



USEFUL

PHRASES

For IELTS

SPEAKING

Speaking Phrases

Useful phrase	When to use it
Actually ..., but ...	<p>When you don't have any experience with the topic. For example, you have to talk about your favorite book. Let's say you don't read books very often. You can begin your answer in this way:</p> <p>Actually, I don't read very often, but I can tell you about a book I read when I was a child.</p>
Anyway, ...	<p>If you got a little side-tracked during your answer and you want return to the main topic.</p> <p>Anyway, it was a fantastic holiday.</p>
Apparently, ...	<p>When you have heard an opinion, but you don't know if it is true or not. The meaning is similar to 'People say'.</p> <p>I've never been to Paris. But apparently, it's a very romantic city.</p>
As I said before, ...	<p>Sometimes the points on the cue card are very similar. So if you repeat something in your answer, it's natural to say something like:</p> <p>As I said before, I went there by plane.</p>
First and foremost, ...	<p>When you want to give the most important point in a list of points.</p> <p>First and foremost, I want to go there for work.</p>
First of all, ...	<p>When you want to give the first point in a list of points.</p> <p>First of all, travelling by bus is more relaxing than travelling by train.</p>
for a number of reasons	<p>When you want to organize your reasons as a list of points.</p> <p>I prefer living in the city for a number of reasons:</p>
Generally speaking, ...	<p>When you want to make a general statement.</p> <p>Generally speaking, it was an enjoyable holiday.</p>
I can't think of anything else to say.	<p>When you have nothing more to say, and you want to let the examiner know that you have finished.</p>

<p>I'd say ...</p>	<p>When you don't have a strong opinion on something.</p> <p>I don't know much about sport in my country. But I'd say football is quite popular.</p>
<p>I guess...</p>	<p>When you don't have a strong opinion on something.</p> <p>I don't know much about sport in my country. I guess football is quite popular.</p>
<p>I'm going to describe ...</p>	<p>When you want to begin your answer.</p> <p>I'm going to describe a restaurant I like.</p>
<p>I'm going to talk about ...</p>	<p>When you want to begin your answer.</p> <p>I'm going to talk about a restaurant I like.</p>
<p>I'm not really a fan of ..., but ...</p>	<p>When you want to show that you are personally not interested in something.</p> <p>I'm not really a fan of this TV show, but it's really popular in my country.</p>
<p>I suppose ...</p>	<p>When you don't have a strong opinion on something.</p> <p>I'm afraid I don't know much about sport in my country. But I suppose football is quite popular.</p>
<p>Lastly, ...</p>	<p>When you want to give one last final reason to explain something.</p> <p>Lastly, I think living in a city is a bit more dangerous.</p>
<p>Let me give you an example.</p>	<p>When you want to give an example to support your opinion. This is especially useful if you need to keep talking.</p> <p>My uncle gives great advice. Let me give you an example. When I was struggling to decide on which university course to study, he really helped me.</p>
<p>Like I said, ... Like I said before, ...</p>	<p>Sometimes the points on the cue card are very similar. So if you repeat something in your answer, it's natural to begin to say something like:</p> <p>Like I said before, I went there by plane.</p>

<p>Mind you, ...</p>	<p>When you want to introduce a new idea that is a contradiction of what you said before. The meaning is similar to 'on the other hand'.</p> <p>Teenagers today are terribly rude. <i>Mind you</i>, I was probably just as bad when I was that age.</p>
<p>On the other hand, ...</p>	<p>When you want to make a contrast.</p> <p>I would say that living in a city has a number of benefits. <i>On the other hand</i>, some people might say that there are lots of drawbacks like heavy traffic and pollution.</p>
<p>On the whole, ...</p>	<p>When you want to make a general statement.</p> <p><i>On the whole</i>, it was an enjoyable holiday.</p>
<p>On top of that, ...</p>	<p>When you want to give an additional reason.</p> <p>The weather in my country is usually very cold in winter. <i>On top of that</i>, it rains a lot.</p>
<p>Overall, ...</p>	<p>When you want to make a general statement or summarize everything that you have said. This could be useful at the end of your answer.</p> <p><i>Overall</i>, it was a fantastic holiday.</p>
<p>Plus, ...</p>	<p>When you want to make an additional point.</p> <p>When I am on holiday I can relax and forget about my work. <i>Plus</i>, I can meet lots of interesting new people.</p>
<p>Right, that's a tough one.</p>	<p>When you get a difficult cue card, for example if you have to talk about your favorite family member. If it's difficult for you to think of a favorite family member, you can begin your answer with this expression. Of course, you still have to give a full answer!</p>
<p>That's all I have to say.</p>	<p>When you have nothing more to say, and you want to let the examiner know that you have finished.</p>
<p>to be precise</p>	<p>If you said something and you want to modify it.</p> <p>I went on holiday last summer. In August, to be <i>precise</i>.</p>

<p>What else?</p> <p>What else can I say?</p>	<p>If you need to think of something more to say in the middle of your answer, it's better to keep talking than to be silent. You can say What else? While you are thinking.</p>
<p>What's more, ...</p>	<p>When you want to give an additional reason.</p> <p>The weather in my country is usually very cold in winter. <i>What's more</i>, it rains a lot.</p>

