

# 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.