

IELTS Speaking Part 2

Cue Cards and Model Answers – People

Ten Part 2 cue cards on the topic of people, each with a full model answer and useful vocabulary, collocations and idiomatic language highlighted in bold. Read each answer, note down vocabulary you want to learn, then use the prep pages to plan your own 2-minute talk.

IELTS Speaking Part 2

Topic: People

WHAT'S INSIDE

How to Use This Pack

Cue Cards 1–10 with Model Answers

Vocabulary Log

Prep Pages — Plan Your Own Answer

Speaking Practice — Instructions

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By the end of this pack, I will be able to: build a personal vocabulary list and plan a fluent, well-organised 2-minute Part 2 talk about people using short notes, not memorised sentences.

Follow These Steps for Every Cue Card

- ① **Read.** Read the cue card. Then read the model answer.
- ② **Look.** Look at the **bold words**. These are useful words and phrases for talking about people.
- ③ **Choose.** Choose the words you want to learn. Write them in your Vocabulary Log.
- ④ **Look up.** Look up any words or phrases you need. Use a dictionary or a translator.
- ⑤ **Prepare.** On the prep pages, you get 1 minute to plan. Use the four boxes to write short **notes** — one box for each bullet point. Do **not** write full sentences.
- ⑥ **Practise.** Speak for up to 2 minutes, using only your notes to help you.
- ⑦ **Move on.** Go to the next cue card. Do the same steps again.

TIP In the real exam, you get 1 minute to prepare and up to 2 minutes to speak. Practise using that timing once you feel confident with a cue card.



Speaking Part 2 — People

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CUE CARD 1

Describe a person who has influenced you or whom you admire

YOU SHOULD SAY:

- who this person is
- how you know them
- what they are like
- and explain how they have influenced you

MODEL ANSWER

The person who comes to mind straightaway is my grandmother, who's probably **had more influence on me than anyone else** in my life. I've known her, obviously, since I was born, but I only really started appreciating her as I got older, especially during my teenage years.

She's a fairly **remarkable woman**, actually. She **raised four children more or less on her own**, and even now, in her seventies, she still keeps a small vegetable garden and volunteers at a community centre twice a week. The thing that stands out most is **her patience** — I don't think I've ever seen her **lose her temper**, even when things go wrong.

The biggest reason she's influenced me is that she showed me, more through example than through lectures, that being **hardworking** and being **kind** don't have to cancel each other out. Growing up, whenever I complained that something was difficult, she'd just say, "well, that's what practice is for," and carry on. That attitude has genuinely shaped how I deal with problems now, whether that's at university or in everyday life.

So, for me, **what I admire most** isn't one big achievement — it's that **she's consistent**. She's the same **calm, hardworking** person whether things are going well or badly, and that's something I'm **still trying to learn from her**.

CUE CARD 2

Describe someone who helped you in a difficult situation

YOU SHOULD SAY:

- who this person is
- what the situation was
- how they helped you
- and explain how you felt about their help

MODEL ANSWER

I'll talk about a **former colleague** of mine, Daniel, who **helped me out** during a pretty stressful time at work a couple of years ago.

At the time, I'd just been given a project that felt a bit beyond me — a client presentation with a really tight deadline — and since I was still new to the company, I didn't have much confidence in my own ability to pull it off. I remember staying late one evening, more or less panicking, when Daniel noticed and **asked what was going on**.

Rather than just telling me what to do, which would have been the easier option for him, he **sat with me** for a couple of hours and went through the whole presentation, asking questions that helped me spot the weak points myself. He also gave me a template he'd used before, which saved a lot of time.

What I appreciated was that he didn't **make me feel bad** for needing help — if anything, he made it seem like a completely normal thing to **ask for**. In the end, the presentation went well, and that experience **changed how I ask colleagues for help** now; I'm much **less hesitant** about it than I used to be.



CUE CARD 3

Describe a friend you enjoy spending time with

YOU SHOULD SAY:

- who this friend is
- how you met
- what you usually do together
- and explain why you enjoy their company

MODEL ANSWER

I'll describe my friend Priya, who I met during my first year at university — we ended up in the same accommodation block, more by chance than anything, and just **got on well from the start**.

We usually do fairly ordinary things together, to be honest — cooking dinner, going for long walks, or trying out a new café that's opened nearby. Neither of us is really into big nights out, so our friendship is more about those relaxed, everyday moments than anything dramatic.

One thing I really enjoy about **her company** is that she's **a great listener**, but she's also got **a good sense of humour**, so conversations with her never feel **one-sided** or heavy. If I'm having a bad week, she somehow makes me laugh about it without **brushing off how I actually feel**, which isn't always an easy balance.

We can also **go weeks without seeing each other**, since we're both busy, and it never **feels awkward** when we do meet up again — we just **pick up where we left off**. I think that's probably the clearest sign of **a genuinely comfortable friendship**, and it's a big part of **why I value her so much**.

CUE CARD 4

Describe an interesting person you met recently

YOU SHOULD SAY:

- who this person is
- where you met them
- what was interesting about them
- and explain how you felt after meeting them

MODEL ANSWER

I met someone quite interesting a few months ago, actually, on a train journey of all places. His name was Tomasz, and we **got talking** after he noticed the book I was reading and mentioned he'd read it too.

It turned out he'd studied abroad in a few different countries and had picked up three languages more or less by accident, just from living in different places. What made him interesting wasn't the travelling itself so much as the way he talked about it — instead of just listing places he'd been, he had these small, specific stories, like getting lost in a market in Istanbul or learning to cook a dish from a neighbour in Warsaw.

What **struck me most** was how **open** he was with **a complete stranger**. He wasn't **showing off** at all; he just seemed **genuinely curious** about people, and that curiosity was a bit **contagious**, if I'm honest.

After we said goodbye, I actually found myself thinking about the conversation for the rest of the day. It made me realise how much you can learn from a short conversation if the other person is **willing to open up**, and it left me wanting to travel a bit more myself, instead of just reading about other people's experiences.



CUE CARD 5

Describe a teacher who left a strong impression on you

YOU SHOULD SAY:

- who this teacher was
- what subject they taught
- what they were like
- and explain why they left such an impression on you

MODEL ANSWER

I want to talk about Mr. Adeyemi, who taught me history in secondary school. He's probably the teacher who's **stayed in my memory the longest**, even though it's been years since I was in his class.

He could actually be **quite strict**, and not everyone in the class appreciated that at the time — he didn't accept late homework, for instance, no matter what the excuse was. But what made him different was that he never really relied on the textbook; he'd tell historical events almost like stories, with all the tension and human detail included, so even topics I'd normally find dry became **genuinely engaging**. He also had a habit of asking questions that didn't have an obvious right answer, which forced us to actually think instead of just memorising facts.

Looking back, I think the strictness was part of why the class worked so well — people who gave **a half-hearted answer** would get pushed to explain it properly, but he never **made anyone feel stupid** for getting something wrong.

I suppose what I took from his class was that **being curious** matters more than being right straightaway. That's a mindset I still try to apply now, whenever I'm studying something new, and it's largely down to how he ran that classroom.

CUE CARD 6

Describe someone who has an interesting or unusual job

YOU SHOULD SAY:

- who this person is
- what their job is
- what it involves
- and explain why you find it interesting

MODEL ANSWER

I'll talk about my cousin's partner, Elena, who works at an animal rescue centre, looking after injured wild animals. It's not the kind of job you come across every day, so I've always found it fascinating whenever she talks about it.

Basically, her job involves treating animals that have been hurt in some way — birds that have flown into windows, animals hit by cars, that sort of thing — with the goal of eventually releasing them back into the wild. What makes it harder than a normal vet's job is that the animals can't tell her what's wrong, and they're often scared and defensive simply because they're wild, not used to people.

I find it interesting for a couple of reasons. First, it needs **an unusual mix of skills** — medical knowledge, obviously, but also a lot of patience and **a good understanding of animal behaviour**. Second, the emotional side sounds pretty intense; she's mentioned that the hardest part isn't the medical work itself, but knowing that some animals just can't be saved, however much effort goes in.

What I admire is that she still **finds the job worthwhile** despite that, mainly because of the ones that do recover. Hearing her talk about releasing an animal back into the wild always makes the whole job sound worth it, even with the difficult parts.



CUE CARD 7

Describe an older person you know and respect

YOU SHOULD SAY:

- who this person is
- how you know them
- what they are like
- and explain why you respect them

MODEL ANSWER

I'll describe my neighbour, Mr. Harrison, who's in his early eighties and has lived on our street for as long as I can remember. I've known him basically my whole life, since our families have always **got on well**.

He's a genuinely interesting person to talk to, mainly because he's had **quite an eventful life** — he worked as an engineer for over forty years and travelled a fair amount for his job, so he has **endless stories**, though he never tells them in a way that feels like **showing off**. He's also **remarkably active for his age**; he still cycles most mornings and does most of his own gardening, which honestly **puts a lot of younger people to shame**.

The main reason I respect him, though, isn't really his energy levels — it's **his attitude to getting older**. Rather than complaining about it, which would be understandable, he treats every stage of life as something to **make the most of**. He's taken up painting recently, purely because he'd always wanted to try it and finally had the time.

Whenever I spend time with him, I come away feeling like age doesn't have to limit what you do or how curious you stay, and that's a perspective a lot of people, myself included, could probably benefit from.

CUE CARD 8

Describe a person you would like to meet or work with

YOU SHOULD SAY:

- who this person is
- what they do
- why you would like to meet or work with them
- and explain what you think you would learn from them

MODEL ANSWER

This is quite a nice one to think about, actually. If I could choose anyone, I think I'd like to meet a marine biologist named Dr. Sofia Marín, who I came across through a documentary a while ago about coral reef conservation.

Basically, what she does is lead research projects trying to repair damaged reef systems, and she's spent decades doing it in some fairly remote parts of the world. I'd like to meet her mainly because of how she talks about her work — there's a kind of **quiet determination** in the way she describes years of slow, often disappointing progress, without ever **sounding discouraged** by it.

If I had the chance to work alongside her, even for a short time, I think I'd learn a lot about **staying motivated**, to be honest, more than just the scientific side of things. It's one thing to care about an environmental issue in general, but it's quite another to **keep showing up** to the same difficult, slow-moving problem for years.

Ultimately, I suppose what draws me to the idea of meeting her is that she represents **a kind of patience** I don't think I've developed yet, and I'd be curious to find out how she's **kept it up** over such a long career.



CUE CARD 9

Describe a famous person you admire

YOU SHOULD SAY:

- who this person is
- what they are known for
- what they are like
- and explain why you admire them

MODEL ANSWER

I'd like to talk about a musician called Adrian Voss, who's fairly well known in the jazz world, although perhaps not a household name to everyone.

He's mainly known for mixing traditional jazz piano with electronic music, which, when I first heard it, honestly sounded like it shouldn't work at all, but somehow it does. Beyond the music, what I've read about him suggests he's quite **a private, thoughtful person** — he **rarely gives interviews**, and when he does, he talks more about the creative process than about fame or success.

The main reason I admire him is that he doesn't seem interested in **chasing popularity** for its own sake. In an industry where a lot of artists shape their work around what's likely to trend, he's kept experimenting with a sound that isn't always easy to listen to at first, purely because it's what genuinely interests him.

There's also something admirable about how long it took him to get any real recognition — by most accounts, he spent almost ten years performing in small venues before wider audiences started paying attention. That kind of persistence, **sticking with something you believe in** even without much of an audience, is **genuinely inspiring** to me, whatever field someone's working in.

CUE CARD 10

Describe a person who is good at their job or successful in their field

YOU SHOULD SAY:

- who this person is
- what they do
- what makes them good at it or successful
- and explain what you have learned from them

MODEL ANSWER

I'll describe my **former manager**, Grace, who I **worked under** for about two years and who is honestly **one of the most capable people** I've worked with.

She runs the marketing department at a mid-sized company. To be fair, she wasn't always the easiest person to work for — she was **quite demanding** and **expected a lot from the team** — but that's probably part of why she was so good at the job. She was **extremely organised**, and at the same time, **unusually good with people**, which isn't always a combination you find together. Meetings with her never dragged on, but you also felt **genuinely listened to** if you raised a concern.

I think the clearest sign of her success is that the whole team's performance noticeably improved once she took over — not because she pushed people harder, but because she was better at **working out what each person was actually good at** and giving them responsibilities that matched that. She also **wasn't afraid to admit** when a decision hadn't worked out, which, surprisingly, **made the team trust her** more rather than less.

What I've learned from watching her is that being good at a job isn't just about individual skill — it's largely about how you **get the best out of the people around you**. That's something I try to keep in mind now, even in a much smaller way, whenever I'm working as part of a team.



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CUE CARD 1

Describe a person who has influenced you or whom you admire

who this person is · how you know them · what they are like · and explain how they have influenced you

WHO THIS PERSON IS	HOW YOU KNOW THEM
WHAT THEY ARE LIKE	HOW THEY INFLUENCED YOU

CUE CARD 2

Describe someone who helped you in a difficult situation

who this person is · what the situation was · how they helped you · and explain how you felt about their help

WHO THIS PERSON IS	WHAT THE SITUATION WAS
HOW THEY HELPED YOU	HOW YOU FELT



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CUE CARD 3

Describe a friend you enjoy spending time with

who this friend is · how you met · what you usually do together · and explain why you enjoy their company

WHO THIS FRIEND IS	HOW YOU MET
WHAT YOU DO TOGETHER	WHY YOU ENJOY IT

CUE CARD 4

Describe an interesting person you met recently

who this person is · where you met them · what was interesting about them · and explain how you felt after meeting them

WHO THIS PERSON IS	WHERE YOU MET THEM
WHAT WAS INTERESTING	HOW YOU FELT AFTER



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CUE CARD 5

Describe a teacher who left a strong impression on you

who this teacher was · what subject they taught · what they were like · and explain why they left such an impression on you

WHO THIS TEACHER WAS	WHAT SUBJECT TAUGHT
WHAT THEY WERE LIKE	WHY IT LEFT AN IMPRESSION

CUE CARD 6

Describe someone who has an interesting or unusual job

who this person is · what their job is · what it involves · and explain why you find it interesting

WHO THIS PERSON IS	WHAT THEIR JOB IS
WHAT IT INVOLVES	WHY IT'S INTERESTING



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CUE CARD 7

Describe an older person you know and respect

who this person is · how you know them · what they are like · and explain why you respect them

WHO THIS PERSON IS	HOW YOU KNOW THEM
WHAT THEY ARE LIKE	WHY YOU RESPECT THEM

CUE CARD 8

Describe a person you would like to meet or work with

who this person is · what they do · why you would like to meet or work with them · and explain what you think you would learn from them

WHO THIS PERSON IS	WHAT THEY DO
WHY MEET OR WORK WITH THEM	WHAT YOU'D LEARN



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CUE CARD 9

Describe a famous person you admire

who this person is · what they are known for · what they are like · and explain why you admire them

WHO THIS PERSON IS	WHAT THEY'RE KNOWN FOR
WHAT THEY ARE LIKE	WHY YOU ADMIRE THEM

CUE CARD 10

Describe a person who is good at their job or successful in their field

who this person is · what they do · what makes them good at it or successful · and explain what you have learned from them

WHO THIS PERSON IS	WHAT THEY DO
WHAT MAKES THEM SUCCESSFUL	WHAT YOU LEARNED

