

# 30 IELTS Speaking Practice Cards

## How To Use Your Cards

- 1)** Print them out, ideally onto card, or laminate them so that you can use them over and over again to create different answers.
- 2)** Don't read the questions until you are ready to do a mock test or it won't be realistic.
- 3)** Work on your own or with a partner so you can both take turns at being the examiner, asking the questions and timing the test.
- 4)** Pick a card at random and answer the questions for each of the three parts of the test in the time allowed in the real exam.
- 5)** If possible, record yourself speaking so that you can play it back later to identify what you most need to work on.

## Animals

### Part 1

Do you have a pet?

What types of animals do you think make the best pets?

Why do people have pets?

Are there any types of animals that you think should not be kept as a pet?

### Part 2

Describe a wild animal that lives in your country.

You should say:

- what animal it is
- where it lives
- how people feel about this animal

And explain if you think there will be more or fewer of this animal in the wild in the future and why.

### Part 3

- What is the purpose of having zoos?
- What is your opinion about animals being kept in zoos?
- How do you think zoos could be improved?
- Do you think it is important to conserve the world's - animal species?
- What is your opinion on poaching?
- Do you think money should be spent on protecting wild animals?

## Clothing & Fashion

### Part 1

Do you like shoes?

How often do you buy shoes?

Do you prefer comfortable or good-looking shoes?

Have you ever bought shoes online?

### Part 2

Describe a dress/shirt you wore for a special occasion.

You should say:

- what it is like
- when and where you bought it
- what special occasion you wore it for

and explain how it made you feel wearing it.

### Part 3

- What do you think the clothes we wear say about us?
- Do you think that brand name is very important for clothes sales?
- Why do some people like to go clothes shopping with friends?
- How have clothes fashions changed in your country over the past few decades?
- What kind of things determine what is in fashion?
- How do you think fashion will change in the future?

## Food & Cooking

### Part 1

What is your favourite type of food?

What is a common meal in your country?

Do you like cooking?

When do you eat your main meal of the day?

### Part 2

Describe a restaurant that you enjoyed going to.

You should say:

- where the restaurant was
- why you chose this restaurant
- what type of food you ate

and explain why you enjoyed eating in this restaurant.

### Part 3

- Do many people eat in restaurants in your country?
- Which are more popular, fast food restaurants or traditional restaurants?
- Why do people enjoy eating out?
- What do you think a healthy diet consists of?
- Do you think children should be taught about healthy diets and cooking at school or at home?
- At what age do you think children should be taught to cook?

## Daily Routine

### Part 1

What is your typical morning routine?

What would you like to change about it?

Do you think breakfast is important?

What is the best thing about your morning routine at the weekends?

### Part 2

Describe a typical day at work/college/university.

You should say:

- what you do
- when you do it
- what your favourite part of the day is

and explain what you would like to change about this routine.

### Part 3

- What is the attitude towards arriving late in your country?
- When is it very important to be on time?
- How can people make sure that they are never late?
- What factors influence most people's daily routines?
- Do you think people get enough choice in their daily routines?
- How do you think people's routines will change in the future?

## Books

### Part 1

Do you prefer to read books or magazines?  
What is your favourite subject to read about?  
Did your parents read to you when you were a child?  
Would you give a book as a gift?

### Part 2

Describe a book that you enjoyed reading.

You should say:

- what the book was
- what it was about
- why you read it

and explain what effect the book had on you.

### Part 3

- Do people in your country like to read books?
- What are the most popular types of books?
- Do you think it is important for people to read books?
- In your opinion, do people read as much nowadays as they did in the past?
- How do most people read books today, in hard copy or on a tablet?
- Do you think that traditional books will be replaced by tablet reading in the future?

## Art

### Part 1

Do you like art?  
Do you think that art should be taught in schools?  
How does learning art helps children to develop?  
If you were a famous painter, what sort of pictures would you paint?

### Part 2

Describe a work of art that you really like.

You should say:

- what it is
- who created it
- where you saw it

and explain why you like it.

### Part 3

- In your opinion, is art an important part of culture?
- What would life be like without art?
- Why do you think people like to have paintings in their homes?
- Do you agree with this statement? "Graffiti is a form of art and should be respected."
- Why do you think people create graffiti?
- Who do you think should pay for public works of art?

## Work

### Part 1

What is your job?  
Why did you choose this job?  
What do you enjoy most about your job?  
How did you feel on your first day at work?

### Part 2

Describe an organisation or company near where you live that employs a lot of people.

You should say:

- what organisation or company it is
- what industry they are in
- what the work involves

and explain why you think they are or are not a good employer.

### Part 3

- Which kinds of jobs have the highest salaries in your country? Why?
- Are there any jobs that you think should have higher salaries?
- Are all jobs of equal importance?
- What is the most common way to get a job these days?
- Is money always the most important thing when choosing a job?
- Why do some people become workaholics?

## Health

### Part 1

Do you lead a healthy lifestyle?  
What do you do to keep fit?  
Have you ever had any habits which you consider to be unhealthy?  
Is fitness or a healthy diet more important to you?

### Part 2

Describe something healthy you enjoy doing.

You should say:

- what it is
- where you do it
- who you do it with

and explain why you think doing this is healthy.

### Part 3

- How can people improve their health?
- What are some popular ways to keep fit in your country?
- How important is it for people to do some regular physical exercise?
- Do you think there will be more or less illness in the future?
- Why do so many people suffer from stress-related illnesses?
- What makes a good doctor?

## Weather & Seasons

### Part 1

What seasons do you have in your country?  
Which is your favourite season?  
What do you like to do in that season?  
Is your country popular with tourists in every season?

### Part 2

Describe a type of weather that you really dislike.  
You should say:

- what type of weather it is
- how often it happens
- why you dislike it

and explain what you do when the weather is like this.

### Part 3

- Do you think the weather affects how people feel?  
- What are some examples of bad weather in the world?  
- In your opinion, is anything we can do to prevent bad weather?  
- What is the best way to get accurate information about the weather?  
- How easy or difficult is it to predict the weather in your country?  
- How important do you think it is to check what the weather will be?

## Technology

### Part 1

What seasons do you have in your country?  
Which is your favourite season?  
What do you like to do in this season?  
Is your country popular with tourists in every season?

### Part 2

Describe a piece of equipment in your home that is important to you.  
You should say:

- what it is
- how long you have had it
- why you chose this particular model or brand

and explain why it is important to you.

### Part 3

- What are the most popular electronic devices in your country at the moment?  
- Which sort of devices do you think will become popular in the future?  
- Do you think electronic devices make life easier or more difficult?  
- Do you think all information on the internet is true?  
- How can people find reliable information on the internet?  
- Do you think the internet is safe for children to use unsupervised?

## Music

### Part 1

Do you like music?  
Have you ever learnt to play a musical instrument?  
What instrument do you think it is best for children to learn?  
Do think music should be taught in schools?

### Part 2

Describe a type of music that you like a lot.  
You should say:

- what type of music it is
- when you first started listening to it
- how often you listen to it

and explain why you like it so much.

### Part 3

- What traditional music do you have in your culture?  
- How important is it for a culture to have musical traditions?  
- Why do you think countries have national anthems or songs?  
- How do most people listen to music these days?  
- Is live music as popular now as it was 10 years ago?  
- Why do you think that so many young people dream of being famous musicians?

## Media

### Part 1

Are you interested in the news?  
Do you read a newspaper regularly?  
Do you believe everything you read in newspapers?  
Can reading a magazine or a newspaper help you learn a language?

### Part 2

Describe a newspaper or magazine you enjoy reading.  
You should say:

- which newspaper or magazine it is
- how often you read it
- which are your favourite parts

and explain why you enjoy reading it.

### Part 3

- How do most people get their news in your country?  
- Is the Internet a trustworthy source of news?  
- How do you think people will get their news in the future?  
- Should we trust journalists?  
- What do you think the important qualities of a good journalist are?  
- Do you think the media should be allowed to publish stories about the private lives of public figures?

## Architecture & Buildings

### Part 1

Are you interested in architecture?  
Do you live in an old building or a modern one?  
What sort of building would your dream home be?  
If you were an architect, what sort of buildings would you design?

### Part 2

Describe a building you have seen that impressed you.  
You should say:  
• where it was  
• what it looked like  
• when you saw it  
and explain why it impressed you.

### Part 3

- Do many people in your country visit historic buildings?  
- What types of historic buildings are most popular to visit?  
- Why do people visit these historic buildings?  
- What do people learn from visiting such buildings?  
- Do you think people should have to pay to visit them?  
- Do you think it's important that historic buildings are preserved?

## Education

### Part 1

Did you enjoy school?  
What was your favourite subject?  
How did you get on with your peers in school?  
What subject would you like to learn in the future?

### Part 2

Describe a school you attended.  
You should say:  
• what school it was  
• what the buildings were like  
• how good the teachers were  
and explain what you liked and disliked about it.

### Part 3

- What makes a good student?  
- What role should the teacher have in the classroom?  
- Do you think computers will one day replace teachers in classrooms?  
- How well do schools prepare young people for working life?  
- Do you think schools should teach subjects like art, music and dancing?  
- In your opinion, is a university education important?

## Film & TV

### Part 1

How much television do you watch per day?  
Who do you normally watch TV with?  
What kinds of TV programmes do you enjoy the most?  
What is your favourite TV programme at the moment?

### Part 2

Describe a TV drama series you like.  
You should say:  
• what TV series it is  
• what it is about  
• who acts in it  
and explain why you like it.

### Part 3

- Is the quality of TV programmes in your country good?  
- What type of foreign TV programmes are popular in your country?  
- Do you think television influences the way we think?  
- Should children be allowed to watch a lot of TV?  
- What do you think are the qualities of a good children's TV programme?  
- What are the educational benefits of children watching TV?

## Money

### Part 1

How important is money to you?  
What sorts of things do you like to spend spare money on?  
What was the last thing you bought yourself as a treat?  
It is difficult to control your spending?

### Part 2

Describe something you bought that you had to save money for.  
You should say:  
• what it was  
• how long you saved money for it  
• how you saved the money  
and explain how you felt after you bought it.

### Part 3

- Do you think children should be taught to save money?  
- Why do some parents give their children money to spend each week?  
- Should children be allowed to buy anything they want with the money they've saved?  
- Do you think it is a good idea for students to earn money while studying?  
- What kind of possessions show status in your country?  
- Modern society is often called 'materialistic'. Why do you think this is?

## Plants

### Part 1

Do you like plants?

What sort of plants have you grown?

Why do people like plants in their homes?

Would you ever give a plant as a gift?

### Part 2

Describe a plant, flower or tree that you like.

You should say

- what type of plant, flower or tree it is
- what it looks like
- where it grows or is usually seen

and explain why you like it.

### Part 3

- Is it common for people to have gardens where you live?
- Do you think it is important to have gardens or parks in our cities?
- What are the benefits of spending time in gardens or parks?
- What plants are important to the economy of your country?
- How can people be encouraged to grow their own food?
- Why is it important to conserve the world's plant species?

## Sport

### Part 1

Do you like sport?

Is there a lot of sport on television in your country?

What sports do children normally do at school?

Are there many sporting facilities near where you live?

### Part 2

Describe a sporting event you have attended.

You should say:

- what kind of sport it was
- where and when the event took place
- why you decided to go to this event

and explain how it compared to other sporting events you have been to.

### Part 3

- What types of sports are most popular in your country?
- What are the benefits of playing a sport?
- Do you think that new sports will be created in the future?
- Why do some people enjoy doing dangerous sports?
- Which extreme sports are popular in your country?
- Should some dangerous sports be banned?

## Environment

### Part 1

What is your favourite type of natural environment?

What is the air quality like where you live?

Do you recycle?

What other ways can individuals help to protect the environment?

### Part 2

Describe an environmental problem in your country.

You should say:

- what the problem is
- what has caused the problem
- what effect it has had on your country

and explain what is being done to solve it.

### Part 3

- How is your country affected by water pollution?
- What are some of the causes of water pollution?
- Do you think that everyone in the world will have access to clean water in the future?
- Do you think large companies and business organisations should be more environmentally friendly?
- What measures can individuals take to protect the environment?
- How can we teach children about the importance of protecting the environment?

## Homes & Accommodation

### Part 1

Do you live in a house or a flat?

How long have you lived there?

Do you like your home?

Which is your favourite room?

### Part 2

Describe a time when you moved to a new house.

You should say:

- when it happened
- why you moved
- what kind of new home you moved into

and explain how you felt about moving home.

### Part 3

- How easy is it to find a place to live in your country?
- Do you think it is better to rent or to buy your home?
- At what age do you think young adults should stop living with their parents?
- How do people like to decorate their homes in your country?
- Can the colour of a room affect the way people feel?
- Is it more important for a room to look nice or to be comfortable?

## Hobbies & Leisure

### Part 1

Do you prefer relaxing at home or going out in the evening?  
When you do go out for an evening, what do you like to do?  
Who do you like to spend leisure time with?  
If you had more free time, what would you do with it?

### Part 2

Describe an interest or hobby that you enjoy.

You should say:

- how you became interested in it
- how long you have been doing it
- why you enjoy it

and explain what benefits you get from this interest or hobby.

### Part 3

- In your country, do people have a good balance between work and leisure time?
- Has the amount of free time people have changed in the last 50 years?
- Do you think people need to have an interest or hobby?
- What are the most popular free-time activities with children today?
- How has this changed from 20 years ago?
- What are the advantages and disadvantage of this change for children?

## Shopping

### Part 1

Do you enjoy shopping?  
Do you prefer to shop in town or on the internet?  
In your country, at what times are the shops generally open?  
Where do you buy your food items?

### Part 2

Describe a shop that recently opened in your town.

You should say:

- what the shop is
- when it opened
- what it sells

and explain how you feel about this shop.

### Part 3

- How have people's shopping habits changed over the past 5 years?
- Do you think that most shopping will be done online in the future?
- Will smaller shops survive in the current retail system?
- What can shops do to make shopping more pleasant for their customers?
- Do you think that brand name is very important for sales?
- Do the young and the old have different priorities when they look for products to buy?

## Friends

### Part 1

Which is more important to you, friends or family?  
Do you have a small or large circle of friends?  
Who was your best friend at school?  
What sorts of things did you like to do together?

### Part 2

Describe one of your friends.

You should say:

- how you met
- how long you have known each other
- how you spend time together

and explain why you like this friend.

### Part 3

- What makes a good friend?
- What do you think causes friendships to break up?
- In what different ways can people keep in touch with each other?
- Do you think it's important to keep in contact with friends you knew as a child?
- How valuable are long-term friendships compared with new relationships?
- Can you be close friends with someone you only have a relationship with on the internet?

## Transportation

### Part 1

How popular is cycling in your hometown?  
Do people ride bicycles more for pleasure or to commute?  
What are the advantages of a bicycle compared to a car?  
How often do you ride a bicycle?

### Part 2

Describe a train journey you have taken.

You should say:

- where you were going
- why you were going there
- who you were travelling with

and explain what you liked and disliked about the journey.

### Part 3

- How safe is travel in your country?
- Which method of transport do you consider the safest?
- What do you think should be done to improve the safety of travel?
- How do people choose which car to buy?
- What environmental problems are there related to the car industry?
- Who do you think is responsible for finding solutions, governments or the car industry?

## Family

### Part 1

Do you have a large or a small family?  
Who are you most similar to in your family?  
Do you prefer to go out with family or friends?  
When did you last celebrate a special event with your family?

### Part 2

Describe someone in your family who you really admire.

You should say:

- who they are
- what relation they are to you
- how often you see them

and explain why you admire this person.

### Part 3

- In what ways have families in your country changed in the past 20 years?
- Should husbands and wives have different roles within the family?
- What conflicts can arise within a family?
- What role do grandparents play in the family in your country?
- In what ways might the lives of elderly people be different in the future?
- Who do you think should be responsible for the care of the elderly, the family or the government?

## Hometown, Towns & Cities

### Part 1

Where did you grow up?  
Was it a good place for children to grow up?  
Where did you usually play?  
Who did you usually play with?

### Part 2

Describe a city that you have visited.

You should say:

- what city it is
- when you went there
- why you went there

and explain what you liked or disliked about the city.

### Part 3

- What are the advantages of living in a city or a big town?
- Do people enjoy a better quality of life in the city or in the countryside?
- What are some of the challenges facing towns and cities?
- What can be done to reduce traffic congestion in cities?
- How important is it to have trees and parks in our cities?
- In your experience, are city centres usually attractive places?

## Holidays Travel & Tourism

### Part 1

Do a lot of tourists visit your country?  
What are the most popular places to visit?  
How important is tourism to the economy of your region?  
What attractions in your area would you recommend tourists to visit?

### Part 2

Describe a holiday you enjoyed.

You should say

- when and where you went
- who you went with
- what you did on the holiday

and explain why you enjoyed this holiday.

### Part 3

- Why do people go on holiday?
- What are the most popular types of holiday today?
- How important is it for families to go on holiday together?
- Do you think it is good for children to experience life in a foreign country?
- In your opinion, what kind of holidays will be popular in the future?
- Do you think it is safer to travel abroad now than in the past?

## People & Relationships

### Part 1

How well do you know the people who live next door to you?  
How often do you see each other?  
What kind of relationship do you have?  
Have you ever had a problem with a neighbour?

### Part 2

Describe a person you know who is kind.

You should say:

- who it is
- how you know this person
- what sort of person they are

and explain why you think they are kind.

### Part 3

- What types of relationships, other than with friends or family, are important in people's lives?
- Do you think it is important for people to spend time alone?
- What is the attitude towards marriage in your country?
- How have attitudes towards marriage changed in the past 50 years?
- Do most young people in your country plan on getting married?
- In your opinion, should couples be allowed to get divorced?

## Photographs

### Part 1

How often do you take photographs?  
What things do you like to photograph?  
Do you ever take selfies?  
What do you do with the photos you take?

### Part 2

Describe a photograph you like.

You should say:

- what can be seen in the photo
- when it was taken
- who took it

and explain why you like the photograph.

### Part 3

- How has photography changed over the past 20 years?
- What makes a good photograph?
- Are photographs works or art?
- Do you agree that with the advances in camera technology, anyone - can take quality pictures today?
- Why are selfies are so popular?
- Do you think there are any dangers in sharing personal photos on social media?

## Communication

### Part 1

How do you usually contact your friends?  
Do you often make phone calls?  
In what ways do you use social media to communicate?  
Do you ever write letters?

### Part 2

Describe an interesting conversation you had with a stranger.

You should say:

- where you met them
  - what kind of person they were
  - what you talked about
- and explain why the conversation was interesting.

### Part 3

- What age group do you think has the best communication skills?
- In your opinion, has technology improved the way we communicate with each other?
- Do you think we have lost any communication skills because of technology?
- How popular is letter writing in your culture today?
- Do you think it is still important for children to learn handwriting? Why?/Why not?
- How do you think people will communicate in 20 years time?