Basic IELTS

Speaking

Zhang Juan – Alison Wong

- Consolidating Your English Ability
- Improving Your English Speaking Skill
- Providing General Knowledge
- Developing Your Test-Taking Skill

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FOREWORD

Exam preparation is a vital period for candidates who wish to obtain an internationally recognised certificate, specifically the IELTS one. Such candidates will find it less stressful if they can have relevant and beneficial materials in hand. Basic IELTS – Listening, Reading, Speaking, and Writing have, consequently, been designed to meet your demand.

Basic IELTS series aim at
- providing IELTS candidates with a basic English language ability,
- enlarging candidates' stock of vocabulary, and
- giving candidates insight into the social life and culture of the English-speaking communities.

Basic IELTS series are suitable for those who want to achieve a band score of 4 – 5+ in the IELTS test. They are also practical materials for high school students, students of pre-intermediate level, and for those who want to build up a solid foundation in their English language competence.

The main features of this series of books are as follows:
✓ Designed in accordance with the content, format and objectives of the IELTS test
✓ Reflecting the updated IELTS question types
✓ Meeting the demand and expectations of the focused candidates
✓ Containing authentic, interesting, and rewarding materials

As far as Basic IELTS Speaking is concerned, it is arranged into three parts with a total of five chapters whose themes centre upon different kinds of questions in each part of the IELTS Speaking test. Especially, varied and well-designed tasks which are typical in the IELTS Speaking test are provided so as to facilitate actual tests in the most effective way. Moreover, lists of Useful Words and Expressions provided with their phonetic symbols added below Dialogue Study aim at helping you not only to improve your pronunciation but to give you a chance to check their meanings as well. It is said that the more time you spend on looking up new words, the better you can understand and use them. In addition, Useful Sentence Structures enable you to accurately express yourself in English. Last but not least, a table of key to the exercises is presented so that you can use them to check your work and see your progress day by day.

Basic IELTS Speaking certainly meets the need of candidates who will sit the Academic Module, but General Training Module candidates can also find it very beneficial.

On completion of Basic IELTS Speaking, you will be able to
- do typical tasks in the IELTS Speaking test,
- apply useful tips and techniques in answering questions of the IELTS test,
- be well prepared for gaining a higher score in your actual exam, and
- achieve your desired band score in the near future.

Hopefully, you will find Basic IELTS Speaking truly helpful and rewarding, and you can eventually achieve your desired goal.

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IELTS OVERVIEW

I. The IELTS Test

IELTS, the International English Language Testing System, was introduced in 1989. It is an English language proficiency test that is required to be taken by non-native students for studying in countries where the medium of instruction is English. It is now used for this purpose around the globe.

The IELTS is managed by three main institutions: the British Council, IDP: IELTS Australia and the University of Cambridge ESOL Examinations (Cambridge ESOL). This is important to understand in order to prepare for what is essentially an examination of British and not American English.

Depending on the course of study that is planned to take, candidates must select to sit either the Academic IELTS test or the General Training IELTS test. This choice must be made when applying to sit the test.

Academic Module

The Academic IELTS test is necessary for candidates who **plan to study at universities** (under-graduate or postgraduate courses), and will test the candidates' ability both to understand and to use complex academic language.

General Training Module

The General Training Module of IELTS is for students **seeking entry to a secondary school** or **to vocational training courses**, and also for those who wish to **apply for immigration** to countries such as Canada, Australia, or New Zealand.

IELTS is not recommended for candidates under the age of 16.

II. The IELTS Test Format

There are four sub-tests to the IELTS test: Listening, Reading, Writing, and Speaking. Candidates must sit all four sub-tests. While all candidates take the same Listening and Speaking tests, they sit different Reading and Writing tests, depending on whether they have selected the Academic IELTS test or the General Training IELTS test. These two do not carry the same weight and are not interchangeable.

The first three sub-tests – Listening, Reading, and Writing – must be completed in one day. There is no break between the sub-tests. The Speaking test may be taken, at the discretion of the test centre, in the period of seven days before or after the other sub-tests of the IELTS test.

This table helps you to understand more clearly about the format and timing of the two IELTS modules:

	ACADEMIC	GENERAL TRAINING
Listening	4 sections; 40 questions 30 minutes	4 sections; 40 questions 30 minutes
Reading	3 sections; 40 questions 3 long texts 1 hour	3 sections; 40 questions 3 long texts 1 hour
Writing	2 tasks 1 hour	2 tasks 1 hour
Speaking	3 sections 11 - 14 minutes	3 sections 11 - 14 minutes

What can you bring into the test room?

Only pens, pencils and erasers. You must bring the passport/national identity card you used on the IELTS Application Form to the test. You must leave everything else outside the examination room, including mobile phones and pagers which must be switched off and placed with personal belongings in the area designated by the supervisor. If you do not switch off your phone/pager or keep it on you, you will be disqualified.

Will there be more than one examiner?

No, the Speaking test will take the form of a conversation between the candidate and one certified IELTS examiner.

Will the Speaking test be recorded?

Yes, it is recorded onto an audiocassette or a digital recorder.

What do you need for the Speaking test?

You must bring the same identification documents you supplied on your IELTS Application Form and used for the rest of the test. Your ID will be checked before you enter the test room.

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