

Level 3 Intermediate

Speaking Practice 3

IELTS Speaking Practice — Level 3 of 6

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These are practice questions, not official IELTS exam questions. Students should practice answering aloud rather than writing their answers first.

Level 3: Intermediate to Upper-Intermediate

Focus: Elaborating on ideas, comparing alternatives, explaining consequences, and using more complex grammar.

At this level, students should move beyond simple answers. They should explain why they hold an opinion, support it with examples, and consider different points of view.

These are IELTS-style practice questions, not official test questions.

Part 1 — Introduction and Interview

Time: 4–5 minutes · Aim for 3–5 sentences per answer.

10 speaking questions

Public transport

1. How do you usually travel around your city?

Photography

2. Do you enjoy taking photographs? Why or why not?

Learning languages

3. What do you find most difficult about learning a foreign language?

Shopping

4. Has your shopping behavior changed in recent years?

Neighbors

5. How well do you know the people who live near you?

Museums

6. Do you think museums are interesting places to visit?

Time management

7. How do you decide which tasks to do first?

Advertising

8. Can you remember an advertisement that caught your attention?

Weather changes

9. Does the weather affect the activities you choose to do?

Gifts

10. Do you think it is better to give practical gifts or meaningful gifts?

Teacher's instruction: Ask follow-up questions when a student gives a very short response. For example, "Why do you think so?" or "Can you give me an example?"

Part 2 — Individual Long Turn

Preparation: 1 minute · Speaking: 1–2 minutes

Task card

Describe a time when you solved a difficult problem.

You should say:

- What the problem was

- When and where it happened
- What steps you took to solve it
- Whether anyone helped you

And explain what you learned from this experience.

Your speaking challenge

Speak for 1½–2 minutes. Tell the story in a logical order, explain your decisions, and reflect on what you learned. Use specific details rather than general statements.

Useful vocabulary

Expression	Meaning or use
A challenging situation	A difficult circumstance
To assess the situation	To understand the problem before acting
To weigh up the options	To consider different possible solutions
To take a practical approach	To deal with something in a realistic way
To overcome an obstacle	To succeed despite a difficulty
To reach a compromise	To find a solution acceptable to different people
In hindsight	Looking back at the past
A valuable lesson	Something useful learned from experience

Sample answer structure

Students should use this as a guide rather than memorize a complete response.

1. Set the scene

“I’d like to describe a situation that occurred a few years ago when I was faced with an unexpected problem...”

2. Explain the problem

Describe what went wrong, why it mattered, and what made it difficult.

3. Describe your actions

Explain the options you considered, what you did, and the outcome.

4. Reflect on the experience

Explain what you learned and what you would do differently next time.

Grammar challenge

Encourage students to include a mixture of sentence structures:

- Past perfect: “I realized that I had overlooked an important detail.”
- Conditional: “If I faced the same situation again, I would ask for advice sooner.”
- Concession: “Although the problem seemed overwhelming at first, I eventually found a solution.”
- Relative clause: “The colleague who helped me suggested a more effective approach.”

Part 3 — Discussion

Time: 4–5 minutes · Aim for 4–7 sentences per answer.

These questions require students to analyze ideas, compare perspectives, and support opinions with reasons and examples.

Topic A: Problem-solving

1. Why do some people find it difficult to make decisions under pressure?
2. Should children be encouraged to solve problems independently, or should adults guide them?
3. Do people learn more from failure than from success?
4. How important is creativity when dealing with complicated problems?

Topic B: Technology and society

5. How has technology changed the way people find information?
6. Do you think people rely too heavily on technology to solve everyday problems?
7. What disadvantages might arise when people depend on artificial intelligence?
8. Should schools teach students how to evaluate information found online?

Topic C: Work and responsibility

9. Is it more important for a manager to be experienced or to be a good communicator?
10. How should employers respond when employees make mistakes?
11. Do people become better at solving problems as they grow older?
12. Should schools place more emphasis on practical skills than academic knowledge?

Answer-building drill

Students can use the following structure to develop stronger Part 3 responses.

O

Opinion

State your position clearly.

“I believe practical skills are essential because...”

R

Reason

Explain why you hold this opinion.

“The main reason is that they prepare people to deal with real-life situations.”

E

Example

Give a specific example to support your idea.

“For instance, students who learn budgeting may manage their money more effectively.”

C

Counterpoint or conclusion

Acknowledge another perspective or summarize your position.

“Nevertheless, academic knowledge remains important because it provides a foundation for further learning.”

This is a flexible practice framework, not a required IELTS answer formula. Students should sound natural rather than force every answer into four steps.

Teacher’s assessment checklist

Use this during individual speaking practice:

- Develops answers with relevant explanations and examples
- Organizes ideas in a logical sequence
- Uses varied vocabulary appropriately
- Uses complex sentences with reasonable accuracy
- Uses a range of grammatical tenses correctly
- Speaks clearly with effective pronunciation
- Can compare ideas and consider alternative viewpoints
- Maintains fluency without excessive hesitation

Skills demonstrated

0 / 8

Reset

Use this as a teaching aid, not an official IELTS band score. Assess grammar, vocabulary, fluency and pronunciation separately when giving detailed feedback.

Homework challenge

Ask students to choose one Part 3 question and record a 60-second answer. They should listen to their recording and identify:

- One repeated word they could replace with a more precise expression.
- One sentence they could improve grammatically.
- One place where they could add a supporting example.