

## IELTS SPEAKING

### SPEAKING FORMAT

#### 1. Study the format

PART I – Simple questions. The examiner asks, a candidate answers briefly (1-2 sentences)

- Do you live in a house or in an apartment?
- What do you like most about your house/apartment?
- Is there anything you dislike about it? Why?
- What is your idea about a perfect house?

PART 2 - Descriptive card. A candidate is given a cue card, prepares for a minute and speaks continuously for 2 minutes (12-15 sentences)

Describe a city you would like to live in. You should say:

- where the city is
  - what the city is famous for
  - what part of the city you would like to live in and why
- and explain why you would like to live there.

Rounding-off question(s). The examiner asks, a candidate gives extended answers (2-3 sentences)

-Do you think you will ever live in this city?

PART 3 – More abstract questions, usually connected with the card. The examiner asks, a candidate gives an extended answer (3-4 sentences)

- What are the main disadvantages of living in a city?
- How do you think cities could be improved?
- Are people less friendly in cities than in the countryside? Why? (Why not?)

#### 2. In the model answer below use proper forms of the words in brackets and fill in the gaps with the words and expressions from the box.

part and parcel	full of beans	rather	late owls	role-models
excruciating	early bird	specialist doctors	nourishing	check up

**Part I Questions:** When do you usually get up/go to bed? Do you sleep a lot? What's your sleeping position?

**Answers:** Since I am a(n) \_\_\_\_\_ I hardly ever get up (late) than 7.00am. Most of my friends position (they) as \_\_\_\_\_, while I guess I (not be able) to study well if I (stay) up until midnight or 1.00am as they (do). I never (think) about whether I (sleep) enough or (overdo) sleeping. I know it (be) one of the topics of popular psychology (deal) with. I mean I (read) articles stating that your sleeping position (reveal) your (person). To me this (not make) sense. Personally, I sleep on the side, sometimes on my back; (luck) I (not snore)!

**Part II Questions:** How often do you see a doctor? When were you last ill? What was the matter and what did you do to recover? **Rounding off question:** Do you think vaccination prevents getting infected?

**Answers:** Although I'm young I like (look) after (I). I see my GP once a year and have a full medical \_\_\_\_\_. I only (register) with \_\_\_\_\_ if there's a particular problem. For example, I had to see an optometrist the other day and I (test) my eyes. I (not get) short-sighted at the moment, but I definitely (cut) down on the time (spend) in front of the computer. Fortunately, I (not have) any serious health problems until now. But in November I (have) flu, which (be) really \_\_\_\_\_! I (run) temperature for 3 days before I finally (call) in a doctor because I (think) it was just a cold. But as I neither (sneeze) nor (cough) I (realise) it (not be) a cold and I (need) some medical treatment \_\_\_\_\_ than herbal tea or gargling. The doctor (prescribe) some medication, I (stay) off work for two weeks and even when I

recovered I still (feel) weak. I think next year I (do) vaccination for flu. Even if it (not prevent) illness, it (make) it (easy) for you (fight) infection. Both adults and children (must; inoculate) against (infection) diseases.

**Part III Questions:** Do you think it is vital to look after your health? What should people do to stay healthy and live longer? Is it possible to make people take care of their health?

**Answers:** I always (be) of opinion that good health is \_\_\_\_\_ of a happy life. Healthy and fit people are definitely (positive) than those (suffer) from different conditions. Not only physically and mentally healthy people (live) longer but they (stay) energetic and active later in life. What people (should; do) to be healthy is (eat) properly and (exercise) regularly, there's nothing new about that. Food must be \_\_\_\_\_, fresh and rich in vitamins. After eating good food you feel \_\_\_\_\_ to do any intellectual or physical activity. Certainly, it (be) difficult (lead) a healthy lifestyle if one (not teach) how to do that since childhood. Parents (most) should instill healthy habits in their children. Ideas of healthy lifestyle (must; propagate) in the media. Actually, celebrities and sports stars, who (look) good and stay young and fit, (become) \_\_\_\_\_ for many people, in particular, their followers on social media.

### SPEAKING CARDS

- 1 Warm up questions
- 2 Descriptive card + rounding-off question
- 3 Discursive questions

#### 1

- 1 Do you work or study? What do you like/dislike about your work/studies? What was your dream job when you were a child? Why did you choose/decide to become a ... ? Where would you like to work after graduation/five years from now?
- 2 Speak about your studies. Say: a) what you find most challenging about your studies; b) what you are planning to do after graduation; c) where/at what position you see yourself 10 years from now. + What do you have to do to achieve your goal?
- 2 Speak about your work. Say: a) who/what made you choose to be a ... ; b) what your workplace and working conditions are like ; c) what would you do you lost your job/became redundant/fired. + Do you think your job/profession is secure?
- 3 Do you think that the job market has changed over the past two decades? Do you agree with the idea that most studies/jobs will be done online in 10 years' time? What jobs are the most prestigious/best-paid in your country and why? Would you say that studying/working abroad might be a valuable experience?

#### 2

- 1 Do you live in a house or a flat? What is your house/flat like? Do you spend much time commuting? What is your district/precinct like? What is your residential area/housing estate like? Who do you live with? Who does most of the housework in your household?
- 2 Speak about your house/flat. Say: a) where it is located; b) what you can see from the window(s); c) when you last had it (re)decorated. + Do people in your country like moving house/redecorating their homes?
- 3 What age is good for young people to fly the nest? If you were to go to study/work abroad, what kind of accommodation would you choose? Do you agree with the opinion that living in high-rise buildings makes people feel stressed out?

#### 3

- 1 Do you live in a big city or small town? What is your city/town famous for? Does it have a good infrastructure?
- 2 Speak about your hometown/city or town you live in now. Say: a) where it is located; b) what you like/dislike most about your city/town; c) whether it has changed over the past 5/10 years. + What amenities/facilities are the most important for a city/town?
- 3 Why do most people choose to live in a city rather than in a village/small town? If you could choose any destination in the world, where would you like to live? What do you have to do to make your dream come true?

#### 4

- 1 Do you normally eat slow food or fast food? Do you snack between the meals? What kind of food is your favourite? Do you like cooking?
- 2 Speak about the staple foods in your country. Say: a) what most people eat for breakfast, lunch and dinner; b) what your national cuisine is known for; c) what do most people cook for festive occasions. + Do you think most people in your country eat healthily?
- 3 What are advantages/disadvantages of convenience food/takeaway food/home-made food? Would you say that most people prefer eating at home to eating out? What does it mean "to have healthy eating habits"? How can we make young people/teenagers/children eat healthy food rather than snacks?

#### 5

- 1 Does your name have any special meaning? Have you been named after a relative? How do people in your country choose names for their children? What do different people call you?
- 2 Speak about your family. Say: a) how many people there are in your family; b) whether you get on well with your parents/siblings; c) who you admire most in your family. + Do you agree with the opinion that family is the most important thing in people's lives?
- 3 Can you think of some advantages and disadvantages of having a big/extended family? Do you think one's personality traits are inherited or nurtured in a family? Has family life/have family values changed in your country over the years? Would you agree with the opinion that in the near future a conventional family will be replaced by a guest marriage or marriage of convenience?

#### 6

- 1 When is your birthday? How do you usually celebrate your birthday? What is the best/the worst present you've ever received for your birthday?
- 2 Speak about a family celebration you had recently. Say: a) what the occasion was; b) where and how you celebrated it; c) what family celebrations and rituals are common in your country. + Do you think we should keep old traditions?
- 3 Can you think of some advantages and disadvantages of sticking to traditions? Do you agree with the opinion that traditions should be passed on from generation to generation? Have traditions and customs changed over the years in your country?

#### 7

- 1 What's your favourite kind of music? Can you sing or play a musical instrument? Have you ever dreamt of making a career in the music industry? Would you like to learn to sing well or play a musical instrument?
- 2 Speak about the role of music in people's lives. Say: a) what music genres are popular in your country among the younger/the older generation; b) what musicians/bands are popular in your country/around the world; c) how most people feel when singing or dancing to music. + Do you think music should be taught at school?
- 3 What is more important in songs, melody, rhythm/beat or lyrics? What do our music preferences depend on? Would you agree with the opinion that people are happy when singing in a choir because they feel harmony?

#### 8

- 1 Where is your hometown/country located? What is the weather like where you live in different seasons? What's your favourite season? What do you normally wear in hot/cold weather?
- 2 Speak about (school) subjects that teach us to understand the surrounding world. Say: a) what we can learn in science and geography lessons; b) how you studied these subjects at school; c) what can make learning science and geography interesting. + Do you think the knowledge of science and geography is useful in real life situations?
- 3 How is the earth climate changing/has the earth's climate changed over the years? Why is climate change hazardous for the environment? What (or if anything) can be done to protect the environment?

**9**

- 1 Do you like playing board games? Have you got your favourite board game? Who do you play board games with? What board games are popular in your country?
- 2 Speak about popular board games. Say: a) what the aims of different board games: chess, cards, checkers, backgammon, monopoly, scrabble, puzzles, etc are; b) what games representatives of different generations like; c) whether playing board games makes family members/friends closer. + Do you think that playing board games develops people's minds?
- 3 Can computer games be considered board games? Is it a good idea to play board games for money? Can you think of advantages and disadvantages of computer games/RPG? Do you think it's a good idea to hold sports tournaments?

**10**

- 1 Where do people usually spend their holidays? How often do you take a break from your work/studies? What kinds of holiday activity are popular in your country?
- 2 Speak about your last holiday or the best holiday you have ever had. Say: a) where you were; b) what you did; c) what you liked/disliked most about your vacation. + Why do you think most people prefer spending their holiday abroad?
- 3 Why do you think extreme holidays have become so popular over the past two decades? Is it reasonable to save up for a holiday all year round and then spend the money in two weeks? Is it possible to make tourism eco-friendly?

**11**

- 1 Are you interested in green issues? Have you ever taken part in green activities? Do you know what organisations are trying to protect the environment these days?
- 2 Speak about the ecological situation in your country. Say: what the most serious ecological problems are where you live; b) what or if anything is being done to solve these problems; c) what you or people you know do to protect the environment. + Do you think common people can contribute considerably to the environmental protection?
- 3 Do you believe it is possible to stop global warming? How could such problems as the growing overpopulation and shortage of water resulting from it be solved? What legal measures might be taken to protect the planet from destruction?

**12**

- 1 Do you work or study? How do you earn your living? What do you spend most of your money on? Do you budget/plan your spendings? Have you ever borrowed money from a friend/relative/bank?
- 2 Speak about your most valuable possession. Say: a) when and where you got it; b) why it is important to you; c) what would you do if were deprived of it. + Would you agree with the view that people have become too interested in material benefits nowadays?
- 3 Most young professionals have to pay back their student loan or take a mortgage to buy a flat. Is it difficult/fair to start a career/an adult life having debts? If money were not a problem, what would you like to buy/change about your life? Which would you choose an interesting, rewarding, but underpaid job or a boring but well-paid one?

**13**

- 1 Are you image-conscious? Is fashion important to you? Do you spend much money on clothes and accessories? What brands/kinds of clothes are popular with young people in your country?
- 2 Speak about your favourite item(s) of clothing. Say: a) what it looks like; b) when and where you bought it/them; c) how you feel wearing it/them. + Would you agree with the opinion that one's appearance is more important than character/personality?
- 3 Do you agree with the famous saying "Good looks open doors"? Are good-looking people more popular with others/the opposite sex? Are they more successful? Do we judge people by their looks or by their personality? What do you think of modern fashion, is it imaginative? Comfortable? Free?

#### 14

- 1 Are you a decisive kind of person? How long does it take to make a decision? Have you ever made significant changes to your life? Are you going to change anything in your daily routine? Lifestyle?
- 2 Speak about the most important/difficult decision you have made so far. Say: a) what kind of decision you had to make; b) who if anyone helped you; c) what the outcome was. + Is it possible to develop decision making skills in young people?
- 3 Do you think decision-making is an essential skill? When and in what situations do people have to make decisions? What do you think of emotional intelligence? How can the ability to recognise and control emotions help people in different life situations?

#### 15

- 1 Are you a sporty person? Did you play sports as a child/teenager? How much exercise do you do? What is your favourite sport to play/to watch? Would you like to try a new kind of physical activity?
- 2 Speak about a sports event/competition you watched or took part in. Say: a) what kind of sports event it was; b) when and where it took place; c) whether it was interesting/important to you. + Why is it important to involve children in physical activity since early childhood?
- 3 Why do you think extreme sports have become so popular these days? Would you agree with the view that authorities should control people's participation in extreme sports? If you were in charge, what regulations/restrictions would you implement to make extreme sports less risky/dangerous?

#### 16

- 1 Are you a cinema-goer or a theatre-goer? What is your favourite movie genre? Where do you like to watch films? When did you last go to the theatre? Are theatres popular where you live?
- 2 Speak about a film you liked/disliked. Say: a) what kind of film it is; b) what is the film about (plot summary); c) why you liked/disliked it (involving plot, acting; camera work, special effects, soundtrack). + What makes a film successful/memorable?
- 2 Speak about a theatre performance you liked/disliked. Say: a) where you saw it; b) what is the play about (plot summary); c) how the audience responded to it. + Would you agree with the opinion that theatres have become less popular nowadays because they cannot use the variety of special effects that cinematography uses to attract viewers?
- 3 Do you think cinema has changed dramatically over the years? What are the most distinguishing features of modern cinematography? If you were in charge, would you go for/establish a board of censorship/control to introduce some ethical standards or place restrictions on filmmaking?