

IELTS MASTERCLASS SERIES

IELTS Speaking Part 2

Complete Strategy Guide for Band 6.5–8.5 Candidates



1–2 Minute Long
Turn



1 Minute
Preparation

How Part 2 Works: Step-by-Step



1. Receive Task Card

Contains a main topic and 3–4 prompts to guide your talk.



2. 1-Minute Prep

Use paper and pencil provided to jot down strategic keywords.



3. Speak for 1–2 Min

The examiner listens continuously without interrupting.



4. Follow-up

1–2 short questions may be asked if you finish under 2 minutes.

Core Objective:

You don't need to speak for exactly 2 minutes without pausing. Focus on delivering a clear, well-structured, and fully developed answer.

How You Are Scored



Fluency & Coherence

- ✓ Speak smoothly without long hesitations or self-correction.
- ✓ Connect ideas logically using natural discourse markers.



Lexical Resource

- ✓ Use a wide range of precise, topic-specific vocabulary.
- ✓ Demonstrate natural collocations and idiomatic phrasing.



Grammatical Range & Accuracy

- ✓ Combine simple, compound, and complex structures.
- ✓ Maintain accurate tense control throughout your talk.



Pronunciation

- ✓ Speak clearly with natural rhythm, stress, and intonation.
- ✓ Ensure individual sounds are easy to understand.

Deconstructing the Task Card

SAMPLE TASK CARD

Describe a place you would like to visit.

You should say:

- › Where it is
- › When you would like to go
- › What you would do there
- › And explain why you would like to visit it

The Main Topic is Paramount

Always address the primary instruction first. The bullet points are simply prompts to help structure your thoughts.

The Golden Rule

The bullet points are NOT equal-time questions. Address the main topic and use prompts to build a cohesive narrative flow.

Maximizing Your 60-Second Prep Time

INEFFECTIVE METHOD

Writing Full Sentences

"I went to Italy with my sister in 2023 and we had an amazing time..."

- ✗ Takes too long to write in 60 seconds.
- ✗ Encourages artificial reading/memorization.

HIGH-BAND METHOD

Keywords & Bullet Notes

- Italy (Florence) - 2023
- Sister | Lost luggage (funny)
- Tuscan cuisine | Would return

- ✓ Quick to note down key triggers.
- ✓ Keeps speech natural and fluid.

4-Step Structure for 2 Minutes

1

What

Introduce topic directly.

*"I'd like to talk
about..."*

2

Background

Set context & timing.

*"This happened
when..."*

3

Details

Elaborate main events.

*"What stood out
was..."*

4

Reflection

Personal impact/feelings.

*"Looking back, I
feel..."*

WHAT → BACKGROUND → DETAILS → REFLECTION

Avoid Checklist-Style Answers

Mechanical & Robotic

"Where? London.
When? Last summer.
Who with? My brother.
Why? Because it was very interesting."

Result: Choppy delivery, poor cohesion, low fluency score.

Connected Narrative

"I'd like to talk about a trip I took to London with my brother last summer. We'd been planning it for months, so when we finally arrived, the atmosphere was electric. One of the absolute highlights was..."

Result: Natural transitions, complex grammar, high coherence.

The "Zoom In" Technique for Detail

LEVEL 1: GENERAL STATEMENT

"We stayed in a small hotel in the city center."

LEVEL 2: ADD DESCRIPTION

"It wasn't luxury, but it had a wonderfully cozy atmosphere."

LEVEL 3: SPECIFIC DETAILS

"Our room had wooden beams and a balcony overlooking the square."

LEVEL 4: PERSONAL REFLECTION

"I loved watching the town wake up each morning over espresso."

Ways to Extend Your Speech

- **Sensory Details:** What did it look/feel like?
- **Reasons:** Why did that specific event occur?
- **Examples:** Provide a brief mini-anecdote.
- **Comparisons:** Contrast it with past experiences.

Turning Answers into Engaging Stories

Narrative Structure

Storytelling adds natural cadence, automatically improving your intonation and coherence.

"It happened last year when a close friend was moving. She felt completely overwhelmed by packing, so I offered to spend the weekend helping..."

Essential Narrative Connectors

• At the time...

• A few days earlier...

• Out of the blue...

• What happened next...

• Unexpectedly...

• Looking back...

Handling Unfamiliar or Difficult Topics



1. Truth is Optional

IELTS evaluates your English language proficiency, not real-life facts or honesty.



2. Pivot to Comfort

If asked about a favorite object you lack, pivot cleanly to your laptop or phone.



3. Invent Details

Add believable details, anecdotes, or emotions to keep your talk flowing seamlessly.

Golden Takeaway: Choose the easiest topic to describe, not necessarily the most truthful one.

Flexible High-Band Phrases

DESCRIBING

- "Particularly striking..."
- "Visually impressive..."
- "Renowned for its..."

SEQUENCING

- "Initially speaking..."
- "Subsequently..."
- "In the grand scheme..."

REACTIONS

- "Taken aback by..."
- "Thoroughly enjoyed..."
- "Exceeded expectations..."

REFLECTING

- "With benefit of hindsight..."
- "Valuable takeaway..."
- "Given the chance..."

Demonstrating Multiple Time Frames

PAST PERFECT

"I **had never visited** a place like that before."

PAST CONTINUOUS

"We **were wandering** through the market when..."

PRESENT PERFECT

"I **have stayed** in touch with them ever since."

CONDITIONAL / FUTURE

"If I **had** the chance, I **would definitely return**."

Natural Tense Integration

"I had never been to Rome before, so I was incredibly excited when we arrived. I've recommended it to everyone since, and I'd love to go back if I ever get the opportunity."

What to Do If You Get Stuck



Buying Time

- “ “Let me see...”
- “ “What else can I add...”
- “ “Come to think of it...”



Paraphrasing Words

- “ “It's basically a type of...”
- “ “I can't recall the precise name, but...”



Self-Correction

- “ “We went in 2021—sorry, I mean 2022...”
- ✓ Correct smoothly and move forward.

Common Part 2 Mistakes & Fixes

Common Mistake	Strategic Fix
Full script writing in prep	Write quick keywords and phrases only.
Running out of things to say at 50s	Use the "Zoom In" method (reasons, feelings, details).
Reading bullets like a checklist	Weave bullet points into one continuous narrative story.
Over-rehearsed memorized talks	Focus on flexible building blocks and natural tone.
Panicking over forgotten words	Paraphrase instantly and maintain your fluency rhythm.

Your Part 2 Master Game Plan

Before the Test

- ✓ Practise common themes (people, places, events, objects).
- ✓ Record 2-minute answers to evaluate cohesion.

1-Minute Prep

- ✓ Choose your central idea immediately.
- ✓ Jot down key nouns & action verbs.

2-Minute Talk

- ✓ Follow the Introduce → Detail → Reflect path.
- ✓ Keep speaking smoothly until stopped.

INTRODUCE → DEVELOP → ADD DETAIL → REFLECT → FINISH