

Teaching IELTS Speaking: Interactive Classroom Activities

Brainstorming useful phrases for IELTS Speaking Part One

Write as many useful phrases for IELTS Speaking Part One as you can in the spaces below (phrases you have heard other candidates using, phrases that you imagine would impress the examiner, etc). If you are competing, you will get a point for each phrase that no other groups wrote, and five points if it is not on the teacher's list.

Choose twelve things that you think no one else will have written, then share your ideas with the whole class.

Check the big list for things you wrote which are not on there, then ask about anything on those lists which you didn't think of and don't understand.

Circle the most useful phrases for you, then compare your circled phrases with someone else.

Try to use as many of those circled phrases as you can while you practise IELTS Speaking Part One.

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Phrases for talking about your name

Checking/ Clarifying phrases (when the meaning of the question isn't clear, etc)

Answering questions whose meanings aren't 100% clear phrases

Commenting on the (mis)match between the question and your situation

Other commenting on the question phrases (when it's challenging, unusual, etc)

Vague answers/ Weak answers

Strong language/ Strong answers

(Other) thinking aloud phrases/ filling silence phrases

Talking about likes and dislikes/ preferences phrases

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Explaining abilities/ skills/ strengths and weaknesses phrases

Talking about habits/ routines phrases

Talking about now phrases

Talking about the distant past phrases

Talking about the recent past phrases

Talking about experiences/ Linking the past and present phrases

Talking about future arrangements (appointments, dates, etc) phrases

Talking about your plans phrases

Talking about desires phrases

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Talking about predictions phrases

Talking about the near future phrases

Talking about the distant future phrases

Speculating/ Hypothesising/ Imagining (alternative universes, etc) phrases

(More natural/ interesting) answers to yes/ no questions (without yes or no)

Giving reasons phrases

Explaining (more/ things that the examiner might not know or understand) phrases

Changing your mind/ Correcting wrong information phrases

Ending (long) answers phrases

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Talking about your education phrases

Talking about places (hometown, accommodation, etc) phrases

Talking about people/ relationships phrases

Talking about festivals and celebrations phrases

Talking about transport and travel phrases

Talking about movies and TV phrases

Talking about music phrases

Talking about your work phrases

Talking about your free time/ leisure/ hobbies phrases