

In **Speaking Part 2**, the examiner wants to hear you give a short talk on a simple topic based on your own experience, to see if you are able to speak for one or two minutes on your own.

The examiner will introduce Part 2 by saying:

“Now, I’m going to give you a topic and I’d like you to talk about it for one or two minutes.”

Then, the examiner will give you a piece of paper and a pen or pencil (to make notes) and your topic (on a cue card). You will have one minute to prepare your talk.

Below you will find a list of some common topic cue cards.

- Describe an artist or entertainer you admire. You should say/explain:
- who they are and what they do
 - how they became successful
 - how you found out about them
 - why you admire them

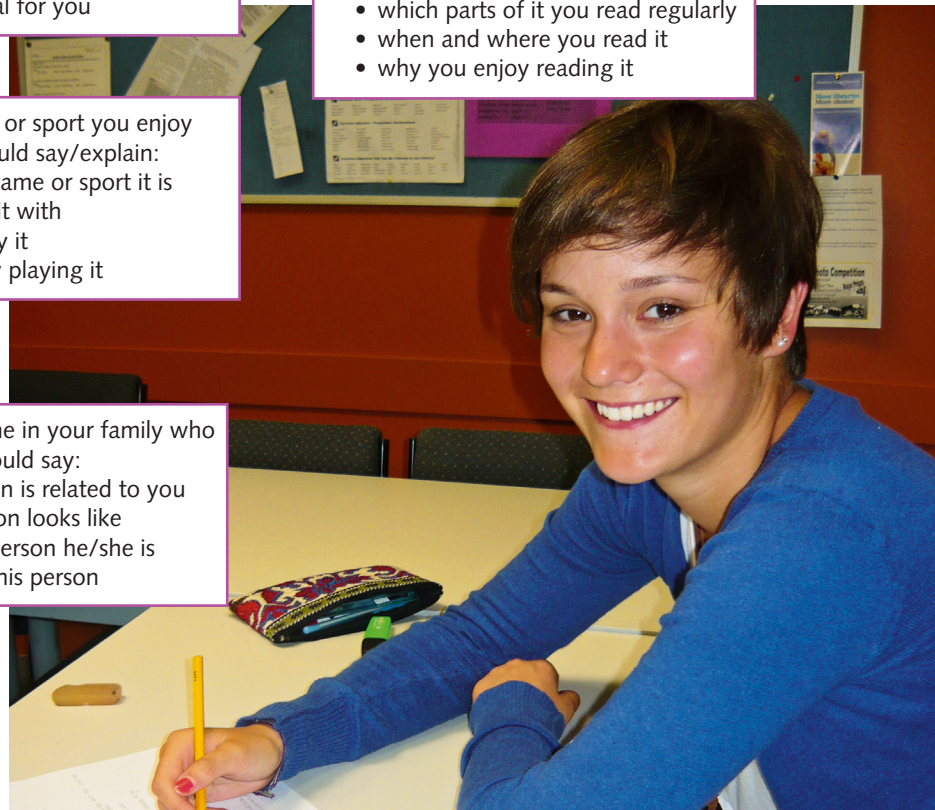
- Describe an area of countryside you know and like. You should say/explain:
- where it is
 - what its special features are
 - what you and other people do in this area
 - why you like it

- Describe an object you particularly like. You should say/explain:
- what it is and what it looks like
 - what it is made of
 - what it is for
 - why it is special for you

- Describe a newspaper or magazine you enjoy reading. You should say/explain:
- what kind of newspaper or magazine it is
 - which parts of it you read regularly
 - when and where you read it
 - why you enjoy reading it

- Describe a game or sport you enjoy playing. You should say/explain:
- what kind of game or sport it is
 - who you play it with
 - where you play it
 - why you enjoy playing it

- Describe someone in your family who you like. You should say:
- how this person is related to you
 - what this person looks like
 - what kind of person he/she is
 - why you like this person



Organising your talk in Part 2

In Part 2 of the IELTS Speaking Module, you need to give a short talk of between one and a half and two minutes. There are two major problems here: speaking for long enough and staying coherent. In IELTS, however, you only have 1 minute to prepare and most of that time will be spent thinking of vocabulary to use. So how can you organise your talk with little/no preparation time? One solution is to use the cue card as the structure of your talk. The way to do this is quite simple – all the cue cards are organised in the same way with one major topic and 4 sub-topics.

1 Describe a wedding you have been to or heard about. You should say/explain:

- who got married
- what they wore
- what they did on the day
- how you felt about this wedding

By following the 4 topics on the above card, your structure will be:

1. the people
2. the clothes
3. the day itself
4. your feelings



TIPS

Record yourself and then write down your answer

You can learn a lot from recording what you say and then writing it down word for word. Some things you can learn are:

- *Do you say enough?* Do you give very short answers? In parts 1 and 3, you should say at least a couple of sentences in answer to every question.
- *Is what you say organised?* Can you see a structure to your answer? Is it possible to put in sentences and paragraph breaks? Do you have organisation language like “The first point is...”
- *Do you speak too slowly or too quickly?* Try counting the words in your Part 2 answer. Most answers from a native speaker are about 240 words long. You should probably aim for around 200 or so. Less than that and you are speaking too slowly; more than that and may be you are speaking too quickly.
- *How long are your pauses?* You can pause, but your pauses should generally come between sentences/paragraphs and they shouldn't be too long.
- *Did you answer the question?*
- *Is your pronunciation okay?* If you can't immediately understand what you say, the examiner won't either!
- *Are there any words you repeat a lot?* You probably shouldn't worry too much about content words such as “television” – native speakers will repeat those a lot when speaking. Rather you should look at more functional words/phrases such as “I think”. It is very easy to repeat these a lot and it is also quite simple to train yourself to use more variety.

Now try it yourself!

Describe a technological development (the computer, the Internet, etc.) that has benefited mankind. You should say/explain:

- what type of development it is
- why it was needed
- how it has been used
- why this technological development has been so beneficial.