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Collins

English for Exams

Pre-intermediate A2+

Get Ready for IELTS **SPEAKING**

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with CD



POWERED BY COBUILD

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Introduction


Pre-intermediate Speaking

Get Ready for IELTS Speaking has been written for learners with a band score of 3 or 4 who want to achieve a higher score. Using this book will help you improve your pre-intermediate speaking skills for the IELTS Academic Speaking test.

You can use *Get Ready for IELTS Speaking*:

- as a self-study course. We recommend that you work systematically through the 12 units in order to benefit from its progressive structure.
- as a supplementary speaking skills course for IELTS preparation classes. The book provides enough material for approximately 50 hours of classroom activity.

Get Ready for IELTS Speaking

- This comprises a book and a CD.
- The book contains **12 units**. Each unit focuses on a different topic and these topics are ones that often appear in the IELTS exam.
- After every three units, there is a **Review unit** which helps you to revise the language and skills covered in the previous units.
- At the end of the book the **Practice test** gives you the opportunity to take an IELTS-style test under test conditions.
- There is also a full **answer key** at the back of the book so you can check your answers. Here you will find suggested answers for more open-ended questions and model answers for the exam practice questions in Part 3 of the unit.
- The **glossary** at the back of the book lists the useful words from each unit with their Cobuild dictionary definitions.
- The audio CD contains the listening exercises. When you see this icon  please play the CD.

Unit Structure

Each unit starts with the **Aims** of the unit. They outline the key language and skills covered.

Part 1: Language development introduces vocabulary related to the topic, as well as phrases and language that can be applied to any topic. The vocabulary exercises give you the opportunity to express complex ideas and opinions so that you are able to do so in the IELTS Speaking test. In addition, each unit covers one or more pronunciation and grammar points. The pronunciation and grammar exercises help you to develop accurate pronunciation, and grammatical range and accuracy to enable you to succeed in the IELTS test.

Part 2: Skills development teaches you exam skills. The information and exercises help you to understand what a good IELTS answer is and also provide you with strategies on how to achieve this. Skills include making notes for Part 2 of the IELTS Speaking test, developing your fluency, and improving the length and quality of your answers to Part 3 of the test by using news articles.

Part 3: Exam practice gives you the opportunity to practise the new language you have learnt by attempting questions from Part 1, Part 2 and Part 3 of the IELTS Speaking test. These test questions increase your familiarity with the exam format and help build your confidence.

Finally, a **checklist** summarises the key points covered in the unit.

Other Features

Exam information boxes in each unit provide key background information about the IELTS Speaking exam.

Exam tip boxes provide essential exam techniques and strategies.

Watch out! boxes highlight common errors in the exam.

Study tips

- Each unit contains approximately three hours of study material.
- Try to answer the questions without looking at a dictionary to develop the skill of guessing the meaning of unknown words from context. This is important because dictionaries cannot be used during the actual exam.
- Use a pencil to complete the exercises, so that you can erase your first answers and do the exercises again for revision.
- Try to revise what you have learnt in Parts 1 and 2 before doing the practice IELTS questions in Part 3. This will improve the quality of your answers, and using the new language will help you to remember it.
- It's recommended that you try and complete all questions in the unit as the skills needed to do well at the IELTS test can only be improved through extensive practice.
- Read the answer key carefully as this provides information on what kind of answer is awarded high marks.
- Listen to the sample answers on the CD and practise reading these out loud as you listen, copying the native speakers' pronunciation as closely as you can.
- Record your answers if you can. It will develop your self-awareness: you will be able to hear what you are good at and where you need to improve. Also, hearing how your speaking has improved over time will increase your confidence. Remember that there are no 'right' or 'wrong' answers to the exam questions: the examiner is interested in your English, not in testing the validity of your opinions.
- It is very important that you do not memorise entire sentences or answers. IELTS examiners are trained to spot this and will change the topic if they think you are repeating memorised answers.

Other books

Also available in the *Collins Get Ready for IELTS* series: *Reading*, *Listening* and *Writing*.

The International English Language Testing System (IELTS) Test

IELTS is jointly managed by the British Council, Cambridge ESOL Examinations and IDP Education, Australia.

There are two versions of the test:

- Academic
- General Training

Academic is for students wishing to study at undergraduate or postgraduate levels in an English-medium environment.

General Training is for people who wish to migrate to an English-speaking country.

This book is primarily for students taking the Academic version.

The Test

There are four modules:

- Listening** 30 minutes, plus 10 minutes for transferring answers to the answer sheet
NB: the audio is heard *only once*.
Approx. 10 questions per section
Section 1: two speakers discuss a social situation
Section 2: one speaker talks about a non-academic topic
Section 3: up to four speakers discuss an educational project
Section 4: one speaker gives a talk of general academic interest
- Reading** 60 minutes
3 texts, taken from authentic sources, on general, academic topics. They may contain diagrams, charts, etc.
40 questions: may include multiple choice, sentence completion, completing a diagram, graph or chart, choosing headings, yes/no, true/false questions, classification and matching exercises.
- Writing** Task 1: 20 minutes: description of a table, chart, graph or diagram (150 words minimum)
Task 2: 40 minutes: an essay in response to an argument or problem (250 words minimum)
- Speaking** 11–14 minutes
A three-part face-to-face oral interview with an examiner.
The interview is recorded.
Part 1: introductions and general questions (4–5 mins)
Part 2: individual long turn (3–4 mins) – the candidate is given a task, has one minute to prepare, then talks for 1–2 minutes, with some questions from the examiner.
Part 3: two-way discussion (4–5 mins): the examiner asks further questions on the topic from Part 2, and gives the candidate the opportunity to discuss more abstract issues or ideas.

Timetabling Listening, Reading and Writing must be taken on the same day, and in the order listed above. Speaking can be taken up to 7 days before or after the other modules.

Scoring Each section is given a band score. The average of the four scores produces the Overall Band Score. You do not pass or fail IELTS; you receive a score.

IELTS and the Common European Framework of Reference

The CEFR shows the level of the learner and is used for many English as a Foreign Language examinations. The table below shows the approximate CEFR level and the equivalent IELTS Overall Band Score:

CEFR description	CEFR code	IELTS Band Score
Proficient user	C2	9
(Advanced)	C1	7–8
Independent user	B2	5–6.5
(Intermediate – Upper Intermediate)	B1	4–5

This table contains the general descriptors for the band scores 1–9:

IELTS Band Scores

9	Expert user	Has fully operational command of the language: appropriate, accurate and fluent with complete understanding.
8	Very good user	Has fully operational command of the language, with only occasional unsystematic inaccuracies and inappropriacies. Misunderstandings may occur in unfamiliar situations. Handles complex detailed argumentation well.
7	Good user	Has operational command of the language, though with occasional inaccuracies, inappropriacies and misunderstandings in some situations. Generally handles complex language well and understands detailed reasoning.
6	Competent user	Has generally effective command of the language despite some inaccuracies, inappropriacies and misunderstandings. Can use and understand fairly complex language, particularly in familiar situations.
5	Modest user	Has partial command of the language, coping with overall meaning in most situations, though is likely to make many mistakes. Should be able to handle basic communication in own field.
4	Limited user	Basic competence is limited to familiar situations. Has frequent problems in understanding and expression. Is not able to use complex language.
3	Extremely limited user	Conveys and understands only general meaning in very familiar situations. Frequent breakdowns in communication occur.
2	Intermittent user	No real communication is possible except for the most basic information using isolated words or short formulae in familiar situations and to meet immediate needs. Has great difficulty understanding spoken and written English.
1	Non user	Essentially has no ability to use the language beyond possibly a few isolated words.
0	Did not attempt the test	No assessable information provided.

Marking

The Listening and Reading papers have 40 items, each worth one mark if correctly answered. Here are some examples of how marks are translated into band scores:

Listening:	16 out of 40 correct answers:	band score 5
	23 out of 40 correct answers:	band score 6
	30 out of 40 correct answers:	band score 7
Reading	15 out of 40 correct answers:	band score 5
	23 out of 40 correct answers:	band score 6
	30 out of 40 correct answers:	band score 7

Writing and Speaking are marked according to performance descriptors.

Writing: examiners award a band score for each of four areas with equal weighting:

- Task achievement (Task 1)
- Task response (Task 2)
- Coherence and cohesion
- Lexical resource and grammatical range and accuracy

Speaking: examiners award a band score for each of four areas with equal weighting:

- Fluency and coherence
- Lexical resource
- Grammatical range
- Accuracy and pronunciation

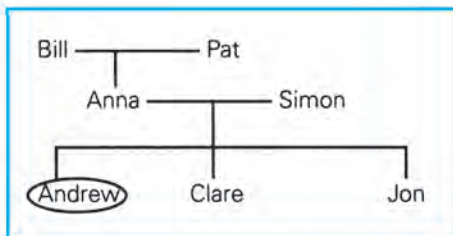
For full details of how the examination is scored and marked, go to: www.ielts.org

1 Family

AIMS: Talking about family • Describing people • Pronunciation: /ð/ • Possessive adjectives • Skills development: Understanding Part 1 • Exam practice: Part 1

Part 1: Language development

Vocabulary: Family



1 Look at Andrew's family tree. Complete the sentences with the words below.

brothers daughter grandparents husband mother parents sister sons wife

- 1 Clare is Andrew's
- 2 Andrew and Jon are Clare's
- 3 Andrew's are called Simon and Anna.
- 4 Anna is Andrew's and Simon's
- 5 Simon and Anna have three children – one and two
- 6 Pat and Bill are Andrew's Bill is Pat's

2 Read and complete the text about Andrew's family.

My name's Andrew. I've got one (1)..... Her name is Clare. I've got one (2)..... His name's Jon. He's a student. My (3).....'s name is Anna and she's a teacher. My (4).....'s name is Simon and he's a doctor.

Watch Out!

Use the contraction 's in spoken English.

My name's Andrew.

My name is Andrew.

3 Rewrite the text in Exercise 2 to describe your family.

8 Get Ready for IELTS: Speaking

Pronunciation: /ð/

- 01 **4** Listen and repeat each word. The words below use the phonetic alphabet. This shows you how to pronounce the words. Can you pronounce the /ð/ sound?

brother /'brʌðə/

father /'fɑ:ðə/

grandfather /'grændfɑ:ðə/

- 02 **5** Listen and repeat each word. Then listen again and write each word.

/'brʌðə/

/'mʌðə/

/'grændmʌðə/

Vocabulary: Describing people

- 6** Find nine personality adjectives below. Use your dictionary to help you. Which can describe you?

bossy calm clever confident creative friendly funny happy kind

- 7** Complete the descriptions below with personality adjectives from Exercise 6.

- 1 My mother understands new things quickly. She's very
- 2 My father is very He tells me what to do every day.
- 3 I'm because I believe in my ability. For example, I'm good at speaking English!
- 4 My sister is never angry or worried. She's always
- 5 My brother is He enjoys meeting people. He's too. He always makes people laugh.

- 03 **8** Listen to three people describing someone in their family. Write the personality adjectives that each speaker uses.

Speaker 1

Speaker 2

Speaker 3

- 03 **9** Listen again. Complete the gaps with the words you hear. Use the audio script on page 89 to check your answers.

Speaker 1 She like her sister. They've both got curly hair.

Speaker 2 I don't have any or sisters. I'm an only child.

Speaker 3 But their son is really funny! He's my cousin.

- 10** Describe someone in your family. Use personality adjectives and include extra information.

Grammar: Possessive adjectives

- 11** How would you describe your family? Read the description of Antony's family. Listen and complete the gaps with the words you hear.

My family? Well, we're a big family actually. (1) house is large! I've got five brothers. (2) names are Carlos, Gino, Luca, Alex and Marco. Carlos is 14 and he's the youngest. He's good looking and very funny. Marco is 27 and he's the oldest. (3) wife teaches at my college. (4) name is Maria.

My mother is an only child, so (5) family is very small. But (6) father is from a big family. He has three brothers. He looks like his brother, my uncle Georgio. They are both bossy but kind. My uncle has four children and one cat. (7) name is Lola. Tell me about (8) family.

Watch Out!

look like = have the same appearance

I look like my mother.

He looks like his father.

They look like their father.

- 12** Complete the table below.

.....	you	he	.....	it	.....	they
my	.....	.....	her	.....	our	.....

- 13** Answer the questions below. Write full sentences.

- Do you have any brothers or sisters? What are their names?
Example: Yes, I have two sisters. Their names are Ela and Liz.
- What is your father's name?
- Who do you look like in your family? What is his/her name?
- Have you got a pet? What is its name?
- Who makes you laugh in your family?
- Is someone in your family bossy?

- 14** Add one more sentence to your answers in Exercise 13.

Example: 1 Yes, I have two sisters. Their names are Ela and Liz. Ela looks like my mother and they are both very kind.

- 15** How would you describe your family? Record your answer.

Part 2: Skills development

Exam information

The complete Speaking test takes 11–14 minutes. The examiner asks questions and you give answers. The answers are recorded.

Part 1: Introduction and interview

- Part 1 takes 4–5 minutes.
- In the introduction, the examiner introduces himself/herself to you. The examiner asks you to confirm your identity.
- Then the interview starts. The examiner asks you questions on general topics, e.g. family, hobbies, studying.
- Part 1 tests your ability to give full answers and to give extra information on general topics with descriptions or explanations.

1 Read the Part 1 questions 1–5 below. Match each question with the correct topic a–e.

- | | |
|-------------------------------|----------------|
| 1 Are you a student? | a Your country |
| 2 Describe your family. | b Your family |
| 3 Which country are you from? | c Your hobbies |
| 4 What do you do? | d Your studies |
| 5 Do you do any sports? | e Your work |

Watch Out!

What **do** you do? = What is your **job**?



2 Read and listen to the examiner's instructions in Part 1. Complete the gaps.

Hello. My (1) is Steve Smith. Could you tell me your (2)
....., please?

Thank you. Can you show me your (3) please?

I'd now like to ask you some questions about yourself.

Tell me about your (4)

What does your father (5)?

(6) much time do you spend with your family?

Are people in your (7) close to their family?

Do you prefer to go out with your family or your (8)?

Where do you (9) at the moment?



3 Listen to a candidate answering a question from Exercise 2. Which question is it?



4 Listen to the candidate's answer again and assess it. Choose the best description

06

- 1 The information in the answer is *relevant / not relevant*.
- 2 The answer is *very short / OK / very long*.
- 3 The candidate speaks *with pauses / at normal speed / very fast*.
- 4 The vocabulary is *relevant / not relevant* to the topic.
- 5 The pronunciation is *poor / OK / clear*.
- 6 There are *a lot of errors / one or two errors / no errors* in the grammar.

5 Record your answer to the same question.

6 Listen to your answer and assess it. Choose the best description.

- 1 The information in the answer is *relevant / not relevant*.
- 2 The answer is *very short / OK / very long*.
- 3 I speak *with pauses / at normal speed / very fast*.
- 4 The vocabulary is *relevant / not relevant* to the topic.
- 5 The pronunciation is *poor / OK / clear*.
- 6 There are *a lot of errors / one or two errors / no errors* in the grammar.

7 How can you improve your answer? Choose one or two pieces of advice below to improve your answer. Then record your answer again.

- Give a longer answer. Practise giving answers that are two or three full sentences.
- Imagine you are speaking to a friend and speak at your normal speed – not fast and not slow.
- Go back to the Vocabulary sections and learn more words for family.
- Go back to the Pronunciation section or use your dictionary and practise saying difficult words.
- Go back to the Grammar section and check you understand everything.

8 Choose one more question from Exercise 2 and record your answer. Assess your answer, then try to improve it.

Exam tip

The questions in Part 1 are on general topics about your life. Your answers are from your life and experience. There is no right or wrong answer.

Part 3: Exam Practice

1 Read the Part 1 questions. Record your answers to the questions.

- 1 Which country are you from?
- 2 Do you have a large family?
- 3 What does your mother do?
- 4 Do you live with your family?

2 Listen to three more Part 1 questions. Write the questions. Then record your answers.

07

- 1
- 2
- 3

Progress check

3 Listen to your answers to Exercises 1 and 2. Tick the boxes below to assess your answers.

- Do you ...
- give a long answer?
 - speak at a normal speed?
 - use vocabulary for describing people?
 - use correct pronunciation?
 - use possessive adjectives correctly?

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Make a start on your IELTS preparation with *Collins Get Ready for IELTS*. This book gives you everything you need to improve your pre-intermediate listening skills for the IELTS Listening test.

- Twelve units of carefully graded material for pre-intermediate students, all with clear examples
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