



IELTS SPEAKING PRACTICE TEST 2

Format: A one-on-one interview with a certified examiner.

Duration: 11-14 minutes.

Parts: 3 parts, progressively more challenging.

Part 1: Introduction & Interview (4-5 minutes)

The examiner will introduce themselves and ask you general questions about familiar topics.

- **Examiner:** "Good afternoon. My name is [Examiner's Name]. Could you tell me your full name, please?"
- **You:** "Good afternoon. My name is [Your Name]."
- **Examiner:** "And what can I call you?"
- **You:** "You can call me [Your Preferred Name]."
- **Examiner:** "Can you show me your identification, please?"
- **You:** [You present your passport or ID.]

Now, the examiner will ask about 3 topics. You'll get 3-4 questions on each.

Topic 1: Your Hometown

1. "Let's talk about your hometown. Where is it?"
2. "What is your hometown famous for?"
3. "Would you recommend it as a place for tourists to visit? Why?"
4. "Do you think you will live there in the future?"

Topic 2: Reading

1. "Do you enjoy reading?"
2. "What kind of books did you read when you were a child?"
3. "Do you prefer reading printed books or e-books? Why?"
4. "Has your reading habit changed over time?"



Topic 3: Music

1. "Is music important in your life?"
2. "What kind of music do you like listening to?"
3. "Do you like to listen to live music? Why or why not?"
4. "Did you learn to play a musical instrument when you were younger?"

Part 2: Long Turn (3-4 minutes)

- **Examiner:** "Now, I'm going to give you a topic. I'd like you to talk about it for 1 to 2 minutes. You have one minute to think about what you're going to say. You can make some notes if you wish. Here is a pencil and some paper. Here is your topic."

[The examiner hands you a cue card.]

Describe a gift you gave to someone that took you a long time to choose.

You should say:

- Who you gave it to
- What the occasion was
- What the gift was

And explain why it took you so long to choose this gift.

- **Examiner:** "Do you understand? You have one minute to prepare."
- *[You have 1 minute to prepare notes. The examiner will time you.]*
- **Examiner:** "Alright? Please start speaking now. I'll stop you after 2 minutes."

Sample Part 2 Answer (Band 8+ Level)

"Okay, so I'd like to talk about a gift I gave to my older sister for her 30th birthday. It was a really significant milestone for her, and I wanted to get something truly meaningful, not just any typical present.



The occasion was her surprise party, which we held at a small restaurant with close family. I knew she was feeling a bit anxious about turning thirty, so I wanted the gift to be something that celebrated her past and looked forward to her future.

What I eventually decided on was a custom-made, leather-bound photo album. But it wasn't just a random album. I spent weeks digitally restoring old family photos—some from our childhood, others of our parents and grandparents. Then, I paired each photo with a short story or a memory. For example, next to a picture of us building a sandcastle, I wrote about how she always took charge of the moat. I also left blank pages at the end, with prompts like 'Adventures in my 30s' and 'Future family.'

The reason it took me such a long time to choose and create this gift was twofold. Firstly, I was paralyzed by the desire to make it perfect. I browsed countless online stores for ideas—jewellery, tech gadgets, luxury experiences—but nothing felt personal enough. Secondly, once I settled on the album idea, the execution was incredibly time-consuming. Sourcing the photos from various relatives, learning basic photo editing, choosing the right paper quality, and writing the captions all took many, many hours over about a month. I wanted every detail to be just right, to show how much I appreciate her.

In the end, seeing her tear up when she flipped through it made all the effort completely worthwhile. It's probably the most thoughtful gift I've ever given."

Part 2 Follow-up Questions (Round-off):

- **Examiner:** "Thank you. Do you still enjoy giving gifts as much as receiving them?"
- **You:** *[Give a brief, 1-2 sentence answer.]* "Absolutely. I find choosing a thoughtful gift for someone I care about is actually more rewarding than receiving one. It's a way to truly show you know and appreciate them."

Part 3: Two-Way Discussion (4-5 minutes)



The examiner will ask broader, more abstract questions linked to the theme of Part 2 (gifts and giving).

Theme: The Culture of Gift-Giving

1. **Examiner:** "Why do you think people give gifts to each other?"
 - **(Sample Answer):** "I believe it serves several fundamental social functions. On a basic level, it's a tangible way to express feelings—like love, gratitude, or congratulations. It also strengthens social bonds and reciprocity within relationships, whether personal or professional."
2. **Examiner:** "How have gift-giving customs changed in your country over the years?"
 - **(Sample Answer):** "They've evolved significantly. In the past, gifts were often practical or homemade, emphasizing the thought. Now, with consumerism and online shopping, there's more focus on branded, expensive items. Also, digital gifts like e-vouchers or online subscriptions are becoming very common, which reflects our increasingly digital lifestyles."
3. **Examiner:** "Some people say that expensive gifts are always the most appreciated. What's your opinion on that?"
 - **(Sample Answer):** "I strongly disagree with that notion. While an expensive gift can be impressive, its value is often superficial. A deeply appreciated gift is one that shows empathy and understanding of the recipient's personality, needs, or memories. A simple, well-chosen book or a thoughtfully compiled playlist can be far more meaningful than a generic, costly item."
4. **Examiner:** "What are the potential drawbacks of the culture of gift-giving in modern society?"
 - **(Sample Answer):** "There are a few negative aspects. Firstly, it can create financial pressure, especially during holidays when people feel obligated to spend beyond their means. Secondly, it can become transactional, where the focus shifts from the sentiment to the expectation of a gift of equal value. Lastly, it contributes to environmental waste, as many gifts are over-packaged or are items people don't actually need."
5. **Examiner:** "Do you think gift-giving is important in maintaining professional relationships?"



- **(Sample Answer):** "To a certain extent, yes, but the rules are different. In professional settings, gifts are usually small tokens of appreciation—like a nice pen or a box of chocolates for a team. The key is that they should never be so lavish as to be construed as a bribe. The thoughtfulness, rather than the monetary value, is what maintains goodwill."
- **Examiner:** "Thank you. That is the end of the speaking test."

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Key Strategies for Success:

- **Part 1: Be Natural & Expansive.** Give direct answers but always add a little extra. Instead of "Yes, I do," say "Yes, I do, mainly because..."
- **Part 2: Use the Minute Wisely.** Structure your notes (Who, What, When, Why). Start with a clear opening: "I'd like to talk about..." Keep talking until the examiner stops you.
- **Part 3: Think Abstractly.** This is about opinions, ideas, and trends. Use phrases like "I believe..." "From a broader perspective..." "This likely stems from..." Give reasons and examples.
- **Communication Over Perfection:** Fluency and coherence are more important than perfect grammar. It's okay to self-correct occasionally, but don't let it break your flow.
- **Vocabulary:** Show range. In the sample, words like *significant milestone, custom-made, paralyzed by desire, time-consuming, tangible way, social bonds, evolved, consumerism, superficial, transactional* all contribute to a higher score.
- **Practice Out Loud:** Record yourself. Listen back for fluency, pronunciation, and repetitive language. Time your Part 2 talk.

Remember: The examiner is assessing your ability to communicate effectively in English, not your knowledge. Be confident, be clear, and try to enjoy the conversation. Good luck