

Typical IELTS Speaking Part One vocabulary, topics, questions, and tenses

Warmer Part One – Your personal past, present or future

Tell your partner one word about your past, present or future, e.g. “puppy” or “German”. They must then try to make a true sentence about that thing and you, e.g. “You had a puppy when you were younger” or “You want to study German”. Tell them if that sentence is true or false about you, then take turns doing the same.

Warmer Part Two – Useful vocabulary for IELTS Speaking Part One

Continue the game with the words below

Street stalls	A dorm/ a dormitory	Near the sea	Main course
A shrine/ a temple	Bunk beds	Skyscrapers	Beer/ cider
Pray/ a prayer	A shared house/ student house	A large/ small/ medium-sized town	Starter
Good luck charms	Two storeys	A village	A diet
Traditional dances	Condo (=condominium)	The capital (city)	Your diet
Fireworks	A back yard (= a back garden)	In the countryside	English breakfast
Gifts	Suburbs	In the mountains	Supermarket
Processions	A bedsit	A river	Market
Grave/ graveyard/ cemetery	Open-plan	A lake	White tea/ coffee
Wrapping paper	A youth hostel	Green spaces	Dessert/ pudding/ sweet/ afters
Computer games	Younger sister (=little sister)	Graduation (ceremony)	Commute
Sci-fi (=science fiction)	An only child	Kindergarten	A season ticket
Cards (=card games)	Eldest brother	An office worker (clerk)	By coach
Horror	Schoolmates	Pupil/ student	On foot
Go shopping	Workmates (=colleagues)	Primary school/ elementary school	Student visa/ tourist visa
Do martial arts	Great grandfather	Secondary school/ junior high school	Travellers cheques
Play ball sports	Relatives	Translator/ interpreter	Backpacking
A collection	Nephew/ niece	Temporary job/ summer job	Package tour

Write the vocabulary above in the right boxes below. More than one box may be possible

Hometown	Accommodation
Festivals and celebrations	Family and friends
Hobbies, free time and interests	Work and studies
Food	Transport and travel

Add at least three more words to each category, then continue playing the making sentences game with your new words.

IELTS Speaking Part One Questions

Decide each if question below is about your hometown (H), your accommodation (A), your friends and family (FF), your free time, hobbies and interests (FHI), work and studies (WS), festivals and celebrations (FC), food (FO) or transport and travel (TT):

What hobbies did you have when you were a child?

How has your hometown changed since you were a child?

What is your favourite food?

Is there anything you dislike about your job/ your studies?

Are there any new hobbies you would like to take up (= start)?

Have you visited many foreign countries?

What subjects did you like at school?

Do you have much time to do your hobbies?

Where are you living at the moment?

What are your plans after you take the IELTS test?

Where were you born?

Are you living in a house or a flat?

How do you think your town will change in the next 20 years?

What kind of town did you grow up in?

Did you get on well with your brothers and sisters when you were younger?

Would you like to start studying any other languages?

Do you have a large family?

How long have you been studying English?

When did you last meet up with your whole family?

How did you first become interested in your hobby?

What job would you like to do?

How long have you been living in the place you live now?

Is the transport system in your country nowadays better or worse than in the past?

Did you use to like different food when you were a child?

How often do you cook?

Are you going anywhere for your next holiday?

What kind of films (=movies) do you like?

How do you usually travel to school or work?

How do people celebrate birthdays in your country?

Are primary schools different nowadays from how they were when you were at school?

What kind of house would you like to live in?

When did you first go abroad?

Do you have any ambitions (= goals)?

When is the next festival in your country?

Go through the questions one more time and decide if each question below is about the past (P), the present (PR) or the future (F)

Exam-style IELTS Speaking Part One practice – about four minutes

Ask your partner questions about three of the topics above. For each topic, ask about the present and then about the past and/ or future.

Examiner's phrases for introducing the topics

1. I'd like to start by asking you some questions about...
2. Now I'd like you to talk about...
3. Finally, can I ask you about...?