**Vocabulary and Tips - IELTS Speaking Part 1**

**Speaking Part 1 lasts between 4-5 minutes and you will be asked questions about familiar topics:**

* Your job/studies
* Your family
* Your home
* Your hometown
* Your hobbies

**What will help:**

* Being able to describe where you are from and your job with confidence.
* Anticipate questions about your career and hometown and using phrasal verbs and idioms.
* Using natural expressions.
* Building as much vocabulary as you can in the above topics, using idioms, phrasal verbs and collocations.

**Know what to expect, before part one starts:**

* The examiner will introduce themselves and ask you what your name is, remember this is a speaking test so use contractions.
* The examiner will then ask you ‘What can I call you?
* Then you will be asked where you come from.
* Finally, you will be asked for identification.

**Useful Vocabulary**

**Talking about yourself**

* **Your past.** *I grew up in (place), which is . . .*
* **Your job.***I am (currently/presently) . . .*
* **Where you live now.***I’ve been living in (place) for (years/months)*
* **Current plans.** *At the moment, I’m taking classes at . . . and . . .*
* **Future plans.** *I’m hoping to . . . I’m planning on . . .*

**Asking for repetition**

* *Could you please repeat the question?*
* *One more time?*
* *I’m sorry, I didn’t catch that. Would you mind repeating?*

**Inserting natural phrases**

* *Well, I’d have to say that . . .*
* *It’s tough to say, but I’d . . .*
* *In my opinion, . . .*

**Negative statements**

* *I’m not so sure that . . .*
* *I’m not convinced that . . .*
* *To be perfectly honest, I . . .*
* *Between the two of us, . . .*

**Giving Examples**

* *For example, . . .*
* *As an example, . . .*
* *For instance, . . .*
* *Perhaps you’re aware of . . .*

**Expressions**

* *What’s weird is . . .*
* *Something surprising is . . .*
* *One thing I never expected was . . .*
* *Never in a million years did I . . .*
* *I’m not ashamed to admit that . . .*
* *Many are surprised to hear that . . .*
* *It’s common knowledge that . . .*

**Common Mistakes**

* Not creating a good impression, remember to smile and give good eye contact, this is not in the marking criteria however it will show confidence.
* Not showing interest in the questions, yes, most IELTS questions are boring but pretend you are interested this will show in your voice. Most English speakers voices naturally rise and fall depending on how they feel about what they are saying. You need to show intonation when speaking, just do not overdo it.
* Giving short answers, you need to extend your answers remember you need to show the examiner that you know English. However, do go on and on either in part 1 as normally you do not talk for two minutes when someone asks you where you are from.
* Memorized answers, you do not want to sound like a robot, practice the familiar topics by thinking about what vocabulary to use or grammar, how is your intonation and are you speaking as naturally as possible.
* Do not give Yes/No answers or give no answer again remember this is an English test and the examiner needs to judge your ability of speaking English.
* Do not go off the topic, answer the questions do not give irrelevant details.
* Do not speak too quietly the examiner needs to hear you, make sure you are not speaking to the floor, speak to the examiner.
* Do not expect to be perfect, everyone even Mother tongue speakers make small mistakes, if you are constantly thinking about perfect grammar and vocabulary, it will reduce your fluency and pronunciation.

**Exercise**

***Write possible answers to the following questions, think firstly about the vocabulary and grammar you could use.***

Work

What do you do?

Why did you choose that job?

Do you plan to continue with your job in the future?

Study

What do you study?

Is English a popular subject in your country?

Hometown

Where is your hometown?

Has your hometown changed much since you were a child?

How could your hometown be improved?