



# IELTS Speaking Part 1 Guide

Including common  
questions with  
answers

## Thank you!

Thank you for downloading this document. I really appreciate you taking the time to read it.

The first part of the speaking test is your chance to create a great first impression.

With this in mind, I've created this guide for you, including tips, common questions and sample answers.

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# Can I copy your answers?

**NO!!**

Speaking part 1 is about you, not me. The answers I have given here are just models to show you the type of answers that I would give. You should use them only as a guide to help you with your own answers.

This guide will help you:



Understand what the examiner expects in part 1.



Give you an idea of common questions that might be asked in part 1.



Show you model answers that will help you formulate your own responses.

# What does the examiner expect?



## Relax

Try to approach the test in the same way you would if you were talking to a real person, not a computer. The more you talk like a human being, the more natural you will sound.



## Remember it's about you

All of the questions are going to be about you. You do not need to prepare memorised answers because you obviously know about yourself.



## Not too short

You should not give very short answers. These do not give the examiners enough information.

You can extend your answers by giving explanations or examples that help support your view.



## Not too long

If you give a very long answer to a simple question it is going to sound very unnatural and it may even sound like you are giving a memorised answer.

2-3 sentences is about right.



# Common Questions



It is very likely that you will be asked about the topics to the right.

These are not the only questions you will be asked, but they are the most common.



## Your job or studies

You should be able to easily talk about what you do. If you don't work or study, explain why.



## Your hometown

You should be able to say where it is and describe it. They might also ask you your opinion on certain aspects of your hometown.



## Your home

These questions might be about where you currently live, your neighborhood and your family/friends that you live with.

# Other Common Topics

## This is not a complete list

There is no way that I could list every single topic that has ever come up in this part of the test. There are just too many.

Also, you should never try to collect and prepare answers for every single topic. This is a complete waste of time.

The following list is just a sample of the many types of topics that might come up, so that you won't be surprised on test day and you'll be able to practice at home before your test.



Free time



Television



Fashion



Sports



The internet.



Books



Food



Weather



# Work

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Do you work or study?

I graduated a few years ago and I'm now in full time employment. I work as an English teacher for the British Council.



Why did you choose that job?

I was previously a lawyer and found it to be really stressful and never had any free time, so after quitting that job I thought teaching might be the complete opposite of being a lawyer. You know, not as stressful and more time off.



Do you enjoy your job?

Most of the time. It's very rewarding to be able to help people every day and the students here are very hardworking and fun to teach, but you sometimes have lessons that do not go so well and the money could always be better.



# Study



Do you work or study?

I'm currently a student at Queen's University, Belfast. I study law there.



Is it a popular subject at your university?

Very popular, in fact it's one of the most sought after courses. I think there are about 350 people reading law at Queen's. I think lots of student's parents want them to study law so they can get a good job after they graduate.



Do you get along with your classmates?

Yes, they are all really great. Most people like to socialise together in the evenings and this makes us a very tight group. If you know someone socially, it is much easier to work together in class.





# Hometown



Where is your hometown?

My hometown is on the south-east coast of Northern Ireland. It's called Dundrum and it's about 1 hour south of the capital city.



How often do you visit your hometown?

Not as much as I should. I only get to visit about once a year now to see my family because I'm really busy with work and it's quite far away, but I hope to visit more in the future.



What's the oldest part of your hometown?

There is an old Norman castle that sits on top of the highest hill of the town. It's a ruin now, but there are some breathtaking views from it and it's easy to see why they chose that site for a castle, because you can see for miles around.



# Your Home



Where do you live?

I live on the outskirts of Ho Chi Minh City, in a district called Tan Phu, about 15 km from the city centre.



What is your favourite room?

That would have to be my study because it's the only room where I can get peace and quiet. When I'm in there my wife knows I'm working, so she leaves me alone and I can concentrate on my work.



How is your apartment decorated?

I don't like lots of over the top decoration, so I guess you would describe it as minimalist. The walls are all white and the furniture is also either white or black. There are very few ornaments or pictures because again, I like to keep things quite minimal and I hate clutter.



# Food

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What's your favourite food?

I would have to say that it's definitely steak. It's quite expensive, so it's a real treat when I get the chance to have steak and I love all the things that come with it like pepper sauce, chips, mushrooms and onions.



Have you always like that food?

I didn't really like meat when I was younger. My mum said that I only liked to eat sweet things or breakfast cereal when I was a child. Naturally, Coco Pops were my absolute favourite.



Do you have a healthy diet?

No, not at all. I like all of the things that are unhealthy like sweets, fatty foods and junk food. I don't really have a lot of discipline when it comes to my diet, which is probably why I'm a little overweight.





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