

# Teaching IELTS Speaking: Interactive Classroom Activities

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## Suggested answers

The answer in **bold** is the best one. Ask if you are not sure why the others are not good.

### Name

1. Can I check your name?

A) Sure.

B) Yes, you can. – Too literal answer to the question./ Misunderstood the question.

**C) Of course. It's Alex. Alex Case.**

D) It's written here. – Not (really) answering the question.

2. How do you pronounce your name?

A) It's D,O,U,G.

**B) It's pronounced "dug", like "rug".**

C) I pronounce it "dug", like "rug". – Too literal answer to the question.

D) Just like it's written. – Not (really) answering the question.

3. What would you like me to call you?

**A) Please call me Alex.**

B) I don't care. – Not (really) answering the question./ Rude.

C) Call me anything you like. – Not (really) answering the question.

D) My family call me Alexander and my nickname is Rex, but please call me Alex. – Off topic./ Too long.

## Work and studies

4. Are you working at the moment?

A) No, obviously not! As you can see, I'm taking the IELTS test at the moment! – Misunderstood the question./ Too literal answer to the question.

**B) Well, I'm an unpaid intern right now, so I'm not sure if that counts as work or not.**

5. How do you usually revise before exams?

**A) To be frank I don't have any special technique or anything, I mainly just read and highlight in different colours.**

B) So much! Sometimes I don't sleep the night before! – Misunderstood the question.

6. What is your typical weekday like?

**A) It's pretty busy, but I don't usually have to do overtime.**

B) I like my lunchbreak. – Misunderstood the question.

C) I get up at 6:45. Then I brush my teeth and have a shower. After that,...– Too long./ Language too simple.

## Transport and travel

7. Where have you come from today?

A) I was born in Nagano. It's a medium-sized city in central Japan. – Misunderstood the question.

**B) Not too far. I live about 35 minutes away by underground.**

8. What is the best thing about public transport in your town?

A) I think it's probably the best in the world. – Misunderstood the question.

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**B) It's difficult to find anything good about it, to be honest, but I guess it's quite cheap.**

9. How do you most like to travel?

A) By train. – Too short.

B) I like trains, boats, buses, trams, bicycles and motorcycles. – Language too simple.

**C) Generally by train, but I also like boats, long distance buses, all kinds really.**

D) I don't really like buses or planes, because they are quite cramped and you can't really stretch your legs. – Not (really) answering the question.

10. Which country would you most like to visit?

A) I'm flying to Canada next week. – Too short.

**B) Actually, I'm flying to Canada next week. I've always wanted to go there.**

C) Actually, I will fly to Canada next week. – Typical language mistake.

## Sports and exercise

11. How important is doing exercise to you?

A) It keeps me slim and makes me happy. – Misunderstood the question.

B) Incredibly important. – Too short.

**C) Frankly, it's not important at all. I find walking to the station is quite enough.**

12. How is exercise important to you?

**A) Well, I do exercise but I've never really thought about why. I guess the main thing for me is working out some of the stress of my job.**

B) It's absolutely vital. I couldn't live without it. – Misunderstood the question.

## Free time

13. Is there any hobby which you'd like to take up?

A) Yes, there is. – Too short./ Too literal answer to the question.

**B) Not that I can think of, but I'd like to go skydiving again someday.**

14. How did you spend your weekends when you were younger?

A) I spent quite a lot. I liked karaoke, and that is quite expensive. – Misunderstood the question.

**B) I was a pretty serious kid, so I didn't do anything too interesting. I mainly just read and played computer games.**

15. How much free time do you have?

A) Three hours a week. – Too literal answer to the question.

**B) Actually, at the moment I basically don't have any.**

## Accommodation

16. What is your home like?

A) Yes, I do. I love it. – Misunderstood the question.

B) It's very narrow. – Typical language mistake.

**C) It's difficult to know what to say about it. It's a pretty typical Japanese flat, I guess. Yes, that really is all I can think of to say.**

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## Friends and family

17. Do you have a large family?

A) No, I don't. – Too short./ Language too simple.

**B) It depends what you mean by large, but I have three brothers, so that's quite big nowadays.**

C) Yes, I have three brothers. My oldest brother's name is Steve. He is a doctor. My second brother's name is... – Too long./ Language too simple.

18. Who are you most like in your family?

**A) I really take after my father. We even have the same voice!**

B) I really love my little sister. She's so cute! – Misunderstood the question.

## Hometown

19. How popular is your hometown with tourists?

**A) Frankly, I'm not sure I've ever seen a single tourist there. It's not really that kind of place.**

B) They like to go to the hot springs and sometimes go hiking. – Misunderstood the question./ Overgeneralisation.

20. If you could live anywhere, which area of your town would you choose?

A) I chose the riverside because I like fishing. – Misunderstood the question.

B) I'm not sure. – Too short.

**C) I'm not sure, but somewhere near the sea, I guess.**

21. What kinds of homes do people in your town usually live in?

A) People live in apartments. – Overgeneralisation./ Too short./ Language too simple.

**B) It's difficult to say for sure, but I guess flats are more common than houses.**

## Arts and media

22. Do you ever listen to the radio?

**A) Yes, sometimes in the car.**

B) Yes, of course I have listened to the radio many times. I last listened to the radio about two years ago. – Misunderstood the question.

23. What type of magazines do you like?

A) I like Newsweek, National Geographic and The Times Literary Supplement. – Language too simple./ Not (exactly) answering the question.

**B) I don't read magazines a lot, but I quite enjoy ones about cars and technology.**

24. What do you like about going to the cinema?

A) I can't understand what you are talking about. What do you mean "What do you like about"? – Rude.

B) What? – Too short./ Rude.

**C) Sorry, I'm not sure what the question means. Are you asking if I enjoy going to the cinema or not?**

*Ask about any options which don't seem good or don't seem bad, phrases you don't understand, etc.*