

Speaking

The Speaking component takes between 11 and 14 minutes to complete. Every IELTS candidate has a face-to-face oral interview with an examiner. The Speaking test is recorded.

There are three parts to the Speaking component.

In Part 1, candidates answer general questions about themselves and a range of familiar topics, such as their home, family, work, studies and interests. This part lasts between 4 and 5 minutes.

In Part 2, candidates are given a card which asks them to talk about a particular topic. They have 1 minute to prepare before speaking for up to 2 minutes. The examiner then asks one or two questions on the same topic to finish this part of the test.

In Part 3, candidates are asked further questions which are connected to the topic of Part 2. These questions give the candidate an opportunity to discuss more abstract issues and ideas. This part lasts between 4 and 5 minutes.

Speaking Test Part 2 (example)

Example Part 2 task

Candidate task card:

Describe a teacher who has greatly influenced you in your education.

You should say:

where you met them
what subject they taught
what was special about them

and explain why this person influenced you so much.

You will have to talk about the topic for 1 to 2 minutes.

You have 1 minute to think about what you are going to say.

You can make some notes to help you if you wish.

Speaking Test Part 3 (example)

Example Part 3 (extract)

Let's consider first of all animals and conservation ...

- In your opinion, what are the advantages and disadvantages of keeping animals in zoos? Why?
- Apart from keeping animals in zoos, how do you think humans can protect animals from extinction?
- Some people think that governments should spend more money on helping human beings rather than trying to protect animals? Do you agree? Why?