my opinion, there are some remarkable advancements in the transport system in my country these days compared to the past. Road safety has increased because the government has imposed stricter punishments such as fines as well as encouraged citizens to use public transportation instead of private vehicles.

❖ Animals

1. Why do some people keep pets at home?

→ Well, there are a number of reasons, but I think the most important one is having a pet is like having a comforting companion. They can help relieve stress and cheer people up when they are upset or tired. That is why many people treat pets, such as cats or dogs, as a member of the family.

2. What kinds of animals do you like?

→ I am into all kinds of birds. For me, they are beautiful and lovely creatures. In fact, some of them may be naughty, but watching their behavior can be something really relaxing to do.

3. Have you ever had a pet before?

→ I used to have a bulldog. You know, it was a present from one of my buddies. I had had it for more than a year before it was stolen. Since then, I have never wanted to have any pet again as the feeling of losing something you love dearly is terrible.

4. Do you like to see animals in the zoo?

→ To be honest, I have to say “no” because I always feel sorry for animals that are kept in the cages. Although they are well looked after and are provided with food, they don’t have the freedom like living in their natural habitat.

5. What is the most popular animal in Vietnam?

→ Well, it is dogs, perhaps. In the countryside, each household typically has a dog to watch their house as dogs usually bark when they see strangers. In the cities, many people, especially the young, do not hesitate to spend money on buying a dog and take care of them like babies.

❖ Shoes

1. Do you like shopping for shoes?

→ Yes, I love to do so. I can go on a hunt for a pair of the latest Nike or Adidas sneakers, just to make an addition to my shoe collection and not to be old-fashioned.

2. How often do you buy shoes?

→ Well, I can say that I get new shoes every month. Whenever I get my salary, I always try to keep my collection updated with a new pair of trendy shoes. I have such a big love for shoes and I cannot stand wearing old ones.

3. What kinds of shoes do you usually buy?

→ I spend most of my money on trainers and boots. Mostly I'll choose trainers and I've got around 20 pairs of them so far because they bring comfort and performance, but for formal occasions, I definitely go for some boots, especially leather ones because it feels more posh and elegant.

4. Do you prefer comfortable shoes, or good-looking shoes?

→ I think I do like comfy shoes better than good-looking ones. I'm a pretty active person and I'm always up for adventures so I move and run a lot the whole day. Because of that, I would love to have comfortable running shoes as my companion.

5. Do you have a pair of shoes that you especially like?

→ Yes, and it is a white pair of Converse. I got it on my 23rd birthday from my mother and they were very light and durable. Sadly, my beloved dog bit and tore them to pieces the other day. The left shoe was nowhere to be seen.

6. Have you ever bought shoes online?

→ Yes, I've tried that once before and it was a huge disappointment. I didn't have to wait for so long to receive the package. But when I opened the box, I was immediately let down by the color because it seemed to be brighter than the crimson red color that I selected. I was not even able to fit my foot into it though I ordered my usual size.

7. Do you think men and women are equally interested in buying shoes?

→ I believe women are bigger fans of buying shoes. I don't mean to stereotype but maybe it's because clothing for women is much more diverse and complicated and so is their

footwear. It's likely men and boys don't have so many options that drive them nuts to choose from.

ZIM

❖ Snacks

1. What kinds of snacks do you like to eat?

→ I have quite a long list of favorite snacks I always seem to be chewing, from ones found in a fast food restaurant such as french fries and mashed potatoes, to sweet cakes like tiramisu or cupcakes.

2. Is it healthy to eat snacks?

→ I have to admit that even though I have a sweet tooth I don't think it's a good habit to take in so many snacks. Most of the snacks we consume are fried and sweetened and they have been proven to be harmful to our health and can later lead to some diseases such as diabetes or heart attacks.

3. Do your parents allow you to eat snacks?

→ When I was still a little boy, my parents were rather overprotective and to me, eating candies and crackers meant being punished by a hard hit on the hands. Now, they are easier on me so I can eat whatever I want as long as I remember to brush my teeth carefully afterward.

4. What was the most popular snack when you were young?

→ As I remember, the most common snack at that time was Poca crackers with spicy and prawn flavors. They were packed in colorful wrappers and the price was really reasonable so almost every kid in my class was able to afford them even when our pocket-money was so little.

5. What kinds of snacks do children in your country like to eat nowadays?

→ Well, I have a feeling that kids nowadays eat a lot of french fries because the taste is quite delicious and can be found almost everywhere from restaurants to street vendors. Even their parents love to eat it too so sometimes they might buy and enjoy a big pack of french fries with their children.

IELTS

SPEAKING PART 2 & 3

1. Describe a public place that you think needs improvements.

You should say:

- What the place is.
- When you visit the place.
- What do you like and dislike about the public place.

Band 8 Sample:

I would like to talk about a public place that I think needs improvement. Among the most popular public places where people can **socialise** and hang out with each other is Dam Sen, an amusement park in Ho Chi Minh city, considered a green **oasis** located in District 11.

Last month, I decided to take my nieces and nephews there. The park is comprised of many areas including a **roller coaster** which, to my surprise, the children **eagerly** rode. Time just flew by with the kids.

We liked everything about the park except the fact that people were throwing empty water bottles here and there. I felt there should be more bins. Well, to tell the truth, the park is rather old. Sometimes my parents used to take me there in my childhood. However, the park was a lot different from what I could remember. Some facilities at its far end were covered in moss and overgrown weeds. The **crumbling** walls gave the impression that the area had been **abandoned for ages**. One day, to our **terror**, we found some used needles laying **amidst** the **shabby greenery, invisible** and able to **pierce** the common light-weight shoes the children wear.

I would say that the city authority should encourage local people or voluntary groups to tidy up the park and hire more care-takers to make it a safer and more attractive playground for children. Also, a certain amount of money is needed to install new restrooms and other safety-oriented upgrades like street lighting or warning signs.

Vocabulary highlights:

- **socialise:** to meet and spend time with people in a friendly way
- **oasis:** an area in the desert where there is water and where plants grow
- **roller coaster:** a track at a fairground that goes up and down very steep slopes and that people ride on in a small train for fun and excitement
- **eagerly:** in a way that shows great interest and excitement
- **crumble:** break something into very small pieces
- **abandon:** leave somebody with no intention of returning
- **for ages:** for a long time
- **terror:** extreme fear
- **amidst:** among
- **shabby:** in poor condition
- **greenery:** green leaves and plants
- **invisible:** cannot be seen
- **pierce:** go through

IELTS Speaking Part 3

- **Are there many public places in Vietnam?**

I guess there's many public facilities in my country where people can enjoy themselves without paying any fees. In HCM city alone, we can find many parks and public libraries which serve the local people for free. I guess there is a budget from the government for this kind of thing, so let's enjoy the free services we have.

- **Do you like to exercise in the public places, such as parks?**

I would say yes; since I am living in the city, parks are seemingly the only place where I can truly be a part of nature. In fact I have this very healthy habit of going jogging in the park every morning at 5:30.

- **Do older people or younger people prefer exercising in the public place?**

I believe older people like going to the park more than younger people. While old people may consider parks as a good place to do some basic physical activity like going jogging or doing tai-chi, I think the young see it differently. Being relatively stronger and more flexible, gyms are a better option for young people. In fact, virtually none of my friends go to the park to exercise.

- **What measures should governments and individuals take to keep public places clean?**

Among many available solutions, I believe the change in people's awareness would play a key role in improving the cleanliness of public areas. For that reason, it is necessary for the government to carry out educational campaigns to encourage people to behave appropriately, such as putting garbage in the right place, or even organizing events where people gather to pick up litter in public parks or gardens.

2. Describe a city or country you want to live the most in the future.

You should say:

- What city it is.
- Where it is located.
- Why you like it.

Band 8 Sample

I would like to tell you about Tokyo, the city I want to live in the most in the future. It is the capital city of Japan and is the most populous **metropolitan** area in the world.

The most important reason I wish to **settle down** in Tokyo is the **co-existence** of modern and traditional values. It's the kind of city where the red gates of a centuries-old Shinto **shrine** may well be found just next door to a glass skyscraper **showcasing** the finest 21st century technology. Or where a quiet green lane lined with wooden low-rise houses and an old school tofu shop might sit just **a short stroll from** a neon-lit square packed with **flickering** billboards and rainbow-bright street fashion.

The **hectic** life in Tokyo is also an **irresistible** attraction for young people. Tokyo's railway system seems like it was designed to win world records. It's rare to find a location in the metropolitan area that can't be reached with a train ride and a short walk. It is also common knowledge that you could spend hours **drooling** over the **elaborate** pastries and picture-perfect sushi rolls in a department store.

I feel that the city is moving toward the future. I believe Tokyo will become a city that is full of surprises.

Vocabulary highlights:

- **metropolitan:** connected with a large or capital city
- **settle down:** start to have a quieter way of life
- **co-existence:** the state of being together in the same place at the same time
- **shrine:** a place where people come to worship
- **showcase:** present
- **a short stroll from:** not far from
- **flicker:** keep going on and off as it shines or burns
- **hectic:** full of activity
- **irresistible:** cannot be stopped or resisted
- **drool:** let saliva come out of your mouth
- **elaborate:** carefully prepared

IELTS Speaking Part 3

- **Do you like to live alone or share a room with others?**

I prefer to live on my own. It offers me a sense of freedom to do whatever I like without affecting or being affected by others. Sharing a room with a mate may be more fun as you have someone to talk to, but disagreements and conflicts occurring from daily interactions may be inevitable.

- **What are the advantages and the disadvantages of living alone?**

Well living somewhere on your own has some certain pros and cons, I believe. Like, our sense of independence can improve when we have no one to rely on but ourselves. It's the main benefit of living alone. However, it would be tedious and maybe lonely when we have to sleep alone and do household chores without anybody's help.

- **What are the advantages of working abroad?**

There are numerous benefits I can think of. Firstly, people have a great chance to improve their use of a foreign language. Working in countries like England or the US, for example helps them practice their English on a daily basis, which eventually results in the a better level of confidence and activeness in their English communication skills. Also, people have ample chance to broaden their horizons by learning about the progress of other countries, such as management systems or technological advancements, right in their workplace, which not only provides them with knowledge but gives them a chance to accumulate a lot of good skills and experience.

- **What are the disadvantages of living in a foreign country?**

There are many but I would like to focus on two that I believe are the biggest. One of the drawbacks relates to culture shock. You know, differences in working manner or working culture may result in employees' reluctance in processing their tasks, not to mention the difficulties in understanding others with a foreign language. Secondly, working in a foreign country can also be a challenge of one's independence. In fact, a number of people have not been able to stay in a foreign country for the long term just because they cannot suffer the loneliness.

- **Would you like to live in a developed city with a high salary, but with polluted air?**

To be honest, I am not willing to live and work in conditions where there is such imbalance. It is because the environment can directly affect my ability to work as efficient as I can. Moreover, money can be earned but the harmful consequences for one's health caused by

pollution cannot be compensated. Needless to say, without health, it is hard for me to enjoy my life even when I am living in a developed country and can earn plenty of money.

ZIM

3. Describe an impressive story you heard from other people

You should say:

- What was this story.
- When did you hear about it.
- Who told you this story.
- Why you were impressed by it.

Band 8 Sample:

I would like to share a funny story that I heard from Julie, a friend of mine, a long time ago. It was a random day that our group hung out at a coffee shop and sat at the circle table near the window, as we usually do. This was our favourite spot. But that day, instead of ordering a cappuccino as I usually do, I decided to try a completely new drink – mojito mixed with some fruit, though I can't remember exactly what.

The mojito looked good on the outside but its taste was unbearable to me. Despite my warning, Julie insisted on trying it. It turned out that she liked the drink very much and in that moment, she concluded that it tasted exactly like the toothpaste that she ate in her childhood. Learning of this incident, we were a bit shocked as to why she ate such a thing, so she continued to **elaborate on her story**. She recalled that she indeed thought that the taste of toothpaste was delicious, and even she was banned from eating it by her parents, she secretly saved money to buy one for herself a few years later. She added that she sneakily hid the tube in the room and she could finish the whole thing in one go. We were frozen and all eyes were on her for a few seconds. Then we all **burst into laughter**. I still remember laughing so hard that my tears ran down.

I was indeed impressed by her story. As the matter of fact, it wasn't the first time I had heard of someone enjoying eating toothpaste, but secretly saving money to do this was a surprise element and it was hilarious. And of course, it has become an inside joke between us since then.

Vocabulary highlights:

- **Elaborate on the story:** Explain in greater detail.
- **Burst into laughter:** A spontaneous and sudden fit of laughter.

ZIM

IELTS Speaking Part 3

- **What kind of stories do children like?**

In my opinion, I think most kids like to read picture storybooks that include vibrant, detailed illustrations that support the story. This is because kids of this age are becoming more aware of language, books that include rhythmic patterns, rhyming and repetition or predictable texts provide them with opportunities to memorize stories to tell to others.

- **Do you think it's important for parents to read bedtime stories for their children?**

Yes, I think reading bedtime stories is essential for children because bedtime is the calmest and quietest part of the day. So, even while we can read during other parts of the day, it's often difficult for the kids to pay attention and concentrate, especially if they're hungry, or right after an intense play time.

- **Do you think reading benefits us?**

Yes, I do think so. In fact, it can help broaden your knowledge because everything you read fills your head with new bits of information, and you never know when it might come in handy. The more knowledge you have, the better-equipped you are to tackle any challenge you'll ever face.

- **How do you keep your reading habits in your busy life?**

I usually read books at night after a hard-working day, especially on weekdays, because this is the only period of time that I have some free time for myself to read for about 30 minutes to 1 hour before going to sleep. However, on the weekend, since I don't have to go to work, I will spend about 3 or 4 hours reading.

- **What books would you recommend young people to read?**

If I have to choose, Harry Potter would definitely come out on top of my list, because there have been lots of people read it, including those who don't really like to read, so young adults will have more opportunities to talk about this series. Besides, it offers a smooth read, as the writing is clear and entertaining, and it won't take them long to burn right through the whole series.

4. Describe a TV program

You should say:

- What the TV program is
- How you know it
- What it is like
- Why you like it

Band 8 Sample:

I'm going to talk about "Who wants to be a millionaire", one of my favorite TV shows ever.

As far as I can remember, it was originally a UK TV Game Show, and it made its first **debut** in Vietnam around 10 years ago.

This was kind of a quiz show in which contestants have to go through a set of 15 questions with increasing difficulty. The first 5 questions are pretty silly really, and they always **give me and my family a good laugh**. Contestants are given 4 lifelines to aid them with difficult questions, and most of them are usually used up when the contestant reaches around question 7 or 8. The entire show is **a sea of knowledge**. Many questions from different fields are asked, ranging from trivial things like ingredients needed to make cookies to academic stuff like quantum physics and archeology.

You know, I'm quite a curious man, so back when I was a high school kid, I hardly missed an episode. When the Internet became available in Vietnam, I started to watch the UK and US version as well, and knowledge acquired from those shows were really helpful to me in many of my high school knowledge quizzes.

Vocabulary highlights:

- **Debut:** The first public appearance of something
- **Give somebody a good laugh:** Make someone laugh in excitement
- **A sea of knowledge:** a lot of knowledge

IELTS Speaking Part 3

- **Do young people like to watch TV nowadays?**

I would say no. The Internet is a much better option; everything from films and TV series to music is available on the Net, some of which are free of charge (or at least in Vietnam I think). Young people, with their smartphones in hand, no longer feel the need to watch TV.

- **What kind of TV programs do young people like?**

Mostly soap operas, I believe. More women watch TV than men do, and romances are their favorites. Also, cartoons are popular among kids, and students in Vietnam also love quiz shows.

- **Do you think TV will be replaced by computers?**

Yes, it's very likely. I can **see** that coming really. The Internet has been a much better option; everything from films and TV series' to music is available on the Net, some of which are free of charge (or at least in Vietnam I think). Young people, with their smartphones in hand, no longer feel the need to watch TV. I would call it the "natural" selection of technology.

- **What do you think about TV advertisements?**

TV commercials help us to know about stuff we need to buy, so I think it's pretty useful. However, at times it can be very annoying when it interrupts our favorite shows.

5. Describe a toy that you received when you were a child.

You should say:

- What the toy was.
- Who gave it to you.
- How you used it.
- An explanation of how you felt when you got this toy.

Band 8 Sample:

Well, the first **sentimental item** that came to mind when I saw this topic was the **stuffed animal** named Marsupilami. This special toy was a birthday present. I can't remember exactly how old I was, but I was probably about 5 or 6. This toy was important to me because I **longed for** it and it was a gift from my parents.

The toy was **identical to** the **character** in the cartoon I had watched. Therefore, I felt as if he had come from the movie. Marsupilami was a black-spotted yellow monkey-like **creature** with dog-like ears. The animals were **characterized** by an **incredibly** long, strong and flexible tail, used for almost any task.

As a kid, this was a fascinating and exciting toy for me. In the beginning, I did not allow any of my cousins and friends to touch Marsupilami. Marsupilami used to sit proudly on my bed each and every day, and every night he "slept" next to my pillow.

Thanks to the toy, I experienced a happy childhood. As the saying goes, "Teddy bears don't need hearts as they are already stuffed with love." This is also true for my beloved Marsupilami.

Vocabulary highlights:

- **sentimental item:** the object whose value derives from personal or emotional associations rather than material worth
- **stuffed animal:** a toy with an outer fabric sewn from a textile and then stuffed with a flexible material
- **long for:** want very much
- **identical:** exactly the same
- **character:** a person or an animal in a book, play or film/movie
- **creature:** a living thing
- **characterize:** be typical of
- **incredibly:** in a way that is very difficult to believe

IELTS Speaking Part 3

- **Why do children like to have toys in their lives?**

I think toys are the instruments that allow them to discover the world they live in, which is precisely why they interact with their surroundings through toys. Plus, toys provide plenty of enjoyment and happiness, both of which help build their skills. For example, toys promote children's cognitive development by stimulating their concentration and memory skills and giving them the ability to solve problems creatively, which is key to their future autonomy.

- **Do children like to play with toys or computer games nowadays?**

I think children nowadays prefer electronic games to toys. Electronic games with audio effects engage children for long hours, and most children are not allowed outside to play without supervision, which is the main reason they choose computers or other electronic games to fulfill their gaming spirit. Also, computer games give scores and levels to motivate children to play more and elevate to higher levels in the game.

- **What can parents do if they can't afford a toy for their kids?**

I think it is better to stand firm and don't give in to a child's pestering. This is because latest toys can overstretch the family budget and many parents might feel under pressure to meet their children's demands. Therefore, cost is a consideration for most parents, and so is keeping limitations on how much they treat their children.

- **Do girls and boys like the same toys?**

No, they don't. In fact, boys tend to like "wheeled toys", such as a wagon, or trucks or cars, and play with them in a masculine fashion, while girls have a preference for "plush toys" like Barbie dolls and play with them in a feminine way.

- **What do you think the advantages and disadvantages of having too many toys at home?**

There are many advantages for children who have a lot of toys, but there are also some disadvantages. As for the advantages, children can develop visual sense and basic math skills. However, on the other hand, having too many toys can stop the development of their creativity, and they may not bother to play outside or engage in much physical activity.

6. Describe an important river/lake in your country

You should say:

- What this river is called.
- How you know about it.
- How long/big it is.
- Why it is important.

Band 8 Sample:

I am going to talk about the Mekong river, one of the biggest and most important rivers located in southwestern part of Vietnam. With a length of about 2,700 miles, the river is the 7th longest in Asia. Locally, it's called "River of the Nine Dragons" because the small branches of the river are, **since time immemorial**, associated with the image of nine **majestic** dragons. Needless to say, the river is mentioned in a variety of poems and songs.

In terms of **agriculture**, the **mighty** river together with its surrounding delta has been known as the agricultural heart of southern Vietnam and the 'rice bowl' of the whole country. The Mekong is also Vietnam's most important fishing region.

If you are a **discerning** tourist who really has 'wearing a conical hat in a sampan boat in Vietnam' on your **bucket list**, a trip to Mekong Delta is a must. It is carpeted in a dizzying variety of greens and is also a place where boats, houses and markets float upon the innumerable rivers, canals and streams that **criss-cross** the landscape like arteries. Embarking on a Mekong River cruise provides tourists with fascinating insight into the local rural way of life, including the opportunity to visit some of the region's best-known sites, along with plenty of hidden **gems**.

Vocabulary highlights:

- **since time immemorial:** for a very long time
- **majestic:** impressive
- **agriculture:** the cultivation and breeding of animals and plants
- **mighty:** very strong and powerful
- **discerning:** able to judge the good quality of something
- **bucket list:** a number of experiences or achievements that a person hopes to have or accomplish during their lifetime
- **criss-cross:** mark with intersecting lines
- **gem:** a person, place or thing that is especially good

IELTS Speaking Part 3

- **Do people like that river in your country?**

I am afraid not. Rivers are really not what we Vietnamese are concerned about. Like you know, rivers aren't our first choice when we go on a tour or something. We may long for beaches, we may want to be hitch hikers, but not many think of going on a river voyage.

- **Do you like any activities on water?**

Since i do not know how to swim, I'm afraid of activities in and on water, so it's not really something that I care about. However. I do know something about parasailing and scuba diving from English textbooks, so I believe I may give it a try someday when I learn how to swim

- **Is it necessary for everyone to learn swimming?**

Of course, swimming is vitally important. It's a survival skill for people who live near rivers and oceans. There have been many reports and cases of children drowning, so I believe swimming should be a compulsory part in any PE course

- **Do people in your country go to swim in their spare time?**

I would say yes and no. Around, like, 30% of Vietnamese know how to swim, and do it whenever they have some time to spare. Lam Son pool - the biggest public pool in my city is always fraught with people swimming every summer. However, I would not say so for the other 70% who have no idea how to swim

7. Describe a historical era you are interested in

You should say:

- When this era was.
- How you learnt about it.
- What it was famous for.
- Why you are interested in this era.

Band 8 Sample:

If I could go in a time machine, I would choose to go back to the **glorious time** of Hong Bang period in about 2000 BC, the very first days of my country.

At that time, this place wasn't called Vietnam, it was under the rule of Hung Kings and was named Van Lang instead. What I find fascinating about this era is the **legends and myths** which I learned from History and Literature class back in school. Van Lang was a small country yet it was frequently invaded by the mysterious people. Whenever this period of time is mentioned, people will immediately relate to hundreds of wars, some even last for decades. We, the descendants, had no idea how they could win in those wars due to the sparse population and simple weapons, so we made up stories and fables to honor the bravery of our ancestors. Some specific examples are the legend of a three-year-old boy who went to war to save the country, or the myth of the Magic Crossbow which could deliver thousands of arrows and the story of the princess innocently trusting her lover and betraying her father, and the list goes on.

Although some of the stories are imaginary, it left a mark on me and nurtured my love for my home country since I was a little girl. Moreover, many of modern Vietnamese **cultural practices** also date back to this era, like cooking sticky rice cakes and displaying five-fruit trays on Tet holiday. This era can be considered as the cradle of our culture. I am always curious about the origin of our customs, and I believe that going back to this time could provide me with first-hand experience as well as a thorough understanding of my country's tradition.

Vocabulary highlights:

- **Glorious time:** A time of greatness and prosperity.
- **Legends and myths:** Traditional stories, usually historical and unauthenticated (possibly not true).
- **Cultural practice:** an action committed by people of a particular culture, tradition or nationality.

ZIM

IELTS Speaking Part 3

- **Do young people like historical stories in your country?**

I am afraid not, since history is not taught very effectively here in Vietnam. Many of my friends aren't keen on history, and most of them don't even know some very common heroes in Vietnamese history, which is really a shame.

- **Which historical period do you think is important in your country?**

I would say the Nguyen Dynasty, since it witnessed our country's transition from the feudal age to the early modern era. The last Viet Emperor was a Nguyen, and he put an end to his own regime.

- **Do you think history matters in a country's future development?**

Yes. We humans reflect on history to learn from our own mistakes. Understanding our mistakes and correcting them is the solid foundation for future development.

- **What is the effective way of learning history, by reading books or watching videos?**

It really depends. For beginners, movies are a good starting point. Vivid images and fighting scenes from movies can be very inspirational. It can help inspire people to get to know more about history. However, when one wishes to have a deeper insight, books are the better option.

- **Why should we learn history?**

→ History is a good reflection of the past. By learning history, we are able to conceive how our ancestors lived, struggled against Mother Nature, and died. Knowing these facts and learning from their mistakes is a solid foundation for future development.

8. Describe a photo you have taken

You should say:

- Where you took it.
- When you took the photo.
- What/who is in the photo.
- How you felt about the photo.

Band 8 Sample:

I am going to talk about a photo that I took some years ago when my family went on holiday in Phan Thiet beach. The picture **captured** the memory of a very happy family. This is a priceless **possession** to me and I would like to keep it with me for the rest of my life.

I have seen it thousands times and still I look at it with an **indescribable delight**. In the picture, everyone was smiling **cheerfully**. My father's eyes were **sparkling** and the corners of his eyes **crinkled**. To tell the truth, it was very rare to see my father's smile as he always kept a serious **facial expression**. Needless to say, my mother was standing next to him with warm happiness glowing in her face. My younger brothers and sisters were not really **photogenic** because they were bursting out laughing for a reason I could not remember clearly.

In the back ground, the sun looked like it was gradually **receding** into the waters below. The sky consisted of **an assortment of** shades, a blend of reds, oranges and yellows. The water below was **mirroring** this effect. The scene was beautiful.

I have to admit that I know very little about the **technical** aspects of camera and to be honest I take photos from my own preference rather than maintaining aspects a professional photographer would do. Though the photo was not professionally shot, it is still the most treasured photo I could have.

Vocabulary highlights:

- **capture:** catch
- **possession:** something that you own
- **indescribable:** so extreme or unusual it is almost impossible to describe
- **delight:** a feeling of great pleasure
- **cheerfully:** in a way that shows you are happy
- **sparkle:** shine brightly
- **crinkle:** form a lot of thin folds or lines
- **facial expression:** a gesture executed with the facial muscles
- **photogenic:** looking attractive in photographs
- **recede:** move gradually away from
- **an assortment of:** a variety of
- **mirror:** show the image of
- **technical:** connected with the practical use of machinery

IELTS Speaking Part 3

- **Do you like taking photos?**

Well, if you asked me this question ten years ago, it would have been a big YES. However, it is now not really my cup of tea anymore. The reason is that as I've grown older, I have felt like I don't want to expose myself to the camera and the public. I really hate when other people judge my appearance through my pictures and underestimate me because of that.

- **Why do some people like taking photos, some don't?**

For those fond of taking pictures and crazy about it, I believe the major cause is their desire to become well-known. That is totally true when Facebook and other social networking sites have been enjoying such a boom in popularity over the past few years, which I think reinforces this trend a lot. In terms of those detesting this activity, I suppose that they have a similar feeling of annoyance and irritation when we have to stand still and adjust our facial expressions in order to have such perfect pictures.

- **Do you like taking photos with strangers?**

Definitely not, it stems from my belief that strangers at times are not safe or friendly. Moreover, taking a picture with someone that I don't know seems to be quite strange.

- **What would you say when you see an undesirable picture?**

Although I don't care much about photography or art, I do have a sense of frustration whenever I see something that is imperfect. So, in the case that I see an unsatisfactory picture, I would certainly delete it and take a new one.

- **What kind of picture would you like to hang in your bedroom?**

Well, my bedroom is vitally important to me because that is the place I have a rest after intensive working hours. Therefore, I would like to hang several magnificent nature photos including panoramic shots of mountains dimly looming in the thin veil of morning fog, which makes me feel at peace and then fall asleep easily.

10. Describe something you enjoy doing with an old person in your family

You should say:

- What it is
- How often you do it
- Who you do it with
- Why you enjoy doing it with this person

Band 8 Sample:

Well, now I'm going to tell you something about an activity that I am particularly keen on doing with my 80-year-old grandmother, which is watching an Indian soap opera series on TV. Honestly, the series that we like best is "8-year-old bride" and it is broadcast every day on Today TV.

The first time my grandma and I knew about this TV series was about 4 months ago after seeing the 1st episode of it. As I still remember, on that day, we were both highly impressed by a character in the film called Anadhi and since then, we have never missed even a single episode. This series mainly tells the story of a girl named Anadhi, who had to **live a miserable life** since she was in a **forced marriage** at the age of 8. After that, she also **encountered several difficulties and pains** throughout her life.

As I mentioned, this series is shown every evening at 8 pm and I always try my best to arrange my work so that I can enjoy it with my beloved grandma. During the time we watch, she also tells a lot of things about the meaningful details in each episode, which I could hardly realise if watching alone. In fact, I have learned quite a lot of wonderful lessons from both this series and my grandmother and the most important lesson would be: "Getting married too early can be the most terrible mistake that one can make".

Vocabulary highlights:

- **Live a miserable life:** to have a very unhappy and uncomfortable life
- **A forced marriage:** a marriage where the husband and wife are forced to get married
- **Encounter difficulties and pains:** to experience difficulties

ZIM

IELTS Speaking Part 3

- **How much time should parents spend with their children every day?**

Well, it is quite difficult to give an accurate answer to this question since I believe that this should depend on the working schedule of each person. However, everyone should consider spending time with their kids as one of the top priorities and I think that the most suitable amount of time each day would be about 4 – 5 hours (sleeping time excluded).

- **Do young people like to live with old people in your country?**

Actually, in Vietnam, taking care of old parents is the responsibility of everyone and I think that it is the moral value that we should always keep, whether we like it or not. Therefore, it is very easy to find an extended family with at least 3 generations living under one roof in Vietnam and in most cases, all family members are very happy.

- **What's the most important thing that young people can learn from old people?**

Obviously, it's experience. Old people have spent the major part of their life dealing with several challenges and difficulties. Therefore, they have a huge amount of experience in many different aspects of life. If a young person wants to solve a problem quickly, the best way will be asking for help from an elderly person.

- **Do people nowadays spend less quality time for their family?**

Unfortunately, I have to say yes. Due to the development of the society nowadays, young people are getting busier and busier, which means that they tend to have less time to spend with other members in their family. In fact, I know some people who barely see the faces their relatives, even though they are living in the same house.

- **Do Vietnamese families like to arrange indoor or outdoor activities?**

You know, parents in my country really want their children to go out more since young people are spending too much time on their mobile phones. Therefore, whenever they can arrange their free time, they would immediately organise an outdoor activity for the whole family. And actually, I think that this is a very good thing since the bond between family members can be strengthened thanks to frequent participation in these activities.

11. Describe a situation when you had to be polite

You should say:

- What situation it was
- Who were there
- Why you had to be polite
- How you showed politeness

Band 8 Sample:

I would like to talk about a time when I saved a bus seat for a pregnant lady.

It was a rainy day around 3 years ago when I was still a freshman at university. On a bus trip from my **dormitory** to the city center to attend a **music festival** sponsored by Heneiken, I met a pregnant lady who got on the bus at one of the stations. At that time, the bus was already **swarming with** students, and many of them even had to stand as there were not enough seats for all. In that **stuffy atmosphere**, the lady's face suddenly turned **pale** and she had to hold on to the hand rail tightly. Sweat was rolling off her forehead.

Without hesitation, I stood up and asked her to take my seat. Then I quickly opened the glass window, trying to release the heat from inside the bus. After taking a deep breath, the lady seemed to feel better and started to have conversation with me. She told me that she was on the way to visit her aunt who was in the hospital. She knew that the bus was full but she couldn't wait for the next one in order not to be late for the visiting hours. She also thanked me a lot for saving her the seat. Without a place to sit on the bus, she thought she would have fainted because of dizziness.

I think any person who witnessed that moment would also have the same reaction as me. For me, I did it simply because it was necessary, and my action just came from my instinct, without any hesitation. If the lady had stood for a long time, that would have affected not only her health but also her baby inside. Also, I always thought of my mom's advice to pay close attention to things around me and provide support to people at the right time as it could be very meaningful. Therefore, at the end of that day, I was still **thrilled** because I had helped not only one, but two people. I mean the mom and her baby.

Vocabulary highlights:

- **Dormitory:** a building for college students to live in
- **A music festival:** a community event oriented towards live performances of singing and instrument playing
- **Swarming with:** to be full of something
- **Stuffy atmosphere:** an unpleasantly warm atmosphere without enough fresh air

IELTS Speaking Part 3

- **Are Vietnamese people becoming politer?**

Back a few decades ago I would say “yes”, but now it is different. In my observations, people seem to only care about themselves and do not often show their politeness toward others. I have been very surprised, you know, to realize that men are no longer courteous enough to pull out a chair for a woman in a restaurant; young people queuing at the cashier desk at the supermarket are no longer willing to save the turn for elderly people. So, it is the bitter truth.

- **In what ways do Vietnamese people show politeness?**

Like I mentioned, it is hard to see polite behavior in public places nowadays. However, in certain environments, the politeness is well preserved. For example, in school students usually save the elevator for their teachers or friends who are disabled. In the hospital, visitors have been more aware of their noise and try to walk and talk quietly when passing through the area where there are patients. These are behaviors that should be encouraged.

- **What are the uncivilized manners on public transportation?**

There are numerous of them I have to say. Some may eat and drink on the bus regardless of the smell that may annoy other passengers, or on the train some may talk too loudly and bother those who need some rest. So, to better improve the situation, I think regulations should be posted on these means of public transport so that people know how to behave appropriately.

- **What would you do when this happens?**

Well, it may depend on who they are. To young people or those the same age as me, a friendly reminder with a smile may be effective to stop their irritating behavior in peace. But for other people who look rather aggressive, to be honest, being quiet and suffering can be the only way to prevent me from further troubles.

Should people show politeness to friends?

Why not? It is really insufficient to believe that politeness should be saved for and given to certain groups of people. Even to friends, politeness is welcomed as it is one of the factors that strengthen the friendship. Friends can then see each other as a good example and contribute together to the development of a civilized society.

12. Describe a time when someone visited your home

You should say:

- Who he or she was
- When it happened
- What you did
- How you felt about the visit

Band 8 Sample:

So it was around 4 months ago since I invited one of my very close friends to come over to my house for dinner. It was Christmas Eve, and my friend is **an expat** living far away from home. As I didn't want him to spend his Christmas alone, I asked him to join my family for a special family dinner. My friend is an American, and since he couldn't have turkey on Thanksgiving that year, my mom decided to make turkey for him that night.

One of the funny things I remember about that night was that pretty much all the cooking appliances in my house were electrical, even the stove and all of a sudden it was **a blackout** an hour right before dinner time so by the time my friend got to my house, none of the food was ready. I was quite embarrassed, but my friend was pretty cool about it. We lit up the candles and my dad went out to buy some bread and ham. We were talking and eating while waiting for the power to turn back on. We had an absolutely amazing time talking about **the cultural differences**, how hospitable Vietnamese people are, and how **the language barrier** didn't stop him from getting to know the locals.

Anyway, we got to eat the turkey after a 2 hour delay. Even though my mother made it quite differently from the way my friend's family did, he really enjoyed it. And I must say that my parents absolutely **adored** him after that night. Since then, he has been coming over more often and becoming a very close friend to our family.

Vocabulary highlights:

- **An expat:** a person living outside their own country
- **A blackout:** a period when there is no light as a result of an electrical power failure
- **The cultural differences:** the differences between 2 cultures
- **The language barrier:** the difficulties in communication experienced by people or groups speaking different languages
- **Adore:** love someone very much

IELTS Speaking Part 3

- **Do young people like to visit their friends nowadays?**

Yeah..., I guess. But I think this question is really awkwardly phrased. Like visiting here you mean visit them when they're sick, or just simply meeting up with friends? If you mean meeting up with friends, then yes. And I think not only the young but also the old also like to visit their friends as well. It's just youngsters have more time to do it. And as they do not have to spare so much of their energy or time for family, or children yet, they can spend their time with their friends.

- **What do Vietnamese people usually do when hanging out together?**

There're tons of activities we often do together like going to the coffee shop, and shooting the breeze there. Just look at the increasing number of coffee shops and tea houses here, in HCMC, we can see how much Vietnamese people like to spend their time there. We also like to go to the movie theater, catching up with some of the latest entertainment or maybe simply chilling at home and listening to music.

- **Do you think technology has brought us closer or not?**

I mean, technology is a double-edged sword. It can go both ways.

On the one hand, things like Facebook and Instagram help us to keep in touch with our friends in this hectic life. We can also find people who share the same interest on these social media platforms.

On the other hand, using phones and other devices has created a self-imposed isolation. This is proven in the most obvious way when we go to a coffee shop and see so many groups of teenagers sitting together but they all have their eyes stuck to their phones instead of talking to each other

- **What time do you think is suitable for visiting?**

Any time we are invited to come, obviously. But if we decide to show up to visit someone out of the blue then I think we shouldn't come too early in the morning or too late at night. We don't want to wake them up to open the door for us or keep them from going to bed. And another unsuitable time I can think of is meal times like lunch or dinner, as in our culture it's quite impolite to show up at someone's door around this time. You know, you never wanna interrupt people while they're eating.

- **How do you make new friends?**

Me, personally, I'm going with the conventional ways, making friends with my classmates or colleagues. I don't like making friends through social networking websites, though I know it's pretty common nowadays. I guess because I'm often paranoid about talking to strangers, and any of these people can turn out to be serial killers maybe. Gosh, I know I'm watching too many psychological movies.

13. Describe your favorite season of the year.

You should say:

- What the weather is like.
- Why you like this season.
- What activities you usually do during this season.
- How different kinds of weather in this season affect people.

Band 8 Sample:

Today, I am going to tell you about my favourite season. Honestly, I love all the seasons but I think my favourite is spring. Usually, it starts at the end of December in our country and lasts till the middle of March.

The weather in Vietnam is the best during spring because you will not **suffer from** the **excessive** heat of summer or the freezing wind of winter. The temperature is **tolerable** both day and night. One of the best things about spring is that, during this poetic season, nature displays itself in beautiful green and flowers are noticed everywhere. Fruit trees, such as cherry and apricot trees are **in full blossom**, and colourful flowers such as daffodils and marigolds bloom in parks and gardens. The sounds of spring are wonderful too. A typical spring day will begin when some birds start their **morning chorus** as they look for a mate. We also celebrate Tet, one of the most anticipated holidays by the Vietnamese people. This is an occasion for **pilgrimages**, family reunions and many festivals. Parties full of delicious traditional dishes are the main theme for the whole holiday of Tet.

I am of the opinion that different kinds of weather can affect people's health. Even among those **in the prime of** health, an excessively hot or cold day can lead to illness or injury, let alone the elderly, who can be more **susceptible** to extreme weather conditions. Weather can also make a huge impact on people's lives. Obviously, the weather **dictates** what you are going to wear for the day, often depending on the time of year. Also, winter snow storms in Western countries can cancel school or make your morning commute a **hassle**.

Vocabulary highlights:

- **suffer from:** be badly affected by
- **excessive:** greater than what seems reasonable or appropriate
- **tolerable:** moderate, acceptable
- **in full blossom:** with the flowers fully open
- **morning chorus:** early morning bird songs
- **pilgrimage:** a journey to a holy place for religious reasons
- **in the prime of:** in the best, most successful, most productive stage
- **susceptible:** very likely to be influenced, harmed or affected
- **dictate:** decide, determine
- **hassle:** irritating inconvenience

IELTS Speaking Part 3

- **Do you think weather has an influence on people's mood?**

Well definitely yes. Most people have a big preference for mild or windy weather due to the fact that it is the most favorable time to go out and do something outdoors. However, when the weather is a little rainy and humid, people have a tendency to stay at home and watch a movie or something like that.

- **Do you like to go outside when winter comes?**

Well, I have to admit that I hate having to leave the house in the winter because there's often a thick fog every morning and we sometimes get bitterly cold winds as well. Such things prevent me from going to work and study.

- **How you feel about the climate in recent years?**

Well, that is an intriguing question. From my personal perspective, the climate on Earth is becoming more and more changeable, which unfortunately results from climate change. As you can see, normally, in summer there would be no rainfall at all in nearly 3 or 4 months, but nowadays, in that particular season, the rain can come any time, which even contrasts the weather forecast.

- **What can we do to stop greenhouse effect?**

There are several ways that can put an end to greenhouse effect. Firstly, industrial countries like the US and China need to have a consensus on the amount of Co2 emissions released into the air every year. Therefore, it can help reduce such bad effects on the air people breathe in every day. Another possible solution is to cut down on the number of vehicles using fossil fuels on a global scale. Instead, people should be encouraged to use public transport.

- **What are the possible results if temperature continues going up?**

If that continues to happen, it is obvious that people especially those from low-income households cannot stand the boiling hot weather and then spend more money installing costly air-conditioning systems. This would reduce the amount of budget that can be spent on other educational and recreational activities.

14. Describe something you learned in a place/from a person.

You should say:

- What you learned.
- When this happened.
- Where it was/ Who taught you.
- How difficult it was to learn.

Band 8 Sample:

I am so lucky to have the chance to learn so many things from the people around me; the list of things I have learnt would be a very long one. I would like to **emphasise** one thing that I learned from a middle-aged woman in my neighborhood, and that is the pleasure of **voluntary** activities.

We call her Ms. Lan. She was born and grew up during one of the most **turbulent** periods in Vietnamese modern history. Now, in her late 50s, she became interested in trying to make a difference — working for her own volunteer organization.

She has been running a group of **dedicated, compassionate** young people who **are all committed to** making a positive difference to the lives of **senior citizens** in **nursing homes** around the town. "Spending time with the elderly is very important, they don't always have relatives to visit them so I try to fill that gap and spend a bit of time with them. I have a **rapprochement** with elderly people, I'm a patient person and I like to sit down and talk to them," she once told us.

During my working under her guidance, I have learnt about the benefits of working as a volunteer. If you have ever volunteered, you may have noticed that you felt fantastic afterward. Community service can help you gain confidence by giving the chance to try something new and build a real sense of **achievement**. Besides, volunteering can help you meet different kinds of people and make new friends.

Generally speaking, volunteering can have a real and valuable positive affect on people, communities and society. Besides, I believe that we can learn much about life from those who have seen it almost to the end.

Vocabulary highlights:

- **emphasise:** give special importance to
- **voluntary:** done willingly
- **turbulent:** full of sudden change and confusion
- **dedicated to:** working hard at
- **compassionate:** feeling or showing sympathy for people who are suffering
- **be committed to:** willing to work hard and give your time and energy to
- **senior citizen:** the aged
- **nursing home:** a public or private residential facility providing a high level of long-term personal or nursing care for the elderly
- **rapprochement:** a friendly relationship
- **achievement:** a thing that somebody has done successfully

IELTS Speaking Part 3

- **How to help old people to learn?**

I would admit that at the very aging state of our life, old people are resistant to absorbing new knowledge. However, if we know how to deliver the information more slowly and more frequently, I mean repetitively, they can be able to learn some new things. For example, my uncle, who is aged 54, still can learn how to use the computer, but at a much slower speed compared to youngsters.

- **Do people in your country like to take online courses?**

Well, I think it really depends on where they live. If they are in big cities like Saigon or Hanoi, then they prefer offline classes which are nearer to their place of residence. But for those who reside in rural areas, they have to resort to online courses since they are the cheaper way of learning compared to relocating to major cities to learn.

- **What kinds of teaching methods are suitable for old people?**

As I was saying, the solution to teaching old learners is to reduce the pace of teaching and learning as well as increase the frequency of information's shown to them in the lectures.

- **Do you like to teach other people?**

To be honest, talking to and sharing my experience with others is just my cup of tea. I am very willing to do it whenever someone asks me for advice. However, standing on the stage and imparting knowledge like a professional lecturer is something that I am not really into, you know. I mean I can't stand talking in front of so many people, a small audience is ok.

- **Is self-study the most effective way of learning?**

I don't think so, to be honest. Self-instruction is an extremely crucial skill you might want to possess, but studying only by yourself, especially at the very first stages, is not a wise choice. Personally, I think the best way is to have someone to guide and show you how things work rather than figuring it all out by yourself, which can be very time-consuming.

15. Describe an unusual dinner that you had:

You should say:

- When you had this dinner
- Who you had it with
- What dishes you had
- And explain why you think this dinner was unusual

Band 8 Sample:

Well, my family usually enjoys our dinner at home with simple and traditional dishes, but there was an occasion we had a very special meal together in a fancy restaurant.

It was around 3 years ago when I was **tied up in** revision for my final examination. After that high-pressure time, I **passed the exam with flying colors** so my dad decided to **ease my mind** by taking the whole family to a Western restaurant for enjoying a cozy meal together.

That dinner was a little unusual to my family because we had never eaten in such a luxurious restaurant, so my mother and I were very surprised at that time.

This French restaurant is located in downtown Ho Chi Minh City. Because it is situated in a **well-trodden** area, this restaurant welcomes hundreds of guests every night. The food here, therefore, wasn't very **budget-friendly**. Actually, it **cost** my family **an arm and a leg**, which made this dinner even more special to me. Even though my dad is not the kind of person who **makes a killing**, he was still willing to take my mom and me to such a restaurant as a reward for my hard work. So I really appreciated him for that.

I really enjoyed this dinner because it really helped me to relieve everyday stress and chill out after long hard-working days. Besides, this unusual meal was also a very good chance for us to strengthen our family bond because we all have been so busy for a long time.

In the future I will try to earn a lot of money to take my family to wonderful places like this to try different cuisines and outstanding dishes, like lobster, abalone and salmon.

Vocabulary highlights:

- **To be tied up in something:** to be occupied by something/too busy doing something
- **To pass the exam with flying colors:** successfully pass the exam
- **Ease my mind:** to relax
- **Well-trodden area:** an area with a lot of people traveling
- **Budget friendly:** affordable
- **Cost an arm and a leg:** very expensive
- **Make a killing:** make a lot of money quickly

IELTS Speaking Part 3

- **Do you think having dinner at home is a good idea?**

Well, definitely yes, home-made dishes are usually cleaner because we know how and when they were processed. Eating in restaurants may be less time-consuming for people who are too busy at work or study, but if the food they eat in restaurants is not hygienic enough, it will be harmful for their health. Moreover, having dinner with family members is a very good way to reduce stress and find happiness after work. If we are living with your family, a cozy dinner at home is very important.

- **Do young people like to spend time with their families or friends?**

I believe this will depend on what kind of people we are talking about. I mean, to those with a sociable personality, spending time with friends is not only a good way to have fun but also a time to cultivate their friendships which will help them at work. On the other hand, family-oriented people prefer staying with their family members because we all know family is always the most important. There are many kinds of young people, so I think their options are varied.

- **What do you think are the benefits of having dinner together?**

Having dinner with other people brings about a great number of benefits. One of them is this is a good way to relieve stress from work or study through talks we have with our family or friends. You know, eating alone would be very silent and tedious. Besides, people usually share their happy and sad stories they experienced in their workplace or at school, so I think we can learn a lot from it during our meals. For example, stories about my friends' mistakes teach me what to do in a similar situation.

- **Do you think people are less willing to cook meals by themselves these days, compared to the past?**

Yes, I think most people nowadays lead very hectic lifestyles so they get used to fast food, meals that they can easily find at restaurants or even canned food. Many years ago, when many Vietnamese people were farmers, food like rice or other produce sometimes were abundant in their own house, so it would take them less time to prepare meals. Furthermore, cooking was a traditional activity of our ancestors, so they spent more time cooking than people in our modern society.

16. Describe a special day out (A day out which does not cost too much)

You should say:

- Where did you go on that day.
- What did you do.
- Who did you go out with.
- Why was it special to you.

Band 8 Sample:

I went to the park with my friend the other day. She was my good friend in high school and we haven't seen each other for almost a year. As we were both having our semester break, we wanted to meet and catch up over dinner.

We actually planned to meet each other at the park and then decide on where to go later, but my friend got there pretty late so we ended up staying there. We got two takeout milk tea glasses and kebabs from a small street vendor and found a comfortable corner to enjoy ourselves. We sat there watching people passing by, talking about random things that came up. The weather that day was pretty nice actually. It was raining in the evening all week, so we were worried that we might have to go home early. But it **turned out to be** a fine evening.

I guess what makes the day special was the fact that, despite having to wait for my friend to show up and then not going anywhere like we originally planned to, we still had a lot more fun than I had expected. We **updated** each other on what was going on in our lives and discussed our plans for the future. It was a nice feeling to know even though we couldn't meet and talk frequently, we could still **bond** easily over milk tea and kebabs. It made me realize that sometimes we only need good company and good conversations to make something memorable.

Vocabulary highlights:

- **Turn out to be:** The way an event or expectation happens in reality.
- **Update:** Catch up with past events.
- **Bond:** A connection between two or more people or things.

ZIM

IELTS Speaking Part 3

- **Do teenagers spend much more money than before?**

I would say yes since the cost of living these days is increasing, and families are also getting wealthier. They usually give their children quite a lot more money than in the past. For example, when I was in high school, I was given around 10 thousand dong a day, which was 50 cents at the time. However, students, at present, receive about 100 thousand dong a day on average, and this is 10 times more than what I got before.

- **How can people save money as much as possible?**

Well, there are only two ways, either to work more or to spend less. I find the first way is much more viable since restricting your budget from using or enjoying something can be a bit uncomfortable.

- **Have you ever had a bad shopping experience?**

I have to admit that I'm not a wise buyer, so I make shopping mistakes all the time. But the one that I remember the most is the time when I bought a printer without the cable to connect it with my computer. Actually, the seller was so careful to ask me twice if I wanted to get the cable, but I just ignored the question because I thought he tried to make me pay more money. That was so embarrassing.

- **Why is online shopping so popular these days?**

Well, I would say it's partly because humans are naturally lazy. They just want to stay at home and get their desired products. Besides, when shopping online, buyers can easily compare prices from one seller to another, which is very hard to do when it comes to buying at real stores.

17. Describe a famous person that you are interested in

You should say:

- Who this person is.
- How you know about this person.
- What this person is famous for.
- Why you are interested in this person.

Band 8 Sample:

A famous person who I am really interested in is definitely My Tam. She is the best pop singer in Viet Nam who **embarked on** her singing career in 1999. The Da Nang-born singer has recently become Vietnam's first-ever artist to be listed on Billboard's World Albums chart, after releasing her ninth studio album 'Tam 9'.

My Tam is my biggest idol because she is a great singer with beautiful voice. Some years ago, I caught a glimpse of her on TV and was immediately **hooked** by her **outstanding** performance. I have become her loyal fan since then. I really like the way she sings and the way she expresses the feeling of the song. To my **admiration**, she has always worked seriously to give high quality music products.

My Tam is beloved for her good personality too. She is known to all her fans for her **gregariousness** and sense of humour. Besides, she has also **devoted her time to** organizing free concerts for university students nationwide. Together with her fans and friends, she has been doing a lot of **charity** activities silently to help the poor, the sick and the homeless people.

Vocabulary highlights:

- **embark on:** start
- **hooked:** enjoying very much
- **outstanding:** extremely good; excellent
- **admiration:** a feeling of respect and liking
- **gregariousness:** the quality of liking to be with other people
- **devote to:** to give an amount of time, attention, etc. to something
- **charity:** an organization for helping people in need

IELTS Speaking Part 3

- **What are the qualities of being popular?**

From my perspective, modesty is the most important quality of being popular. If we fail to stay modest when we become increasingly well-known, we may face a lot of troubles and scandals. Like, if sometimes we are too proud of our performance, it is very likely that we will get mocked or made fun of by the public and this will also attract more anti-fans.

- **Do you know any popular star who really likes helping other people?**

Angelina Jolie is the first one I think of when talking about a very helpful celebrity. You know, she and her husband adopted, like, 5 or 6 children from all over the world. She not only wants to give those poor kids a happy family but also to show her objection against the racism because some of the kids are European, Asian and even African

- **Do you think children should imitate their idols?**

Well it is good for children to imitate their idols' positive habits like playing sports or some musical instrument. Some celebrities also have very nice personalities so it doesn't hurt, as long as their parents are often at their side to prevent them from being affected by those famous people. I mean, if children are aware of their idols' negative habits like smoking or swearing and stay away from them, it will be fine.

- **What influences do popular stars have on teenagers?**

Popular stars are usually idols of a lot of teenage children so they are very likely to imitate their idols words or behavior. So if these stars behave in an ill-mannered way, it may negatively affect teenagers' behavior and they may want to do the same. By contrast, if those well-known figures stay modest and nice to people, so may the teenagers.

18. Describe a sports person you admire

You should say:

- Who is he/she.
- What did he/she do.
- What do you know about his/her life story.
- How much do you know about sports.

Band 8 Sample:

Being a big fan of basketball, I have long **idolised** the legend of this sport - Michael Jordan, also known as MJ. I first got curious about his life when I saw a logo portraying him on a product of the brand, Nike, and his life turned out to be intriguing to me.

He played in the position of shooting guard in one of the most **renowned** teams, the Chicago Bulls, and was famous for his exceptional leaping ability, illustrated by performing slam dunks from the free throw line. Early in his NBA career, while playing for the University of North Carolina, he appeared on the cover of Sports Illustrated with the heading "A star is born" just over a month into his professional career. It was not only his talent but also his dedication that made him a strong clutch performer. He spent hours studying films of his opponents to improve his defense. Even when his right knee was injured, Jordan did not miss any games in the season from 1986 to 2001. Throughout his career, he led the Chicago Bulls to six championships, was awarded the NBA Most Valuable Player five times and was the first player to be honoured with both the NBA's Defensive Player of the year award and Most Valuable Player awards. All the compliments that journalists gave him were not an overstatement.

Although Michael Jordan retired in 2003, his skills and his legacy are still **a great inspiration** for any basketball player or person considering pursuing a basketball career. He is also active in charity activities. His clothing line, Jordan brand, has made donations to different organisations across America. It's difficult to describe how amazing Michael Jordan is in words, just watch a few of his videos playing in NBA games or his interviews, you'll figure it out yourself.

Vocabulary highlights:

- **Idolise:** Admire, revere, or love greatly or excessively.
- **Renowned:** Known or talked about by many people; famous.
- **A great inspiration:** Someone that people aspire to be and are motivated by.

ZIM

IELTS Speaking Part 3

- **Do teenagers like exercising in your country?**

I would say yes, I know many teenagers who are really keen on doing exercise like jogging or dancing. Some of them are not too busy so they can do it on a daily basis but others get occupied with their hectic studying schedule, so they can only exercise once a week or even less.

- **Would you like to stay at home or go outside for holiday?**

Well it would depend on my mood, actually. I confess that I am quite unpredictable. I mean if I feel happy I will consider going out with my friends and enjoy a movie. On the other hand, sometimes when I am in a bad mood, I'd rather stay in with lots of interesting activities to enjoy a holiday, like watching television or simply sleeping.

- **Do you think physical education is necessary? Why?**

Yes for sure, it is of great necessity I would say. Physical education can improve our immune system and keep our mind clear and active so that we can respond better to stress when we come back to work or school. Though it may sound a little exhausting, doing exercise can become addictive when we get used to it.

- **How do you think physical classes affect children's development?**

Like I just said, physical classes with a wide range of physical exercises can improve children's mental health, which allows them to absorb the lessons better. On top of that, in my nephew's physical class, I saw some exercises that really stretched her body so I believe such classes are also beneficial to children's height

- **What kind of exercises do Vietnamese people like?**

Well, we can easily catch sight of people in my country jogging along the pavement every morning. So I believe this is the most favorite exercise here because jogging is totally free-of-charge and doesn't need any special equipment. Some people jog in the early morning while others prefer the afternoon or evening, so it's quite flexible, too.

19. Describe an experience where you were late for an event

You should say:

- When did this happen.
- Why were you late.
- What consequence have you caused.
- How you felt afterwards.

Band 8 Sample:

I am an organised person and **tardiness** is not my problem. But I'd be lying if I told you that I am never late.

As a matter of fact, there was a time that I wasn't on time for the job interview. It was just a couple of months ago when I was in search of a new part-time job to gain experience in my career. There was a position in a company whose job description perfectly suited my needs and qualifications. I truly wanted to get the job. I completed an application form online right after I was informed there was a vacancy. To my surprise, just a day after that, they called me for an interview at 9 the next morning. I was **exhilarated** to hear the news and prepared everything carefully the night before the meeting. I chose what to wear, ironed the set of clothes to leave a good impression on the interviewer, I also put a notebook and a pen in my purse in case I had to take notes during the interview.

When everything was done, I set the alarm at 7am so that I wouldn't rush having breakfast and headed to the firm. However, the problem was that I forgot to charge to phone and it ran out of battery during my sleep. Therefore, it didn't go off the next morning. I overslept and woke up at 9am in frustration. I decided that I'd rather stay at home than appear as an irresponsible **latecomer** in the eye of others. I did wonder if I should ask them to postpone the interview, but I couldn't think of a reasonable excuse, so I just let it go. The consequence was that I missed the chance to do the job that I desperately wanted. I felt ashamed of myself for making such a silly mistake, but I did learn from it. I am now much more careful when it comes to similar situations.

Vocabulary highlights:

- **Tardiness:** the quality or fact of being late; lateness.
- **Exhilarated:** to feel very happy, animated, or elated.
- **Latecomer:** Someone who arrives late.

ZIM

IELTS Speaking Part 3

- **Would you forgive those who are late?**

To be honest, it is hard for me to feel any sympathy for them. It seems that those who are usually late always find an excuse for their lateness. Some of the reasons, like traffic jams or transportation breakdowns, may make sense, but they can be made up just to cope with the situation. I think, if they know how to manage their time better; the lateness can be improved easily.

- **What would you do if others are late?**

Although I often lose my temper if I have to wait for someone for more than 15 minutes, (but) I still think it is necessary to ask them for the reason. In fact, showing irritation in such situation can be an immediate reaction to the late comers, but being unable to put our emotion under control may result in worsening the relationship we have built up over a long time.

- **What are the reasons for being late?**

Well, I think such reasons can be classified into 2 groups, the external and internal ones.

The former may include the impacts from the outside such as traffic congestion, transportation breakdowns while the latter may come from the late comers themselves. You know, some people are often late just because of their poor time management or bad habits like getting up late or lagging behind in every activity.

- **Would you like to make plans or just let things happen?**

Hmm...I prefer to make plans for whatever I do. I think it helps ensure our work to be on the right track. For the most case, a good plan normally results in a desirable outcome at the end of the day. It is also a good way to minimize risks or failure and prevent wasting my time. And you know, by planning things in advance, I believe I have become a more responsible person than I used to be.

- **Do you think it's important to be punctual?**

Absolutely yes. It could be because tardiness has never been a pleasure for anyone and in any circumstance. Besides, one's punctuality also says something about who he or she is. Being frequently late for work, for example, may lead to certain judgments about somebody's poor working manner and time management.

20. Describe a piece of technology you like using except computers

You should say:

- What is this technology.
- How did you learn about it.
- How often do you use it.
- What difference it brings to your life.

Band 8 Sample:

I consider myself a **technophile**, so it's hard for me to live a day without using technological devices, especially my smartphone.

It was a present from my parents to congratulate me on my high school graduation four years ago, and it has come in handy ever since. It was the latest Android phone at that time with lots of cool apps and functions, but no one has ever gave me proper instruction on how to use it. I had to resort to Google search to explore my phone and troubleshoot its problems when the screen suddenly went black or the application failed to run. My phone is with me most of the time and even though I know it's not good for my eyesight, I can't help but use it on a daily basis and for more than 6 hours a day. I can't deny that this **multifunctional** device has a big influence on my life, both positively and negatively. I no longer need dictionaries, notebooks, a camera, a music player or a TV because now I can look up new words, take notes, capture photos, listen to music and watch films on the screen of my phone.

In replacement of a heavy bulky laptop, my **pocket-sized** phone also allows me to create and edit documents on the move. On top of that, it saves me a lot of time and money going to stores thanks to online shopping and notifications of when there are special offers. However, the drawback is that I am somewhat **overdependent** on it. If my phone suddenly runs out of battery or I forget it at home when I am outside, I may feel vulnerable and lonely. This phone has helped me a lot with my work and study but I am thinking of reducing the time using it for my well-being.

Vocabulary highlights:

- **Technophile:** very interested or obsessed with technology.
- **Multifunctional:** does many different things.
- **Pocket-sized:** small enough to fit in your pocket.
- **Overdependent:** too dependent on something; cannot work or live without it.

ZIM

IELTS Speaking Part 3

- **Do you like to use new technology?**

To be honest, I am kind of a “low-tech” person. I mean I find it quite challenging to cope with anything related to new technology. I am still using my phone and laptop as indispensable items in work and study, but am only able to handle their very basic functions. You know, learning some new technological advances always takes me plenty of time and effort.

- **Does technology deeply affect people's life?**

Of course, I believe the development of technology has changed human life dramatically. Most of aspects of life have been affected, from the way people communicate to human interaction, daily habits, work and study and so on. While such technological advancements bring about benefits to support mankind better, their detrimental effects on certain aspects are undeniable.

- **Is there any difference between technology in cities and in small towns?**

Well, due to a slower-paced lifestyle, the technology in small towns may be a lower standard and develop much slower than in megacities. Also, people in big cities may have easier and quicker access to the use of modern technology, such as computers and automatic machines while it may take much longer for those in the small towns to catch up with such developments.

- **Do you agree that men are more obsessed with new technology than women?**

In my observation, I may say “yes”. Most men are curious and have passion in the discovery of the latest technology. They are often keen on looking for information about cutting-edge technology in the newspaper or on the Internet and then burst into excitement whenever they get the chance to try them. Meanwhile, most women just regard technology as a tool to support their life.

- **How to teach older generations to use new technology?**

It is quite a hard mission I think, as elderly people are usually slower to acquire something new, let alone technology that is intrinsically complicated to learn. However, introducing them to the availability of some useful technological devices such as smartphones or laptops, and instructing them to use their basic functions like sending text messages or writing emails can be done without too much time or effort.

- **Do you think that technology always has positive effects?**

Of course not, anything in this life has both pros and cons and so does technology. Besides the beneficial effects that it brings to mankind, the negative impacts are inevitable. Take smartphones and the internet as an example, they have somehow changed the way people interact with each other. I mean, many people nowadays are no longer interested in family conversations, because each of them has their phones that contain a whole world of joy and entertainment.

ZIM

21. Describe something special that you saved money to buy

You should say:

- What was this thing.
- Why was it special to you.
- How much did it cost you.
- How you felt after you bought it.

Band 8 Sample:

I am going to talk about a clock necklace that I gave my best friend, Julie.

It was at the end of grade 10 that she left me to continue her study abroad. For fear that I would be forgotten someday, I tried to think of a farewell gift that could make her think of me every time she saw it. It was not an easy task to find the right present; maybe it was because I was being too **picky**. She was more than a friend to me, she's more like my sister, or my soul mate. I didn't want to give her something meaningful but useless, or something useful but emotionally empty. I wanted something that was special, something that would make her say "wow" when she received it. I wandered from shop to shop to look for something, but I didn't know what.

One day, I came across something reminding me of her right away - a vintage necklace with a clock pendant. It perfectly **suited her style**, so she could wear it with any of her clothes. What I liked about the clock was that it was **custom-made**, I could design the number and write a message on it too. The thing is, when giving her the necklace, I set the clock to the local time in Vietnam, so whenever she needed to tell the time she would feel annoyed because of the difference in time zones, and I hoped that she would think of me right at the moment. The price wasn't expensive at all, about \$20, but to a high school student like me at that time **it was a fortune**. I had to skip breakfast for an entire month to purchase it, but it was totally worth it. She had no clue about how I bought it but she liked it anyway. I felt exhilarated when I could buy my bestie something beautiful that she deserved, and I hoped that this chain would tie us forever.

Vocabulary highlights:

- **Picky:** being careful in making the right choice; discerning.
- **Suit one's style:** matches a person's character or personal appearance.
- **Custom-made:** made to fit a particular person.
- **It was a fortune:** it cost a lot; was expensive.

ZIM

IELTS Speaking Part 3

- **Do young Vietnamese like to save money?**

Well, to be honest, I don't have much information about this. However, I guess that they do since saving money has always been a part of Vietnamese tradition.

- **Why do some people like to save money?**

In my opinion, I believe that there are 2 main reasons to save money. Firstly, some people would like to accumulate a large amount of money for some big decisions like buying a new house or investing in the financial markets with the aim of making profits. Secondly, others may just simply save for a rainy day since they would have the fear that something bad may accidentally happen to them, like being sick or getting involved in an accident, for example.

- **What is the best way of saving money?**

Well, in the past, people used to have a traditional method of saving money, which was putting all their money into a large safe or chest. However, this can't be applied in the modern world anymore. Personally, I believe that the easiest and most convenient way of saving money would be opening a "savings account" at a local bank.

- **What are the consequences of not saving money?**

I think that there would be 2 main consequences of this. First, when people suddenly encounter some accidents in their life, which makes them lose the ability to earn money, not having any kind of savings may be a great burden upon the shoulders of their relatives. Secondly, people grow old. That's nature. One day, all of us will be too old and weak to be able to work hard and make money. Therefore, not saving when we are still young would cause us to be financially dependent on our children in the future.

- **Do you agree with the idea that the more you save, the better life will be?**

To me, this idea is only true to some extent. We all agree that saving is good, but focusing too much on saving is actually not good. I know a lot of people who refuse to take part in any kind of party or even just coffee gathering since they want to save more money for their future. And the consequence is that their lives are extremely boring since they always worry about saving. In my view, it is necessary for us to save money but also need to spend some to enjoy our life.

22. Describe an important event that you celebrated

You should say:

- What it was
- Where it happened
- Why it was important
- How people felt about it

Band 8 Sample:

I would like to talk about the time I held a birthday party for my younger sister. It was back in 2015 when she passed the university entrance examination with flying colors and immediately got admitted to three top universities in Ho Chi Minh city, which **came as a surprise to** all of my family. Therefore, to mark her **resounding success** as well as her **turning point** in life, I celebrated her 18th birthday, just a few days after she received the acceptance letters.

Moving on to the details, I would say that it was more of a family dinner which only involved my own family and some of my sister's close friends. However, I still tried my best to make it become one of the most unforgettable events of her life by cooking many kinds of dishes that she adored, ranging from Bun Cha to Pho, all of which were Vietnamese **specialties**. On top of that, I also invited a music band to perform many of her favorite songs, which made the atmosphere at that particular moment become cozier than ever before. In the end, we sang the birthday song when my sister cut the cake. We congratulated her and wished her a successful college life ahead. Then we ate cake and had a good **feast** together.

After the party, my sister came to me and said that was the best birthday party she had ever had in her life. My parents at that time also felt moved because the bond between us was strengthened a lot.

Vocabulary highlights:

- **Come as a surprise to someone:** to surprise someone
- **Resounding success:** a great success
- **Turning point:** a time at which a decisive change in a situation occurs
- **Specialties:** a type of food that a restaurant or place is famous for
- **Feast:** a large or special meal

IELTS Speaking Part 3

- **Do you like to plan for an important meeting or activity?**

Yes, I think it is good to plan for an essential meeting because without planning a meeting can go in any direction and people can get deviated from the actual goal of the meeting, however, if it is planned then the meeting will be much more constructive and useful.

- **What events do Vietnamese people like to celebrate?**

Well, people in my country love to celebrate various events, from formal to normal ones, such as birthdays, weddings, and even grand openings. Mostly because they do believe that such celebrations will make the events become more meaningful and strengthen the bonds between the attendants.

23. Describe an important skill which cannot be learned at school

You should say:

- What the skill is
- Why it cannot be learned at school
- Why it is important
- How we can learn it

Band 8 Sample:

Today I would like to talk about making presentations, which is a skill that I learned from my mentor who used to encourage and give me many pieces of sound advice.

It was about 3 years ago, when I was studying in an English language center in order to improve my English skills to a higher level. During that time, my **peers** and I had many opportunities to make presentations in English **under the guidance of** Jimmy, who is **a born presenter** and is **head and shoulders above everyone else** in teaching students how to speak in front of the crowd. At first, I was faced with various obstacles when speaking in front of my classmates, especially the first time because I **had butterflies in my stomach**, so I really struggled with speaking in front of a lot of people confidently, and I even suffered from failures. However, I gradually overcame the difficulties and **got the hang of it**, and things became easier for me since then.

As for why this skill is essential, I believe that when studying at universities or working in companies, people have to speak publicly **on a frequent basis** in order to prove their ability in their study or their work. Therefore, by watching YouTube videos or going to learning centers, learners can improve their presentation skills to a higher degree.

Vocabulary highlights:

- **Peer:** a person who is the same age or who has the same social status as you
- **Under the guidance of somebody:** to be guided by somebody
- **A born presenter:** someone who is really good at making presentations
- **Head and shoulders above everyone else:** to be better than everyone else
- **Have butterflies in my stomach:** have a nervous feeling
- **Get the hang of it:** to learn to handle something with some skills
- **On a frequent basis:** to do something frequently

IELTS Speaking Part 3

- **What qualities do you think are the most important for work?**

When it comes to work, I think communication skills are the most important. This is because from the initial moment that applicants get in touch with interviewers when applying for a new job, those interviewers will scrutinize the way they behave. If the applicants can prove their communication skills, it is likely that they will not only communicate well with other coworkers but also with regular customers, which would allow them to broaden their knowledge and gradually become a well-rounded employee.

- **What skills do you want to learn?**

I guess that I'm really interested in technology skills because they seem to be essential in my occupation nowadays. Specifically, although I am working as a teacher, I need to use some modern devices like overhead projectors and laptops on a frequent basis, for example, in order to convey lessons to students more effectively. This will not only help students to understand lessons more thoroughly but also allow me to develop my lesson plans carefully.

- **Is it necessary for teenagers to learn to use computers?**

Yes, I think children should learn how to use computers because of two main reasons. One of which is that computer skills are mainly required in schools nowadays, which means that they need to use modern devices to search for information on the Internet in order to study as well as to do assignments and homework. For example, in Vietnam, students are allowed to use tablets and smartphones to look up new words in English when doing exercises. Another major reason is that computer skills also bring benefits in the long-term, as most companies nowadays include these skills as a compulsory requirement, regardless of the occupation.



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Luyện thi IELTS **Cam kết đầu ra**