

IELTS SPEAKING

These band scores and examiner comments relate to the three video files on the website.

Balwinder, India

Speaking test: Part 3

Band 5.5

This candidate is willing to speak at length but he loses coherence at times owing to repetition and self-correction, e.g. when comparing famous people in the present and in the past. He uses a range of markers, linking words and phrases (*hopefully; like; actually; if we can talk about; as well; that's why*), but not always appropriately. Coherence is also affected by problems with word order.

Although he has a wide enough vocabulary to discuss topics at length, he often confuses word classes (*give you famous* instead of 'give you fame'; *doing social workers* instead of 'doing social work'). Despite this, his meaning usually comes through.

The grammatical aspect of his performance is affected by poor control of word order which sometimes causes comprehension problems. He uses both simple and complex sentence forms but structures frequently contain error (*it's depend; there will always be welcome of you; this is one reason can be*).

He can produce some acceptable features of pronunciation but overall rhythm is affected by his rapid speech rate. Intonation is generally too flat, apart from rising pitch at the end of sentences, which is not always helpful. This, combined with phonemic problems (*vork* for 'work'; *vell* for 'well'; *evryting* for 'everything'), makes some patches of speech hard to follow.

This candidate's problems with grammar and pronunciation restrict his rating to a 5.5.

Stephen, China

Speaking test: Part 3

Band 6

This candidate is willing to speak at length but there are moments when coherence is lost as a result of repetition, self-correction and hesitation and he is unable to answer the question about why people need a hobby. He is able to use a variety of markers to link his ideas (*first of all; I guess; like; it depends; at least; so*), although these are not always used appropriately. Limitations in his performance are evident when he falls back on fillers such as (*how to say; how do you say*).

He has a wide enough vocabulary to discuss topics at length (*China opening up to the world; cut down the working shifts; more work opportunities*), but while he uses some natural colloquial expressions (*some other guys; that's sweet*), there are also some collocation errors (*broaden your friendship; kill the spare time; in the past times; make more troubles*). These rarely cause comprehension problems.

He produces a mix of short and complex sentence forms with a variety of grammatical structures. However, overall his grammatical control is variable and errors recur (*you are make trouble to the society; people like spend; in the past ... people work more ... there is a period; may go travel round; we have also get*), though these do not impede communication.

His pronunciation is generally clear and he divides the flow of his speech into meaningful word groups with good use of stress and intonation (*normally we work eight hours a day, five days a week – that's forty hours in total*). Generally he can be understood, but occasionally some words are hard to catch because of mispronunciation of sounds (*bose* for 'both'; *yoursels* for 'yourself'; *cupper years* for 'couple of years'; *zen* for 'then'; *word* for 'world').

This candidate is a good example of a Band 6.

Hendrik, Germany
Speaking test: Part 3
Band 7

This candidate can maintain the flow of speech without noticeable effort and there is no loss of coherence. He uses a variety of linking words and markers (*I would say; that's a good question; as I said; as long as*), but he overuses the filler (*yeah*) and sometimes referencing is inaccurate (*for the one or the other reasons*).

He uses a wide range of vocabulary, including some less common and idiomatic items and effective collocation (*easy to blame; global warming; financial crisis; he stands for something; can't stand the pressure*). However, sometimes he lacks precision in his choice of words and expressions (*Greek* instead of 'Greece'; *on the other side of the lake; environmentally people/things; a big branch*).

His grammar displays a good range of both simple and complex structures. Many of his sentences are error-free but he makes some mistakes in subject/verb agreement (*people who wants; the people who admires him*), articles (*the normal person*) and relative pronouns (*everything what happens*).

His pronunciation is clear and easy to follow. He uses both sentence stress and intonation effectively to convey meaning (*you can't blame a **soccer** player but it's **easy** to blame the **politicians***). He does have a noticeable accent, however, and his mispronunciation of a few words results in occasional loss of clarity (*wole model* for 'role model'; *wong* for 'wrong'; *serf the planet* for 'serve the planet').

This candidate is a clear example of a Band 7.