

HACK YOUR IELTS • EP. 1

100

IELTS Speaking Words

Simple, natural words that make your
answers clearer — not harder.

10 topics • 10 words each • real example sentences



BEFORE YOU START

Don't impress. Communicate.

The examiner doesn't want Shakespeare. They want you to sound clear, natural and confident. These words help you do exactly that.

1

Pick words you can say naturally.

If a word feels forced in your mouth, skip it. Fluency beats fancy.

2

Learn the sentence, not just the word.

Every word comes with an example. Read it, then say it out loud.

3

Use 1–2 new words per answer.

Stuffing ten new words into one answer sounds robotic.

4

Make your own example.

Change the sentence to match your real life. That's how it sticks.

EXAMPLE · “Do you like travelling?”**INSTEAD OF THIS**

“Travelling is an indispensable aspect of my life, which provides me...”

SAY THIS

“Yeah, I love travelling because it helps me take a break from my routine.”

01 Likes & Feelings

PART 1

thrilled	I was thrilled when I heard the news.
keen on	I'm quite keen on photography.
fond of	I'm really fond of street food.
relaxing	Walking by the sea is so relaxing.
exhausting	My daily commute is honestly exhausting.
stressful	Exam week is always stressful for me.
peaceful	I love how peaceful it is early in the morning.
exciting	Travelling to new cities is always exciting.
annoying	Loud music on the bus is really annoying.
rewarding	Teaching my cousin felt really rewarding.

02 Opinion Starters

PART 1 & 3

personally	Personally, I think online classes are quite useful.
honestly	Honestly, I'd rather stay at home on weekends.
generally	Generally, people prefer shopping online now.
apparently	Apparently, that café is the best in town.
basically	Basically, it saves me a lot of time.
frankly	Frankly, I don't see the point of it.
arguably	Arguably, trains are better than buses.
definitely	I'd definitely recommend it to my friends.
mostly	I mostly study at night.
actually	Actually, I used to hate maths.

03 Frequency & Time

PART 1

usually	I usually wake up around six.
occasionally	I occasionally cook for my family.
rarely	I rarely watch TV these days.
nowadays	Nowadays, most people use their phones for everything.
lately	I've been reading a lot lately.
regularly	I exercise regularly, mostly in the evening.
increasingly	Cities are becoming increasingly crowded.
whenever	Whenever I'm free, I go for a walk.
eventually	I eventually got used to the weather.
constantly	My phone is constantly buzzing.

04 People & Places

PART 1 & 2

friendly	My neighbours are incredibly friendly.
hardworking	My dad is the most hardworking person I know.
outgoing	I'm quite outgoing, so I make friends easily.
reliable	She's very reliable. She never lets me down.
creative	My sister has a really creative mind.
crowded	The market is always crowded on Sundays.
spacious	Our new flat is bright and spacious.
lively	The street is lively in the evenings.
cosy	It's a cosy little café near my house.
charming	It's a small, charming town by the river.

05 Swap Simple Words

PART 1 & 2

fantastic	The food there was fantastic. (instead of “good”)
useful	Map apps are really useful. (instead of “good”)
terrible	The traffic was terrible. (instead of “bad”)
tiny	My first room was tiny. (instead of “very small”)
huge	It's a huge shopping mall. (instead of “very big”)
essential	Sleep is essential for students.
popular	Cricket is incredibly popular back home.
convenient	Online banking is so convenient.
affordable	The rent there is quite affordable.
challenging	Learning French was challenging at first.

06 Linking & Flow

ALL PARTS

however	I like cities. However, they can be noisy.
although	Although it was tiring, I enjoyed it.
besides	Besides, it's much cheaper.
instead	I took the bus instead.
otherwise	I leave early. Otherwise, I get stuck in traffic.
meanwhile	Meanwhile, my brother was cooking dinner.
in fact	In fact, I've never been abroad.
as a result	As a result, I started going to bed earlier.
mainly	I mainly use it for work.
especially	I love summer, especially in the mountains.

07 Telling a Story

PART 2

suddenly	Suddenly, the lights went out.
unforgettable	It was an unforgettable trip.
memorable	The day was truly memorable.
unexpected	It was a totally unexpected surprise.
nervous	I was nervous before the presentation.
relieved	I felt so relieved when it was over.
grateful	I'm really grateful for her help.
embarrassing	It was a bit embarrassing at the time.
realised	I realised I'd left my bag at home.
turned out	It turned out to be a great day.

08 Society & Change

PART 3

influence	Social media has a huge influence on teenagers.
benefit	Parks benefit the whole community.
improve	Better transport could improve daily life.
encourage	Schools should encourage creativity.
rely on	Many people rely on their phones too much.
affect	Pollution affects our health.
tend to	Young people tend to prefer online shopping.
depends on	It really depends on the person.
compared to	Compared to the past, life is much faster now.
in the long run	In the long run, it saves money.

09 Agree, Disagree & Balance

PART 3

agree	I totally agree with that.
disagree	I slightly disagree, to be honest.
advantage	The biggest advantage is flexibility.
drawback	The only drawback is the cost.
on the other hand	On the other hand, it can be expensive.
to some extent	To some extent, that's true.
mixed feelings	I have mixed feelings about it.
convinced	I'm convinced it's worth the effort.
worthwhile	Learning a language is always worthwhile.
undoubtedly	Undoubtedly, it makes life easier.

10 Natural Fillers

ALL PARTS

Well,	Well, that's a tough one.
Let me think	Let me think... probably my grandfather.
To be fair	To be fair, it's not that simple.
I'd say	I'd say it's quite common.
I guess	I guess it's because of the cost.
Come to think of it	Come to think of it, I did enjoy it.
What I mean is	What I mean is, it's affordable.
Good question	That's a good question, actually.
Sort of	It's sort of a hobby now.
If I'm honest	If I'm honest, I never liked it.

**Be clear.
Be natural.
Be confident.**

That's the whole hack. See you in Episode 2.

