

## IELTS Speaking Day 7- 11

### How do I extend my answer in Part 3?

In part 3 the examiner will mostly ask for your general thoughts on an issue; advantages and disadvantages; problems and solutions; how the issue has changed from the past until now; and how the issue will change in the future. You should therefore practice thinking and talking about your opinion on common everyday issues like health, the economy, education and the environment.

There is no set word limit for what a good part 3 answer is, but it should not be too short and not too long. Too short and you will have failed to develop your answer properly; too long and you may go off topic and/or make mistakes. As a rule, try to answer with 3-4 sentences.

### Part 3 Technique #1- Paraphrase Question

A good way to extend your answer is respond with a paraphrase of the examiner's question. Paraphrasing is when you repeat the sentence but with synonyms so that it has the same meaning. This technique is very effective because it not only gives you time to think in a natural way, but it also focuses your mind on answering the question.

For example:

**Examiner:** What can people do to try and reduce water pollution?

**Student:** So, what can individuals do to ensure water is kept clean? I think....

**Examiner:** How can events like the Olympics improve international relations?

**Student:** Hmmmm, how can sport bring people from different countries closer together? I believe...

Again, this should not be used for every answer and only when you think it is appropriate.

### Part 3 Technique #2- Explain why

Many students state their opinion but don't extend their answer by stating why they feel that way. Some students have told me that they are afraid of patronising the examiner and assume he or she will know why they have stated their opinion. Assume that the examiner has no knowledge at all about the topic. Pretend you are speaking to a child who knows nothing of the topic and this will help you explain how you feel.

Example:

**Examiner:** What can people do to reduce water pollution?

**Student:** I believe the best way to keep water clean is to curb water use at home. (Why?) The vast majority of water is used in the home, (why?), for cooking, cleaning and washing, (why?) therefore by reducing the amount of water we use, (why?) the government can conserve the water supply and keep it clean.

By asking ourselves 'why' we continue to explain our opinions and this leads to more developed answer.

### Part 3 Technique #3- Give Examples

This seems an obvious one but it is something many students don't do. In order to really develop your answer an example is normally needed. A lot of my students complain that they don't know or can't think of any examples. If you can't think of one just make one up. You will not lose any marks for making up an example and this will only lead to you gaining marks for giving a well-developed answer.

A good technique is to use an example from a newspaper article or recent study.

Example:

**Examiner:** Have the modes of transport people use in your country changed much over the last few decades?

**Student:** Absolutely, they have changed a lot. In the past most people used bicycles, but now they predominantly use motorbikes. For example, a recent survey found that 72% of people in Ho Chi. Minh City now own a motorbike.

I just made that statistic up and it is perfectly acceptable for you to do the same thing in the IELTS speaking test. The examiner will never disagree with you or ask you to prove any of your examples.

### Technique #4- Make Concessions

We make a concession by admitting that there are limits to our opinion or there may be another side to the argument. We use words like 'however', 'on the other hand' and 'despite this' to make concessions.

Some students don't like doing this because they think it weakens their argument or opinion. In fact, by showing you are aware of other opinions you actually strengthen your argument.

Example:

**Examiner:** To what extent do you think advertising affects people's shopping habits?

**Student:** Personally, I don't think that it affects the way people shop at all. When people need something they make up their own mind rather than thinking about adverts. However, it must have some influence, if companies pay lots of money for ads.