

IELTS Speaking Guide



IELTS

The International English Language Testing System (IELTS) is the world's leading English test for work, study and migration, and we're here to support you to achieve your goals.

Why IELTS?

IELTS is an English language test for study, migration or work.

IELTS is recognised by more than 12,500 organisations including educational institutions, employers, professional associations and governments, in more than 140 countries around the world.

IELTS your way

You have the choice between taking IELTS at a test centre or at the convenience of your home. At a test centre you can take IELTS on computer or on paper.

Accessible and convenient

Available at 2200 locations in more than 80 countries.

To find out test dates in your area, please contact your nearest IELTS test centre. A list of IDP IELTS test locations is available at <https://ielts.idp.com/thailand/>.

The international test

IELTS content is internationally focused. Texts and tasks are sourced from publications from all over the English-speaking world, a range of native-speaker accents are used in the Listening test (North American, Australian, New Zealand, etc.) and all standard varieties of English are accepted in test takers' written and spoken responses.

The test that's tried and trusted

IELTS has been developed by some of the world's leading experts in language assessment and is supported by an extensive program of research, validation and test development.

The level of the test

There is no 'pass' or 'fail' in IELTS as it is designed to assess English language skills across a wide range of levels. Results are reported as band scores on a scale of 1 (the lowest) to 9 (the highest).

IELTS Speaking test



IELTS Speaking test is face-to-face with a human examiner whether you take IELTS at a test centre or online. The only difference with online is the test is over a video call.

There are three parts to complete.

Part 1: Introduction and questions on familiar topics]

Length: 4-5 minutes

The examiner will start by introducing him or herself and asking you to state your name and show your identification. Next, you will be asked general questions about yourself such as where you live or what you are currently doing (working or studying).

The remaining questions in this section are of a personal nature and topics will be familiar, for example, about the music you like, cooking, the weather, or movies you prefer. Usually, you cover one or two more topics and you may get two or three questions about each of them.

The examiner will ask the question and then just listen, although you may be prompted to extend your response with a “why” or “why not” if your answer is too short. This is not a conversation though; it happens in a question-answer format.

Be prepared to answer questions using different verb tenses and forms. If you listen carefully to what the examiner asks, it will help you formulate your answer using the appropriate tense.

If you are asked: Did you like the same movies when you were a child? You could say: “When I was a child, I liked cartoons more because...”

- **Don't give one- or two-word answers.** Give at least one or two sentences. This is your chance to show off your English and holding back is not going to help your score.

- **Prepare for this section** by reviewing vocabulary about work, school, your home, hobbies, the weather, etc.



IELTS Speaking test



Part 2: Individual long turn

Length: 3-4 minutes

After Part 1, the examiner will give you a topic and ask you to talk about it for one to two minutes.

The topic will be handed to you on a card and you will also be given a piece of paper and a pencil for making notes. On the card, you will see the speaking prompt and some points you can cover in your talk relating to this.

You will have exactly one minute to prepare and make notes before you speak.



Here is a sample Part 2 task:

Describe a beautiful place to visit in your city. You should say:

- *where it is*
 - *how to get there*
 - *what there is to do when you are there*
- and*
- *explain why you recommend this place.*

After the one-minute preparation, you will be asked to begin and the examiner will listen to you for two minutes. They may ask you a couple of follow-up questions when the time is up before going on to the next section.

Take notes!

The initial thoughts you jot down will help you remember what you have to say. Try to structure your talk with a simple beginning, middle and end. You can use key words from the prompt to form an introductory sentence. For example, take the words “beautiful place” “visit” and “city” from the above prompt and begin your talk with: “I would like to talk to you today about an area of my city that everyone should go see because its beauty is outstanding.”

Then, use the three bullet points to help you organise the middle of your talk and conclude by explaining why this is the place you most recommend.

• **Extend each part of your answer with some details.** You have two minutes to fill and you need show that you can enlarge on a topic and use a range of expressions, grammatical structures and vocabulary.

• **Use the full two minutes.** Practise talking in front of a mirror on a subject for two minutes so you get a sense of the timing.

IELTS Speaking test



Part 3: Two-way discussion

Length: 4-5 minutes

The questions in Part 3 will be loosely connected to the topic that you spoke about in Part 2. They will become more complex and abstract as you go along. You will need to be able to express and justify your opinions, analyse, discuss and speculate on given subjects.



If your long turn was about a beautiful place to visit in your city, this section might begin by talking about beautiful places and the first question might be, "Do you think it's important to maintain beautiful places in cities?" The examiner will speak more with you in this section and may challenge your opinions to see how well you are able to converse about abstract ideas versus the personal topics contained in Parts 1 and 2.

Support and extend your answers. State your opinions clearly and provide examples and reasoning as you talk. You do not have to believe your opinion, or you might not have one, so turn to what you think others are saying about the subject and create a line of reasoning from that. Remember the more you say, the more you show how you can use English to communicate.



- **Avoid long pauses.** It is okay to pause to think but don't let too much time pass without speaking. It is good to have some fillers or stalling phrases that will give you time to formulate your answer. Phrases such as, "That's an excellent question...", "Where should I start, let me see...", "I need a couple of seconds to think about that but..."
- **Ask for clarification.** Be sure you understand the question before you answer so that your response is relevant. It's okay to say something like — "I'm sorry, can you please repeat that?", or "If I understand you correctly, you want to know...", or "Do you mean...?"

• **Paraphrase** or explain what you are trying to say instead of giving up if you forget a word in English. If you forget the word for "iron", for example, you could say, "the tool you use to take the wrinkles out of your clothing, you know, it heats up and you press it on the material, oh yes, it's called an iron". You will be rewarded for finding ways to express what you are thinking rather than penalised if you just say that you don't know how to say it

IDP IELTS Service

Our Test venues

	IELTS  on Computer	IELTS  on Paper
Bangkok		
Chiang Mai		
Chiang Rai		
Phitsanulok		
Hat Yai		
Phuket		
Chumphon		
Khon Kaen		
Ubon Ratchathani		
Korat		
Chon Buri		
Pattaya		
Rayong		

Note: For the most up-to-date information about test dates and venue locations, kindly visit our website at <https://ielts.idp.com/thailand/>

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