

IELTS SPEAKING

VIDEO COMPANION BOOKLET



For IELTS General & Academic



Introduction - Questions

Can you tell me your full name please?

And can you tell me where you're from?

Speaking Part 1 - Questions

Do you live in a house or an apartment?

What's your favourite part of your home?

Will you stay there a long time, do you think?

Let's talk about photos.

Do you enjoy taking photos?

Do you use your phone or camera for taking photos?

What do you do with the photos you take?

Would you like to learn more about photography?

Let's talk about studying history.

Did you enjoy studying history at school?

How did you learn in history classes?

Are you interested in history now?

Where can people learn more about history?



Speaking Part 2 - Questions & Sample Answers

Talk about a house or apartment that someone you know lives in

You should talk about:

- **Whose house or apartment it is**
- **Where it is located**
- **What it is like inside**

And describe what you like or dislike about this house.

Pro-tip: A good way to make sure you have plenty to say is to make comparisons. Don't just talk about one house, compare it to another house and describe how one is better than the other.

Answer: About 10 years ago, my parents moved to a small house in Victoria. They had been living in a much bigger house for years. This was where I grew up and it was close to my elementary school and highschool. But once my sister and I had moved out and gotten our own places, they decided to downsize. Their new house is close to the university, so it's now pretty far from the city, which makes it harder to travel to, but it's a lovely house. It has far fewer rooms, but the interior is a lot nicer. It was built recently, unlike the old house, so all the floors and the kitchen are brand new. It has wooden floors, which are much more durable. My parents' old house had all kinds of scuffs and nicks in the floor. It's also much warmer as it has a better heating system. In fact, that's one of the things I like most about the house. It's very warm. The last time I visited my parents and stayed with them, it was so cozy. They would turn on the heat and the house was almost instantly warm. In the old house, it would usually take 20 or 30 minutes to warm up, and even then during the winter, it was still super cold. All that said, it still doesn't feel like home to me, the way the old house did. The new house is really nice, but the old one had character. Sadly, a lot of houses these days are very simple. Too simple. The old house had old-fashioned sinks, bathtubs, and even doors. It felt like you were travelling back in time. New houses seem to be designed only for function. It's not bad, I guess. It's just a bit boring.

Question: Do you visit this person often?

Answer: Definitely. Every time I go back home, I stay with my parents.

Pro-tip: Did you notice how in this answer I used a range of techniques to extend and add depth to my answers, a 'time-intro' at the beginning, 'effect', and 'emotional words' like 'Sadly'? Be sure to check out "8 useful techniques for any topic" on our Youtube channel to learn more about these techniques for extending ideas.



Speaking Part 3 - Questions & Sample Answers

Question: What kinds of homes are most common in your country?

Answer: I come from a small city, so homes are still the most common. Obviously, downtown has a lot of apartments, but once you get out of the city, it's mostly houses.

Question: What are the benefits of living in an apartment?

Pro-Tip: The questions asks about benefits, plural. Be sure to organise your answer this way: 'One benefit is... Another is...' If possible try to give more than one answer with these questions.

Answer: The biggest benefit is probably that you can live closer to the city. If you can get to work quickly, it saves a lot of time and energy. If you want to live in a house, you'll probably have to look in the suburbs. Another benefit is probably that it forces you to manage your space well. In an apartment, there isn't a lot of space so you can't accumulate too many possessions. I know a lot of people who live in houses, after a few years, they have so much stuff, and a lot of it they really don't need. I think an apartment is really best for younger people.

Question: Are there any downsides?

Pro-tip: Use the word 'if' to introduce the context or situation.

Answer: Well, long-term, it might be hard to live in a small apartment. If you want to entertain friends, or cook them dinner, you probably won't be able to have too many people over. Another downside might be the noise. Depending on where your apartment is, there might be restaurants, traffic, and even clubs. If you're too close to the ground level, the noise might keep you awake at night. I also imagine that for some people, being around the hustle and bustle of the city all the time might be exhausting. While it is convenient to live in an apartment, there will definitely be times when you really want to get out of the city.



Speaking Part 3 - Continued

Question: In your country, what is the typical age for people to move out of the family home?

Pro-tip: If you use the phrase 'it depends' you must fully explain this. You could follow 'it depends' with 'Some people... Other people...' or 'If... But if...'

Answer: It depends on the person. Some people move out right after high-school. If they start working right away, or if they study a trade, then they leave quite quickly. Others go to university in a different city so they have to move out. It's actually quite common. But if you're going to university in your hometown, then for a lot of people, it's common, and frankly smart, to stay with your parents. You can save a bit of money, and get an occasional warm meal from your parents. Actually, in my home country, it is common for people to move out when they are young and then move back in with their parents for a short time when they're older, say when they're saving to buy a home, or if they're moving to another city and don't want to keep renting.

Question: Do you think that that's the best age to leave home?

Answer: Again, I'd say it depends on the person, but I really think that if you're living at home after 25, I hope that person has a good reason to do so. That said, I have noticed that it's more common these days to live with one's parents past 25. If the cost of living is getting higher and wages aren't increasing enough, especially with entry-level jobs, well, I guess it makes sense.

Question: What are some advantages of families living together for a longer time?

Answer: Well, you'll save money, that's for sure. Each month, you'll have an extra few hundred or maybe even a thousand dollars that you can save, or use to pay for school or school loans. Despite the challenges of living with your parents, I think that when you need to save money, it really is the best option. I guess another advantage is that, well... they are your parents. You only get so much time with them. After you move out, you're going to see them a lot less. I remember when I moved out, sometimes I went months without seeing them. I read somewhere that once you move out, every day until that day is 80% of the time you'll have spent with them. That's wild! You only have 20% left!



Speaking Part 3 - Continued

Question: Are there any problems that can happen when families live together?

Pro-tip: Speak globally. It's OK to use personal examples, but be sure to make it global, something that could be true for many people. Also, keep in mind that this question is asking if there are any problems. Maybe you don't think there are any problems! You can say that in your answer, BUT you have to explain why it isn't a problem or why it's a good thing. Be careful though. If you say it isn't a problem (if you disagree with the position of the question) you MUST be able to explain why.

Answer: Well, if you don't get along, it's a pretty big problem. I've had some friends whose parents insisted they leave. Sometimes parents want their kids to go out and take the next step in life, and when they don't, it's hard for the parent. I heard someone call it 'failure-to-launch'. Another problem might be that you fall into bad old habits. You start to act like a kid again, expecting your parents to cook for you and clean your laundry. If you're not careful, you'll regress into a child again, which is probably not ideal.

Question: In the future, do you think that people will choose to rent rather than buying a house?

Pro-tip: Use emotional words: "Sadly, Fortunately, To be honest..." These words help you think about the global effect of your answers.

Answer: I think people will rent more. Sadly, it is becoming too expensive to buy a house. Every year, housing prices rise and as a result, less people can afford to buy. I think people would still prefer to buy, especially when they get older. Unless governments step in and regulate housing prices a little more carefully, I think people will have no choice but to rent.

Question: Do you think living in another country will become more common in the future?

Answer: It's hard to say. I hope it does. I think that there is a lot that can be learned from spending time in a different country for an extended period of time. You can learn more about yourself and become more independent, which is important if you want to be successful and happy in life. More people are learning foreign languages and it's cheaper to fly now. That said, I think a lot of people want to stay in their home country where it's comfortable.



IELTS Speaking Criteria Checklist

Fluency & Cohesion

Speak without effort

Use a range of connectives/discourse markers

Develop topics fully

Lexical Resource

Use vocab precise and flexibly

Use less common/idiomatic vocab

Use paraphrasing

Grammatical Range & Accuracy

Use a range of structures

Produce frequent error-free sentences

Pronunciation

Use intonation

Use emphasis and stress

Use connected speech

Pronounce all sounds correctly



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