

WHAT YOU NEED TO DO TO GET A **LEVEL 8**

IN IELTS SPEAKING



**SUPER USEFUL TIPS ON HOW TO SUCCEED
IN YOUR IELTS SPEAKING EXAM**

swoosh
english



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Table of CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION	Page 4
CHAPTER 1: How Not To Get Nervous In The IELTS Speaking Test	Page 5
CHAPTER 2: How To Improve Your Pronunciation In The IELTS Speaking Test	Page 10
CHAPTER 3: How To Choose The Right Grammar In The IELTS Speaking Test	Page 14
CHAPTER 4: How to deal with mistakes in the IELTS speaking test	Page 21
CHAPTER 5: How To Improve Your Fluency In The IELTS Speaking Test	Page 25
CHAPTER 6: How to improve your vocabulary in the IELTS Speaking Exam	Page 32
CHAPTER 7: How To Manage Part 2 Of The IELTS Speaking Test – What To Do In The One Minute Preparation Time	Page 44
CHAPTER 8: How To Manage Part 2 Of The IELTS Speaking Test – When Not Knowing What To Say	Page 56
CHAPTER 9: How To Manage Part 3 Of The IELTS Speaking Test– How To Give Good Answers	Page 66
CHAPTER 10: Top 10 Last Minute Tips For The IELTS Speaking Test	Page 75

INTRODUCTION

The IELTS speaking test is a daunting experience for many students. In this eBook, we will look at some tips to help you improve your IELTS speaking skills.

CHAPTER 1

How Not To Get Nervous In The IELTS Speaking Test

We will talk about how NOT to get nervous in your IELTS speaking test, which is a common issue students face.

TIP NUMBER 1 - Be Prepared (To Calm Your Nerves!)

When we talk about preparation, it is not just about trying to prepare for possible answers. It is important to know a few things.

First, understand the **structure** of the speaking test. How much **time** does the test take? How many **parts** are there to the speaking test? What is **each part of the test about**? Or do I have to give a speech, or have a discussion with the examiner?

Second, learn how the IELTS speaking exam is scored.

If you want to get a higher band score, you will need to know what the examiner wants! In short, pronunciation, fluency and coherence, grammar and vocabulary all count for 25% of the score.

Finally, yes, you will never know what questions you will be asked in the speaking test, but there are some common topics that you can prepare for, such as family, work, and travel.

Remember, do NOT memorise your prepared answers for the test. Why not? When the examiner finds out you are not actually speaking naturally, you may not get a high score or you may even lose marks. And, believe me, they will know!

What can I do to avoid having to memorise answers then?

You may ask yourself. Well, you can still learn more vocabulary and phrases of commonly asked topics by simply practising more frequently. This will allow you to get better at using the vocabulary!

But speak naturally!

TIP NUMBER 2 - Arrive Early!

A simple way to help you not to get stressed is to arrive early.

Many speaking tests do not take place right after the other test components of the IELTS exam. You may even be asked to come on a separate day to take the speaking test only.

You are often told by the test centres to do so and it is very important that you arrive at the test venue at least 30 to 40 minutes before your speaking test appointment.

In this way, you will have plenty of time to calm yourself down and be mentally prepared.

CHAPTER 2

How To Improve Your Pronunciation In The IELTS Speaking Test

If you know how the IELTS speaking test is scored, you will understand that **pronunciation** is one of the four marking criteria, and it counts for **25%** of your speaking score. It is of course **important** to work on your pronunciation for the test.

There is **no quick fix** on improving pronunciation and you might be asking yourself what you can do about your pronunciation during the speaking test.

Here are a couple of tips that may be useful for you.

TIP NUMBER 1 - Speak Naturally

Learn how not to feel nervous in front of the examiner.

By being more relaxed, you can enjoy a normal conversation with the examiner. Speak naturally.

Don't rush, it is always better to speak clearly rather than rush through your speech. By speaking naturally, you will be able to show your emotions when you speak and improve the rhythm of your speech.

TIP NUMBER 2 -

Think And Speak In Chunks

A common problem students have when taking the speaking test is they **translate every word** in their head **before** saying it out loud. So it sounds like they **pause after every word** which affects their pronunciation score.

To help improve the intonation of speech and sentence stresses, try to use the '**Chunking**' technique. Chunking is talking in rhythm by **grouping the words**, with **short silences** in between or change in tone.

For example, when you say this sentence. Don't say it like this:

'Last - year - was - the --best
-- year - of - my - life.'

Say it like this: 'LAST year // was
the BEST year // of my LIFE'.

Can you tell the difference?

So think and say in chunks. You
will speak **more naturally** in
chunks of words with better
pronunciation and intonation.
This will help the examiner
**understand your messages
much better and clearer.**

CHAPTER 3

How To Choose The Right Grammar In The IELTS Speaking Test

We will talk about how to choose the right grammar in the IELTS speaking test. Here are a few tips that hopefully can help you prepare better for the test.

TIP NUMBER 1 -

Be Prepared (So You Can Speak With Perfect Grammar!)

Being prepared and having practised for the test is always one of the best ways to avoid any surprises in the test. In the IELTS speaking test, one of the four marking criteria is grammatical range and accuracy.

First, a key area that the examiners will look at is your grammar, and how varied the range of the grammatical structures you cover in your test.

Let's look at what is required to achieve a band score 6.0 for the IELTS speaking test, which is to use a mix of simple and complex structures with limited flexibility. Even at band score 5.0, you are expected to produce a limited range of more complex structures even though they may have errors or comprehension issues.

Here are the actual descriptors for 6.0 and 5.0.

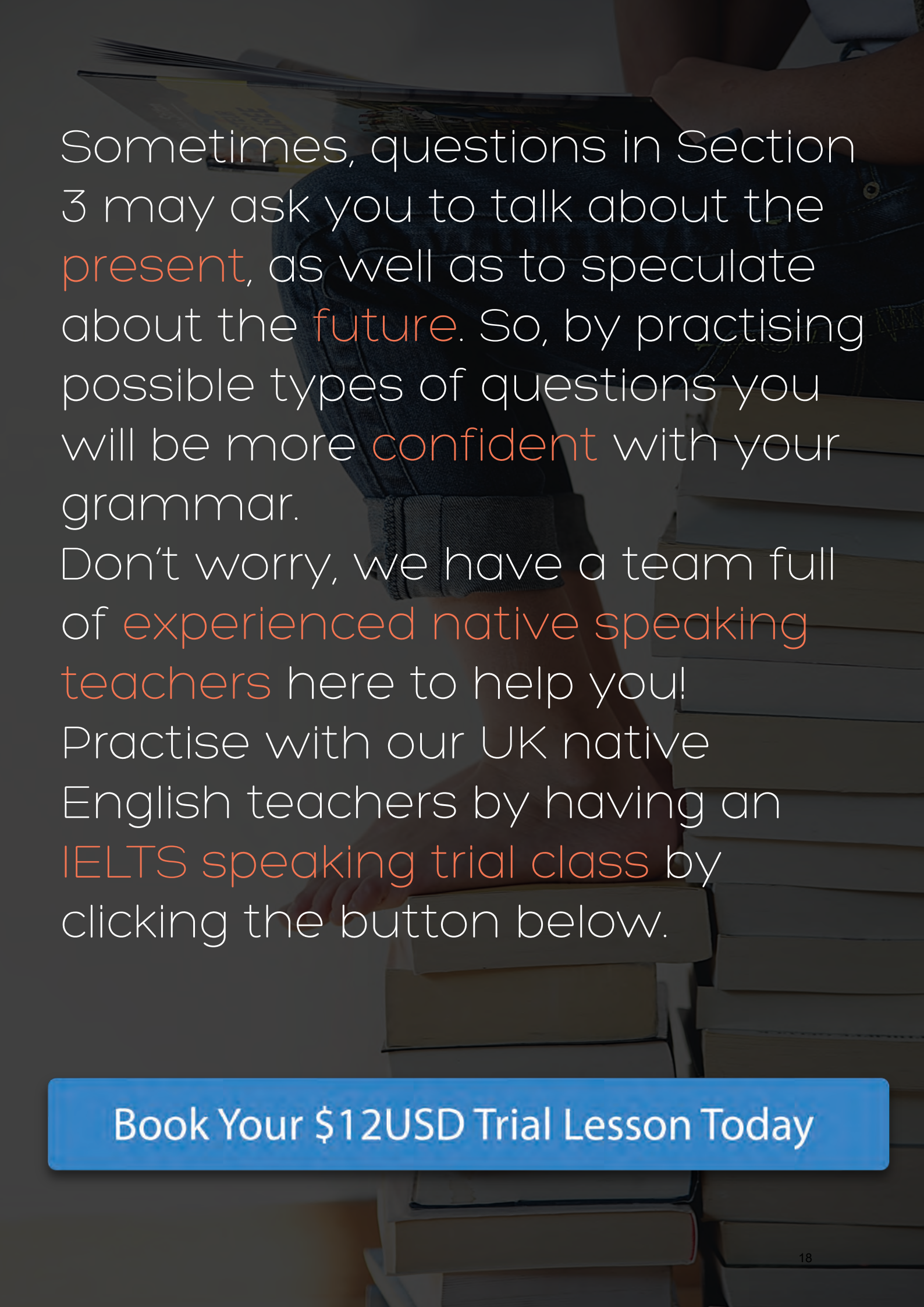
6.0: uses a mix of simple and complex structures, but with limited flexibility.

5.0: uses a limited range of more complex structures, but these usually contain errors and may cause some comprehension problems.

This means your answers should at least include **some complex structures** to achieve a minimum of **5.0** in grammatical range and accuracy.

Another way you can be more prepared for the grammar is by knowing the **format** and **types of questions** that may appear in each section.

For example, many tasks in IELTS section 2 relate to the past, which often asks you to describe a past story or experience. So, when you practise, make sure you understand different past tenses, such as past simple, and present and past perfect tenses, and how you can use them effectively.



Sometimes, questions in Section 3 may ask you to talk about the **present**, as well as to speculate about the **future**. So, by practising possible types of questions you will be more **confident** with your grammar.

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TIP NUMBER 2 - Listen To The Questions

So you have done your preparation, here is a tip that you can use to help you choose the right grammar in the speaking test.

Listen to the questions **carefully** that your examiner asks you.

Matching the grammar in the question is a trick to help you avoid simple mistakes.

E.g. if the examiner asks this question, 'What was your favourite subject at school?' The key grammar point here is the word 'was' which means you should answer with the past tense too.

So naturally, you would say
'My favourite subject at
school **WAS**', not IS.

Remember, the IELTS
speaking test does **not** have
specific questions **for specific
band scores**. The examiner
will look at your **overall
performance** throughout the
test and the score is not
given until the **end** of the
test. **Don't worry** too much
about **making mistakes** as
you have the duration of the
test to show your
grammatical knowledge.

CHAPTER 4

How to deal with mistakes in the IELTS speaking test

We will talk about how to deal with mistakes in the IELTS speaking test. Here are a few tips that hopefully can help you prepare better for the test.

There are two kinds of mistakes you may worry about making. One is about using the wrong grammatical structures or vocabulary items in your answers. Another one is about answering a question that you don't quite understand.

TIP NUMBER 1 - Don't Be Afraid To Correct Your Own Mistakes

Think about when you speak in your own language, do you always speak with 100% accuracy? Not really, right? It is very **common** for native speakers of any languages to correct their mistakes. So believe me, even **native** English speakers **do not speak perfect** English all the time.

So, mistakes happen. If you can **quickly** correct yourself in the test, just go ahead and change it. Don't worry that the examiner will lower your score because this is not the only language area that they are **grading** you on. Having said that, don't correct every single mistake. If you keep stopping in the middle of your speech to correct your mistakes, it will increase hesitation and affect your **fluency**.

TIP NUMBER 2 - Don't Be Afraid To Ask The Examiner

Now, let's look at the second type of potential mistakes, which is having to answer a question that you **don't quite understand**.

Remember, this is not a listening test. In the speaking test, you can, occasionally, **ask the examiner** to **explain** a word of the question, or **repeat** the question again.

Native English speakers actually do this quite often to make sure they understand the question. Of course it is not ideal to have to ask the examiner to repeat or explain the question, but it can help **prevent you from answering in a completely wrong direction** that may lead to a lower score.

TIP NUMBER 3 - Don't Be Afraid To Take Some Time To Think

When you think the question you are asked is a bit difficult, or you are not sure about it, **DO take time to think**.

However, we don't recommend that you stay silent for a long time before answering the question (a few seconds is ok), which certainly won't help with your speaking score.

Instead, what might work is to start your answer with phrases like '**Oh, this is a very interesting question. Let me think for a second...**', or '**It's difficult to say, but perhaps.....**', or '**I don't really know for sure, but I would say that.....**'. It will buy you some valuable seconds of time to organise your thoughts before you actually answer the question.

DON'T start every answer with these phrases though.

CHAPTER 5

How To Improve Your Fluency In The IELTS Speaking Test

As with all languages, it takes time for language learners to improve their general **fluency**. So, for the best of your interest, the longer you spend on practising your fluency in speaking, the better you will become.

Obviously, one way to improve fluency is to **speak English with your friends and family**, and **native speakers** as much as possible in your everyday life. Another way to practise without other people's help is to **record your voice** when you practise speaking, and listen to the recording to find out what, and how you can improve. For example, you can look for things like, how many times do I hesitate?, do I repeat certain nouns/verbs? Etc.

Now, you may ask, my IELTS test is only a few weeks or even a few days away. What should I do?

TIP NUMBER 1 - Be Ready For The Unexpected

You may have practised the commonly asked topics for the IELTS speaking test. However, often students are not ready for the **unexpected** in the speaking test.

So, think of a strategy you can use to deal with the questions that you are not familiar with and topics you don't know much about, such as describing specific laws in your country, talking about art, architecture, wildlife, and so on.

A decorative sparkler with bright orange and yellow sparks is positioned in the top-left corner of the page.

During the speaking test, if indeed you are stuck and don't know how to answer a question, **don't give up**.

Of course, you are expected to answer the questions by going in the right direction to show you **understand** the questions and the language, but remember, the examiner **ultimately** evaluates your **language** and what you **produce** during the test. If you give up and don't say anything, the examiner will have nothing to judge you on. So, **DO** answer the question **as much as you can** and do **NOT** give up.

TIP NUMBER 2 - Hesitation Is OK

Think about when you communicate in your native language, do you speak with complete accuracy and fluency at all times? I would say no.

It is **natural** to hesitate when talking, even in the IELTS speaking test. Don't just say 'ehh... Ahh...' when you hesitate. Use **fillers** when you need time to think. For example, '**you know..**', '**I mean..**', '**what's more..**', '**actually..**', '**basically..**'.

By using fillers, you can buy yourself some valuable moments to construct your next sentence and organise your thoughts.

TIP NUMBER 3 -

Do Not Try To Choose Clever Words

You may have practised and learnt some very good vocabulary for some commonly asked topics. But most people get nervous during the test and it is understandable that you may not be able to recall these words when you take the speaking test.

Slight hesitation is fine, but do not stop too much to try to think of clever words to say because it will affect your speaking fluency in the test.

If your mind goes blank, don't worry too much.

Simply express yourself naturally with the grammar and vocabulary that you can use at the time.

CHAPTER 6

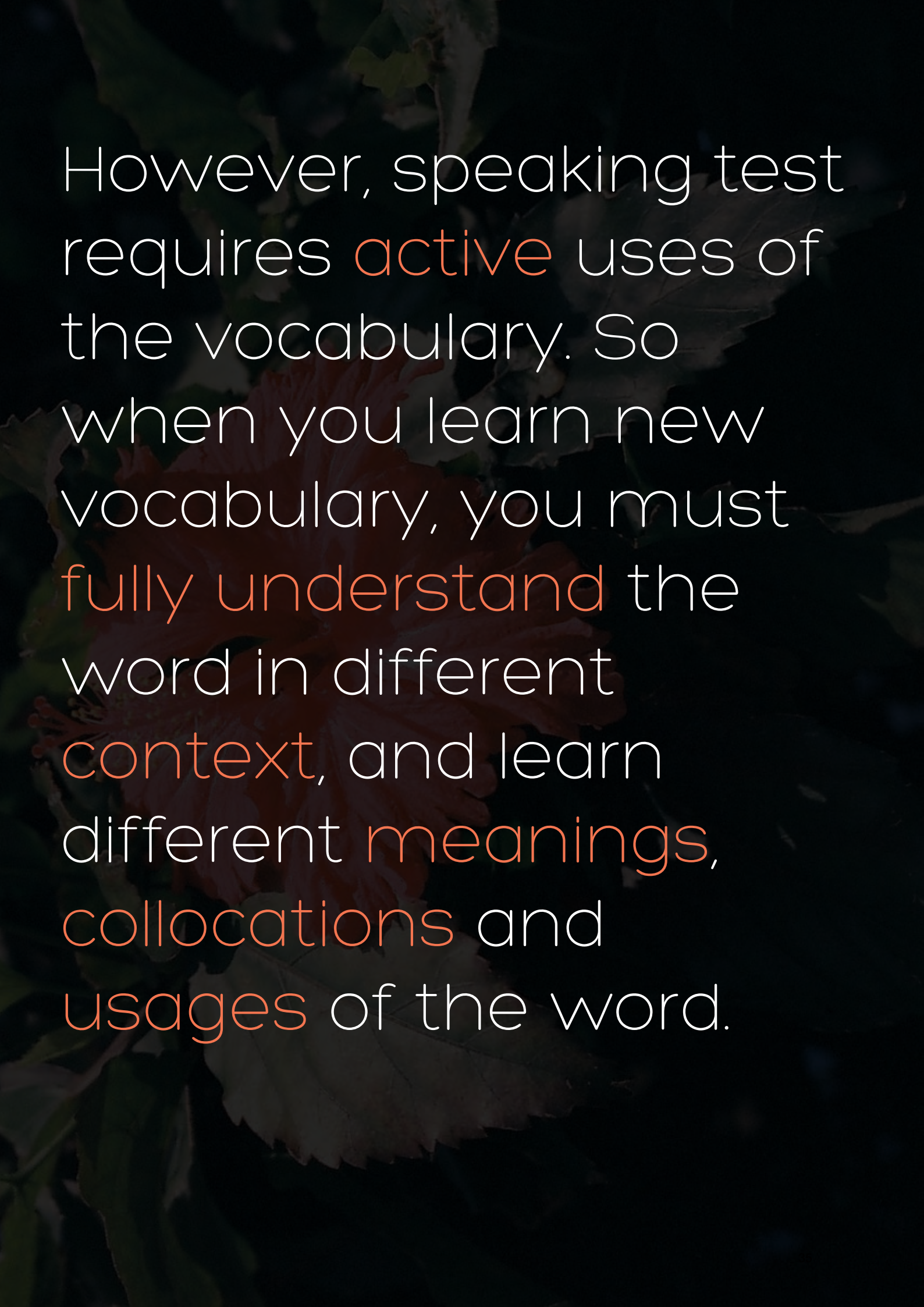
How to improve your vocabulary in the IELTS Speaking Exam

In this chapter, we will look at some tips to help you improve your vocabulary in the IELTS speaking test.

speaking test

Vocabulary, counts for 25% of the speaking test score. This marking criteria is named as 'Lexical Resource', which looks at the range of vocabulary a candidate uses. The wider the range of vocabulary and idiomatic expressions being used, the better the score it could lead to.

You may have a phrase book full of useful vocabulary items that you try to memorise before the exam. It may help improve your **passive** vocabulary, which are words that you are **aware of** and **understand** when you are reading or listening.



However, speaking test requires **active** uses of the vocabulary. So when you learn new vocabulary, you must **fully understand** the word in different **context**, and learn different **meanings**, **collocations** and **usages** of the word.

To turn a word you have learnt into your **active** vocabulary, you must **constantly practise** until you are using them in the **right context** and with ease.

Now, you may ask, my IELTS test is only a few weeks or even a few days away. What can I do about my vocabulary?

Don't worry. Here are a few tips that hopefully will help.

TIP NUMBER 1 - Learn And Use Synonyms To Avoid Repetition

To increase your range of lexical resource at the speaking test, one way to show your knowledge is to use **synonyms** to avoid repetition.

For example, you are talking about things you like. Instead of using the word '**like**', you can also use its synonyms such as '**enjoy**', '**adore**', '**fond of**', '**keen on**', and '**have a soft spot for**'. Of course, not every synonym can simply replace the same word and be used in the same way. So that's why you need to learn the correct ways of using these synonyms when you learn them.

TIP NUMBER 2 - Improve Collocations

If you don't have the time or language ability to learn a lot more difficult vocabulary items in a short period of time, improving your collocation usage is also a way to increase your lexical resource range for the test.

Try to use some **basic verbs**, and you can create **different simple collocations** with them. Verbs such as 'give', 'take', 'have', 'go', 'get', 'like', 'see', 'make' and 'do' are very commonly used by native speakers.



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TIP NUMBER 3 - Keep Yourself Updated With Current Affairs In English

Expose yourself to **everyday situations**, and learn about **current affairs** in English.

This can help you become familiar with the **terminologies** and **phrases** that are commonly used in different topic areas.

Don't simply memorise the vocabulary items on different topics, but practise **discussing** them with your friends, classmates, or native speakers of English. It will help you acquire more **active** vocabulary.

TIP NUMBER 4 -

Paraphrase Your Ideas

During the speaking test, when you can't find the right word, don't give up.

Use **simpler grammar** and **vocabulary** to paraphrase the same ideas in your mind.

For example, let's say you are talking about modern residential buildings. You have practiced this before with sentences like, 'Modern apartments are often equipped with well-made cabinets and worktops in the kitchen'.

And you can't quite recall the same kind of sentence in the test. Well, you can simply **paraphrase** with **simpler grammar** and **vocabulary**. In this case, you can just say something like this. 'When you buy a new apartment nowadays, you will often get well-made kitchen furniture'.

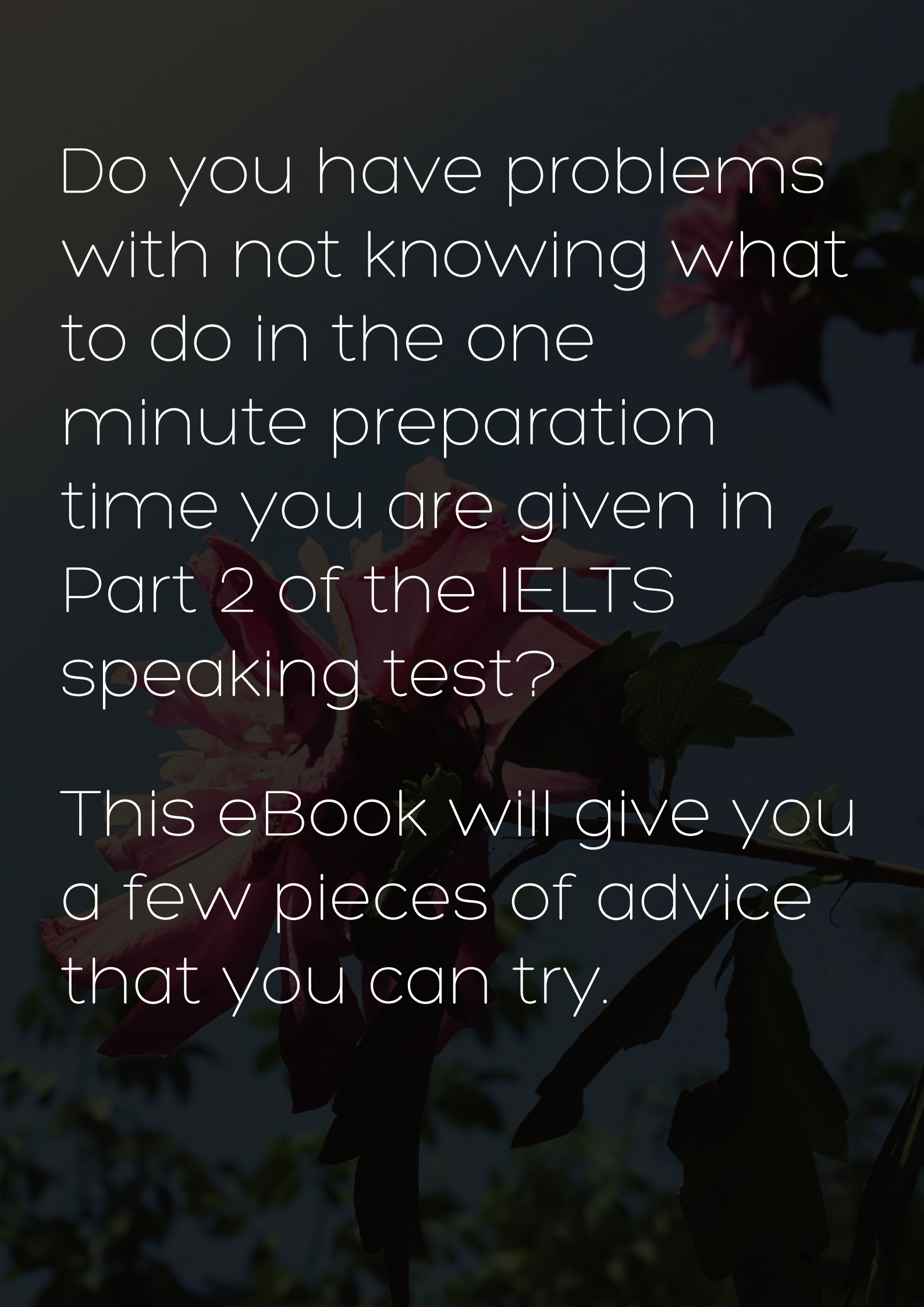
You are expressing the **same** idea in a simpler way and more importantly, you still get the message **across** to the examiner in the test.

Making sure you use collocations correctly will help show the examiner your **vocabulary ability**. For example, you would say 'I have put a lot of effort into passing my exam', but you don't say 'I have done a great effort to pass my exam'. Because the noun 'effort' needs to be used with the verb 'put', not 'do'.

So, mastering **simple collocations** with these **common verbs** can help show your vocabulary ability in the test.

CHAPTER 7

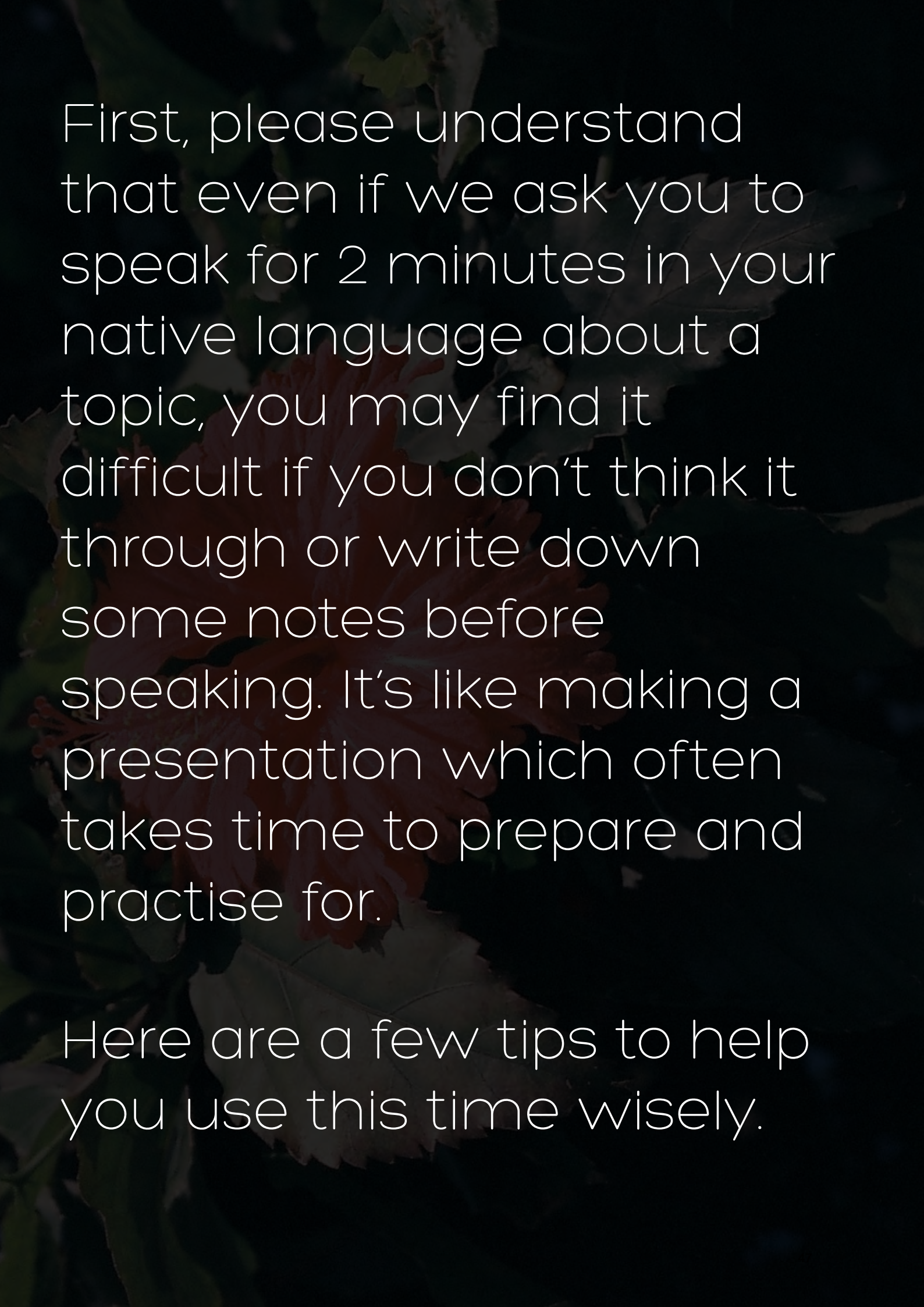
How To Manage Part 2 Of The IELTS Speaking Test - What To Do In The One Minute Preparation Time

The background of the entire page is a dark, moody photograph of pink flowers, possibly roses, with green leaves. The lighting is low, creating a silhouette-like effect for the foliage while highlighting the delicate petals of the flowers in shades of pink and magenta. The overall tone is sophisticated and artistic.

Do you have problems
with not knowing what
to do in the one
minute preparation
time you are given in
Part 2 of the IELTS
speaking test?

This eBook will give you
a few pieces of advice
that you can try.

A common **problem** in part 2 of the speaking test we have found is candidates often **struggle** to use the one minute time effectively in order to help them speak for 2 minutes. Their brains just go **blank** and the one minute is **wasted**.



First, please understand that even if we ask you to speak for 2 minutes in your native language about a topic, you may find it difficult if you don't think it through or write down some notes before speaking. It's like making a presentation which often takes time to prepare and practise for.

Here are a few tips to help you use this time wisely.

TIP NUMBER 1 – Make Up Your Mind Quickly

At the beginning of this one minute preparation time, you can make up your mind on what you would like to talk about within the first 10 to 15 seconds.

For example, if the question is like this:

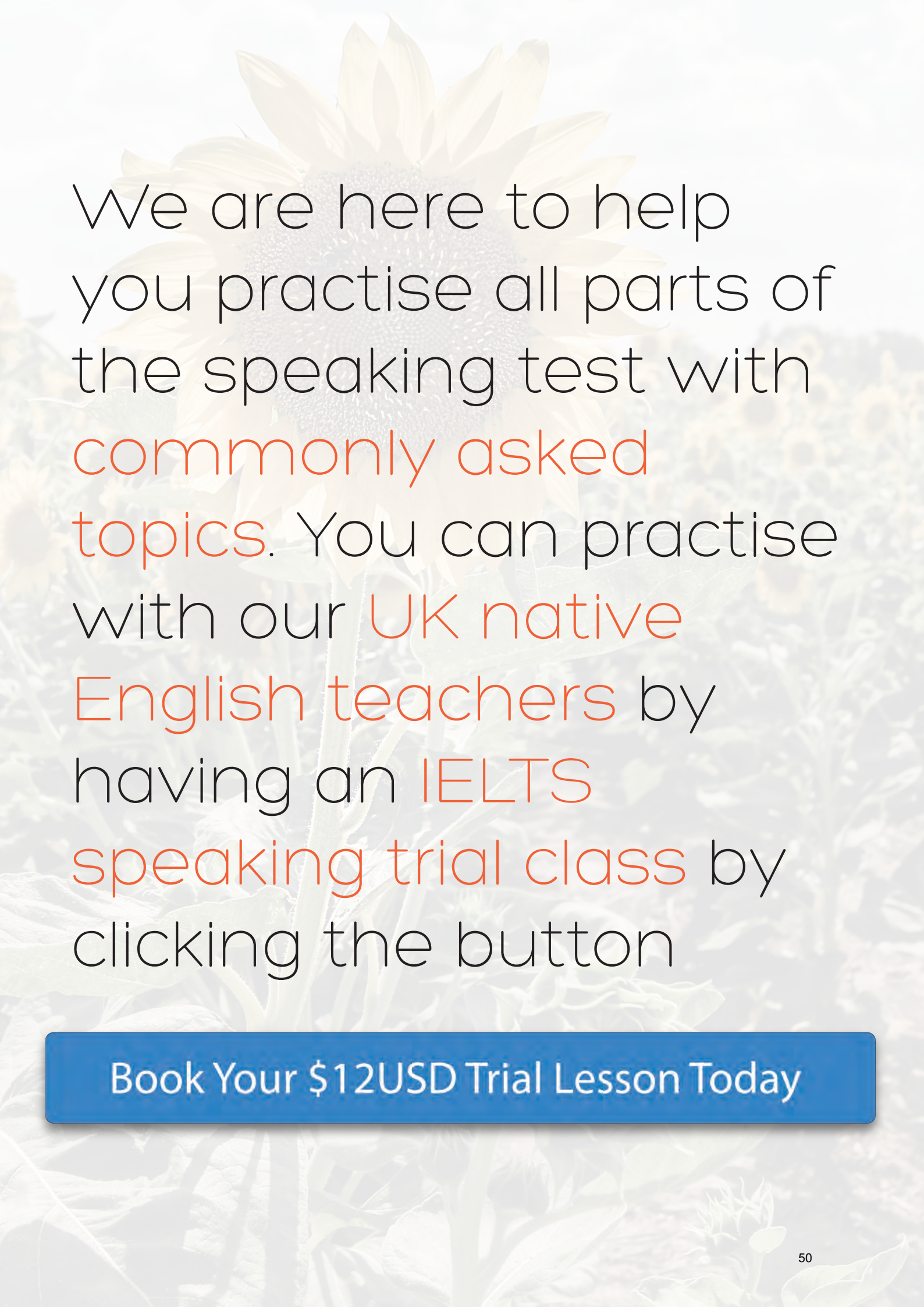
Describe your favourite personal possession.

You should say:

- what this possession is
- when you first got it
- when you use it
- why it's so important to you

Don't waste your time thinking what possession you want to talk about. Just use the **first** thing that comes to your mind, for example, my mobile phone. Then you have a **base** to start **planning** the rest of the talk.

Constant practice on **commonly asked topics** will help you prepare what kind of things you could say in the test if a similar question comes up.



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TIP NUMBER 2 -

Make A Simple List Of Ideas

The good thing about part 2 is that you are **given a list of things** to talk about, in the same example, you know you need to talk about when you first got it, when you use it and why it's important to you.

So you don't have to worry about how to structure your talk, instead simply **follow the cue card** you are given.

Write a few **key words** for each part of the question in a list. This is the **easiest** way to make your **notes**. Try to list **at least one main idea** for each part of the question.

By key words, I mean words or phrases, so don't write full sentences. It may work in your normal English studying situation when you have time to make notes, but in this environment it will not work very well. You will either spend a lot of time writing one sentence and not have time for the rest of your ideas, or you won't know how to start the sentence and the time will fly by.

Also, if you write words incorrectly, **leave** it. This is not a writing test so the notes will not be marked. The main idea here is to **let your brain prepare what you are about to say.**

TIP NUMBER 3 -

Practice Makes Perfect

Preparing for the talk in part 2 of the speaking test is about **fast thinking**, and **fast note taking with substantial ideas**. This takes time to master. So the final tip is practice makes perfect.

When you practise for this part of the test, don't just practise 2 minutes speaking, but you need to also get used to the **rhythm of your thinking and the note taking process** so make sure you have one minute of preparation time when you practise for the test.

Another way of practising is by improving your **general note taking skills**. Simply listen to the radio or watch a short video and take notes during listening. Afterwards, use the notes to talk about what you have just heard in your own words. This does not only help you improve your **note taking ability**, but will also help you **connect your speech** to what you **have written down**, which is what part 2 of the speaking test is all about!

CHAPTER 8

How To Manage Part 2 Of The IELTS Speaking Test - When Not Knowing What To Say

Do you have problems with running out of things to say or not even knowing what to say at all in IELTS speaking part 2?

In this chapter, there are some useful tips to help you manage the 2 minutes of speaking time you are given.

You may often think, 'I have covered all four parts of the question, but I still have a lot of time left and I have nothing to say'.

It's true that actually you can use a few simple sentences to answer all parts of the question in Part 2. However, this 2 minutes you have is your chance to showcase your **language ability** to the examiner. So try to make the best out of it, which means your answer should be expanded as much as possible to help achieve that.

How can I do that?

TIP NUMBER 1 - Start With The Most Interesting Information

You may think we should leave the interesting information we want to say towards the end of the 2 minutes. If you have something interesting to say, say it **immediately**. Don't wait because you may not even have time to tell the examiner about it later.

Often, if you put some interesting information **first**, you can expand further by explaining '**why**' and '**how**'. It helps you **extend** your speaking time and allows you to give a **full description**.

TIP NUMBER 2 - Expand Your Answer

To avoid running out of things to say, keep asking yourself 'why' or 'how'.

Let's use this question as an example:

Describe a friend you had when you were a child

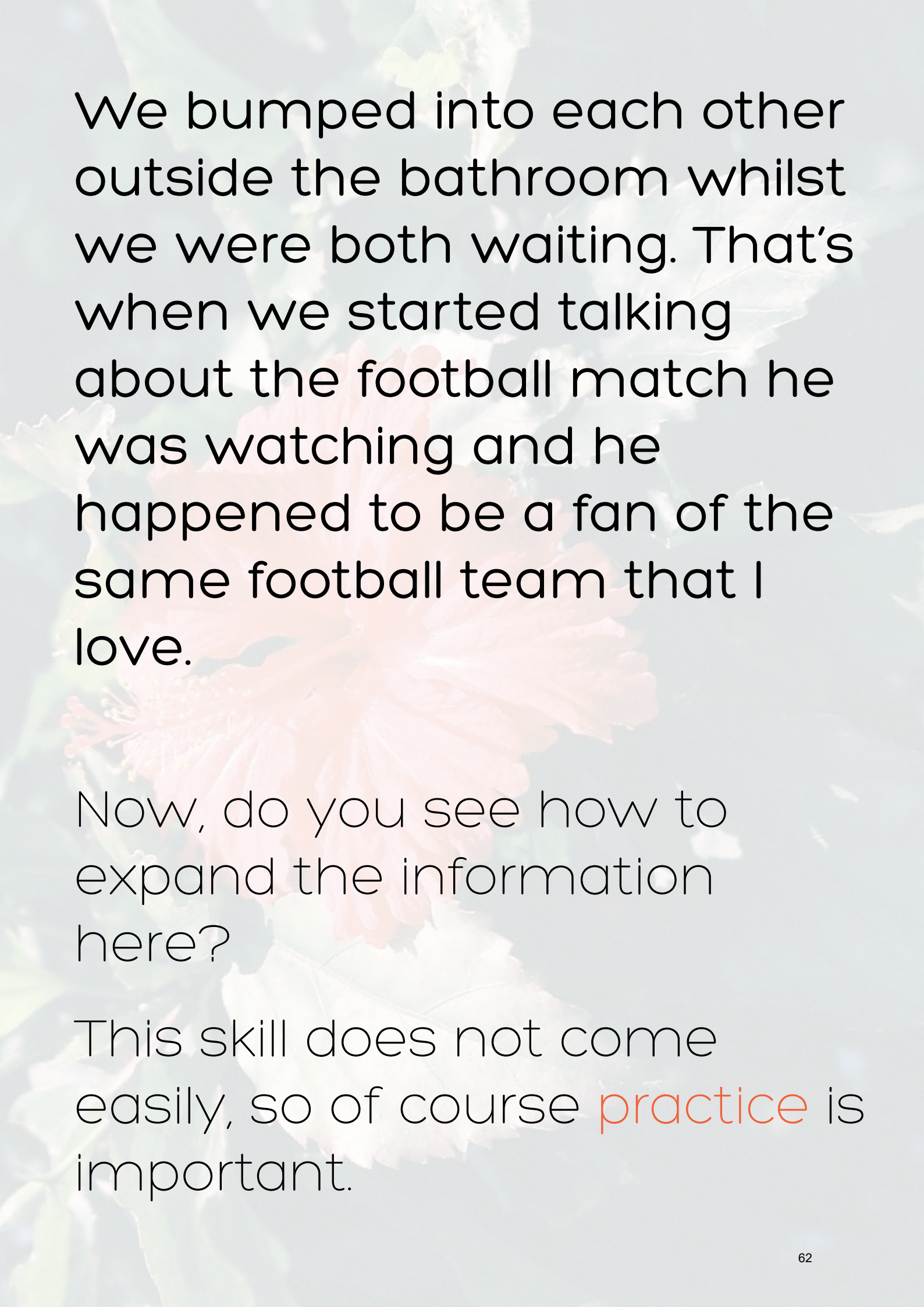
You should say:

- how you first met
- how long you were friends
- what you used to do together
- explain why you liked this person.

Let's look at 'how you first met your friend'. You can say something like 'I met my friend at another friend's party.' This is a **complete sentence** that has answered this part of the question. But you need to ask yourself '**why**' and '**how**'. For example, 'why were you at the party?' 'why was your friend at the party?' 'how did you start talking to each other?'

So, you can expand this part of the question from a single sentence to something like this:

I met this friend at a friend's party when I was a university student. I was invited to the student union party by a friend who was a committee member there. My friend, Sam, was also there. The funny thing was that he wasn't invited to the party at all as he happened to show up at the student bar to watch a football match.



We bumped into each other outside the bathroom whilst we were both waiting. That's when we started talking about the football match he was watching and he happened to be a fan of the same football team that I love.

Now, do you see how to expand the information here?

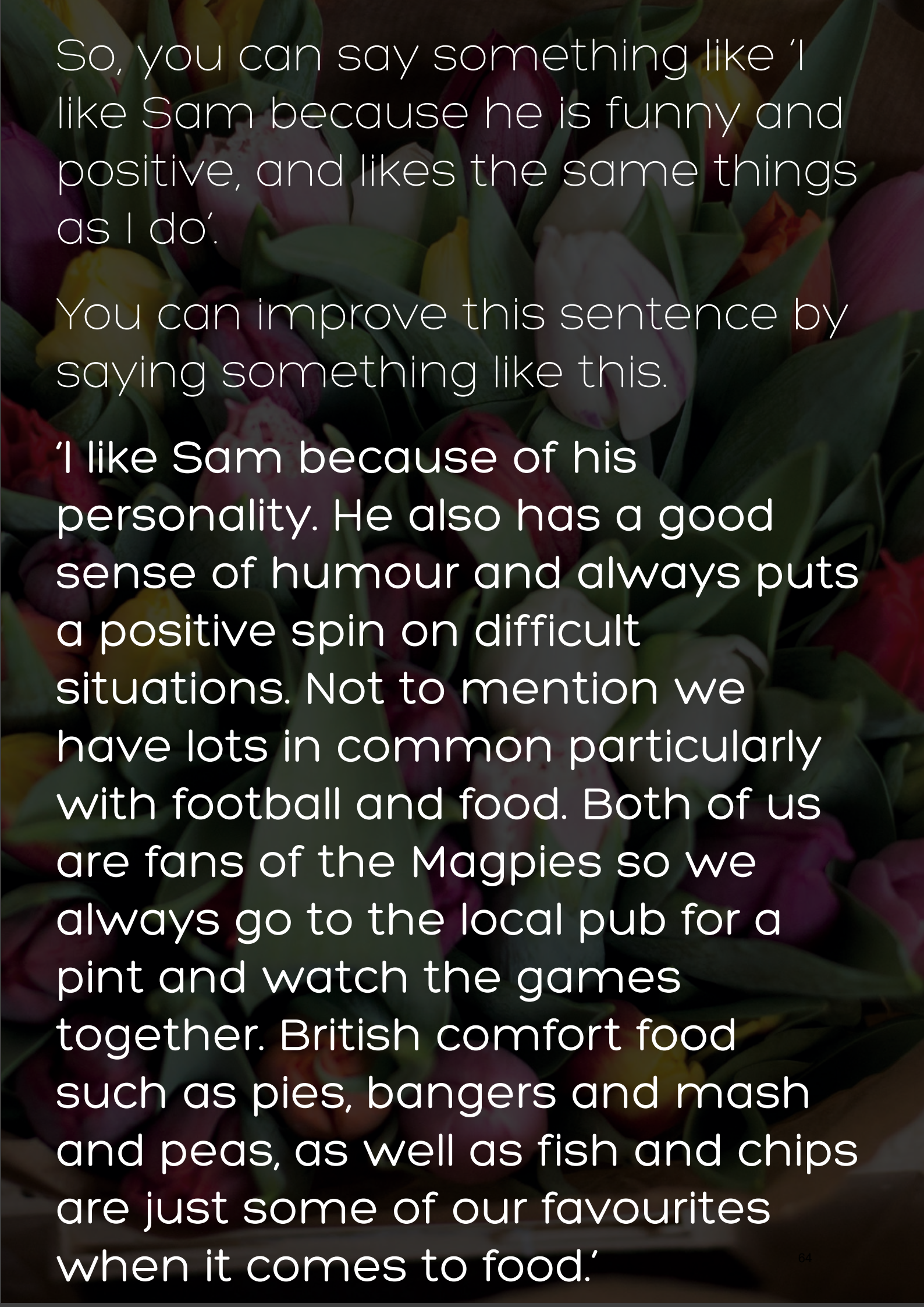
This skill does not come easily, so of course **practice** is important.

TIP NUMBER 3 - Practise Descriptive Language

Part 2 of the IELTS speaking test usually asks you to **describe something**. Either an object, a building, a place, a person, or an experience. It is important to have different **descriptive language** that you can use in order to help you create a **variety** of language when striving for a better score.

By descriptive, it doesn't only have to be **adjectives**.

Let's use the same question as an example. One of the parts is about 'why you liked this person'.



So, you can say something like 'I like Sam because he is funny and positive, and likes the same things as I do'.

You can improve this sentence by saying something like this.

'I like Sam because of his personality. He also has a good sense of humour and always puts a positive spin on difficult situations. Not to mention we have lots in common particularly with football and food. Both of us are fans of the Magpies so we always go to the local pub for a pint and watch the games together. British comfort food such as pies, bangers and mash and peas, as well as fish and chips are just some of our favourites when it comes to food.'

As you can see, it doesn't have to be **adjectives**. For example, I have replaced the word 'funny' with 'a good sense of humour', and the word 'positive' with 'always puts a positive spin on difficult situations'.

I have used 'the Magpies' to talk about Newcastle Football Club, because it is a common nickname in England to call this club. Also, I have used the word 'a pint' to describe 'a beer'. These are more **colloquial descriptions** of British **cultural** things which are **not normally used by non-native speakers**.

Do you understand what I mean by **descriptive** language now?

CHAPTER 9

How To Manage Part 3 Of The IELTS Speaking Test - How To Give Good Answers

Do you find it hard to give good answers in Part 3 of the IELTS speaking test?

This part is a discussion between you and the examiner. You may find that the examiner may not be very talkative; it's because they try to give you as much time as possible to speak.

After Part 2, the examiner normally has a pretty good idea about your English level. Part 3 is for the examiner to either confirm their **initial impression** of you or to look for **further indications** when deciding your final score. Students usually find it difficult to discuss issues about **society** and **economics**, which are both often asked in Part 3. They don't know how to give good answers to these. The following tips may help you improve your performance in this part of the test.

TIP NUMBER 1 -

Questions Normally Relate To The Topic In Part 2

Usually, the examiner will not ask random questions in Part 3. You may find that the topic in this part is more or less **related** to the question in **Part 2**.

In Part 2, the examiner may ask you to describe a personal encounter, while in Part 3 you may be asked to discuss a **similar topic** from a much **broader perspective**.

So when you read the cue card in Part 2, you should start thinking of **relatable vocabulary** that you may use in this part, as well as the next part of the test.

TIP NUMBER 2 - Give Your Opinions

In this part of the test you are not normally expected to simply state facts or talk about what happens in the world. For some of the questions, you are expected to express your **ideas** and **opinions** on the matter. So learn some **expressions** to express opinions. Don't just say 'I think' or 'I believe'.

Here are a few alternative expressions you can use.

'I reckon...' This is to express an opinion about what is likely to happen. For example, 'I reckon in 10 years' time, we will all be using electric cars'.

'If you ask me,...' This phrase is just like saying 'I think' or 'I believe'. For example, 'if you ask me, it's not fair for us to pay so much for our train tickets and not get frequent services to travel'.

'As far as I'm concerned'. This phrase helps to express an opinion that may be different from others. For example, 'As far as I'm concerned, using mobile phones in class is acceptable given that students are using phones for their learning.'



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TIP NUMBER 3 -

Give A Full Answer

When you answer the questions in Part 3 of the speaking test, you need to think of ways to **extend your answers**.

First, you can try to **paraphrase** the question to start your answer. For example, the examiner may ask, 'What can people do to reduce carbon emissions?'

You can start your answer by saying something like, 'I believe the best way to reduce the carbon footprint is to make laws encouraging people to use electric cars' or, 'So, what can we do to help lower our carbon footprint? One possible way is to make laws restricting people using petrol or diesel cars'.

This will help you to start your answer with a **good opening sentence**, as well as giving you an **extra moment** to think what you are about to say.

Second, you need to explain **why**. When you express your opinion you need to explain why you think this way. Don't assume the examiner will have prior knowledge of the subject or topic. Even if they do, you should still explain the **reasons** behind your thoughts to allow the examiner to hear **more** of your **arguments** and your **variety of language**.

The examiner will also create opportunities for you to expand your question, by asking follow up questions beginning with phrases such as '**are you saying that...**' '**but earlier you stated that...**'

Finally, **give examples**. After explaining the reasons behind your thoughts, you can further **support** your **arguments** by providing some examples. You don't have to state **generic facts** or **statistics** all the time, you can use **personal examples** or things that happen **around** you. And you know what, even if you are talking about surveys or statistics of something, you don't have to worry about whether the figures are actually accurate or not. Remember, this is not a sociology test, it is a **speaking test**. All the examiner wants is to hear you use **different** types of **expressions**, **grammar**, and **vocabulary** in your answer.

CHAPTER 10

Top 10 Last- Minute Tips For The IELTS Speaking Test

Your IELTS test is coming soon, right? You want to get some last minute tips from us? No problem.

Here are our last-minute top 10 tips to help you prepare for the IELTS speaking test.

TIP NUMBER 1 - Learn How The Test Is Structured And Scored

This is the first thing you should do. To be prepared for an exam you should always learn how the test is **structured** and **scored**. So, in the IELTS speaking test, find out what exactly happens in each of the **3** parts. What kind of questions you will be facing, and what you are expected to say. Then learn about the **public band descriptors** that are published by IELTS ([Link here](#)). This will help you understand what you need to do to achieve the band score that you need.

TIP NUMBER 2 - Speak Naturally

Pronunciation is hard to master. However, you need to learn how to speak naturally, particularly with good intonation of your sentences and phrases. This will help with both your pronunciation and fluency.

TIP NUMBER 3 - Speak As Much As Possible

Yes, this is a speaking test and the examiner will ask questions and have a discussion with you. The examiner will also be leading the flow of the test. However, remember that **you** are the person who should speak the most. Speak **more** than the examiner.

Also, don't give up easily when you are running out of things to say. After all, this is your chance to showcase your **language ability**. And only in this **11-14** minutes will the examiner be able to listen to your speaking to give you a score. So, speak as much as possible until the examiner stops you. It's ok.

TIP NUMBER 4 -

Ask When You Are Not Sure

When you are not sure about the question and may need clarification, or even when you simply hope to get some extra time to think, try asking the examiner to **repeat** the question, or **explain** a word. You may not be able to get an explanation during some parts of the test, but don't be afraid to ask.

If the examiner repeats the question, you will have those **extra few seconds** to think about the answer and a **second chance** to understand the question. So, ask when you are not sure.

TIP NUMBER 5 - Learn To Give Opinions

One general mistake that candidates make in the IELTS speaking test is that they normally state a lot of general facts and figures. The examiner needs to hear **what you think** about the matter. Therefore, if you are not familiar with the language when giving opinions, learn some **expressions**.

TIP NUMBER 6 - Learn To Use Descriptive Words

In Part 2 of the test, you are expected to provide a **description** of something. It could be an **object**, an **experience** or a **person**.

Therefore it is very important that you learn to use a **variety of expressions** when describing something or someone.

TIP NUMBER 7-

Give A Full Answer

When you answer the questions in Part 3 of the speaking test, you need to think of ways to **extend your answers**. So, you can first provide an **overview** of your thoughts and ideas about the matter that you were asked to discuss, then give the **reason** why you think this way. Finally, you can provide an **example** to help complete your answer.

TIP NUMBER 8 - Fluency Over Vocabulary

You may have spent time on learning new vocabulary for the IELTS speaking test. When it comes to the real test, you may get nervous, and forget some of these words. In this situation, remember that **fluency** should be put as a priority. The main thing is to not stop speaking even if your mind goes blank. It's **not** the end of the world if you can't use clever words. **Simply** use the vocabulary that you know and can use at the time, in addition to speaking **naturally** with **good fluency**.

TIP NUMBER 9 - No Prepared Or Memorised Answers

It's good if you can learn some new vocabulary and grammar expressions to use in the IELTS speaking test. However, do **not** rote learn these phrases. Examiners are well-trained and can spot if someone is speaking naturally or simply reading out what they have memorised. If the examiner finds out you use **memorised** answers, you may **lose** marks.

TIP NUMBER 10 - Practice!

This final tip is a tip that we have mentioned frequently in an earlier section of this eBook. That is to **PRACTISE**! Do not memorise answers, instead practise talking about commonly asked topics. The more you practise, the better you will be able to use a variety of good **language** and **grammar**, and you will speak more **naturally** with better **pronunciation**.



Are you Running out of time

to effectively prepare for your

IELTS Speaking Exam?

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