

IELTS Speaking Strategies

1. Fluency and coherence – The speed that you speak at and avoiding long pauses
2. Vocabulary – Use high level words, avoid errors with word endings
3. Grammar – Use more complex sentence structures
4. Pronunciation – clear speech; you are easy to understand and highlight your key points using stress and intonation.

Strategies to extend what we want to say....

Answer a given question – eg. What kind of food do you like?

1. Divide into 3 parts

To answer, select 3 different kinds of food and give reasons for each one.

Reason – put these at the start of your answer

- (a) The one I like the best...
- (b) Another one that I am drawn to....
- (c) And finally my absolute favourite kind of food....

Reason - put these words in the middle of your answer

- (a) because
- (b) as ...
- (c) due to the reason that...

2. General to specific

- (a) Start with a category heading (eg seafood)
- (b) In particular I am partial to(eg Japanese seafood)
- (c) Give an example (For instance is a good way to introduce this) (eg - sashimi)

Next – Receive a topic card where you must speak for two minutes, with one minute to prepare

Strategy 1, the other two strategies we outlined above already.

Structure your story using time

Eg – preparing for a party, arrival at the party and going home, closely followed by a summary at the end.

- (a) set the scene by describing something you are doing, what you see around you, your feelings, describing a person and a place etc.
- (b) Tell me something that happened at the party
- (c) Why you enjoyed it
- (d) Finally look into the future and tell me what you hope for in a years time.

Activity – in groups write down some descriptive words that another group could use to describe something. You have 5 minutes before you pass this card to another group. This group must come up with a 2 minute story that where these descriptive words can be used. Remember you will only have 2 minutes to deliver your story.

Points to remember

1. If it is something that you have been to, most of your answer will be given in the past tense.
2. Use higher level vocabulary to describe either nouns or verbs, however if you describe actions your answer will be stronger.

The examiner will now ask you questions about the answer that you gave in part 2, you should answer this part as though you are talking about people in general, not about yourself.

1. Give your opinion
2. Make comparisons
3. Make predictions
4. Package your answer – That is a really interesting question. I have never really thought about it that way before, but if I had to have an opinion, I would say....

Note – In this section you can ask the examiner to rephrase the question, as this will help buy you some time and give you more ideas. Do this only once to show confidence....do this by saying – are you asking me (restate your understanding of the question back to the examiner)