

# IELTS Speaking Masterclass

## GENERAL PREPARATION

If you are preparing by yourself or if you want to use your spare time more efficiently, you will find the following suggestions useful.

### **Record yourself answering questions**

For example, ask yourself typical speaking test questions and record your answers on your mobile phone or computer.

### **Write down your answers**

Listen to your recorded answers and write them down word for word. That way you can learn what mistakes you made and how well you followed the advice in this course. You can learn, for example, if you used simple or more sophisticated vocabulary, what grammatical errors you made and if you connected your sentences and ideas appropriately.

### **Practise describing your own photographs**

This will train you to talk about your memories in case you are asked to describe an event in your past. Try to talk about what the event was, when it took place and say how you felt.

### **Read a text then speak it**

Try to summarise what you read in your own words. Record yourself and write down your summary. This will train you to paraphrase and use synonyms effectively, which is important if you want to achieve a high band.

### **Recall your memories**

In Parts 1 and 2, you may be asked personal questions about your life. Think about the people you know, places you have visited, events you have attended and objects you own. Then practise talking about them.

### **Think aloud**

Instead of thinking in your own language, try thinking aloud in English. For instance, instead of planning your day in your native language, say it in English, for example "Okay, today I've got an important meeting. I should get going. I'm going to be late", etc. This will make you feel more comfortable speaking English.

### **Watch films**

Watching films is a good way to improve your spoken English. The more you listen to native speakers, the more confident you will become in speaking. Try to understand what the actors are saying. Pay attention to the subtitles or look up words in a dictionary. Try to follow the subtitles in your own language first, and then in English when you feel more confident.

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## Find a speaking partner

If you don't have a teacher to help you prepare for the test or if you need additional practice, you can always find a speaking partner. These sites may help you:

- [www.mylanguageexchange.com](http://www.mylanguageexchange.com)
- [www.italki.com](http://www.italki.com)
- [www.busuu.com](http://www.busuu.com)

## Listen to English speakers

Listening is very important. The more you listen to native speakers, the more confident you will feel in speaking. Sources of listening include:

- Real people (tourists, travellers, etc.)
- Audio books
- Podcasts

You should find the following websites useful:

- [www.podcastsinenglish.com](http://www.podcastsinenglish.com)
- [www.bbc.co.uk/worldservice/learningenglish](http://www.bbc.co.uk/worldservice/learningenglish)
- [www.eslpod.com](http://www.eslpod.com)
- [www.listen-to-english.com](http://www.listen-to-english.com)