

IELTS SPEAKING STRATEGIES 2020

SPEAKING SAMPLES, VOCABULARY,
COLLOCATIONS AND IDIOMS TO
INCREASE YOUR SCORE TO **8.0+**



JULIA WHITE

IELTS SPEAKING STRATEGIES 2020

*Speaking Samples, Vocabulary, Collocations And Idioms To Increase Your
Score To 8.0+*

-- By Julia White --

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INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the most complete and efficient IELTS SPEAKING STRATEGIES 2020!

Thank you and congratulate you for downloading the book “*IELTS SPEAKING STRATEGIES 2020: Speaking Samples, Vocabulary, Collocations and Idioms to Increase Your Score To 8.0+!*”

Are you struggling to achieve your IELTS goals in the Speaking component of the IELTS exam?

Are you frustrated with taking the exam again and again and again but without any improvement in your Speaking score?

Are you tired of learning long lists of vocabulary, revising the same old grammar points and staying up late to fit in more study sessions?

Are you running out of time to get the score you need?

Do you need **Band 8.0 or higher** in the IELTS Speaking test **in 2019**?

Model answers to IELTS Speaking questions appear throughout the course.

This book outlines everything you need to know about the IELTS Speaking Exam. It will help you if you have never taken the IELTS Exam before, or if you have already taken the exam and want to receive a better speaking band score.

This book is a great way to help you successfully increase your IELTS Speaking score. It will help you develop the skills needed for the IELTS Speaking exam.

This book is designed to help you score **an 8.0+ band score** on the speaking section of the IELTS exam.

This book is dedicated to more than just the IELTS speaking exam. I focus on tricks and tips to help you pass the exam, but more importantly, I give you tips that will help you become more fluent in your everyday life!

Take action today and start mastering IELTS SPEAKING STRATEGIES 2020 tomorrow!

Thank you again for purchasing this book, and I hope you enjoy it.

IELTS SPEAKING PART 1 SAMPLES

Speaking Part 1



1. Do you usually eat fruit and vegetables everyday?

Yes, I do. Actually, I frequently add fruit and vegetables to my daily meals, because they are good for my overall health and body. The role they play in your meals is just as crucial as that of protein and

starch. Without the intake of fruit and vegetables, you cannot hope to eat a balanced diet.



Speaking Part 1

2. What kind of fruit do you enjoy the most?

Well, I'm quite into juicy fruits like lemonade, orange or pomegranate. I always make a cup of lemonade in the morning to refresh my body. In fact, almost every kind of fruit suits my taste. Besides, I also like versatile fruits like avocado or pineapple, which can serve both as a kind of fruit and an ingredient in your daily meal.

3. Did you enjoy the same kind of fruits when you were a child?

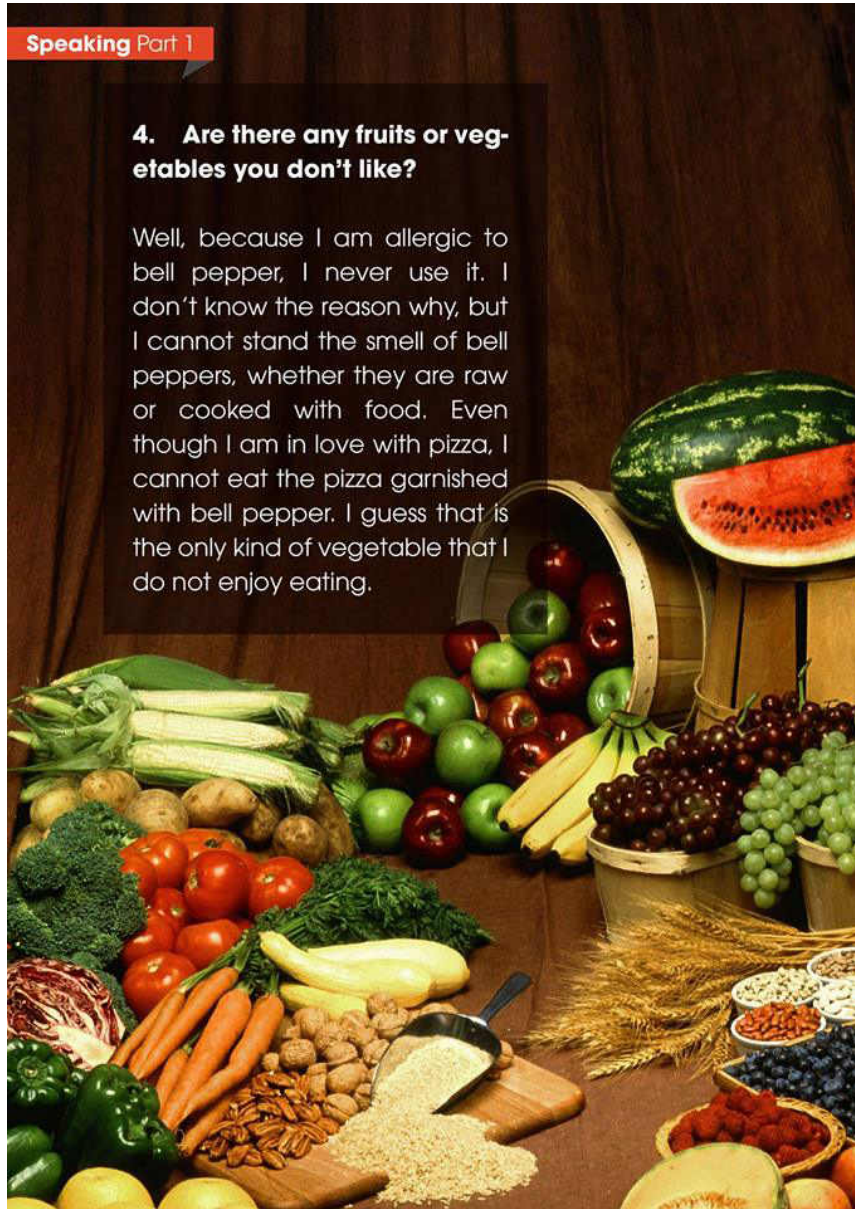
As I have said, I have no specific favorite kind of fruit at all, so when I was a child, I enjoyed all the fruits provided in my meals. I did not get fed up with any kind of fruit, because my mom always tried her best to change the menu of fruit and vegetables everyday, in order to make sure that I had a diet rich in fibre and vitamins and low in fats and sugar.



Speaking Part 1

4. Are there any fruits or vegetables you don't like?

Well, because I am allergic to bell pepper, I never use it. I don't know the reason why, but I cannot stand the smell of bell peppers, whether they are raw or cooked with food. Even though I am in love with pizza, I cannot eat the pizza garnished with bell pepper. I guess that is the only kind of vegetable that I do not enjoy eating.



5. Do you prefer to eat fruit or vegetables?

I think I am more in favor of fruit as compared to vegetables. Fruits seem more appealing in terms of appearance, color and odor. Interestingly, I eat fruits as a way to relieve stress, while most people eat chocolates as their preferred comfort food.

6. Do most people eat vegetables in your country?

Yes, they do. Almost every meal has rice or potatoes and also at least one other kind of vegetable as well, such as tomatoes, cabbages, carrots, green beans, etc. Unlike Western countries, Vietnamese even use raw vegetables in their meals. Quite a lot of people prefer chicken or beef to vegetables but at least they always include a small portion for vegetables for a nutritious meal.



Fruit



1. What's your favorite vegetable and fruit?

I like almost all fruit and vegetables except for the ones that just disintegrate when I bite into them. I'm following a diet rich in fibre which contains a lot of vegetables and dried fruit and I really enjoy it.

2. How often do you eat fruit?

My family are big fruit eaters. And I'm no exception. We eat fruit every day, several times per day. But nowadays, we are scared of all the chemical preservatives used to preserve its shelf life, so we eat it less than before.

3. Are there any special fruits in your hometown?

I'm not very sure. I think mango-steens are specific to the South East Asia region. The flesh of the fruit is absolutely heavenly, soft with a sweet and sour taste, and it makes a light and pure refreshment.

4. Should we eat vegetables everyday?

Half our diet at the bare minimum should be vegetables and fruit, to provide ourselves with a healthier diet. Vegetables not only provide a variety of flavours, but a largely vegetarian diet is low in fat, unlike the junk food which is popular among many young people these days.



Jewelry



**1. Do you wear any jewelry?
Why or why not?**

I have an allergy, so I only wear a watch, other than that I don't wear any jewelry, no necklaces or bracelets or anything.

2. What kinds of jewelry do people in your country wear?

Vietnamese people love simple and sophisticated things, and it shows in the jewelry they regularly wear. So you can say that Vietnamese people wear all types of jewelry, and I think there has been a revival of interest in more classical styles.


3. Would you ever buy a piece of jewelry? Why or why not?

I have a habit of collecting all kinds of jewelry if they are works of craftsmanship, although I cannot wear them. I've always had an interest in the trade in antiques, so if I see a piece of jewelry that is both old and beautiful, it's hard to resist buying it.

4. What kind of jewelry do you like to see on other people?

I love seeing girls with long necklaces that evoke a modern boho feel, and boys with classical wrist watches to match a suit. I think they are quite attractive with those accessories.





**SPEAKING
PART 1**

Trees

1. Do you like trees?

I really like trees. An ideal day for me would be when I could lie under the beautiful, cool shade of a big oak tree, enjoying the breeze, listening to the the amazing sound of birds chirping, and not having to worry about anything at all.

2. (Similar to above) Do you like (to go to) the forest (or, a forest)?

I have never been to a forest before, so I would love it if I could go to one. I have always enjoyed watching TV programmes about the wilderness ever since I was a kid. Being able to go to a forest, and I mean a primeval, um, an ancient one, would be paradise for me.



3. Is there a forest near your hometown?

Unfortunately no. My hometown is a city that doesn't have a beach, let alone a real forest.

4. (Possibly) Would you like to live in a place that has lots of trees?

I would love it. I'm not kidding. I would adore it! In fact, currently I'm living on the outskirts of Toronto, surrounded by lots and lots of trees and it feels good every day to wake up early, get out of the house and go for a walk while breathing in the fresh air and taking in the amazing scenery.



5. Where can one find trees (or forests) in your country?

Trees are planted almost everywhere, but for forests I guess you need to do some research. There's a place that is called Cuc Phuong National Park in Northern Vietnam, and there are some other protected forests in different parts across Vietnam as well.

6. Do you think places with trees attract more visitors than places with few trees?

I don't know about other people, but I would definitely choose a place full of trees over one which has none. Or maybe other people would make the same choice as me: isn't it nice to feel at one with nature and to be able to immerse yourself in greenery and the fresh open air?



7. Did you ever (like to) climb trees when you were a child?

As a matter of fact, I did. There was a lychee tree at my grandparents' house in the countryside - it was cut down several years ago - and I used to climb it every time I visited them.

8. Have you ever planted a tree?

Let's say I have, although it's not technically a tree. When I was in grade 4, I had an assignment in which I needed to plant something and bring it to class. I chose to plant some beans, although, sadly, it fell through - the rats just waited until the right moment and gobbled them all.

SPEAKING PART 2

You should say:

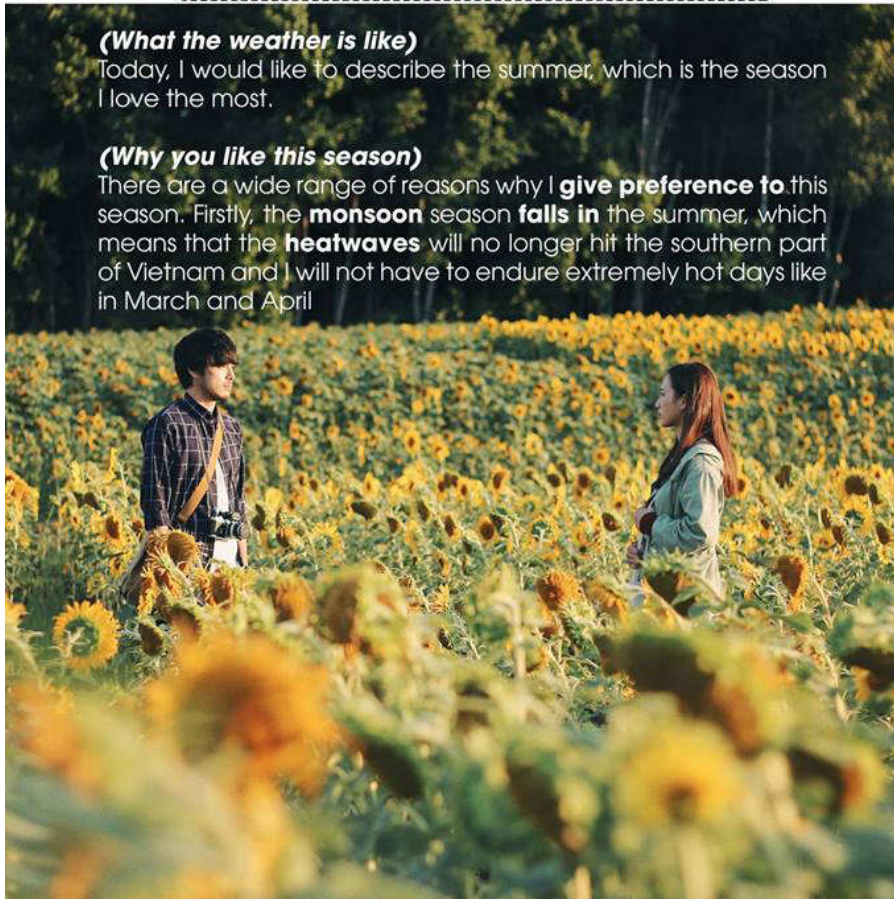
- What the weather is like
- Why you like this season
- What activities you usually do during it
- How different kinds of weather would affect people

(What the weather is like)

Today, I would like to describe the summer, which is the season I love the most.

(Why you like this season)

There are a wide range of reasons why I **give preference to** this season. Firstly, the **monsoon** season **falls in** the summer, which means that the **heatwaves** will no longer hit the southern part of Vietnam and I will not have to endure extremely hot days like in March and April

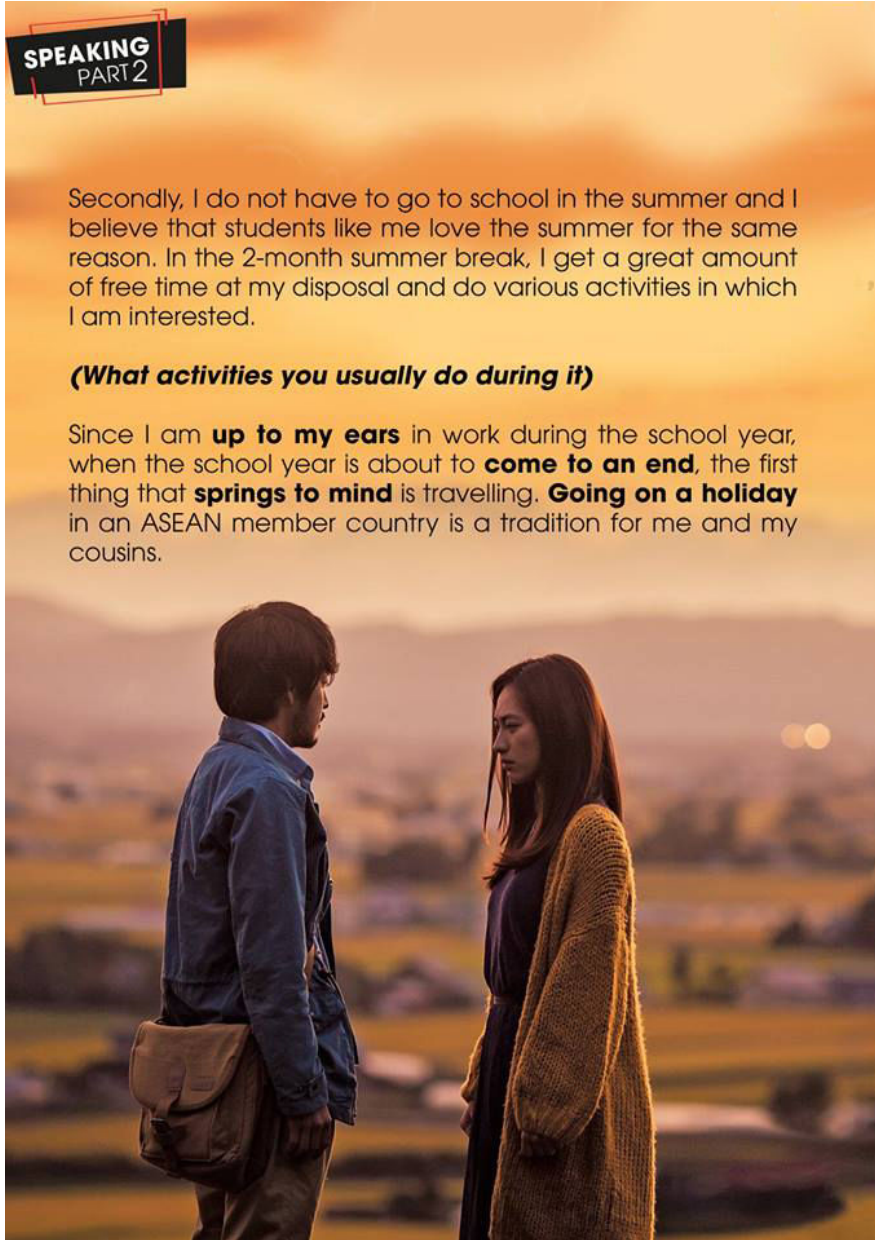


SPEAKING
PART 2

Secondly, I do not have to go to school in the summer and I believe that students like me love the summer for the same reason. In the 2-month summer break, I get a great amount of free time at my disposal and do various activities in which I am interested.

(What activities you usually do during it)

Since I am **up to my ears** in work during the school year, when the school year is about to **come to an end**, the first thing that **springs to mind** is travelling. **Going on a holiday** in an ASEAN member country is a tradition for me and my cousins.

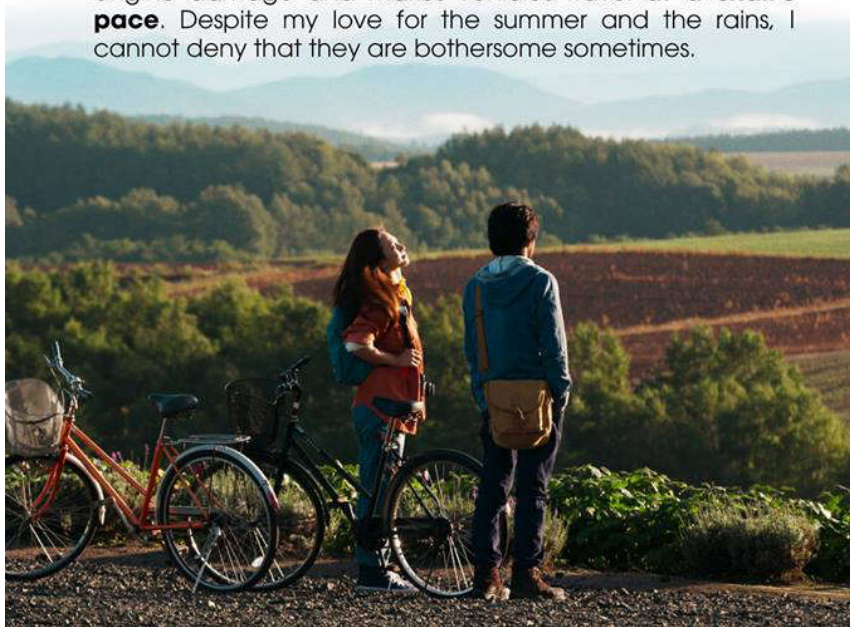


SPEAKING PART 2

Two years ago, we went to Thailand and last year we went to Malaysia and Singapore. Moreover, a great number of movies about the summer are released such as the one which has emerged as one of the most widely-liked movies recently, named "Nhằm mắt thấy mùa hè", which is Vietnamese for "Summer through closed eyes".

(How different kinds of weather would affect people)

Actually, the weather is unpredictable. One minute, there may be lots of sunshine and the temperature may be 33 degrees Celsius, but the next minute thunderclouds will fill up the sky and it will **rain cats and dogs**. This unpredictability means people can't be well prepared. Also, rains cause floods all over the city, which causes engine damage and makes vehicles travel **at a snail's pace**. Despite my love for the summer and the rains, I cannot deny that they are bothersome sometimes.



TIME MANAGEMENT

1. How do you organize your time?

As a student, I have to meet tons of deadlines at university as well as complete the tasks assigned in my part-time jobs and clubs. Therefore, it is pivotal that I schedule my time reasonably to ensure I have enough time for everything and avoid procrastination. Personally, I create an online timetable that can be easily adjusted to keep myself on track and make sure that the amount of time allocated to my studies, my jobs and my leisure time is well-balanced.

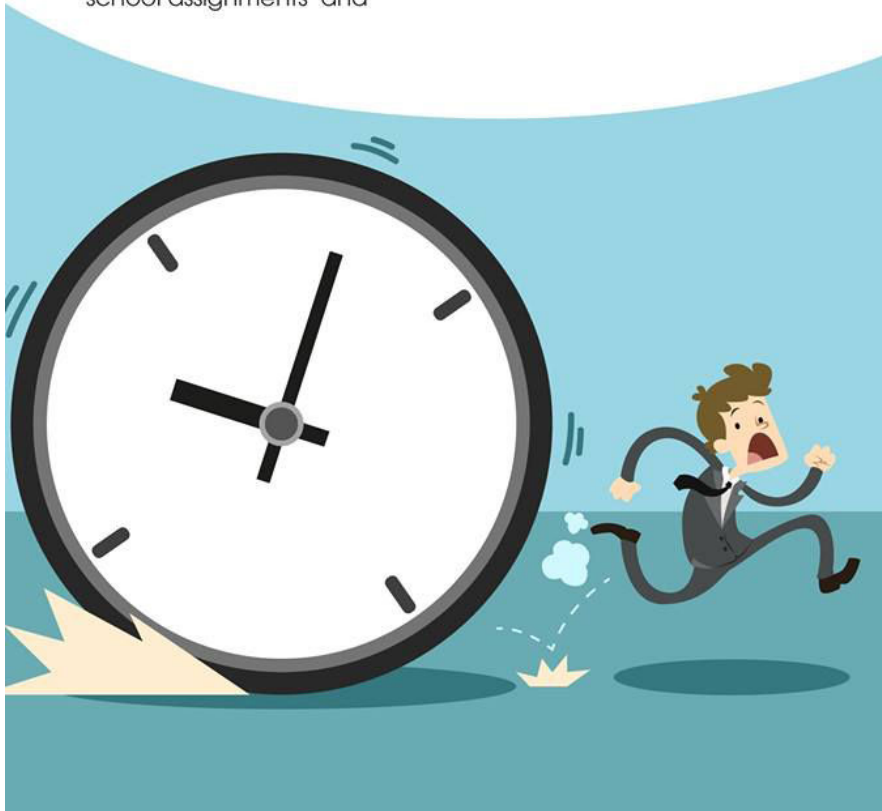


Speaking Part 1

2. Do you think people organize time in the same way?

I'm not too sure about that, it varies according to age group I suppose. For example, students would usually invest a substantial proportion of their time in studying, finishing school assignments and

doing hobbies. In contrast, the majority of an adult's time would be devoted to working and socialising with their colleagues while less is spent on recreational activities.



Speaking Part 1

3. Do you think it is important to be on time?

Certainly. Firstly, punctuality indicates respect and hence, is extremely important, especially in the context of business and education. When we have an appointment with a business partner or simply go to class or sit an exam for instance, we have

to be on time to express our appreciation to our partners and our teachers. Moreover, it shows that we are capable of taking care of ourselves and feel a sense of accountability in whatever we do.



Speaking Part 1

4. How do you feel when you are late for an appointment?

Needless to say, I would be profoundly apologetic if that were to happen. As I have said, turning up late might give out the wrong signal that we don't respect the people we'll be meeting, which is exactly what I wouldn't want

them to think. It also hints that I may lack professionalism and self-discipline, so I would be utterly ashamed and sorry whenever I failed to be punctual.



Speaking Part 1

5. How do you feel when others are late?

That's interesting. Well, for formal meetings like job interviews, conferences or in-class presentations, I always feel great disappointment when people show up late and even throw a fist if it's by too much. Yet, if I were to have a simple chat with my friends, I

wouldn't mind giving them a few extra minutes. Of course, in both cases, I would expect a justifiable reason for their lateness and would probably let it slide if the excuses were understandable.



FILMS

1. Do you like to watch films?

I absolutely love watching movies. It is a way to experience how others live. Each of us can only have one life but we can experience so many different lifestyles in movies. It is kind of temporarily putting oneself into another world.

2. Do you prefer foreign films or Vietnamese films?

I'm much more into imported films rather than domestically produced ones, because of a thing called cultural exposure. People in different countries have different cultural norms and ideas that come across in their film-making. To me, that's important for broadening our horizons.



Speaking Part 1

3. How often do you go to a cinema to watch a movie?

I'm not really keen on watching films in the cinema. Therefore, I only go there when I have to meet my friends, or sometimes when there is a blockbuster that I want to see immediately.

4. What kinds of movies do you like best?

I like adventure ones. They excite me, they keep me in anticipation, waiting to see amazing visual effects, hear great soundtracks, cry, be scared, laugh, and think.



Speaking Part 1

5. Do Vietnamese people like to go to a cinema to watch a film?

I would say yes. I can see that movie theaters have become an important part of Vietnamese life, and cinemas are packed whenever blockbusters are released. People like to go to a cinema to watch films since they can enjoy the lively sound and images on the big screen and spectacular special effects always have a wide appeal to audiences.



WATCHES

1. How often do you wear a watch?

Since childhood I have had an affection for watches, so I wear my watch all the time. In fact I'd feel naked without my watch. But I usually reserve nicer watches or the ones with sentimental value for special occasions or when I wear luxurious clothes.

2. What was your first watch like?

I developed my affection for watches with a little cute Mickey Mouse dial shaped watch. And I guess everyone around my age used to own one like that as it was quite in at the time.



A close-up, profile photograph of a man with dark hair and a light beard. He is looking thoughtfully to the left, with his hand resting near his chin. He is wearing a dark suit jacket, a grey sweater cuff, a gold ring on his ring finger, and a silver-toned watch with a black dial and metal link bracelet on his left wrist. The background is a plain, light grey.

Speaking Part 1

3. Do people still wear watches in your country?

There are lot of watches being manufactured or imported and sold in my country since there are tons of people who love wearing them. Some would love wearing them for their utility while others would prefer to wear them as an accessory.

A black and white photograph of a man with short, dark hair, looking down and to the left. He is wearing a white, long-sleeved button-down shirt that is slightly unbuttoned at the collar. On his left wrist, he is wearing a Rolex Oyster Perpetual Datejust watch with a dark dial and a metal bracelet. His hands are clasped in front of him. The background is dark and out of focus.

Speaking Part 1

5. Did you receive any watch as a gift when you were a child?

Yes, the one I mentioned above, the Mickey Mouse dial shaped watch. My father recognised my enthusiasm for watches and he gave it to me as a birthday gift when I was about 7. I remember jumping around because of the excitement.

Family

1. How often do you meet with your family?

It's normally once a month. At present I'm studying and working in another city, which is quite far from my hometown, so I can only set aside time for my family at the end of the month, because of the distance and heavy workload, you know.

2. How do you spend the time with your family?

We often spend quality time together on eating scrumptious meals prepared by my mother, talking with each other while enjoying our favorite delicious foods.

It's a precious time when we can momentarily get away from the hectic whirlwind of daily activities.

3. Do you want to live with your family in the future?

I'd prefer we live in the same city, so that we could take good care of each other, while making sure our family's bond is secure and will not suffer from potential discrepancies in our individual lifestyles or the generation gap.



Speaking Part 1

4. What activities do your family like doing together?

My family often gather around the table enjoying a cozy meal together, communicating and sometimes busting into laughter because of my father's humorous stories. We're also particularly into family game nights, when we huddle together to play cards or other family favorites.

5. Are you close to of your family members?

Most of them. Actually I'm a little bit more distant with my brother as compared to other members. We have personality conflicts, and different viewpoints so we often have arguments over even the smallest things.



Speaking Part 1

6. How has your family influenced you?

My family has definitely shaped who I am now. They have imprinted on me proper principles like respect, moral values and good manners. I have also inherited humbleness from my mother, and determination and patience from my father.

7. Do you want to be married or to be single in the future?

Yes, I do want to get married. We all ultimately find our true love in life, you know, and marriage is the ultimate commitment that we can make to our soulmate. Moreover, I want to build a loving and supporting home for my children like my parents have done for us.



Celebrity / Pop Stars

1. Who is your favorite celebrity in Vietnam?

Well, to be honest, I adore quite a number of Vietnamese stars. Regarding music, young and celebrated singers like Toc Tien and Dong Nhi are definitely my top choices whereas if it's acting, veteran actors like Binh Minh or Manh Truong always give a really convincing performance.

2. Do you like any foreign celebrities?

As a matter of fact, yes. I've been an avid fan of Western contemporary pop singers for quite a time now,

especially those who have excellent vocal skills like Adele, Bruno Mars or John Legend. I even created a special playlist on my phone which contains only their songs to listen to whenever I want.



Speaking Part 1

3. Would you want to be a celebrity in the future?

I've never given this much thought but I'd have to say that entering showbiz isn't really the path I'd choose. Rising to stardom means losing a great deal of privacy as well as having less time with family and friends, so I guess I'd prefer to stay as a part of the general public.

4. Do you think we should protect famous people's privacy?

Well, definitely. It's a human right to have your private information kept confidential and to have freedom in whatever you want to do, without being followed by paparazzi all the time. Just because celebrities are public figures doesn't mean their private life has to be exposed to everyone for gossip.



5. How do celebrities influence their fans in Vietnam?

In Vietnam, as in any other countries, admirers consider celebrities a source of inspiration as well as consolation. For example, they might watch videos or read articles about their favourite artists to cheer themselves up when they feel down. Additionally, fans can be affected in the way they behave or dress, since most of these fans are impressionable teenagers who want to appear like their idols.



FRIENDS

1. Do you have many close friends?

I have only one friend I would confide in. I'm quite picky and more importantly, I have a somewhat irrational fear that none of my friends really like me and that I'm just a guy they can barely tolerate and it is hard for me to live in harmony with them.

2. Do you think friendship is important?

There is no doubt that friendships play a vital role in our life. They make our lives interesting and wonderful. They help us develop a sense of sharing whether they are tangible things or just inspirational or motivational words of wisdom.



Speaking Part 1

3. Which do you prefer to spend time with: a friend or spend time alone?

It depends. Normally, I'm more of a loner and generally spend more time in solitude than with friends. But when I'm in a bad mood, loneliness makes me feel isolated from the whole world. These days, I will hang out with my friends

so that sad and unhappy thoughts cannot come into my mind.

4. What kind of people do you like to have as friend?

I find myself attracted to people who are honest and who know how to behave with others. I always avoid making friends with people who have a superiority complex.



Speaking Part 1

5. Do you like face-to-face conversations with people?

Actually I like to talk with cyber friends more than having real-world conversations. I think others observe me a lot, they judge me and hence I become very self-conscious and shy away from speaking face to face.

6. Are most of your friends from school or from outside school?

Most of my friends are from high school. People who I met at work or from clubs have less in common with me, whereas at Uni we all shared interests in the same things and subjects.



Speaking Part 1

9. How do people in your country meet others and make friends?

I don't think it particularly matters what country you're from. In every country, you can make friends just by sitting next to someone a few times during class, then a friendship logically happens. Otherwise, you can make cyber friends through social networks like Facebook or Twitter.

10. Do adults and children make friends in the same way?

Adults use self disclosure to develop trust and loyalty among friends

This is quite complicated in practice while children usually use common interests and goals as the basis of their friendships. More importantly, kids have a whale of time with whoever, but adults have to use their time for work and taking care of their family.

11. Do you think it is possible to become real friends with people you meet on the internet?

Of course it is possible to establish real friendships with someone online. What you need in a friendship is truthfulness, reliability, empathy, respect and loyalty. If you're getting all that from your online friends then you can consider them as genuine friends.



Speaking Part 1

7. How often do you meet with your friends?

When I was younger, I used to meet my friends almost everyday. Even friends outside of school were a part of my daily social interactions. But now, as a 23 year old working professional, I barely meet anyone during weekdays. I meet my closest friends only on some weekends. These meetups are sporadic too.

8. What do you and your friends do together?

My closest friends and I have a mutual interest which is we always have a thirst for clothes shopping, so whenever we have time, we will go shopping together until we break the bank. Sometimes when we are out of money, just window shopping is enough.



IELTS SPEAKING PART 2 SAMPLES

Describe a kind of food you eat on a special occasion

You should say

- ▶ What it is
- ▶ How it is cooked
- ▶ Why people eat it or why it is for the special event
- ▶ Explain how you feel about this kind of food

The 4th category: Describe an object/ product/ thing



What it is

I would like to talk about Chung cake, **which** is a traditional and irreplaceable cake of Vietnamese people in the Tet Holidays.



How it is cooked

Main ingredients of the Chung cake are **glutinous rice, pork meat, and mung beans wrapped** in a square of bamboo leaves or banana leaves **that** will give the rice a green color after boiling. The sticky rice must be very good and was **soaked** in water in the previous day. Rice cake is **wrapped** in square shape, and the wrapping power must be neither **tight** nor **loose**. Then the cake will be boiled in about 12 hours by wood.



Why it is for the special occasion

In the ancient conception, the Earth is square, hence Chung cake's shape is square, too, to reflect the Earth shape. Vietnamese people always make and have Chung cake in the Lunar New Year to emphasize the important role of rice and nature in water rice culture.

In contrast to fast food in modern life, the process of making Chung cake is time-consuming and requires the contribution of several people, thus providing an opportunity for family members to bond and come together to celebrate the holiday spirit.



How you feel about it

In my opinion, the Green Chung cake has an original tasty flavor, which reminds me of my origin and tradition. I love eating Chung cake with vegetable pickles, which brings me unforgettable taste!



How you feel about it

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Describe a newly-built public facility (such as park or cinema) that influences your city

2nd category:
describe a place

You should say:

- ▶ What public place it is
- ▶ Where it is
- ▶ What people can do there
- ▶ And explains how it improves your local area



What the public place it is

In my city, shops, supermarkets or cinemas **spring up like mushrooms**, **but** almost all of them **aren't worth mentioning** **because of** their poor range of goods, poor service and **exorbitant prices**. The only recent development **that made** the lives of the **city dwellers much interesting** is a shopping mall, named **Van Hanh Mall**, **which** opened last year.



Where it is

Speaking of the location, it's **situated** right **in the heart of the city**, in district 5, **which** is **within a stone's throw of my house**, **so** I often go there on weekends to **unwind** after work.



What people can do there

This modern shopping mall has many different areas of entertainment and shopping, **including** a supermarket, a number of coffee shops, fashion stores, **swanky restaurants** and a cinema. **What I particularly like is** a bookstore with a huge collection of books and stationery. It's **well-decorated** with a spacious section for readers to enjoy books. **I have to say**, it's actually **a relaxing reading heaven where** the dream of bookworms like me can come true.



How it improves your local area

Well, this shopping mall **has brought great benefits to** the residents nearby. **As** it **offers a one-stop solution**, it's **an ideal place** for families and friends to **gather together** and **spend quality time**. **You see**, a lot of people **are tied up with working and studying**, **and** this place can become their **regular haunt** to **let off steam** and **recharge their batteries**. **As a result**, the quality of the city dwellers' lives can **be significantly improved**.

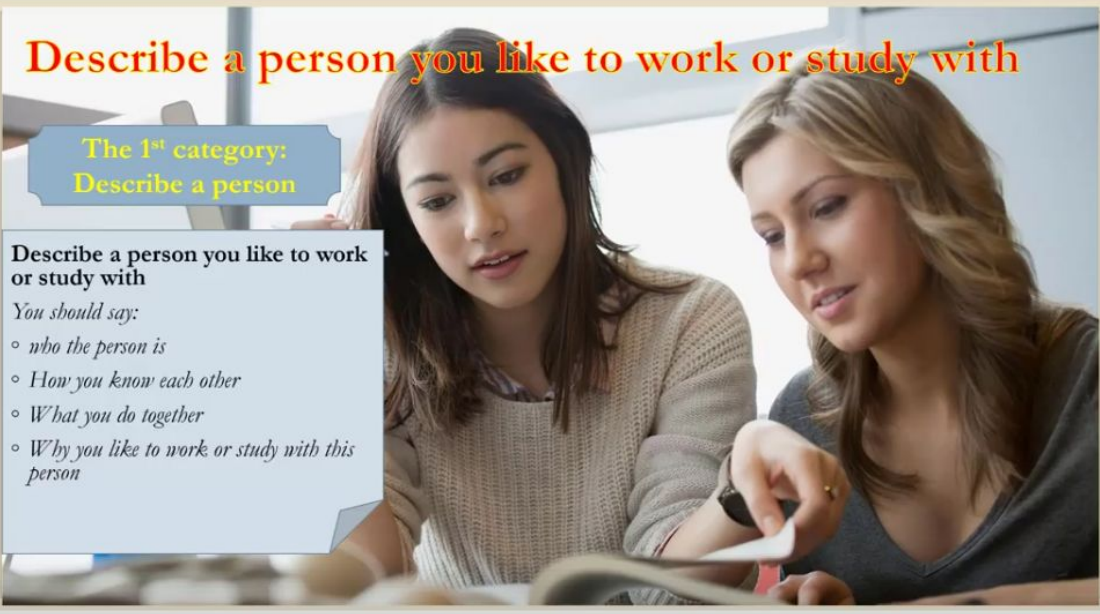
Describe a person you like to work or study with

The 1st category:
Describe a person

Describe a person you like to work or study with

You should say:

- *who the person is*
- *How you know each other*
- *What you do together*
- *Why you like to work or study with this person*



Who the person is

- I have always been lucky enough to be surrounded by **a large circle of like-minded people** who are **fascinated about** learning English.
- Among them, I would like to talk about my best **study buddy**, whose name is Bee.

How you know each other



- Back in 2014 when we first met at an English club, she **left a really deep impression on me** by her willingness to learn and share her knowledge to other people.
- As we **had a great passion for English**, we **hit it off** and **made an appointment** from time to time to study together at a coffee shop.

What you do together



- Most of the time when we get together, we **crack the books** and discuss our English questions.
- I love spending time studying with her mainly because I believe that **two heads are better than one** so that we can **get motivated** and **teach each other** to fight this tough war.

Why you like to work or study with this person

There are some reasons why I consider her **my perfect study partner**.

- Firstly, I believe that she is quite **diligent and persevering**. She **shows a great determination and stamina** in studying, which has contributed a lot in my attitude toward studying. I still remember vividly that she always **fulfilled our homework assignments** on time, which also makes me become more **disciplined and determined**.
- Besides, I also find her **knowledgeable and sharing**. Whenever she wonders about something, she tried to **get the root of the problem**. And after **getting the hang of** any new things, she is willing to share those with me **in a jubilant mood**.
- In short, I love studying with her as she is such **an inspirational person** for me. She **sets an excellent example for me to follow**.

Describe a beautiful or handsome person

Describe a beautiful or handsome person you have met (or seen)

You should say:

- *who the person was*
- *When and where you saw this person*
- *What kind of person he/she was*
- *What it was that you thought was beautiful*



Who the person was



I'm going to talk about a **good-looking woman** who I accidentally met on a holiday to **an exotic country**.



To be honest, her **appearance** was so **brehtaking**, which **attracted** not only men but also women.



As far as I could judge, she was **in her mid-twenties** and she must be **a native**.

When and where you saw this person



As I said earlier, I went on a holiday. On the day of **the full-moon**, I joined a group to play some games around the campfire.



After a while, she appeared. The **moonlight** and the light of the fire combined **unveiled her beauty**.



From that moment, every tourist **couldn't take their eyes off her**, and I was not exception.

Why you thought he/she is beautiful



She had a **comely figure** which was **stem-thin**. Her **curvilinear waist** didn't surprise me as much as her **olive complexion**.



When I came closer, I noticed her **sunrise-gold hair** and her **dainty nose**. It was definitely **love at first sight** for many guys.



When she **broke into a smile**, her **sugar candy-sweet lips**, and her **shiny, halo-white teeth**, all **mesmerized me**.

Conclusion



In short, I couldn't believe that there was such a **mesmeric woman** like her. Even though I didn't know her name, she was like my **goddess**. I always wish I could **have some of her delicate features**.

Describe a family business you know

You should say:

- ▶ What the business it is
- ▶ Who the customers are
- ▶ How you know about it
- ▶ Whether you like it or not

The third category: Objects/
Things/ Products

What the business it is



I'd like to talk about a restaurant run by Mr Bin who lives next door to me. He has **inherited** the business from **his dead father** and been continuing it with his family members.



All the members of the family **are involved** in the restaurant business. As **the family head**, Mr Bin is responsible for the overall **maintenance of the business**.



His son is assigned to collect the bills



his wife looks after the food preparations.



The other daughters are responsible for the daily shopping activities.

Who the customers are



- ▶ Though there are lines of restaurants on the street, his restaurant is preferable to many tourists and he proudly owns some regular customers

How you know about it



I first knew this restaurant when I was invited to **the inauguration of** his restaurant after renovating from the mid of this year.



He has decorated the restaurant beautifully. I with the other family members really enjoyed the delicious foods.

Whether you like it or not



Firstly, the food there is really **tasty and flavorful**. It provides **authentic flavor** of Vietnamese food, like **broken rice, beef noodle, crispy pancakes, ...**



Besides, I also feel that the atmosphere is fairly **cozy and comfy**. The restaurant is **spacious**. We can have different options when choosing a seat, and it also leaves some privacy for talking; it is pretty **customer-oriented**.



More importantly, I always find that the staff there are quite hospitable. I personally focus more on the positive attitude and good service, for if not, they might **ruin the good mood** for a great meal.

Describe a plant (flower, vegetable or fruit) in your country

You should say:

- ▶ What the plant it is
- ▶ Where it grows
- ▶ Why it is important for your country
- ▶ Why you like or dislike it

What the plant is



the bamboo tree
a symbolic plant



Bamboo tree clusters are also
popularly known as the emblem of
Vietnam's rural areas
**Emblem (n) biểu tượng*



- Long and hollow stalk: thân dài và rỗng
- an evergreen and fast-growing kind of plant: cây xanh mãi và phát triển nhanh.

Where it grows



Bamboo trees can be seen in most Asian countries because of tropical and temperate climates.
** thời tiết nhiệt đới và ôn đới.*



In Vietnam, we find them mostly in rural areas



Some people grow them as fences

Why it is important for your country



The body of the tree is often treated as a valuable material to build houses



make household equipment such as tables, chairs, sleeping mats or even instruments



Make some Vietnamese signature dishes from bamboo shoots

Why you like or dislike it



- I love this plant because it is of great importance and comes in useful
- every part of the tree has numerous beneficial properties



it offers me feelings of peace and serenity, away from the hustle of bustle of the city.



- It is often associated with Vietnam, because we grow so much of it here, so it kind of reminds me of my own culture.
- it is the symbol of straightforwardness and righteousness (*sự thẳng thắn và ngay thẳng*)

Describe a quiet place that you like to go to

► You should say:

- What place it is
- How often you go there, when you go there
- What you do there
- Why you like this place



What place it is

- nowadays there's so much noise around that sometimes silence is a luxury I can no longer afford
- My favorite one is a lovely café named X
- It is situated at Y - a small quiet lane/alley near my university in the centre of my hometown.
- The coffee house is decorated in an old, traditional French style, with a lot of paintings on the wall.



How often you go there/ when you go there

- My regular haunt (a place that somebody visits often)
- Whenever I fed up with the familiar surroundings
- Whenever I feel that I'm on the verge of burnout
- Whenever I feel stressed out and exhausted
- When I need inspiration
- When I want to find some other places to refresh my mind
- When I'm available during weekends
- I just take a day off to go there on weekends after a long stressful week.



What you do there

- There is a huge collection of instrumental music which helps me to collect my thoughts and concentrate easier
- It's so spacious that everyone has their own space to do private things
- When I go there, I often crack the books in a comfy chair
- Breathe fresh air and appreciate the paintings on the wall and French decorations



Why you like this place

- an ideal place to escape from all the pressures/ hustles and bustles
- Enjoy a cup of coffee to relieve my stress
- Take a break from a constant stream of noises
- Think deeply
- Put thoughts in order
- Slow down, catch a deep breath and set my mind straight
- Focus on what I really want
- I find it extremely therapeutic and soothing



Describe A Beautiful City That You Have Visited

You should say:

- What city it is
- What you know about it
- What it is famous for
- Why you think it is beautiful



What city it is & What you know about it

▶ **Name:**

- Danang - the fifth largest city in VN in terms of urbanization and economy.

▶ **Location:**

- Danang - is situated in Central Vietnam, along the coast of the East Sea.
- Easily accessible (by plane, coach, train or bus)
- Make it a hub for transportation
- Must-see destinations: Dragon Bridge, Han River Bridge, Ba Na Hill

When you visited there



WHEN

- A year ago
- On summer vacation
- Lucky to go there in such balmy weather with a gentle breeze and beautiful warm sunshine

WITH WHO

- Went there with my friends/ family members
- That trip creates the memory of a lifetime that left a really deep impression on my mind

What it is famous for & WHY YOU THINK IT IS BEAUTIFUL



- Danang is called a worth-living city
- This place possesses the stretch of gorgeous sandy beaches, which are known as no garbage beaches
- Being granted by the nature for the uninterrupted picturesque beaches, beaches there were praised as one of the most attractive beaches on the planet
- This city also clings to tourists' feet by the modern and civilized image
- the food is irresistibly delicious and cheap
- We explored the whole city by motorbike which was hired from local people.
- While moving around the city, we tried local food, visited famous attractions and enjoyed the beauty around.
- It really felt like I was jumping from antiquity into modern times all the time.

HEALTH VOCABULARY FOR PARAPHRASING

WORDS

Eating too much fast food = excessive consumption of fast food

Exercise every day = take regular/daily exercise

Take part in = participate in = engage in

Child obesity = childhood obesity = obesity among children

Have an unhealthy diet = have an imbalanced diet

WORDS

Fast food – junk food –
pre-made food

Have a healthy diet = have a
balanced diet

To be harmful to... = to be
detrimental to...:

Contain a lot of fat = to be in-
credibly high in fat = to be
rich in fat

Spend more time cooking at
home = spend more time pre-
paring meals at home

WORDS

Try to ... = make every possible effort to...:

To be inactive = lead a sedentary lifestyle

Go to the gym = go to fitness clubs

Spend time playing sports = spend time taking part in outdoor activities = spend time participating in physical activities

WORDS

Keep fit = stay healthy = keep in shape

Choose healthier foods = make healthier food choices

Have a negative effect on... = have an adverse impact on

FAST SPEAKING

1. Ain't = Am not/are not/is not

E.g. I ain't sure.

2. Ain't = Has not/have not

E.g. He ain't finished yet.

3. Wanna = Want to

E.g. I wanna go home.

4. Wanna = Want a

E.g. I wanna coffee.

5. Whatcha = What have you

E.g. Whatcha got there?

6. Kinda = Kind of

E.g. She's kinda cute.

7. Sorta = Sort of

E.g. I'm sorta tired

8. Outta = Out of

E.g. I'm outta money.

9. Alotta = A lot of

E.g. I eat alotta cake.

10. Lotsa = Lots of

E.g. I have lotsa money

11. Mucha = Much of

E.g. It's not mucha a surprise, is it?

12. Cuppa = Cup of

E.g. Would you like a cuppa coffee?

13. Dunno = Don't know

E.g. I dunno.

14. Lemme = Let me

E.g. Lemme go!

15. Gimme = Give me

E.g. Gimme the pen!

16. Tell'em = Tell them

E.g. I don't wanna tell'em

17. Cos = Because

E.g. I don't like this house cos it's too big.

18. Innit? = Isn't it?

E.g. It's green, innit?

19. I'mma = I'm going to

E.g. I'mma talk to her.

20. Gonna = Going to

E.g. I'm not gonna tell you.

21. Needa = Need to

E.g. You needa know about him.

29. Gotta = (have) got a
E.g. Have you gotta phone?

30. Shoulda = Should have
E.g. I shoulda called yesterday

31. Shouldna = Shouldn't have
E.g. He shouldna told you that.

32. Wouldna = Wouldn't have
E.g. I wouldna done that if I were you.

33. She'da = She would have
E.g. She'da liked to be at the meeting today.

34. Coulda = Could have
E.g. She coulda been here by 3:00.

35. Woulda = Would have
E.g. He woulda arrived earlier.

22. Oughta = Ought to

E.g. You oughta phone your sister.

23. Hafta = Have to

E.g. You hafta go

24. Hasta = Has to

E.g. She hasta work today

25. Usta = Used to

E.g. She usta live in London

26. Supposta = Supposed to

E.g. I'm supposta start a new job on Tuesday

27. Cmon = Come on

E.g. Cmon, do it!

28. Ya = You/ you are

E.g. Who saw ya?

29. Gotta = (have) got a
E.g. Have you gotta phone?

30. Shoulda = Should have
E.g. I shoulda called yesterday

31. Shouldna = Shouldn't have
E.g. He shouldna told you that.

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34. Coulda = Could have
E.g. She coulda been here by 3:00.

35. Woulda = Would have
E.g. He woulda arrived earlier.

36. Mighta = Might have

E.g. You mighta left the phone at the airport.

37. Mightna = Mightn't have

E.g. He mightna caught his train

38. Musta = Must have

E.g. You musta been in a hurry.

39. Mussna = Must not have

E.g. She mussna stolen the money

40. Dontcha = Don't you

E.g. Dontcha like it?

41. Wontcha = Won't you

E.g. Wontcha drive the car?

42. Whatcha = What are you

E.g. Whatcha doing?

43. Betcha = Bet you

E.g. Betcha can't guess the answer!

44. Gotcha = Got you

E.g. Gotcha!

45. D'you = Do you

E.g. D'you like it?

46. Didntcha = Didn't you

E.g. Didntcha like it?

47. S'more = Some more

E.g. We will need s'more time

IELTS SPEAKING TOPIC CHRISTMAS

1- Did you believe in Santa Claus when you were a child?

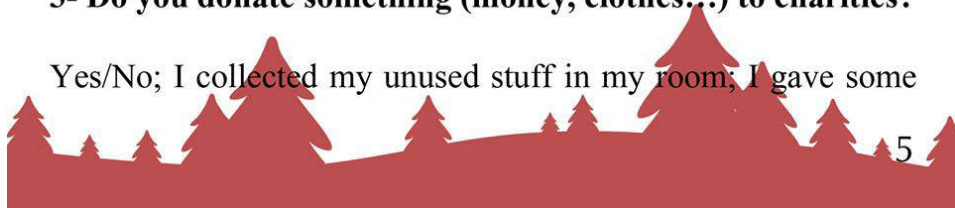
Yes/No; I received gifts for every Christmas from my parents/Santa Claus; when I was a child; He is just from stories/books/novels; I thought that I saw Santa Claus when I was small; I prepared socks and put them in the head of my bed.

2- Did you enjoy last Christmas?

Yes/No ; I really love previous Christmas event because ... ; I almost forget about this because ...; I spent all my Christmas day and evening for my family/friends; As far as I remember, I had to work on Christmas day; I lived far from home so that I got homesick at that day

3- Do you donate something (money, clothes...) to charities?

Yes/No; I collected my unused stuff in my room; I gave some



old books to a social organization near my home; I don't really often give money or things to people but I'd like to join social activities in some special events and help out unlucky people.

4- Do you enjoy singing Christmas songs?

Yes/No; I like to sing the song "Jingle bells"; I often listen to Christmas music and sing with the lyrics on my notebook; I love to listen and sometimes I sing the chorus part of the song.

5- Do you have a Christmas tree?

Yes/No ; I will buy a small one this Christmas; I don't often buy Christmas tree because ... ; I just often make some gift cards and paint Christmas trees on it ; sometimes I make Christmas cards with pop-up Christmas trees

6- Do you know the history of Christmas?



Yes/No ; I have heard some stories about the birth of Jesus ; I read some articles saying about the history of Christmas ; I know nothing ; I am not a Christian so ;

7- Do you usually put up Christmas decorations in your house? (Do you usually decorate your home?)

Yes/No ; I often paint the gate with white color and decorate the front doors with some snow symbols ; I often prepare some flashing lights and hang over the desk in the guest room ; I work all Christmas day so I have no time for it ; I don't often have time to decorate my house but I will clean up everything in my room.

More questions

8. How do you usually spend New Year's Eve? How about New Year's Day?



PHRASES EXPRESSING LIKE AND DISLIKE

LIKE

1. I'm into it :

when you are interested in an activity.

Example : Kelly is into yoga these days.

2. I'm keen on it :

you are interested in something and want to learn more about it.

Example : Little Mary is keen on learning French.

3. I'm fond of it :

you have liked something for a long time or may have an emotional attachment with something.

Example : William is very fond of his pet dog.

4. It appeals to me :

it sounds good

Example : Settling in England appeals to me.

5. It goes down well :

other people like something you do.

Example : The presentation went down well with the board of directors.

6. It's to my liking :

a very formal way to say 'I like it'.

Example : The tea is to my liking. It's perfect.


7. I'm partial to :

you like something a bit too much and it always remains your preference.

Example : Even though I'm on a diet; I'm partial to a piece of chocolate cake.

8. I'm crazy/mad/passionate about :

you extremely love something.



Example : Richard is crazy about Rock music.

9. I'm attached to :

you don't want to do without something and you'd be sad if you lost it.

Example : I'm attached to my mobile phone. I always have it with me.

10. I'm addicted to :

you like something so much that you can't contain yourself from it (usually used for negative habits)

Example : John is addicted to smoking and can't break it.

11. I've grown to like it :

something you never liked before but have developed a liking for it over a period of time.

Example : I've grown to like eating cauliflower.



12. I can't get enough of :

how much ever you like something, it isn't enough.

Example : Peter can't get enough of his new I-pad.

13. I've got a soft spot for :

you like someone a little more than other people.

Example : My father has got a soft sport for my younger sister.

14. I fancy him/her :

you think someone is attractive/good looking.

Example : Racheal fancies Brad Pitt. She finds him extremely good looking.

DISLIKE

1. I dislike it.

This is a formal way of saying "I don't like it". It is very direct and could cause offense to some people.

Example: Greta dislikes the taste of pistachio ice cream.

2. I'm not into it.

Saying you are not into something is an informal way of saying that you do not find it interesting.

Example: James is not into football, he likes rugby.

3. I'm not fond of it.

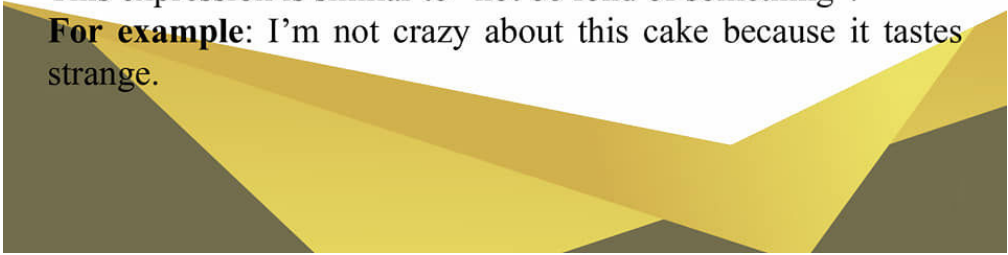
Not to be fond of something is informal for saying you don't like it very much.

Example: Since Ben had the accident, he's not very fond of going skiing.

4. I'm not crazy about it

This expression is similar to "not be fond of something".

For example: I'm not crazy about this cake because it tastes strange.



5. I don't appreciate that

This way of expressing dislike is great for professional and serious conversations.

Example: I don't appreciate being shouted at in public.

6. It doesn't tickle my fancy

It is an idiom and it means we did not find it appealing, funny or interesting.

Example: That comedian's sense of humor doesn't tickle their fancy.

7. I'm disinterested in that

We use this sentence if something simply does not interest us.

Example: My friends are all disinterested in politics.

8. It's not for me

This is a neutral way of explaining that you are not interested in something.

Example: Everyone loves the series Lost but it's not for me.

9. I'm not a big fan of it

To say "I'm not a big fan" is an idiomatic expression and it means we do not like something very much.

Example: I'm not a big fan of the new James Bond.

10. I'll pass

This is a quick way of saying we are not interested in a suggestion.

Example: Do you want to come to the pub?" "Nah, thanks, I'll pass.



HOW TO OPEN A TALK – BAND 9.0

Opening the talk

I prefer...
I think...
I feel...
I know...
I believe...
In my opinion...
The best thing about...
The greatest part about...
The worst part about...
Everyone should...
...is better than ... because...
If you liked... then you will love....

Giving a general opinion

It is thought that...

Some people say that...

It is considered...

It is generally accepted that...

Disagreeing with an opinion

Yes, but...

I'm afraid I have to disagree.

I'm sorry to disagree with you, but...

That's not entirely true.

On the contrary...

I'm not so sure about that.

Giving personal opinions

I just don't think it's right that...

One argument in favour of ... is that...

I think people should (have the right to) ...

In my experience...

As far as I'm concerned...

In my opinion...

Personally, I think...

I'd say that...

I'd like to point out that..

I believe that...

Speaking for myself...

Personally, I believe (feel)...

I tend to think that...

I am sure/certain/convinced that...

As far as I understand/ can see, ...

Giving contrary opinions

Maybe, but it seems to me that...

I partly agree, but I still believe that...

I don't agree. In my opinion,...

I completely disagree. To me,...

Clarify an opinion

No, that's not what I'm trying to say.

What I mean is ...

No, that's not what I mean.

All I'm saying is that ...

How to prolong time to think...

That's an interesting point.
I've never really thought about that.
Um, let me think.
It's hard to say.
Đồng ý với một ý kiến

Of course

You're absolutely right.
Yes, I agree.
I think so too.
That's a good point.
Exactly.
That's true.
Neither do I.
I couldn't agree more.

Giving suggestions

I suggest/ think you should ...

It might be better to ...

We/ you ought to ...

If I were you ..., I would ...

I (don't) think we/ you should...

You/ we could ...

Couldn't you/we...?

Shall we ...?

How/What about...?

Why don't you/we ...?

Why not ...?

Let's ...

Answer suggestions from others

I was thinking exactly that myself.

Sounds good (to me).

OK, let's do/try that.

Yes, let's do that.

You're right.

That's a good idea.

It's a good idea, but...

But what if...?

The only thing/ problem is...

IELTS SPEAKING VOCABULARY - BAND 8.0+

- **amusement park = funfair**

a large park where you can play games, go on fantastic rides and have fun with friends

- I went on so many rides in the **amusement park** that I got dizzy and had to lie down on the ground.
- You can always buy pink cotton candy in an **amusement park**.

slot machine

a coin-operated machine to play gambling games

- I got change for twenty dollars and played the **slot machines** for hours.
- The only way to win on **slot machines** is not to play them.

roller coaster

an elevated railway with small, open passenger cars that goes up and down at a high speed

- We had a great laugh when we looked at the photos my friend took on the **roller coaster**.
- **Roller coasters** make me sick to my stomach.

to take up

to start doing a new sport, hobby or start learning something new

- My mother thought my father was getting too fat, so he **took up** golf when he retired.
- I'd like to **take up** a new language, but I'm not sure which one to choose: Dutch or Japanese.

DIY /di:- ai- wai/

building or repairing things around the house with no profes-

sional help

- I'm good at **DIY**, but I had to call a plumber when I couldn't fix the sink.
- My husband spends hours looking at screws and nails in the local **DIY** store.

pottery

vase, pots, plates etc. made of clay/ the craft of making pottery

- Making **pottery** is such a creative activity. I've made vases for everyone in the family.
- I've tried to take my husband to some **pottery** classes with me, but he always went to the pub instead.

knitting

making sweaters, gloves, scarves etc using two long needles and yarn

- My grandma loves **knitting**, so everyone in the family has matching knitted sweaters and hats.
- **Knitting** is the new yoga. Its repetitive movements help you relax and meditate.

to mow the lawn

to cut the grass in the garden with a lawn mower

- My neighbours always **mow the lawn** on Sunday evenings.
- In most countries, you can only **mow the lawn** on certain days, at certain times.

hedge

a line of shrubs or low-growing trees forming a fence between two houses or in front of a house

- Trimming the **hedge** is hard work. My hands are always

sore afterward.

- I have the most beautifully trimmed **hedge** in the whole neighbourhood.

sitcom = situation comedy

humorous television series based on everyday life situations

- My niece loves having **sitcom** marathons with her friends at weekends.
- ‘Friends’ must be the most popular **sitcom** of all times.

review

a report that gives the writer’s opinion about a book, film, theatre production etc.

- I never read the **reviews** before watching a film. I don’t want to be biased.
- Writing **reviews** must be such a fun job. You can criticize

other people's work and nobody slaps you in the face.

cinemagoer = moviegoer

a person who often goes to the cinema

- My uncle is a devoted **cinemagoer**. He goes to see every new release.
- They opened a new multiplex in our town, but the high prices and uncomfortable seats were certainly a shock to the unsuspecting **cinemagoer**.

city dweller

someone who lives in a city

- I'm a **city dweller**. I have no idea how to milk a cow.
- **City dwellers** should make sure they spend enough time outdoors.

hiking

the activity of going for long, hard walks in the mountains

- The last time I went **hiking**, I sprained my ankle. I don't think I'll ever do it again.
- I always feel much more energetic and relaxed after I've been **hiking**.

scenery = landscape

the view of natural features e.g. mountains, hills or rivers/

*scenery may also mean accessories on a theatre stage

- The **scenery** was so breathtaking, I had to stop every two minutes to take a photo.
- The **scenery** was really weird in my dream. There were pink mountains and yellow lakes around me.

atmosphere = ambiance

the dominant mood of a place

- I love going to our local pub, because of its familiar **atmosphere**.
- The festival was a great success; the weather was good and the **atmosphere** was fantastic.

do aerobics/ karate/ judo/ yoga

- I've never **done judo**, but I've tried karate.
- I'm not sure what my dog thinks of me when I **do yoga**, but he sure looks puzzled.

play basketball/ tennis/ computer games/ rugby (play + ball games)

- My nephew **plays rugby**, so you can ask him about the rules.

- If I was taller, I could **play basketball**. Right now, I can only play golf.

go skiing/ skating/ fishing/ trekking(go + ... ing)

- My husband and I **go skiing** to the French Alps every winter.
- My friend broke her leg while she was learning how **to skate**.

rowing machine

a fitness device that simulates rowing as in a boat

- When I go to the gym, I usually use the **rowing machine** to work the muscles in my arms and legs.
- My husband would like to buy a **rowing machine**, but I don't think he will use it.

exercise bike

a fitness device that simulates cycling as on a bicycle

- I've bought an **exercise bike**, but I only use it to keep my clothes on it.
- I love watching my favourite soap opera while riding my **exercise bike**.

crash helmet

protective headwear worn by cyclists and motorcyclists

- You can't give me a lift on your motorbike. I haven't got my **crash helmet** with me.
- Wearing a **crash helmet** might save your life if you have an accident.

knee pads

a protective garment is worn by cyclists, football players or

skaters on their knees

- My son's taken up football. I must go and buy a pair of football boots and **knee pads** for him.
- I'm so glad I was wearing my **knee pads** when I fell on asphalt.

extreme sports = adventure sports

paragliding/ hang gliding/ whitewater rafting/ snowboarding/
skydiving/ cave diving

- I'd love to go white **water rafting** with you, but I'm afraid I'm having my hair cut that day.
- **Cave diving** was a really creepy experience for me. I didn't think we would get out alive.

adrenaline rush

a very intense feeling that you feel all over your body when

doing something dangerous

- Most people do extreme sports because they want to get an **adrenaline rush**.
- If you want to get an **adrenaline rush**, try to take away my pitbull's toy.

mass tourism

we talk about mass tourism when a lot of people visit one place

- **Mass tourism** is destroying our churches. I don't think we should let so many people visit them.
- **Mass tourism** creates jobs for local people and it also makes our town a more exciting place to live.

culture shock

a strong and upsetting feeling we get when suddenly faced with

an unfamiliar culture

- When I first arrived in London, nobody helped me to get over the **culture shock**. It took me months to get used to their way of life.
- I was suffering from **culture shock** when, fortunately, I made some new friends and began to enjoy my stay.

currency

money/ medium of exchange

- Lira used to be the **currency** of Italy before they introduced the euro.
- We use kisses as **currency** at home. When my daughter wants something, she can always pay with a kiss.

in advance

before something, ahead of time

- If you want to buy cheap airline tickets, it's best to book **in advance**.
- We never plan our holidays **in advance**. We just pack our suitcases and take the first flight available at the airport.

make a complaint

to tell the staff or manager that you're not happy with the service you received

- Somebody used our bathroom while we were out, so we had to **make a complaint** at the reception.
- It's so embarrassing to go out with my father-in-law. Whenever we're in a restaurant he demands to see the manager and **make a complaint**.

to embark on

to set out on a journey, to begin a journey

- Make sure you have made all the necessary arrangements

before you **embark on** your world tour.

- When my son was born, I **embarked on** the most beautiful journey of my life.

B&B = Bed and Breakfast

a private house that provides accommodation and breakfast to guests

- I love staying in **B&Bs** when traveling in the country. The atmosphere is familiar and the food is usually delicious.
- My husband and I would like to run a **B&B**, but we don't have enough spare rooms.

to raise = to bring up

to care for children until they grow up

- I was **raised** in a small town. I wasn't raised in the jungle.
- **Raising** children is a huge responsibility.

childhood

the period of life when you are a child

- My **childhood** was happy and carefree. I used to chase butterflies all day.
- I'm quite sure Charles Manson didn't have a happy **childhood**. (he was a serial killer)

adolescence = teenage years (syn: puberty)

the period of life between childhood and adulthood

- A large part of my **adolescence** was spent with partying and avoiding responsibilities.
- My grandmother guided me through the turbulent waters of **adolescence**.

to play truant = to skive off

to be absent from school without permission

- I used to **play truant** and spend the whole time with my friends in the arcades.
- I would give a prison sentence to parents who let their children **play truant**.

juvenile delinquency

antisocial behavior demonstrated by adolescents, usually involving breaking the law.

- **Juvenile delinquency** was thriving in the area. The parents couldn't do anything to stop their children.
- **Juvenile delinquency** rates are usually higher in urban areas.

neglected (adj.)

not looked after, not getting any attention

- **Neglected** teenagers seek attention and will do anything

to get it.

- My wife feels **neglected**, so I've taken her out to a fast food restaurant.

nuclear family

the smallest family unit: mother, father, and children
(opposite: extended family)

- Nowadays most people live in **nuclear families**.
- Living in **nuclear families** means we don't get to listen to our grandparents' stories.

to get on well with somebody

to have a good relationship with somebody

- When we were children, my sister and I didn't **get on very well**. We used to pull each other's pony-tails.

- I wish I could get on well with my mother-in-law, but she's a real witch.

relative

a person who is related to you by blood or marriage

I think my **relatives** hate me. I never get any Christmas presents.

You can choose your friends, but can't choose your **relatives**.

in-laws

members of your wife's or husband's family

- I hate the idea of spending the holidays with my **in-laws**.
- I never know what to buy for my **in-laws** for Christmas.

the red-letter day

any day that's significant and memorable to you for a reason

- It was a **red-letter day** when my son finally learnt how to tie his shoelaces.
- If I pass my exam, that'll be a **red-letter day**.

stepparent, stepmother, stepfather

new wives or husbands of your biological parents

- First, I hated the idea of moving in with my **stepfather**, but then it wasn't so bad.
- Cinderella used to live with a wicked **stepmother** and two **stepsisters**.

stepfamily = blended family

a family where either one or both parents have children from previous relationships

- Living in a **stepfamily** never really bothered me. I could

visit my father as often as I wanted.

- Blending families to create **stepfamilies** is a difficult process.

siblings = brothers or sisters

individuals sharing the same father or mother

- As an only child, I've always wanted to have **siblings**.
- Children growing up with no **siblings** are often spoiled.

to allow = permit = let

to give your permission to someone to do something

- My biological father always **allowed** me to eat ice-cream before dinner.
- Minors shouldn't be **allowed** to buy alcohol.

quality time:

time when you dedicate yourself to only one person or activity

- My mother and I didn't spend enough **quality time** together. She always had to work.
- Spending **quality time** with your children is more important than making a lot of money.

to take after somebody

to be/resemble someone in appearance or character

- I **take after my mother**. I have the same green eyes.
- Children often **take after one of their grandparents**.

overprotective (adj.)

wanting to protect someone too much

- My mum used to be **overprotective** when I was a child. She never let me go to the playground on my own (alone).
- **Overprotective** parents should seek professional help to help them relax a little.

strict (adj.)

wanting order and discipline all the time, opposite = lenient, forgiving

- My mother was very **strict**. If I was just ten minutes late, she grounded me for a week.

grounded = not allowed to leave the house

- **Strict** teachers are often more popular than lenient ones because they don't let misbehaved children interfere with their teaching.

foster family

children living with guardians who are neither their nature nor their adoptive parents

- My friend, Jack, lived with at least five different **foster families** as a child. He was quite troublesome.
- **Foster families** can change a child's life for the better.

Vocabulary when you are not in a relationship:

- **Single**

Meaning: If you're not married or dating anyone, you're "single".

E.g. Are you still single?

- **Just friends**

Meaning: Imagine that you have a friend. Someone asks if you're dating this person. You're not, so you can say:

E.g. We're just friends.

- **A platonic relationship**

Meaning: A more specific and formal way to say that you are "just friends" is:

E.g. Our relationship is strictly platonic.

Vocabulary when you begin a relationship:

- **Into (someone)**

Meaning: When you've met someone and you both seem attracted to each other, you can say that you're "into" each other:

E.g. I think he's into me. I'm kind of into him too.

- **(someone) Asked (someone) out**

Meaning: Traditionally, one person asks the other person to go on a date. You can describe it this way:

E.g. He asked me out.

- **Hook up**

Meaning: Sometimes relationships start differently. If you kiss someone or have some kind of sexual experience before going out on a date, you can use this slang expression:

E.g. We've hooked up.

- **Seeing each other / 8. not serious**

Meaning: If you've been on a few dates or hooked up with someone a few times, you can describe it as "seeing each other". But you might still not be completely committed to each other:

E.g. We're seeing each other. It's nothing serious, though.

Vocabulary when you are in a relationship

- **Dating**

Meaning: Once you're sure that you and the other person are seriously dating each other, you can announce it:

E.g. We're dating.

- **Boyfriend / girlfriend**

Meaning: This person also gets a title:

E.g. This is my boyfriend. / This is my girlfriend.

- **In a relationship**

Meaning: In a more formal situation, you might describe your situation this way:

E.g. I'm in a relationship.

- **Get engaged**

Meaning: After some period of dating, you decide to marry each other. First, there's an "engagement":

E.g. Scott and I just got engaged!

- **And, after the engagement starts:**

E.g. We're engaged.

- **Newlyweds**

Meaning: Next comes marriage. For the first year or two after a couple gets married, you can call them "newlyweds":

E.g. Back when we were newlyweds, he'd bring home flowers

once a week.

- **Happily married**

Meaning: After you're no longer newlyweds, you're just "a married couple". It's common for married people to call themselves "happily married":

E.g. I'm happily married, with two kids, a boy and a girl.

- **Partners**

Meaning: Some people in a serious relationship never get married. This might be because they don't think marriage is a good idea. Or it may be because they're gay and are not allowed to get married in the area where they live. In this case, you can call the person who you live with your "partner"

E.g. My partner and I took a trip to Italy last year.

Vocabulary when you end a relationship

- **Broke up**

Meaning: If you're dating someone, and the relationship ends, you can say that you "broke up":

E.g. A: Where's Jane?

B: Actually, we broke up.

- **Through**

Meaning: If you break up with someone angrily, you can talk about it this way:

E.g. He and I are through!

- **Dump (someone)**

Meaning: Sometimes both people agree to break up. Other times, one person makes the decision and "dumps" the other person:

E.g. I can't believe he dumped me!

- **Separated**

Meaning: When a married couple ends their relationship, there are two parts. First is the “separation”:

E.g. My wife and I are separated.

- **Divorced**

Meaning: Sometimes a couple gets back together after a separation. If not, they finalize their separation legally:

E.g. We're getting divorced.

- **And after the divorce has finished:**

E.g. He and I are divorced.

- **Exes**

Meaning: After a couple has broken up or gotten divorced, a couple becomes “exes”:

*E.g: My ex took the house and the kids.
Hey, isn't that your ex-wife over there?*

1. As opposed to:

Ex: This exercise develops suppleness as opposed to strength.

2. Regarding something = concerning something:

Ex: He said nothing regarding the lost watch.

3. At the behest of somebody:

Ex: At the behest of her friends, she read the poem aloud

4. By means of:

Ex: The load was lifted by means of a crane.

5. By virtue of/In virtue of = because of something:

Ex: She got the job by virtue of her greater experience.

6. For the sake of (doing) something:

Ex: The translation sacrifices naturalness for the sake of accuracy.

7. In accordance with something :

Ex: We acted in accordance with my parents' wishes.

8. In addition (to somebody/something):

Ex: In addition to these arrangements, extra ambulances will be on duty until midnight

9. In case of something:

Ex: In case of fire, ring the alarm bell.

10. In lieu of = Instead of:

Ex: They took cash in lieu of the prize they had won.

11. In order to do something:

Ex: In order to get a complete picture, further information is needed.

12. In place of somebody/something:

Ex: We just had soup in place of a full meal.

13. In respect of something

1. **Concerning:**

Ex: A writer was served on the firm in respect of his unpaid bill.

2. **In payment for something:**

Ex: Money received in respect of overtime

14. In spite of = Despite:

Ex: In spite of her love, she gave up her boyfriend

15. In view of something:

Ex: In view of the weather, the event will now be held indoors.

16. On account of something = Because of:

Ex: The marsh is an area of great scientific interest on account of its wildflowers.

17. On behalf of somebody:

Ex: They campaigned on behalf of asylum seekers.

18. On top of

1. In addition to something:

Ex: He gets a commission on top of his salary.

2. In control of a situation:

Ex: Work tends to pile up if I don't keep on top of it.

19. Thanks to:

Ex: It was all a great success – thanks to a lot of hard work.

20. With a view to (doing) something:

Ex: He is painting the house with a view to selling it.

21. With regard to/In regard to:

Ex: The company's position with regard to overtime is made clear in their contracts.

22. With respect to= In respect of:

Ex: With respect to IELTS, I'm intent on re-sitting the IELTS test to hike up my score to Band 9.0



Accommodation

(all the) mod cons: technology at home that makes jobs easier such as a washing machine, dishwasher etc.

apartment block: a large building made up of smaller units of apartments

back garden: a garden at the rear of the house

detached house: a house that is not physically connected to another property

dream home: a home you regard as perfect

first-time buyer: someone buying a property for the first time, especially when taking out a loan (mortgage)

fully-furnished: a rented property with all furniture included

hall of residence: a college or university building where students live

home comforts: things that make a home feel comfortable to live in

house-hunting: looking for a property to live in

house-warming party: a party to celebrate moving into a new home

ideal home: a perfect home

mobile home: a home that can be moved by a vehicle or one that has its own engine

permanent address: a fixed address
property market: the buying and selling of land or buildings
rented accommodation: property owned by someone else and for which a person pays a fixed amount to live in
single room: a room for one person
spacious room: a large room
student digs: student accommodation
terraced house: a house connected on both sides by other properties
the suburbs: a residential area on the edge of towns or cities
to do up a property: to repair an old building
to get on the property ladder: to buy a property with the aim of buying another bigger or more expensive one later in life
to live on campus: to live on the university or college grounds
to move into: to begin to live in a property
to own your own home: to have bought the property you live in
to pay rent in advance: weekly or monthly rent paid at the beginning of the week or month

to put down a deposit: to pay an amount of money as the first in a series of future payments

to take out a mortgage: to borrow a large amount of money, paid back over several years, in order to buy a house

Advertising

commercial break: the short period during TV programmes when advertisements are shown

advertising agency: a company that creates adverts for other companies

advertising budget: the amount of money a company decides to spend on advertising

brand awareness: how well people know a particular brand

brand loyalty: the degree to which people continue to buy from the same brand or company

buy and sell: often used to refer to the buying and selling of items between individuals

call to action: something that encourages someone to take a particular action, such as making a purchase or clicking a link on a website

celebrity endorsement: to have a well-known person promote a product

classified ads: small advertisements often put in a newspaper or magazine by individuals

commercial channel: TV channels that make money from showing advertisements

junk mail: unwanted promotional leaflets and letters

mailing list: a list of names and contact details used by a company to send information and advertisements

mass media: large media outlets like TV, newspapers and magazines

niche product: a product that is aimed at a distinct group of people

press release: something written by a company for newspapers and magazines and websites to share and publish

prime time: the time during the viewing schedule when most people watch TV or listen to a broadcast

product placement: to advertise a product by using it as a prop in a TV

show or film

sales page: a page specifically used to promote a product or service

social media: websites that enable users to create and share content or to participate in social networking.

spam email: unwanted, promotional email

target audience: the people a company want to sell their product or service to

to cold call: to call someone with the aim of selling something without them asking you to do so

to go viral: to quickly become extremely popular on the Internet through social media

to launch a product: to introduce a new product

to place an advert: to put an advert somewhere

to show adverts: to display adverts on TV

word of mouth: recommendations made by individuals to other individuals about a product of service

Books and Films

a blockbuster: a film that is a big commercial success
a box-office hit: a financially successful film
a classic: of the highest quality
a historical novel: a story set in the past
a low budget film: a film made with a small amount of money
a page-turner: a book that you want to keep reading
an action movie: a film with fast-moving scenes, often containing violence
an e-book: a digital book
an e-reader: a device for reading e-books
bedtime reading: something to read in bed before you go to sleep
couldn't put it down: wasn't able to stop reading a book
hardback: a book with a rigid cover (see 'paperback' below)
on the big screen: at the cinema
paperback: a book with a flexible cover (see 'hardback' above)
plot: the main events in a film or book
sci-fi: science fiction

showings: performances of a film
soundtrack: the music that accompanies a film
special effects: the visuals or sounds that are added to a film which are difficult to produce naturally
the central character: the main person in a film or book
the setting: where the action takes place
to be a big reader: someone who reads a lot
to be based on: to use as a model
to be engrossed in: to be completely focused on one thing
to be heavy-going: difficult to read
to catch the latest movie: to see a film that has just come out
to come highly recommended: to be praised by another person
to flick through: to look quickly through a book
to get a good/bad review: to receive positive or negative feedback
to go on general release: when a film can be seen by the general public
to read something from cover to cover: read a book from the first page to the last

to see a film: to see a film at the cinema (see 'watch a film' below)
to take out (a book from the library): to borrow a book from the library
to tell the story of: to outline the details of someone's life or an event
to watch a film: to watch a film on TV (see 'to see a film' above)

Business

cash flow: the money coming in and going out of a business
cut-throat competition: when one company lowers its prices, forcing other companies to do the same, sometimes to a point where business becomes unprofitable
lifestyle business: a business that is set up to bring in a sufficient income and no more
niche business: a business that serves a small, particular market
sales figures: a report of the income a company generates through sales of products or services

stiff competition: strong competition from other companies in the same area of work
to balance the books: to not spend more money than you are earning
to be self-employed: to work for yourself/do not work for an employer
to cold call: to make a sales call to someone without asking them for permission first
to do market research: to do research into what potential customers would or wouldn't buy
to draw up a business plan: to write a plan for a new business
to drum up business: to try to get customers
to earn a living: to earn money
to go bust: when a business is forced to close because it is unsuccessful
to go into business with: to join another person to start or expand a business
to go it alone: to start your own business
to go under: (see 'to go bust')
to have a web presence: to have a website or social media profile that

showcases your business
to launch a product: to start selling and promoting a new product
to lay someone off: when a company ends an employee's contract of employment
to make a profit: to earn more money than it costs to run the business
to raise a company profile: to make more people aware of a business
to run your own business: to have a business of your own
to set up a business: to start a business
to take on employees: to employ people
to take out a loan: to borrow money
to win a contract: when a business gets legally-binding work with an individual or company
to work for yourself: (see 'to be self-employed')

Education

a graduation ceremony: an event where a successful student receives his or her academic degree

a mature student: a student who is older than average and who has usually returned to education after a period at work

a single-sex school: a school where only boys or girls attend (as opposed to a mixed-sex school)

an intensive course: a course that offers lots of training in order to reach a goal in as short a time as possible

bachelors degree: an undergraduate course which usually lasts 3-4 years

boarding school: a school where pupils live during term time

distance learning: a way of studying where tuition is carried out over the Internet or by post

face-to-face classes: as opposed to distance learning the traditional way of studying in a classroom with colleagues and a teacher

higher education: education, usually in a college or university, that is followed after high school or secondary school

masters degree: a period of study which often follows the completion of a

bachelors degree or is undertaken by someone regarded as capable of a higher-level academic course
private language school: an independent school run as a business concern
public schools: exclusive independent schools in the UK
state school: a school paid for by public funds and available to the general public
subject specialist: a teacher who has a great deal of knowledge about the subject they teach
to attend classes: to go to classes
to fall behind with your studies: to progress less quickly than others
to give feedback: to offer guidance on a student's work
to keep up with your studies: to not fall behind
to learn something by heart: to memorize it
to meet a deadline: to finish a job or task in the time allowed or agreed
to play truant: to stay away from classes without permission
to sit an exam: to take an exam
to take a year out: to spend a year working or travelling before starting uni-

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versity

to work your way through university: to have a paid job whilst studying to support yourself financially

tuition fees: the money paid for a course of study

Environment

air quality: the cleanliness of the air we breathe

climate change: the change in worldwide weather patterns

endangered species: categories of animals or plants that are in danger of becoming extinct

energy conservation: the careful management of energy resources to ensure they last as long as possible

environmentally friendly: behaviour and products that do not harm the environment

exhaust fumes: the toxic gases given off by vehicles powered by petrol

flash floods: floods that happen quickly
fossil fuels: energy resources like gas and oil that are produced deep below the ground over millions of years
future generations: the people who live after us
global warming: the increasing temperature of the world brought about by gases such as carbon dioxide
heavy industry: the manufacture of heavy articles and materials in large numbers
humanitarian aid: the act of showing support to people struggling to survive
impact on: the effect on
loss of habitat: the decline in areas of land where animals and plants would normally exist
man-made disaster: widespread damage or loss of life brought about by the action of humans
natural disaster: an event such as an earthquake, flood or hurricane which causes widespread damage or loss of life

Fashion and Clothes

a slave to fashion: someone who always feel the need to wear the latest fashions
casual clothes: not formal
classic style: a simple, traditional style that is always fashionable
designer label: a well-known company that makes (often expensive) clothing
dressed to kill: wearing clothes that attract admirers
fashion house: a company that sells (usually expensive) new styles in clothes
fashion icon: a person who is famous for their sense of fashion
fashion show: an event where models show off the latest in fashion designs
fashionable: in fashion
hand-me-downs: clothes that are passed down from older brothers or sisters to their younger siblings
must-have: something that is highly fashionable and therefore in demand
off the peg: clothing that is ready-made

natural environment: the place where animals and plants would normally be found in nature
oil spill: waste usually deposited in the seas and oceans after an accident at sea
poaching: to hunt and kill wild animals illegally
pollution levels: the amount of toxic waste
pressure group: a group of people who try to raise awareness of issues and try to affect the views and actions of people and organisations
the natural world: the world of nature
to be under threat: to be in danger of becoming extinct
to become extinct: to no longer exist
to die out: see 'to become extinct'
to get back to nature: to live a life that is closer to nature
toxic waste: poisonous, unwanted rubbish often produced by industrial processes
wildlife conservation: to protect animals and plants and their habitats

old-fashioned: not in fashion any more
on the catwalk: the stage that models walk along to show off the latest fashions
smart clothes: the kind of clothes worn for a formal event
the height of fashion: very fashionable
timeless: something that doesn't go out of fashion
to be on trend: to be very fashionable
to dress for the occasion: to wear clothes suitable for a particular event
to get dressed up: to put on nice clothes, often to go out somewhere special
to go out of fashion: to not be in fashion any more
to have a sense of style: the ability to wear clothes that look stylish
to have an eye for (fashion): to be a good judge of
to keep up with the latest fashion: to wear the latest fashions
to look good in: to wear something that suits you
to mix and match: to wear different styles or items of clothing that aren't part of a set outfit
to suit someone: to look good on someone

to take pride in one's appearance: to pay attention to how one looks

vintage clothes: clothes from an earlier period

well-dressed: to be dressed attractively

Food

a fussy eater: somebody who has their own very high standards about what to eat

a quick snack: to eat a small amount of food between meals

a ready meal: see 'processed food'

a slap-up meal: a large meal

a take away: a cooked meal prepared in a restaurant and eaten at home

me-cooked food: food cooked at home from individual ingredients

processed food: commercially prepared food bought for convenience

the main meal: the most important meal of the day, usually eaten in the evening

to be dying of hunger: an exaggerated way of saying you are hungry
to be full up: to eat to the point that you can no longer eat any more
to be starving hungry: an exaggerated way of saying you are very hungry
to bolt something down: to eat something very quickly
to eat a balanced diet: to eat the correct types and amounts of food
to eat like a horse: to eat a lot
to follow a recipe: to cook a meal using instructions
to foot the bill: to pay the bill
to grab a bite to eat: to eat something quickly (when you're in a rush)
to have a sweet tooth: to enjoy sugary food
to make your mouth water: to make you feel very hungry for something
to play with your food: to push food around the plate to avoid eating it
to spoil your appetite: to eat something that will stop you feeling hungry when it's meal-time.
to tuck into: to eat something with pleasure
to wine and dine: to entertain someone by treating them to food and drink

to work up an appetite: to do physical work that leads to you becoming hungry

Health

a blocked nose: when the nose has excess fluid due to a cold

a check-up: a physical examination by a doctor

a chesty cough: a cough caused by congestion around the lungs

a heavy cold: a bad cold

a runny nose: a nose that has liquid coming out of it

a sore throat: inflammation that causes pain when swallowing

aches and pains: minor pains that continue over a period of time

as fit as a fiddle: to be very healthy

cuts and bruises: minor injuries

GP: General Practitioner (family doctor)

prescription charges: money the patient pays for medicine authorised by a doctor
to be a bit off colour: to feel a little ill
to be at death's door: (informal) to be very ill indeed
to be on the mend: to be recovering after an illness
to be over the worst: to have got through the most serious or uncomfortable stage of an illness
to be under the weather: (informal) to not feel well
to catch a cold: to get a cold
to feel poorly: to feel ill
to go down with a cold: to become ill
to go private: to choose to be treated by commercial healthcare rather than by services offered by the state
to have a filling: to have a tooth repaired
to have a tooth out: to have a tooth removed
to make a speedy recovery: to recover quickly from an illness
to make an appointment: to arrange a time to see the doctor

to phone in sick: to call work to explain you won't be attending work due to illness

to pull a muscle: to strain a muscle

Holiday

all-in package/package holiday: a holiday where you purchase the travel and accommodation together

all-in package/package holiday: a holiday where you purchase the travel and accommodation together

breathtaking view: an extremely beautiful view

charter-flight: a cheaper form of flying than a scheduled flight

check-in desk: the place at the airport where you register for your flight and deposit your luggage

departure lounge: where you wait for your flight to be called

far-off destination: somewhere a long way away

guided tour: an organized group shown around a place of interest by an

expert
holiday brochure: a glossy publication with details of holiday packages
holiday destination: where you go for a holiday
holiday of a lifetime: a special holiday that you are unlikely to repeat
holiday resort: a place where lots of people go for a holiday
hordes of tourists: crowds of tourists
long weekend: an extended weekend holiday including Friday or Monday
out of season: outside of the main holiday period
passport control: the place where your passport is checked
picturesque village: very pretty village
places of interest: sites of interest to tourists
self-catering: a holiday where you supply your own food
short break: a short holiday
stunning landscape: extremely beautiful countryside
to get away from it all: to take a holiday to escape a busy or stressful lifestyle

to go sightseeing: to look around the tourist sites
tourist trap: somewhere where too many tourists go
travel agent: a shop that specialises in booking holidays
wildlife safari: a holiday, often in Africa, to observe wild animals
youth hostel: a cheap form of accommodation

Music

a catchy tune: a song that is easy to remember and makes you want to sing it
a huge following: a large number of fans
a massive hit: a record that sells lots of copies
a music festival: music performances at a venue often over several days
a piece of music: an item of music
a pop group: a small group of people who play or sing pop music together
a rock band: a group of musicians that play rock music

a sing-song: to sing informally, often with other people
a slow number: a song with a slow tempo
adoring fans: people who love a particular band or singer
background music: music that is played while something else is happening
classical music: music that is regarded as part of a long, formal tradition
live music: music that is listened to while it is performed (not recorded)
live performance: (see live music)
musical talent: skilled at music
taste in music: the music someone likes
to be tone deaf: to be unable to distinguish the different notes in music
to be/sing out of tune: to not be in harmony/to sing the wrong notes
to download tracks: to obtain music from the Internet
to go on tour: to go on a planned series of performances around a region or country
to have a great voice: to sing well
to play by ear: to play without reading the musical notes

to read music: to understand and follow written musical notes
to sing along to: to join in singing
to take up a musical instrument: to begin learning a musical instrument

Personality

broad-minded: prepared to accept other views or behaviours
easy-going: relaxed and not easily worried about anything
extrovert: an energetic person who likes the company of others
fair-minded: to treat people equally
fun-loving: to enjoy having fun
good company: enjoyable to socialise with
good sense of humour: the ability to understand what is funny
introvert: someone who is shy
laid-back: see 'easy-going'
narrow minded: opposite of 'broad-minded' (see above)
painfully shy: very shy

quick-tempered: to become angry quickly
reserved: shy
self-assured: confident
self-centred: thinks only of oneself
self-confident: believes in one's own ability or knowledge
self-effacing: to not try to get the attention of others (especially in terms of hiding one's skills or abilities)
thick-skinned: not easily affected by criticism
to be the life and soul of the party: a fun person, someone who is the centre of activity
to bend over backwards: to try very hard to help someone
to hide one's light under a bushel: to hide one's talents and skills
to lose one's temper: to suddenly become angry
to put others first: to think of others before yourself
to take after: to be like (often another member of the family)
trustworthy: can be trusted
two-faced: not honest or sincere. Will say one thing to someone to their

face and another when they are not present.

Physical Appearance

complexion: natural skin colour and texture

cropped hair: very short hair

disheveled hair: untidy hair

fair hair: light-coloured hair

in his/her 30s/40s: to be 20/30 something

make up: cosmetics

medium height: average height

middle-aged: approximately between 45-65

pointed face: the opposite of a round face

scruffy: dressed untidily

shoulder-length hair: hair that comes down to the shoulders and no further

slender figure: a figure that is tall and slim
slim figure: attractively thin
thick hair: a lot of hair
to be fair-skinned: light skinned
to be getting on a bit: to be getting old
to be good looking: to be attractive
to be hard of hearing: to find it difficult to hear
to be overweight: to weigh more than is regarded as healthy
to be well-built: to be muscular
to be well-turned out: to look smart
to bear a striking resemblance: to look very similar to
to dress up to the nines: to dress very smartly or glamorously
to get done up: to dress smartly
to go grey: to have hair that is turning grey
to grow old gracefully: to act in a way that embraces the fact you are getting older
to look young for your age: to look younger than you are

to lose one's figure: to have a figure that has lost its toned shape
to never have a hair out of place: perfectly styled hair
to wear glasses: to use spectacles
youthful appearance: to look young

Relationship

a healthy relationship: a good, positive relationship
love at first sight: to fall in love immediately you meet someone
to be in a relationship: to be romantically involved with someone
to be just good friends: to not be romantically involved
to be well matched: to be similar to
to break up: to end a romantic relationship
to drift apart: to become less close to someone
to enjoy someone's company: to like spending time with someone
to fall for: to fall in love

to fall head over heels in love: to start to love someone a lot
to fall out with: to have a disagreement and stop being friends
to get on like a house on fire: to like someone's company very much indeed
to get on well with: to understand someone and enjoy similar interests
to get to know: to begin to know someone
to go back years: to have known someone for a long time
to have a lot in common: to share similar interests
to have ups and downs: to have good and bad time
to hit it off: to quickly become good friends with
to keep in touch with: to keep in contact with
to lose touch with: to not see or hear from someone any longer
to pop the question: to ask someone to marry you
to see eye to eye: to agree on a subject
to settle down: to give up the single life and start a family
to strike up a relationship: to begin a friendship
to tie the knot: to get married

to work at a relationship: to try to maintain a positive relationship with someone

Shopping

a pay in cash: to pay for something using coins or paper money

advertising campaign: a series of advertisements to persuade people to buy something

big brand names: large well-known companies or product names

carrier bag: bags (usually plastic) supplied by shops

customer service: the degree to which customers are treated well

high street names: well-known shops

independent stores: small shops independent of large companies

local shops: community shops

loyalty card: a card issued by a shop to allow customers to save money on the basis of what they spend

must-have product: a product that is very popular that a lot of people

want to have
shop assistant: the person who serves customers
summer sales: a period in the year when things are sold cheaply
to be careful with money: to not over-spend
to be on a tight budget: to have a limited amount of money to spend
to be on commission: to pay someone in relation to the amount they sell
to be value for money: to be worth the cost
to get into debt: to owe money
to give someone the hard sell: to put pressure on someone to buy something
to pay the full price: to pay the full amount for something
to pick up a bargain: to buy something much cheaper than the normal price
to run up a credit card bill: to owe money on a credit card
to shop around: to try different shops to find the best deal
to shop until you drop: to do a lot of shopping
to slash prices: to reduce prices a great deal

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Internet security: Internet safety
intranet: a network of connected computers within an organisation that is not accessible by unauthorised visitors
operating system: the software that tells the computer how to work
send an attachment: send an email with an accompanying file
social media: media used to interact with other people such as Facebook or Twitter
to access websites/email: to locate
to back up files: to make a copy of files in case of a computer problem
to bookmark a webpage: to mark a webpage for future reference
to boot up: to start a computer
to browse websites: to look at websites
to crash: to suddenly stop working
to cut and paste: to move text or images from one place in a document to another place
to enter a web address: to type the address of a website into the address bar of your browser

to go online: to start using the Internet
to navigate a website: to find your way around a website
to surf the web: to look at a series of websites one after the other
to upgrade: to obtain a more powerful or feature-rich computer or piece of software
video conferencing: to see and hear people from different locations using the Internet
wifi hotspot: a public place where you can access the Internet
wireless network: a network where users can access the Internet without the use of fixed cables
word processing; producing written texts on a computer

Town & City

boarded up shops: shops that are no longer doing business
chain stores: well-known brands with shops in multiple cities

fashionable boutiques: fashionable clothes shops
high-rise flats: multi-story apartments
in the suburbs: the outer area of large towns and cities where people live
inner-city: the central part of a city where people live and where conditions are often poor
lively bars/restaurants: bars or restaurants with a good atmosphere
local facilities: local buildings or services serving the public
multi-story car parks: car parks on several floors
office block: a large building that contains offices
on the outskirts: on the parts of town or city that are furthest from the centre
out of town shopping centre/retail park: large shopping centres outside of the town or city
pavement cafe: cafes with tables outside on the pavement
places of interest: buildings that have a particular interest for visitors
poor housing: housing that is not in good condition
public spaces: areas in a town or city that are open to the public

public transport system: public vehicles such as buses and trains that operate at regular times on fixed routes
residential area: an area where people live
run down: old and of a poor standard
shopping centre: an area consisting of multiple shops
shopping malls: large indoor shopping centres
sprawling city: a city that has grown over time and which covers a wide area
to close down: to stop doing business
to get around: to travel around
tourist attraction: a place of interest to tourists
traffic congestion: heavy traffic making it difficult to move around a town or city
upmarket shops: expensive fashionable shops

Weather

a blanket of snow: a complete covering of snow
a change in the weather: when weather conditions change
a cold spell: a short period of cold weather
a drop of rain: a little bit of rain
a flash flood: a sudden and severe flood
a heatwave: a period of very hot weather
bitterly cold: very cold and unpleasant
boiling hot: very hot (informal)
changeable: weather that often changes
clear blue skies: a sky without clouds
freezing cold: very cold (informal)
heatstroke: a serious condition caused by being too long in hot weather
heavy rain: intense rainfall
long-range forecast: the weather forecast for several days or weeks ahead
mild climate: a climate without extreme weather conditions
mild winter: a winter that isn't particularly cold
not a cloud in the sky: see 'clear blue skies' above

sunny spells: short periods of sunny weather
thick fog: a dense fog that makes visibility very poor
to be below freezing: below zero degrees Celsius
to be rained off: to be cancelled or postponed due to poor weather
to clear up: when clouds or rain disappear
to come out (the sun): when the sun appears out of a cloudy sky
to dress up warm: to wear warm clothes to protect yourself against wintry conditions
to get caught in the rain: to be outside when it rains unexpectedly
to get drenched: to get very wet
to pour down: to rain heavily
torrential rain: see 'heavy rain' above
tropical storm: a storm typical of ones that you find in tropical climates
weather forecast: a TV/radio programme or section in a newspaper/magazine which predicts weather conditions

Work

a dead-end job: a job with no promotional opportunities
a good team player: somebody who can work well with other people
a heavy workload: to have a lot of work to do
a high-powered job: an important or powerful job
a nine-to-five job: a normal job that consists of an 8 hour day (approximately)
full-time: the number of hours that people usually work in a complete week
holiday entitlement: the number of days holiday allowed
job satisfaction: the feeling of enjoying a job
manual work: work that requires physical activity
maternity leave: time off work given to a woman about to have a baby
one of the perks of the job: an extra benefit you get from a job
part-time: working less than full-time
sick leave: time allowed off work when sick
temporary work: work done for a limited time only
to be called for an interview: to be invited to attend an interview

vocabulary



Traditional versus Modern

1. a revival of interest in

Meaning: the process of something becoming more popular again

Example: There has recently been a revival of interest in traditional music and songs

2. works of craftsmanship

Meaning: objects which are made by people who are very skilled at making things by hand

Example: The ring that she is wearing is a beautiful work of craftsmanship.

3. the trade in antiques

Meaning: the buying and selling of old objects

Example: The trade in antiques is very popular, with many antique shops now opening in the city.

1. allergy

Meaning: a condition that makes a person become sick or develop skin or breathing problems because they have eaten certain foods or been near certain substances.

Example: My mother cannot eat any product containing milk or other dairy products without getting a headache, and her doctor says that this is a common allergy.

2. sophisticated

Meaning: having a good understanding of the way people behave and/or a good knowledge of culture and fashion

Example: I don't think I have any books that would suit your sophisticated tastes.

3. evoke

Meaning: to make someone remember something or feel an emotion

Example: That smell always evokes memories of my old school.

4. match

Meaning: if one thing matches another, they look attractive together

Example: That gold necklace matches her black dress perfectly.



vocabulary



Food and Diet

1. a diet rich in

Meaning: a diet which contains a lot of something

Example: A diet rich in fibre, such as dried fruits, helps to keep people healthy and active.

2. a chemical preservative

Meaning: a chemical substance used to prevent food from deteriorating

Example: The juice contains no artificial/chemical preservatives, so drink it within the next two or three days.

3. shelf life

Meaning: the length of time that food can be kept before it is too old to be sold

Example: Always check the dates on the packets of bread that you buy, because bread has a short shelf life in the shops.

4. to provide somebody with a healthier diet

Meaning: to give somebody a diet which is more healthy than that which they have at present

Example: People must reduce their consumption of fat and sugar in order to provide themselves with a healthier diet.

5. a vegetarian diet

Meaning: a diet with no fish and meat

Example: People who eat a vegetarian diet often do so as part of a healthy lifestyle.

6. low in fat

Meaning: containing very little fat

Example: To prevent obesity, a diet which is low in fat will certainly help.

7. junk food

Meaning: food that is quick and easy to prepare, but that is considered to be bad for your health

Example: The consumption of too much junk food is a major factor in obesity.



1. disintegrate

Meaning: to break into small pieces

Example: The fruit was so ripe that it almost disintegrated when I tried to bite it.

2. flesh

Meaning: the soft part of fruit, especially when it is eaten

Example: The reason why most people like mangos is the soft and juicy flesh, which simply disintegrates in the mouth.

3. heavenly

Meaning: very pleasant

Example: The smells of all the fresh fruits in the market in the early morning are absolutely heavenly.



SPEAKING COLLOCATION WITH TAKE

COLLOCATIONS WITH TAKE

1) Take (sb) To court

They wouldn't honour their contract, so we took them to court.

2) Take (sb's) Temperature

After my temperature was taken, my blood pressure was checked.

3) Take A bite

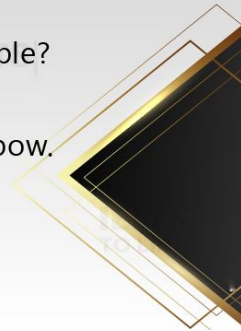
Do you want to take a bite into this Apple?

4) Take A bow

During the show, I could barely take a bow.

5) Take A break

Let's take a short break.



6) Take A call

I'm sorry, but I have to take this call.

7) Take A chance

Take a chance at it. You might win.

8) Take A class

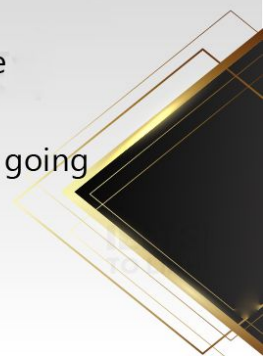
I have to take a class on Saturdays this semester.

9) Take A decision (make)

You have to take lots of decisions in life

10) Take A holiday

I'm going to take a holiday in June. I'm going
vto Spain.



11) Take A lesson

I'm taking English lessons to help me prepare for the IELTS

12) Take A look

I'll take a look at the website and let you know what I think.

13) Take A message

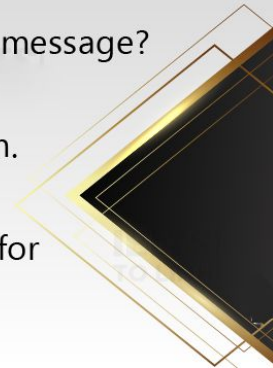
Debra's not here just now. Can I take a message?

14) Take A nap

The baby takes a nap every day at 2 pm.

15) Take A number

I think it will take a number of months for this to play out.



16) Take A photo/ a photograph

Why did you take so many photos on holiday?

17) Take A picture

Could I take a picture of you?

18) Take A rest

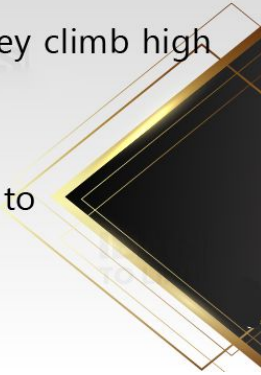
After work, I like to take a rest before cooking dinner.

19) Take A risk

Mountaineers take many risks when they climb high mountains.

20) Take A seat

I walked into her office and she told me to take a seat.



21) Take A shower (have)

We'll be leaving in five minutes. I'll just take a shower first.

22) Take A step (1)

If you take another step, I'll shoot you.

23) Take A step (2)

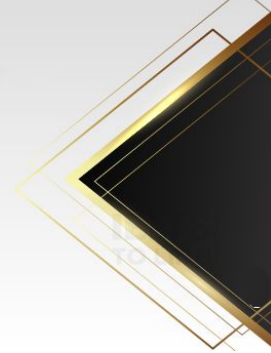
You've taken an important step on the road to recovery.

24) Take A taxi/bus/train/plane

Richard takes a taxi to work every day.

25) Take A test

Have you taken your driving test yet?



26) Take A while/ a minute/ five minutes

Take a minute to read the question before answering it

27) Take Action

If we don't take action soon, it'll be too late.

28) Take Advantage (of)

We take advantage of that.

29) Take Advice

I took my doctor's advice and stopped drinking alcohol.

30) Take Ages

Finding a parking spot in the city takes ages.



31) Take An exam/ a test/ a course

I'm going to take a Maths exam next week.

32) Take An opportunity

It was a very difficult decision, leaving Leicester, but I had to take an opportunity that doesn't come round often.

33) Take Care

Take care, won't you? It can be dangerous around here at night.

34) Take Care of

Who's taking care of your pets while you're away?

35) Take Charge

Who'll take charge if the mayor is sent to prison?

36) Take Charge (of)

He decided to take charge of the whole meal.

37) Take Drugs

Lots of young people were taking drugs like marijuana in the sixties.

38) Take Exercise

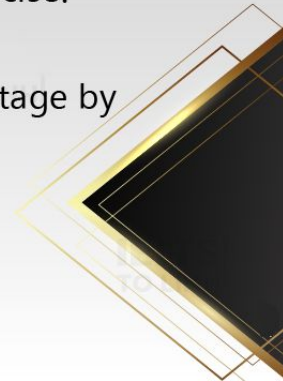
My doctor says I should take more exercise.

39) Take Hostage

Several foreign workers were taken hostage by rebel fighters.

40) Take Medicine

Has grandpa taken his medicine yet?



41) Take Notes

If I don't take notes, I forget too many important details.

42) Take Notice

Don't take any notice of what he says. It's all nonsense.

43) Take Part

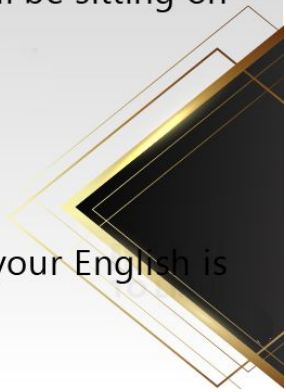
During the debate, those taking part will be sitting on the stage.

44) Take Place

Where did the meeting take place?

45) Take Pride in

You should take pride in the fact that your English is improving.



46) Take Prisoner

After the battle was over, we took hundreds of enemy soldiers prisoner.

47) Take Sb's place

If a player's injured, another player takes his place in the team.

48) Take Someone's temperature

I took my temperature and I found that I am running a fever.

49) Take Time

Changing the way people think takes time, so you have to be patient.



50) Take Time off (away from work for holidays or to do sth)

I'm exhausted. I think I'll take some time off and spend a few days with my sister in the countryside.

51) Take Turns

If we take turns driving, we can travel all night.

52) Take Up space

Most of the space on my hard disk is taken up by movie files.

53) Take Your time

There's no time limit, so you can take your time.



TOP IDIOMS FOR SPEAKING

1. A far cry from something: very different, almost the opposite
Eg: The movie was good, but it was a far cry from the book it was based on.

2. A close call: a situation in which something bad almost happened.
Eg: I had a close call! A big truck almost hit me!

3. All along: all the time
Eg: I knew all along that Jack wasn't telling us the whole story.

4. All's well that ends well: a successful outcome is worth the effort.
Eg: I've completed writing my book after all painful work. All's well that ends well.

5. All of a sudden: something happening quickly, without advance warning.
Eg: It started out to be a beautiful day. Then, all of a sudden, it became cloudy and began to rain.

6. All thumbs: clumsy

Eg: Look at Martin he broke the antique vase. He's all thumbs.

7. As a rule: usually, customarily.

Eg: As a rule I never stay out late on a week night, because I have to get up early the next morning

8. As far as someone is concerned: in one's opinion/

Eg: As far as I'm concerned, it's too cold to go swimming this afternoon.

9. As long as: because something else is happening at the same time.

Eg: As long as you're going to the drugstore anyway, buy me some aspirins.

10. As luck would have it: the way things happened.

Eg: I made good note for my speech, but as luck would have it, I forgot to take them with me.

11. At all: used with negative expressions to give emphasis.

Eg: I've read that book, but I didn't like it at all

12. At the end of one's rope: at the limit of one's ability to cope.

Eg: Marry may decide to divorce John. She is at the end of her rope.

13. Bark worse than one's bite: not as bad tempered as one appears.

Eg: Mr. Hopkins shouts harshly to his students but his student don't care. They know that his bark is worse than his bite.

14. Be behind the times: not be up-to-date, modern in one's thinking.

Eg: He's not a good teacher. He's behind the times in his methods.

15. Be bent on something: Have a strong desire to do something.

Eg: I told Harry not to drive his car in such bad weather, but he was bent on leaving right away.

16. Be better off: be better on a long-term basis.

Eg: Do you think I'd be better off quitting my present job and going to

New York?

17. Spill the beans: reveal a secret.

Eg: Yes, it's too bad that someone spilled the beans and ruined Harry's surprise.

18. Spread oneself too thin: become involved in too many activities.

Eg: Although Teresa has always been an excellent student, her marks have been going down lately because she is spreading herself too thin.

19. Stand a chance: have the possibility.

Eg: If he lied to you about one thing, it stands to reason that he's lying about other things, too.

20. Stick out one's neck: take a risk.

Eg: The Jungle had danger lurking around every corner. So, Hansel didn't stick his neck out.

21. Stick to one's gun: maintain one's position.

Eg: Even though a number of parliamentarians tried to change his mind, the prime minister stuck to his gun.

22. Straight from the horse's mouth: from a reliable source.

Eg: You mean Jill told you so herself?

That's right. I got it straight from the horse's mouth.

23. Straight from the shoulder: Frankly

Eg: I prefer a person who speaks straight from the shoulder, because then I know exactly what he means.

24. String someone along: lead someone on dishonestly.

Eg: I don't believe that Liz will marry Dean. She is stringing him along.

25. Take a dim view of something: have a poor opinion of something; disapprove of something.

Eg: Mrs. Wright takes a dim view of the way her sister is raising her

family.

26. Take a stand on something: make a firm decision about something.

Eg: I don't like the way Tom operates. One day he says one thing and another day he says the opposite. I wish he'd take a stand on something.

27. Take advantage of something: to use something for one's own benefit.

Eg: Let's take advantage of this wonderful weather and go to the seashore.

28. Take after someone: resemble in appearance, personality or character.

Eg: Peter takes after his mother in personality and his father in appearance.

29. Take hold of something: take in one's hands.

Eg: I burned my hand when I took hold of that hot frying pan.

30. Take it easy: relax.

Eg: Steve, you're working too hard. Sit down and take it easy for a while.

31. Take one's time do something: slowly, not hurry.

Eg: When you're eating, it's important to take your time and chew your food well.

32. Take part in something for granted: assume, without giving it a thought, that something is a certain way.

Eg: Excuse me for not introducing you to Bert I took it for granted that you two know each other.

33. Take something into account: consider something.

Eg: In considering Andy for the job, we must take into account that he has very bad eyesight.

34. Take something with a grain of salt: only half believe something someone has said.

Eg: Jack is a very likable fellow, but I've learned to take everything he says with a grain of salt.

35. Take steps: prepare for something and put it into action.

Eg: The crime in that city became a serious problem. The police had to take steps to correct it.

36. Take the bull by the horns: take decisive action in difficult situation.

Eg: My sister had been putting off taking guitar lessons, but finally she took the bull by the horns and went to a professional music center.

37. About to: on the point of doing something.

Eg: Tom was about to leave when the telephone rang.

1. Down to earth– practical and realistic; Back to reality

Ex: It's time we were brought down to earth to figure out difficult situation, and offer a good solution

2. Full of beans – A person who is lively, active and healthy

Ex: I really enjoy being with my best friend because he is always full of beans.

3. Get a head start – Start before all others

Ex: This year we'll get a head start on the competition by running more advertisements.

4. in the nick of time – not too late, but very close

*Ex: I got to the drugstore just **in the nick of time.** It's a good thing, because I really need this medicine!*

5. fresh/clean out of something – have sold or used up the last of something

*Ex: I have to go buy some more milk. It seems we're **fresh out** now.*

6. have/get mixed feelings about something – to be uncertain about something

*Ex: I have mixed feelings about my trip to England.
I love the people, but the climate upsets me.*

7. hard feelings – the emotion of being upset or offended.

Ex: I am sorry I have to fire you. No hard feelings, okay?

8. hit the hay– go to bed

Ex: It's after 12 o'clock. I think it's time to hit the hay.

9. besick to death of something/doing something
– to be angry and bored because something unpleasant has been happening for too long

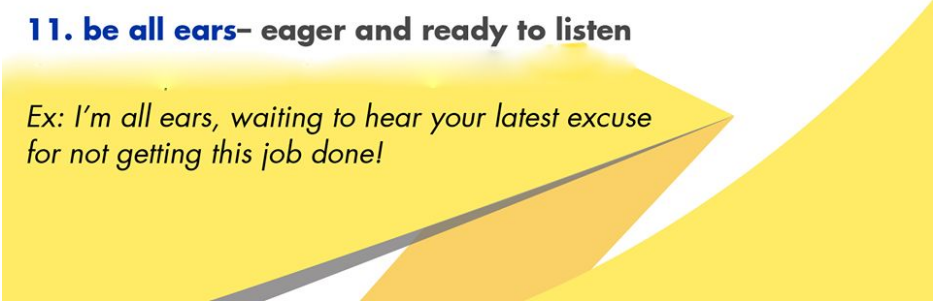
*Ex: I'm sick to death of doing nothing but work.
Let's go out tonight and have fun.*

10. (come) rain or shine– means something will happen regardless of weather or other difficulties.

*Ex: I will be on time for the class, rain or shine.
Come rain or shine, she is always smiling.*

11. be all ears– eager and ready to listen

Ex: I'm all ears, waiting to hear your latest excuse for not getting this job done!



12. Give it one's best shot– do the best that one can

*Ex: This test question is really tough!
I'll give it my best shot, and I'll get some marks for doing my best.*

13. In deep water– in difficulty; in trouble or in a dangerous situation

Ex: He has not submitted his dissertation so he's in deep water.

14. next to nothing– to cost very little

Ex: I went to the new discount store and bought these new shoes for only five dollars. That's next to nothing!

15. To be up in arms about something – upset or angry about something.

Ex: She has been UP IN ARMS about the rent increase.

16. Put yourself in somebody's shoes- imagine that you are in somebody's position in order to understand his/her feelings

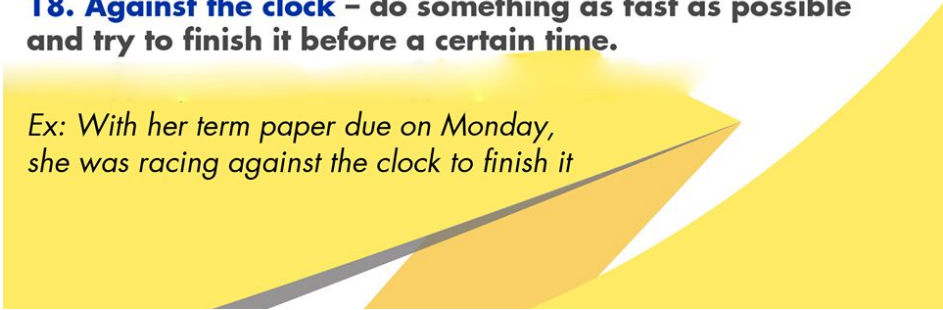
Ex: If you put yourself in my shoes, you would understand why I made that decision

17. A Penny for Your Thoughts asks someone who is being very quiet what they are thinking about

Ex: For several minutes they sat silently, then finally she looked at him and said, "A penny for your thoughts, Walter"

18. Against the clock - do something as fast as possible and try to finish it before a certain time.

Ex: With her term paper due on Monday, she was racing against the clock to finish it



**19. At all costs– do everything you can to achieve/
succeed something**

*Ex: My dream is to become a successful businessman and
I will work hard for it AT ALL COSTS*

**20. Explore all avenues– investigate every possible means
to find a solution to a given problem or
to achieve a desired outcome.**

*Ex: We need to EXPLORE ALL AVENUES before doing something
that is not very safe to a great number of people in order to
minimize unfavourable consequences*

21. On the ball–active and aware of things

Ex: Our staff is really on the ball to get projects done on time



22. Throw in the towel – Give up on something

Ex: I've spent too much time on this project to throw in the towel now.

23. Lend an ear – to listen carefully and in a friendly way to someone


*Ex: If you have any problems, go to Claire.
She'll always lend a sympathetic ear.*

24. on cloud nine– very happy; deliriously happy

Ex: She just bought her first new car and she's on cloud nine.

25. bushed– tired.

Ex: I am totally bushed after staying up so late.



COMMON IDIOMS

DEFINITIONS

For several minutes they sat silently, then finally she looked at him and said, "A penny for your thoughts, Walter."

ask someone what they are thinking about

With her term paper due on Monday, she was racing against the clock to finish it

try to finish something before a certain time

If you have any problems, go to Claire. She'll always lend a sympathetic ear.

to listen carefully and in a friendly way to someone

She just bought her first new car and she's on cloud nine.

very happy

I am totally bushed after staying up so late.

tired

COMMON IDIOMS

DEFINITIONS

I am sorry I have to fire you. No hard feelings , okay?	the emotion of being upset or offended
It's after 12 o'clock. I think it's time to hit the hay	go to bed
I'm sick to death of doing nothing but work. Let's go out tonight and have fun	boring
I will be on time for the class, rain or shine. Come rain or shine , she is always smiling.	whatever happens
I'm all ears , waiting to hear your latest excuse for not getting this job done!	eager and ready to listen

COMMON IDIOMS

DEFINITIONS

I got to the drugstore just **in the nick of time**. It's a good thing, because I really need this medicine!

not too late, but very close

I have to go buy some more milk. It seems we're **fresh out** now.

have sold or used up the last of something

I **have mixed feelings about** my trip to England. I love the people, but the climate upsets me.

to be uncertain about something

This test question is really tough! I'll **give it my best shot**, and I'll get some marks for doing my best.

do the best that one can

He has not submitted his dissertation so he's **in deep water**.

in difficulty

COMMON IDIOMS

DEFINITIONS

I went to the new discount store and bought these new shoes for only five dollars. That's **next to nothing**!

to cost very little

She has been **up in arms** about the rent increase.

upset or angry about something

If you **put yourself in my shoes**, you would understand why I made that decision

imagine that you are in somebody's position

My dream is to become a successful businessman and I will work hard for it at all costs

do everything you can to achieve something

COMMON IDIOMS

DEFINITIONS

We need to **explore all avenues** before doing something that is not very safe to a great number of people in order to minimize unfavourable consequences

investigate all cases possible

Our staff is really **on the ball** to get projects done on time.

active and aware of things

I've spent too much time on this project to **throw in the towel** now.

Give up on something

My sister has been travelling for almost 24 hours, and she's still as **fresh as a daisy**.

Someone who is lively and attractive, in a clean, fresh way.

COMMON IDIOMS

DEFINITIONS

My uncle is such a **couch potato**! He often spends his Saturdays watching American football on TV.

Spend all time watching TV

My 6 year old nephew is **full of beans**! He has more energy than three adults.

A person who is lively, active and healthy.

Hey, Sue, I think your neighbour is a **bad egg**. He has these scary looking guys in black leather hanging around his place all the time.

Someone who is untrustworthy.

My aunt Karen is so **down to earth**. She can figure out any difficult situation, and offer a good solution.

Practical

COMMON IDIOMS

DEFINITIONS

Listen, my friend, I'm so sorry to be a **party pooper**, but I have to study for my IELTS speaking exam tomorrow.

A person who is gloomy, and having no fun at a social gathering.

My colleague drives me crazy! She is such an **eager beaver** that she always volunteers for overtime.

A person who is hard-working and enthusiastic.

Let's get up early tomorrow to **get a head start** on our drive to Toronto.

Start before all others.

After having a coffee and a sandwich, he **got his second wind**, and finished painting the kitchen.

Have a burst of energy after tiring

COMMON IDIOMS

DEFINITIONS

I think I **jumped the gun** by buying my friends James and Susan a wedding gift. They just called off their engagement.

Start too early.

It cost me **an arm and a leg** to take my trip to Australia.

Very expensive

I was **over the moon** when he asked me to marry him.

Extremely pleased or happy

You are taking your IELTS test next week?? Aren't you **jumping the gun**. You've only just started studying.

Doing or starting something too early

COMMON IDIOMS

DEFINITIONS

He comes round to see me **once in a blue moon**.

Happening very rarely

He's got a **chip on his shoulder**.

Feeling inferior or having a grievance about something

I reckon getting a band 7 in IELTS will be a **piece of cake**! I'm very good at English.

Very easy

The money sent by comic relief to help poverty in Africa is just a **drop in the ocean**. They need far more than this.

A very small part of something much bigger

COMMON IDIOMS

DEFINITIONS

Getting a low score the first time I took IELTS was a **blessing in disguise**. It forced me to study extremely hard so I got a much better score the next time

Something positive that isn't recognized until later

We have to actually do something about global warming. **Actions speak louder than words**.

Doing rather than speaking

I bumped into Jenny in town the other day. **It's a small world**.

Meeting someone you would not have expected to

Oh well, I got 5.5 in IELTS again. **Back to the drawing board!**

Start again from the beginning

COMMON IDIOMS

DEFINITIONS

I hate my job so much I can't bare going to work, but if I quit I don't think I can get another job. I'm really **stuck / caught between a rock and a hard place**.

Having two very bad choices.

I have to **bite my tongue** so I don't say what I really think of him!

Wanting to say something but stopping yourself.

Come on, **cut to the chase**. We haven't got all day!

Leave out all the unnecessary details and just get to the point

Are you putting all of your savings into that company? Don't **put all your eggs in one basket**.

Putting all of ones resources into one possibility

COMMON IDIOMS

DEFINITIONS

Try not to worry about it. **Every cloud has a silver lining.**

There is sunlight after rain

It was difficult when I moved to another country but I eventually **found my feet.**

To become comfortable in what you are doing

My parents are very **fixed in their ways.** They won't start using the internet.

Not wanting to change from the normal ways of doing things

I think he **got up on the wrong side of the bed** this morning. He is in a terrible mood.

To refer to someone who is having a bad day

COMMON IDIOMS

DEFINITIONS

My mother will always **go the extra mile** to help people.

Doing much more than is required when doing something

I think you've **hit the nail on the head**. That's the reason he didn't get the job

Say exactly the right thing

Today's going so badly. **If it's not one thing, it's the other**.

When everything seems to be going wrong

I just said it in **the heat of the moment**. I was angry. I know I shouldn't have.

Saying or doing something suddenly without thinking about it

Keep an eye on him. I think he may cheat in the exam.

Watch someone or something carefully

COMMON IDIOMS

DEFINITIONS

Have you heard? John down the road has **kicked the bucket**. Died

I don't want to argue with him again. It's better to **let sleeping dogs lie**. Avoid a conflict

I told him what gift you have bought him for his birthday. Sorry, I didn't mean to **let the cat out of the bag**. Tell someone something that you were not supposed to

Don't tell her what you really think of her if she's helping you with your English! Don't **bite the hand that feeds you**. Hurt or upset someone who is helping you

COMMON IDIOMS

DEFINITIONS

I'm not sure which party he is going to vote for. He's **sitting on the fence**.

Not making a firm decision between different choices

Everything she does is very **over the top**. She can't just have a few drinks – she has to get really drunk.

Excessive

Let's keep studying for IELTS. **Practice makes perfect**.

Continuously doing something to improve

Don't get upset about what he said. He's just **pulling your leg**.

Joking around

Sorry but I think I'll **take a rain check** on that.

To decline an offer that you will take up later

COMMON IDIOMS

DEFINITIONS

As a **rule of thumb**, I don't study at weekends. I spend the time with my family.

Principal that is strictly adhered / kept to

I can **smell a rat**. He said he has a PhD but he can't even remember which university he studied at.

To sense that something is not right

She's **the spitting image** of her mother.

To look exactly like someone else

The ball's in your court now. What are you going to do?

Telling someone it's now their turn to make a decision

COMMON IDIOMS

DEFINITIONS

Unfortunately I think he'll be studying for IELTS **until the cows come home**. His English is very poor.

For a very long time

It was all **tongue-in-cheek**. He didn't really mean what he said.

Something said in humour rather than seriously

She's feeling **under the weather** today so she won't be going to work.

Unwell

We've had some big disagreements over the years, but it's all **water under the bridge** now. We get on fine.

Things from the past that are not important anymore

COMMON IDIOMS

DEFINITIONS

You are what you eat so it's better to have a healthy diet.

What you eat exposes who you are

You can't judge a book by its cover. I need to get to know him before I decide what he is like.

Do not evaluate others by appearances

We're really working against the clock now. We must hurry.

Not having enough time to do something

Why are we bothering? We're flogging a dead horse. Our online business is making no money, so we should move on and do something else.

Attempting to continue with something that is finished / over

COMMON IDIOMS

DEFINITIONS

I **bent over backwards** to help him. I hope he appreciates it.

Doing all you can to help someone

So you have the IELTS test today??
Break a leg.

Good luck

Ok, I'm **playing devil's advocate** here, but if marijuana is legalized, isn't it more likely young people will smoke it?

show the counter-argument

Hold your horses! We haven't won anything yet.

Be patient

She is **driving me up the wall**. She won't stop talking.

Annoying or irritating somebody

COMMON IDIOMS

DEFINITIONS

The new iPhone is really **the in thing** at the moment.

something fashionable.

I don't think her new handbag is **the real McCoy**.

genuine or not fake.

Off the top of my head, I'd say about 2 or 3.

saying something without thinking first.

Apple phones are very **run of the mill** these days.

average, ordinary

I was really **down in the dumps** after my dog died.

sad

COMMON IDIOMS

DEFINITIONS

My parents are quite traditional and **set in their ways**. not wanting to change.

Abortion and capital punishment are **hot potatoes** in my country at the moment a controversial topic

I sent my application in late and I think I **missed the boat**. miss an opportunity.

Those shoes must have **cost an arm and a leg**. really expensive.

I haven't made my mind up about that issue, I'll have to **sit on the fence**. to be undecided

TOP SPEAKING PHRASAL VERBS

Account for	To explain.
Ache for	Want something or someone a lot
Act on	To take action because of something like information received.
Act on	Affect.
Act out	Perform something with actions and gestures.
Act out	Express an emotion in your behaviour.
Act up	Behave badly or strangely.
Act upon	To take action because of something like information received.
Act upon	Affect.
Add on	Include in a calculation.
Add up	To make a mathematical total.
Add up	Be a satisfactory explanation for something.

Add up to	Have a certain result.
Add up to	Come to a certain amount or figure.
Agree with	Affect- usually used in the negative to show that something has had a negative effect, especially is it makes you feel bad.
Aim at	To target.
Aim at	Intend to achieve.
Allow for	Include something in a plan or calculation
Allow of	Make possible, permit.
Angle for	Try to get something indirectly, by hinting or suggesting.
Answer	To reply rudely to someone in authority
Call for	Go to collect something.
Call for	Telephone for something.
Call for	Go and collect someone to take them out.
Figure out	Find the answer to a problem.

File away	Put a document in the correct place for storage in a filing system.
File for	Apply for something legally, like divorce or bankruptcy.
Fill in	Complete a form.
Finish off	Kill a person or animal, often when they have already been hurt.
Finish off	Beat, make victory certain in sport.
Finish off	Consume all.
Finish up	Finally get somewhere, usually without planning to go there.
Finish up with	Have or do something at the end or as the last of something.
Fire away	Ask questions.
Fire off	Send quickly, angrily or many (letter, emails, etc).

Fire off	Shoot, fire a gun (usually repeatedly).
Fire up	Excite, become excited.
Firm up	Make things clearer in a negotiation or discussion.
Firm up	Exercise to make muscles harder and remove fat.
Fish for	Try to get some information or to get someone to say something.
Fish out	Remove something from a bag, pocket, etc.
Fish out	Remove from water, such as the sea, rivers..
Fit in with	Occur or happen in a way that shows that plans or ideas have not changed.
Fit into	Become part of.
Fit out	Provide with necessary equipment. Flick through Look through something quickly.

Flip off	Extend your middle finger as a gesture of contempt.
Flip out	Become very excited and lose control.
Fluff out	Shake or pat a cushion so that it fills with air.
Fluff up	Shake or pat a cushion so that it fills with air.
Fob off	Make or persuade someone to accept something.
Fob off	Lie or deceive someone.
Fob off on	Make or persuade someone to accept something you don't want.
Follow up	Do something to check or improve an earlier action.
Follow up	Find out about a problem and act.
Free up	Make money or time available by not using it elsewhere.
Free up	Do work or a task for someone to make them available for something.

Freeze out	Shut out or exclude by unfriendly treatment.
Freeze out	Force to retire or withdraw from membership, a job, etc.
Freeze over	Become covered with ice (lake, river, pond, etc).
Freeze up	Be blocked with ice.
Freeze up	Stop working because the parts of a machine won't move.
Freshen up	Wash quickly and improve appearance.
Freshen up	Add more alcohol to a glass before it is empty.
Freshen up	Quickly improve the appearance of something.
Gear towards	Organise or arrange something for a particular purpose, audience, etc.
Gear up	Get ready for a busy period.
Get along	Have a good relationship.

Get along	Leave.
Get along	Progress.
Get away	Move, leave somewhere.
Get away from	Go somewhere different or do something different.
Get away from	Start to talk about something that is not relevant to the discussion.
Get away with	Not get caught, criticised or punished for doing something wrong.
Get away with	Achieve something, despite not doing it correctly or properly.
Get	away! An expression of disbelief.
Get back at	Take revenge.
Get back	into Start doing something after stopping for some time.
Get back	into Find a new enthusiasm for something.

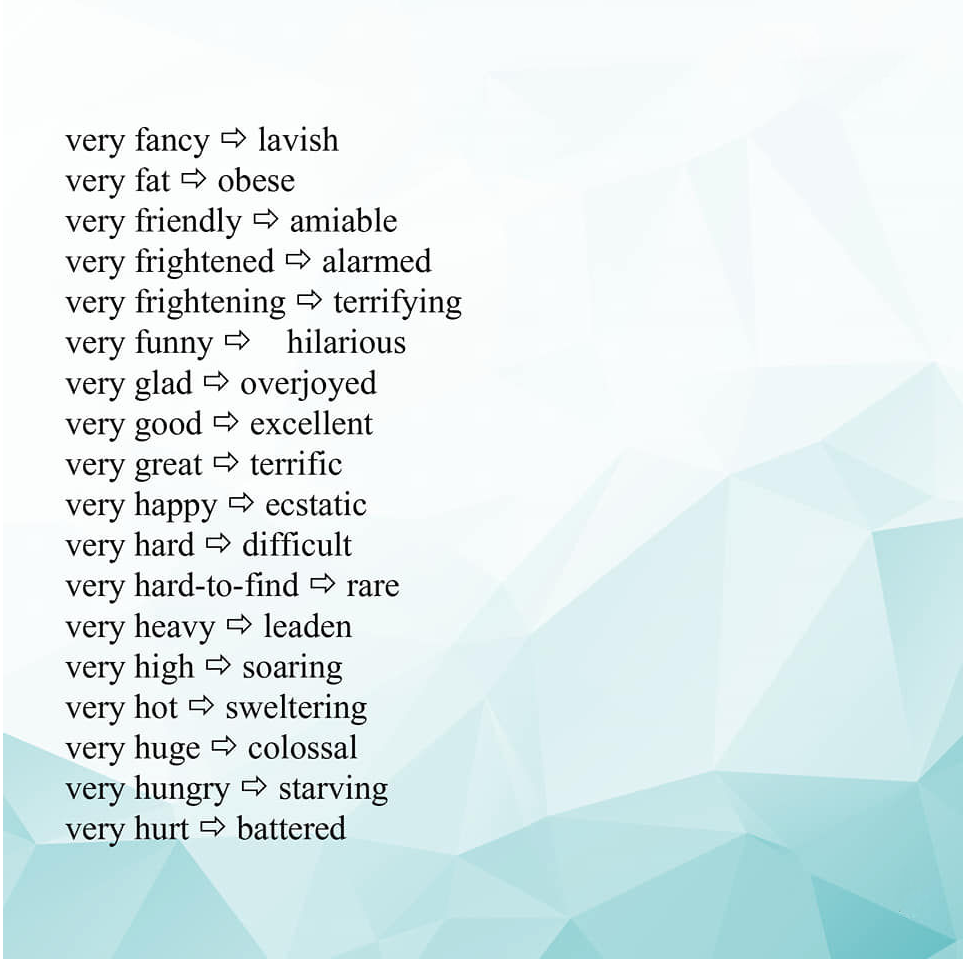
Get into	Become involved or interested.
Get into	Become involved in something bad or criminal.
Get into	Be accepted or admitted.
Get into	Become or be accepted as a member.
Get it on	Become interested or excited.
Get it on	Have sex.
Get it on with	Have sex with.
Get on	Enter a bus, train, plane, etc..
Get on	Make progress, deal with something with a reasonable degree of success.
Get on	Have a good relationship.
Get on	Become old, age.
Get on	Be late or near an arranged time. Wear, fit.
Get onto	Start discussing a topic.
Get onto	Be elected, appointed.
Get onto	Contact someone because you need or want them to do something.
Get onto	Enter a plane, train, etc.
Get onto	Appear on the radio or TV.

100 WAYS TO SAY “VERY”

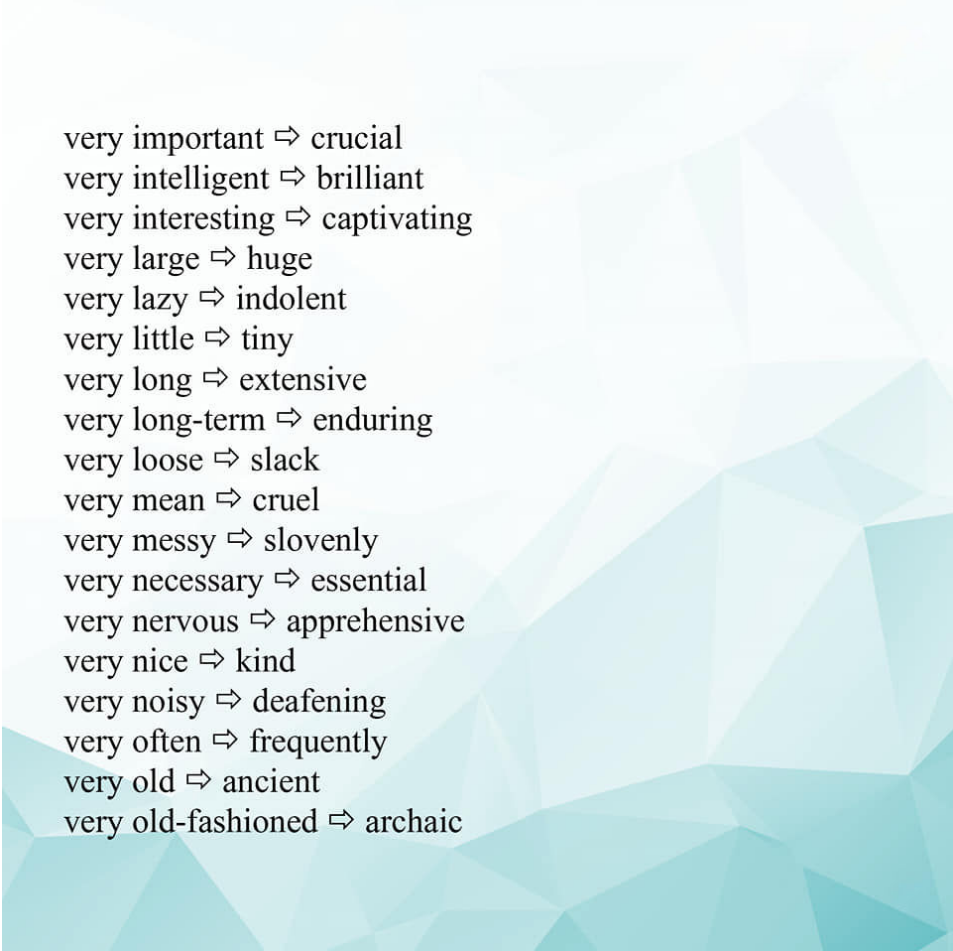
very afraid ⇒ fearful
very angry ⇒ furious
very annoying ⇒ exasperating
very bad ⇒ awful
very beautiful ⇒ gorgeous
very big ⇒ massive
very boring ⇒ dull
very bright ⇒ luminous
very busy ⇒ swamped
very calm ⇒ serene
very careful ⇒ cautious
very cheap ⇒ stingy
very clean ⇒ spotless
very clear ⇒ obvious
very cold ⇒ freezing
very colorful ⇒ vibrant
very competitive ⇒ cutthroat
very complete ⇒ comprehensive



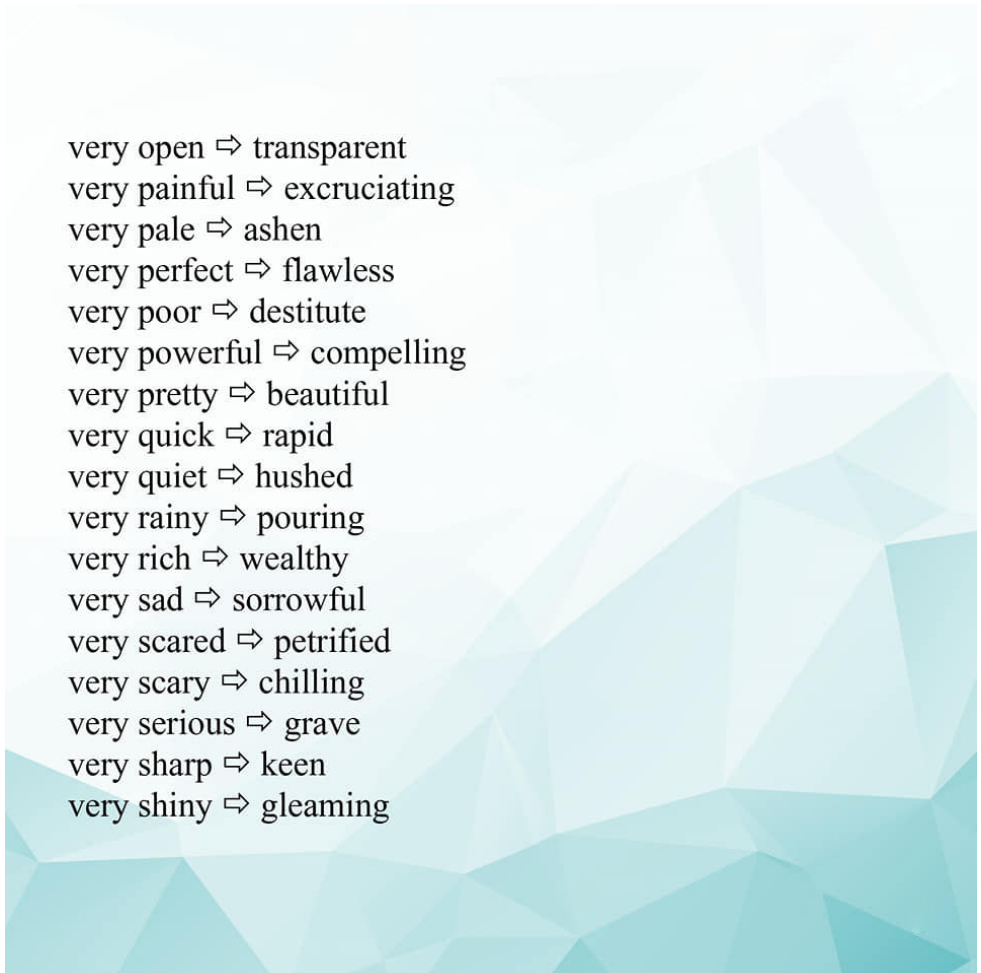
very confused ⇒ perplexed
very creative ⇒ innovative
very crowded ⇒ bustling
very dangerous ⇒ perilous
very dear ⇒ cherished
very deep ⇒ profound
very depressed ⇒ despondent
very detailed ⇒ meticulous
very different ⇒ disparate
very difficult ⇒ arduous
very dirty ⇒ filthy
very dry ⇒ arid
very dull ⇒ tedious
very easy ⇒ effortless
very empty ⇒ desolate
very excited ⇒ thrilled
very exciting ⇒ exhilarating
very expensive ⇒ costly



very fancy ⇨ lavish
very fat ⇨ obese
very friendly ⇨ amiable
very frightened ⇨ alarmed
very frightening ⇨ terrifying
very funny ⇨ hilarious
very glad ⇨ overjoyed
very good ⇨ excellent
very great ⇨ terrific
very happy ⇨ ecstatic
very hard ⇨ difficult
very hard-to-find ⇨ rare
very heavy ⇨ leaden
very high ⇨ soaring
very hot ⇨ sweltering
very huge ⇨ colossal
very hungry ⇨ starving
very hurt ⇨ battered




very important ⇨ crucial
very intelligent ⇨ brilliant
very interesting ⇨ captivating
very large ⇨ huge
very lazy ⇨ indolent
very little ⇨ tiny
very long ⇨ extensive
very long-term ⇨ enduring
very loose ⇨ slack
very mean ⇨ cruel
very messy ⇨ slovenly
very necessary ⇨ essential
very nervous ⇨ apprehensive
very nice ⇨ kind
very noisy ⇨ deafening
very often ⇨ frequently
very old ⇨ ancient
very old-fashioned ⇨ archaic



very open ⇨ transparent
very painful ⇨ excruciating
very pale ⇨ ashen
very perfect ⇨ flawless
very poor ⇨ destitute
very powerful ⇨ compelling
very pretty ⇨ beautiful
very quick ⇨ rapid
very quiet ⇨ hushed
very rainy ⇨ pouring
very rich ⇨ wealthy
very sad ⇨ sorrowful
very scared ⇨ petrified
very scary ⇨ chilling
very serious ⇨ grave
very sharp ⇨ keen
very shiny ⇨ gleaming



very short ⇨ brief
very shy ⇨ timid
very simple ⇨ basic
very skinny ⇨ skeletal
very small ⇨ petite
very smart ⇨ intelligent
very smelly ⇨ pungent
very smooth ⇨ sleek
very soft ⇨ downy
very sorry ⇨ apologetic
very special ⇨ exceptional
very strong ⇨ forceful
very stupid ⇨ idiotic
very sure ⇨ certain
very sweet ⇨ thoughtful
very talented ⇨ gifted
very tall ⇨ towering
very tasty ⇨ delicious



very thirsty ⇨ parched
very tight ⇨ constricting
very tiny ⇨ minuscule
very tired ⇨ exhausted
very ugly ⇨ hideous
very unhappy ⇨ miserable
very upset ⇨ distraught
very warm ⇨ hot
very weak ⇨ frail
very well-to-do ⇨ wealthy
very wet ⇨ soaked
very wide ⇨ expansive
very willing ⇨ eager
very windy ⇨ blustery
very wise ⇨ sage
very worried ⇨ distressed

CONCLUSION

Thank you for purchasing this book. I know there are many books on *IELTS SPEAKING* out there, but you chose this one. I'm incredibly grateful to you, grateful for taking a chance on this read. And I sincerely wish you the best on all your IELTS SPEAKING MASTERY adventures!

If you know of anyone else who may benefit from the useful strategies, tips, and guides for *IELTS SPEAKING 2020* that are revealed in this book, please help me inform them of this book. I would greatly appreciate it.

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From the bottom of my heart, I thank you so much for staying with us during this book and for reading it through to the end. We really hope that you have enjoyed the contents!

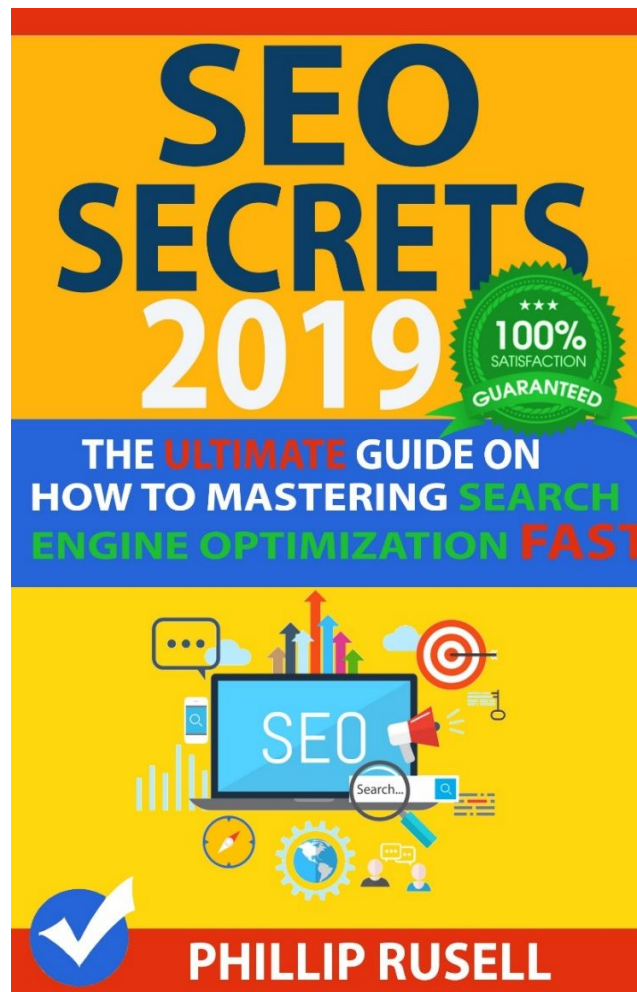
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-- Julia White --

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