

## **6 Tips on How to Practice for Ielts Speaking Exam**

Passing the Ielts speaking test takes a lot of practice. And most students don't know how or where to start. That's why I've put together 10 tips to help you practice **smarter**. And get you a **higher** speaking band score.

Let's begin...

### **1. Understand What Each Test Is About**

To pass the speaking test, you'll first need to understand what it's all about. Most people skip this part when practicing.

But if you don't know the format for each test, you won't be able to practice effectively.

The Ielts speaking test is divided into 3 parts. It takes about 12-15 minutes to complete it.

#### ***Ielts speaking test part 1:***

Here the examiner asks about familiar topics like your family, life at home, your work or studies, or about yourself.

Many consider this a 'warm up' test.

Where the examiner tries to make you comfortable. Get you to speak more naturally.

The test can last 5-6 minutes.

#### ***Ielts speaking test part 2:***

Part 2 or the 'monologue' is about speaking in the long turn.

The examiner hands you a card with a topic and 3-4 pointers. You're given 1 minute to prepare. And 2 minutes to talk about the topic. You won't be interrupted until the 2 minutes are up or you're done talking.

The test takes 3-4 minutes.

### ***Ielts speaking test part 3:***

This is where examiners test the extent of your speaking abilities.

You can be asked to give an opinion, compare or contrast a hypothetical situation, or examine other people's behavior. Each question is more difficult than the previous one.

The examiner keeps asking questions until you can no longer answer. Because the aim of the test is to test your ability. Find out *exactly* how good your English is.

Knowing that before taking the test, helps you prepare better, and significantly increase your chances of success.

### **2. Get To Know the Marking Criteria For Each Test**

It is important that you understand how the speaking test is marked. The examiner gives you a score based on certain things.

The examiner checks:

- a) Your ability to properly express yourself
- b) How easy it is to understand you
- c) Proper grammar usage and variety in vocabulary
- d) Weak sounds, connected speech, intonation, and sentence stress in your pronunciation

### **3. Find Your Current Speaking Band**

You can't practice effectively if you don't know how good (or bad) you are.

The fastest way to do this is to take a mock exam with an Ielts expert.

Experienced Ielts examiners know what to look for in your talk. They can give you the most accurate score and tell you what needs improving.

Or.

You can determine your current speaking band on your own.

Here's how...

- a) Pick a mock test from the [Ielts official website](#)
- b) Set you phone or laptop to record
- c) Complete the entire tests
- d) Listen to the recording
- e) Give a score based on the [Ielts speaking band descriptors](#)

#### **4. Set a Time Frame For Reaching Your Target Score and Create a Speaking Practice Plan**

Knowing your speaking band allows you to set a realistic goal. Create a time frame for achieving it. And come up with a practical practice plan.

Recent studies reveal that it takes approximately 200 hours of practice for one to improve an Ielts score by 1.

Which means: if you want to move your score from 4 to 6 in 3 months. You'll need to practice for at least 35 hours every week.

Your speaking practice plan would look something like...

##### ***Monday, Wednesday, Friday***

*After waking up-* Watch the news in English for 1 hour

*During lunch-* Record yourself speaking English on a given topic for 2 minutes

*Before sleeping-* Speak to someone who knows English for 1 hour.

##### ***Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday***

*After waking up*- Listen to an English podcast for 1 hour

*During lunch*- Listen to the recordings of you speaking English for 1 hour

*Before sleeping*- Practice pronunciation for 1 hour

## **5. Work More on Your Fluency and the Rest Comes Easier**

Most students struggle to speak without unnatural pauses, hesitations, or self-correction. Which leads to speech sounding awkward and unnatural.

Making it more difficult for the examiner to understand and check other aspects; grammar, coherence, and pronunciation.

But when you improve your fluency here's what happens...

### ***a) You speak more smoothly (not quickly)***

Native English speakers don't usually have rapid speech. So to be fluent, you'll need to speak smoothly rather than quickly.

Which is a good thing.

It gives you more time to organize your thoughts. Think of a response. Choose the best grammar and vocabulary for your sentences.

A practice tip to help with fluency:

- record yourself speaking regularly
- listen to the recordings
- take note of instances your speech becomes rapid
- listen to how native English speakers speak on television, radio, or podcast
- Try to copy their speech

## ***b) The Umms and Ahhs in your speech reduce***

Trying to completely remove the Umms and Ahhs in your speech often leads to unnatural pauses.

It's very common for native speakers to make such sounds in their speech.

Which makes it very okay for you to do the same. As long as the umms and ahhs don't aren't a big part of your talk.

Listen to one of you speech recordings.

How many times do you use the sounds?

Not as many times as you thought, right?

And with more practice, you'll only get better. With one or two m's and ahh here and there

Before you go...

### **Here's a final tip: Become English Surrounded**

If you **hear** more people talking in English.

If you **read** more books written in English. Then it goes to follow...

You'll get *better* at **speaking** in English.

The improvement won't happen instantly. You'll have to follow your plan. Keep practicing every day.

Broaden your grammar and vocabulary. Start speaking smoothly.

Learn proper pronunciation, sentence stress, and intonation.

Soon, you'll be ready to take the test.