🩹 IELTS SPEAKING FIRST AID KIT

10 Ways to Improve Your Score

Speaking is marked on fluency, vocabulary, grammar and pronunciation. Small changes in the way you answer can make a big difference.

✅ 10 Points to Check

1. **Answer, then add more.** In Part 1, give two or three sentences with a reason or an example. ☐
2. **Don't memorise answers.** Examiners notice, and memorised answers can lower your score. ☐
3. **Use your minute in Part 2.** Write keywords, not sentences – one idea for each point. ☐
4. **Keep going in Part 2.** Move on with signposts: *As for...*, *Another thing is...* ☐
5. **Think bigger in Part 3.** Talk about people in general, and give reasons and examples. ☐
6. **Choose the right tense.** Past for stories, present perfect for experience, future for plans. ☐
7. **Buy time naturally.** Say *That's an interesting question...* instead of staying silent. ☐
8. **Correct yourself.** Self-correction is fine. It shows the examiner you know the rule. ☐
9. **Speak clearly, not fast.** Clear stress and short pauses are better than speed or a perfect accent. ☐
10. **Ask if you need to.** In Part 1, ask the examiner to repeat. In Part 3, you can ask what a question means. ☐

⚡ Quick Practice

Correct the mistake in sentences 1–4. Make answer 5 longer.

1. *Where do you live?* **I live in this city since 2019.**
2. *What did you do last summer?* **Last summer I go to Spain with my family.**
3. *What are your plans?* **In the future, I will to study medicine.**
4. *Have you ever been to France?* **Yes, I have visited Paris last year.**
5. *Do you like reading?* **Yes.**

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✔️ Answers

1. I **have lived** in this city since 2019.
   From 2019 until now: present perfect with *since*.

2. Last summer I **went** to Spain with my family.
   A finished time in the past: past simple.

3. In the future, I **will study** medicine.
   No *to* after *will*. *I'm going to study* is also good.

4. Yes, I **visited** Paris last year.
   last year is a finished time: past simple. *Yes, I have. I visited...* is natural.

5. Yes, I do. I usually read before bed, mostly crime novels, because they help me relax.
   Answer, then add a detail and a reason.

My score: ____ / 5

🚑 Your 1-Minute Check

After each practice answer, ask yourself: **Did I add a reason or an example?**

Record one answer a day and listen back. Choose one thing to improve, and try again.

🎯 **Want more practice?** Find full speaking, vocabulary and grammar lessons – many of them free – at **startielts.co.uk**.

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