

## QUESTIONS FOR PRACTISING YOUR GRAMMAR

In Lectures 18 and 19 of the IELTS Speaking Masterclass course, you reviewed some key grammar structures that you may need to use in the Speaking test. If you practise answering the questions from the lists below, you will be well-prepared to use a range of grammar structures in your test. This will help you get a high band.

### Comparing and contrasting

To answer these questions, practise using **comparative/superlative adjectives** as well as other **comparative structures** (*similar to, different than/from, as .... as, not as .... as*).

Do you prefer to eat out or eat at home?

*I prefer to eat in because it's **much more convenient**. It's also **not as expensive as** eating out.*

- Do you work better in the mornings or the evenings?
- Do you prefer to study in the mornings or evenings?
- Do you prefer studying or working?
- Which place do you prefer, the city where you are working/studying now or your hometown?
- How does your current place of living compare to your hometown?
- Do you prefer to travel alone or with friends/family?
- Do you prefer to spend your free time alone or with other people?
- Do you prefer to eat out or eat at home?
- Do you prefer to eat alone or with other people?
- Do you prefer casual clothes or formal clothes?
- Do you prefer to read a newspaper or watch TV?
- Do you prefer to watch TV or listen to the radio?
- Do you prefer team sports or individual sports?
- Do you prefer shopping alone or with other people?
- Do you prefer to shop at a street market or a normal shop?
- Do you prefer shopping in small shops or in large shopping centres (malls)?
- What are some differences between men and women shopping?

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- Do you prefer to watch films alone or with other people?
- Do you prefer to watch films in a cinema or at home?
- What are the differences in the tastes of music of young people and older people?
- Which is more important for you, domestic news or international news?
- Do you prefer to travel by car or use public transport?
- How would you compare learning English to learning other languages?
- What is more important, eating healthily or doing exercise?
- Do you prefer to read or go to the cinema?
- How do you prefer to contact people, by email or by phone?
- How do you prefer to communicate with people at work, by email or by phone?

## Questions about a recent change

You can answer these questions with the **present perfect** (*have/has + past participle*). The present perfect is a difficult tense for most English learners, so if you are able to use it correctly, this will help you get a high band. You can also use other structures to answer these questions for example **used to + infinitive** to talk about a past habit with the **present simple** for a present habit.

*Have your eating habits changed in recent years?*

Yes, **they have**. I **have become** much more health-conscious in recently.

*Have your eating habits changed in recent years?*

Yes. In the past, I **used to eat** much more unhealthy food. Nowadays I **try** to avoid junk food.

- Has your work changed in recent years?
- Has your hometown changed much in recent years?
- Has your home changed in recent years?
- Has the transport situation in your hometown changed in recent years?
- Has the type of holidays you enjoy changed in the past 10 years?

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- How has the way people spend their free time changed in recent years?
- Have your eating habits changed in recent years?
- Have people's eating habits changed in your country since you were a child?
- Has your routine changed much in recent years?
- Has your family life changed in recent years?
- Has your taste in clothes changed in recent years?
- Have your television watching habits changed much in recent years?
- Have there been any weather changes in your country in recent years?
- Have shopping habits changed in your country in recent years?
- How has the internet had an impact on people's lives?
- Have computers improved our lives?
- Has your taste in films changed since you were younger?
- Has your taste in music changed since you were younger?
- Has advertising changed in recent years?

## Questions about the past

Practising these questions will help you talk about the past using appropriate tenses, e.g. past simple.

*How did you get here today?*

*I came here by train. Luckily, there were no delays.*

- Why did you choose to do the type of work that you do?
- What was your first day of work like?
- Why did you choose the subject you are studying?
- Was it an easy choice?
- What was your first day at university like?
- Did you like your first day at secondary school?
- Whereabouts did you grow up?
- Why did you move?
- Why did you choose to live in the place where you are living?
- How did you come here today?
- What was the last place you travelled to?
- What did you do on your last holiday?
- What did you do to relax when you were younger?
- What did you like to eat as a child?
- How did you learn to cook?
- When did you learn how to cook?

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- What type of programmes did you watch as a child?
- How did you learn to use the internet?
- When did you start using computers?
- Was it easy to get your driving license?
- What was your favourite animal when you were a child?
- When did you last celebrate a special event?
- When did you get your first mobile/cellphone?
- Did you collect anything when you were a child?
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## Questions about frequency

Questions that ask *how often* you do something are also common in the IELTS Speaking test. Practise using **adverbs of frequency** with this list of questions.

*Do you often use public transportation?*

*Yes, I do. I take the bus on a daily basis.*

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- Do you often use public transportation?
- Do you often travel by train?
- How often do you travel?
- How often do you meet your friends?
- Do you often talk about the weather?
- Do you often check the weather forecast?
- How often do you play sports?
- How often do you go shopping?
- How often do you use the internet?
- Do you often shop online?
- Do you use a computer very often?
- How often do you go to the cinema?
- How often do you watch a film?
- Do you often listen to music?
- Do you often follow the news?
- Do you often read newspapers?
- How often do you do housework?
- How often do you write emails?
- How often do you use your mobile/cellphone?
- How often do you take photos?
- Do you often play games?

## Hypothetical questions

To answer these questions well, practise using hypothetical structures, for example **would/could + infinitive** or the **second conditional** (*If + past, would/could/might + infinitive*).

*If you could take a holiday anywhere in the world, where would you go?*

*Hmm...if I could go anywhere, I think I'd visit Thailand. I've heard so much about the country from my friends.*

- Is there some other work you would prefer to do?
- If you could change your job or profession, what would you do?
- Where else would you like to live?
- How do you think transport in your city could be improved?
- Which place would you really like to visit?
- What kind of place would you like to travel to in the future?

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- If you could take a holiday anywhere in the world, where would you go?
- What would you do if you had more free time?
- Is there a sport or hobby you would like to try?
- If you could change something in your daily routine, what would it be?
- If you were married, how many children would you choose to have?
- If you had more free time, would you spend it with your friends?
- How much TV would you like your children to watch?
- Is there any sport you would like to do in the future?
- If you could play a musical instrument, which instrument would you choose to learn?
- What would you do if you were late for an important meeting?
- If you were a parent, would you let your children raise a pet?
- If you had to repaint the walls of your home, which colour would you choose?
- Would you like to collect something if you had a lot of money?