

IELTS Academic Speaking: Simple & Effective Tips

Overview of the Speaking Test

The IELTS Speaking test lasts **11–14 minutes** and is divided into **3 parts**:

- **Part 1 (Introduction & Interview):** 4–5 minutes
 - **Part 2 (Long Turn):** 3–4 minutes
 - **Part 3 (Discussion):** 4–5 minutes
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General Tips for All Parts

1. **Speak clearly and at a natural pace.**
Avoid speaking too fast or too slowly. Your pronunciation and fluency are being tested.
 2. **Use a range of vocabulary.**
Do not repeat the same words. Try synonyms and topic-related terms.
 3. **Vary your grammar structures.**
Use both simple and complex sentence forms. For example, include conditionals, passive voice, and relative clauses.
 4. **Avoid memorised answers.**
The examiner will notice. Be natural and genuine.
 5. **Correct yourself when needed.**
It is perfectly acceptable to say, “Sorry, I mean...” and continue.
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Part 1: Introduction & Interview

Topics: Home, studies, hobbies, daily routine, etc.

Tips:

- Keep your answers short but not too short.
- Support your answers with one or two details.
- Smile and stay relaxed. Treat it like a friendly conversation.

Example:

Q: What do you like about your hometown?

A: I like the peaceful environment and the friendly people. The air is clean, and it feels very safe.

Part 2: Long Turn (Cue Card)

You will:

- Be given a topic on a task card.
- Have 1 minute to prepare.
- Speak for 1–2 minutes.

Tips:

- Use the 1 minute to make short notes.
- Cover **all points** on the card.
- Use linking words (first, then, after that, finally).
- Keep speaking—even if you repeat ideas in different words.

Structure:

- Start with a short introduction.
- Give details and examples.
- Finish with a summary or personal thought.

Useful starters:

“I would like to talk about...”

“This happened when I was...”

“One reason why I remember this is...”

Part 3: Discussion

Topics: More abstract questions related to Part 2.

Tips:

- Give full, developed answers.
- Use reasons, examples, and comparisons.
- Express opinions clearly using phrases like:
 - “In my view...”
 - “I believe that...”
 - “It depends on...”
 - “Some people argue that...”

Example:

Q: Do you think people read more nowadays?


A: In my view, people read less for pleasure and more for information. With smartphones, most reading is short and fast—like news or social media posts.

Vocabulary Ideas (for common topics)

Topic	Useful Vocabulary
Education	curriculum, lectures, assignments, discipline
Technology	devices, innovation, artificial intelligence
Environment	pollution, conservation, renewable energy
Travel	destination, itinerary, adventure, cultural exchange
Food	cuisine, appetite, ingredients, homemade

Final Tips Before the Test

- Practise speaking **out loud** every day.
 - Record yourself and listen for errors.
 - Practise with a partner or tutor.
 - Stay calm. The examiner is not trying to trick you.
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 **Remember:** There are no “right” or “wrong” answers. The test measures how well you communicate, not what you say.