

IELTS Speaking Day 1

Tips to help you get around Part 1

1. *Listen to the questions carefully and understand what is asked*

This can help you give accurate answers to the questions

2. *Develop your responses by adding relevant details about the topic.*

You may be asked “yes/no” questions. However, it doesn’t mean you only have to answer with a yes or no. Lengthen your answers by adding more details to it

Example Question: Do you like reading?

NOT GOOD	GOOD
Yes I really like reading.	Yes I really like reading. In fact I always make it a point to read newspapers in the morning before going to work. It just makes me feel at ease to be aware of what’s going on around me.

3. *Accustom yourself to answering “why” questions even when not asked by the examiner.*

Don’t wait for the examiner to follow up the previous question with why. Remember that you are in a speaking exam and you need to showcase your speaking ability.

Example Question: What is your favorite snack?

NOT GOOD	GOOD
I love eating cookies as my snack in the afternoon.	I love eating cookies as my snack in the afternoon. Maybe because it reminds me of my childhood when my mom used to bake cookies for me.

4. *Careful not to go off on a tangent.*

It’s good to give lengthy answers as this can help impress the examiner. However though, be careful not to stray away from the topic. Focus on the topic and what is asked.

Example question: Do you live on your own?

NOT GOOD	GOOD
No, I don't live on my own. I live with my family. My family has 3 members, my parents and I.	No. I actually live with my family. I have lived with them my whole life. But I might live on my own in the future as I have plans to go abroad. But for now, I'm staying with them.

5. Ask for clarification if necessary

If you do not understand a word or some words in the prompt. Remain calm. You can be honest and tell the examiner that you are not familiar of the word.

Sample phrases to use when clarifying:

- ✓ I've never come across that word/expression. Could you please elaborate on that?
- ✓ I'm not quite sure what that means. Would you mind elucidating/explaining?

6. Listen to the grammar used in the question.

By listening intently to the grammar or the verb tenses used in the question, it can help you avoid minor lapses such as tenses .

Example question: How long have you lived in your city?

NOT GOOD	GOOD
I <u>live</u> in my city for 4 years now.	I <u>have lived</u> in my city for 4 years now. My family decided to transfer from Kanagawa to Tokyo due to my father's job.