

IELTS Speaking Lesson #2



7 Adaptable phrases

1. ...the one I'd like to tell you about is...
2. My favourite was...
3. I'd like to talk about...
4. Let me tell you about...
5. Personally, I would have to say...
6. ...the one who/that stands out is...
7. I'm going to tell you about...





Opening phrases

1. Describe something you do to stay healthy.

I do many things that contribute to a healthy lifestyle but the one I'd like to tell you about is...

2. Describe a TV programme you have watched recently.

I have watched several good TV programmes recently but my favourite was...

3. Describe a day out that you enjoyed.

I'd like to talk about the time I went to...

4. Describe a special friend.

Let me tell you about my friend Kia.



More examples

5. Discuss the meaning of happiness for you.
Personally, I would have to say that being happy...
6. Describe the best teacher you have ever had.
I've been lucky enough to have had several really good teachers but the one who stands out is...
7. Describe a photograph you particularly like.
I'm going to tell you about a photograph I took...

Extend your opening

Describe a place that is special to you.

I'd like to tell you about a field not far from where I live. **I've chosen this** place because it's where I love to walk my dog.



The topic

Topic: Describe a TV programme you have watched recently.

Opening sentence: I have watched several good TV programmes recently but my favourite was...

Paraphrase the topic sentence

Show that you are able to use your own language.

- I have ~~watched~~ seen several good TV programmes
~~recently~~ in the past few weeks but my favourite was...

Add detail

Name a type of TV programme instead of repeating 'TV programmes', e.g.

- I have seen several good documentaries / comedies / dramas in the past few weeks...

Use strong adjectives

Replace 'good' with a stronger adjective, e.g.

- I have seen several ~~good~~ **excellent** TV programmes in the past few weeks...



Examples

- I have seen several **thought-provoking** documentaries...
- I have seen several **extremely** funny comedies...
- I have seen several **exciting** dramas...



Use contractions

- Contract '**I have**' seen... to '**I've**' seen...
- This will give you a better score for your pronunciation.

A better sentence

Original: I have watched several good TV programmes recently but my favourite was...

Improved: I've seen several extremely funny comedies in the past few weeks but my favourite was...

The second version is a much stronger sentence.



Part 1

7 ways to develop your answers

1. Explanation
2. Combined details
3. Examples
4. Frequency
5. Contrast
6. Past comparisons
7. The future

Question & simple answer

Question: How often do you socialise with friends?

Simple answer: I socialise with friends several times a week.

1. Explanation

Question: How often do you socialise with friends?

Extended answer: I socialise with friends most evenings after work and at weekends because I live on my own which often gets me down. Going out with friends or having them round means that I don't feel so lonely.

2. Combined Details

Question: How often do you socialise with friends?

Extended answer: During the week, I generally meet up with friends two evenings after work and on Saturdays, I go shopping with my best friend. Sundays I save for seeing my family.

3. Examples

Question: How often do you socialise with friends?

Extended answer: I usually see my closest friends several times a week. Like this week, I'm meeting my best friend for a drink this evening, then we're going to the cinema with some girls from work on Friday, and on Saturday we're all meeting up at a party.

Vocabulary of frequency

- always
- usually
- normally
- generally
- often
- frequently
- sometimes
- occasionally
- seldom
- hardly ever
- rarely
- never

4. Frequency

Question: How often do you socialise with friends?

Extended answer: I normally see friends most days of the week, especially my best friend who I generally catch up with after work. At the weekends, a group of us often go to the park to play football or chill out.

Vocabulary of contrast

- but
- although
- however
- even though
- despite
- while

5. Contrast

Question: How often do you socialise with friends?

Extended answer: I try to meet up with friends several times a week but rarely on a Sunday because that's when I visit my family. However, every few months I cook a barbeque Sunday lunch and invite both my friends and family around.

6. Past Comparisons

Question: How often do you socialise with friends?

Extended answer: I used to socialise with my friends every day but I don't see them so often now that I have a baby and can't go out in the evenings so much. We probably meet up just a few times a month.

7. Future

Question: How often do you socialise with friends?

Extended answer: Currently, I hardly see my friends at all as I spend all my spare time studying for my IELTS exam. When I pass the exam, I'll meet up with my mates most evenings like I used to do and spend weekends with them as well.

Part 1: Paraphrasing the question

Paraphrase the question

- The examiner will be impressed if you're able to paraphrase their question rather than repeating the vocabulary they used.
- You don't need to do this for every question.
- Paraphrase when key words can easily be replaced with synonyms.

Which is the best answer?

Question: Have you visited any foreign countries?

Answer 1: Yes, I've visited two foreign countries, the UK and Egypt. My favourite foreign country was the UK because it's so different to my own country. Another country I want to visit is France.

Answer 2: Yes, I've been abroad a couple of times, first to the UK, then to Egypt. I particularly enjoyed the UK because it's so different to my own country. I'd also love to travel to France.

Improved fluency

Question: Have you visited any foreign countries?

Answer 1: Yes, I've visited two foreign countries, the UK and Egypt. My favourite foreign country was the UK because it's so different to my own country. Another country I want to visit is France.

Answer 2: Yes, I've been abroad a couple of times, first to the UK, then to Egypt. I particularly enjoyed the UK because it's so different to my own country. I'd also love to travel to France.