



Lesson 9: Culture and Traditions

IELTS Speaking Part 1



The English Hub

What is IELTS Speaking Part 1?

IELTS Speaking Part 1 is the first part of the test and lasts **4–5 minutes**. You will answer **easy questions** about familiar topics such as:

- Hobbies, daily life, your hometown, and today's focus: **culture and traditions**

What's tested:

- Fluency in speaking naturally
- Using everyday grammar and vocabulary correctly
- Showing basic opinions with clear support

Today's topic: **Culture and Traditions** – ideal for showing personal identity and values.

Sample IELTS Questions: Culture & Traditions

Practice answering the following questions:

- Are traditions important in your culture?
- What traditional festivals do people celebrate in your country?
- Do you take part in any cultural events?
- What traditional clothes are common in your country?
- Have traditional customs changed in recent years?

Tip: Try to give full, natural answers with **one idea and one example**.

Grammar Focus: Present Simple for Traditions

Use **Present Simple** for:

- General truths
- National or local habits
- Personal routines or cultural behaviour

Structure:

Subject + base verb (+ s/es for he/she/it)

Examples:

- “In my country, we celebrate the New Year with fireworks.”
- “People usually visit relatives during holidays.”
- “We wear traditional clothes during festivals.”

Task: Write 3 Present Simple sentences about your culture.

Vocabulary Builder: Key Words for Culture

Nouns:

tradition, culture, celebration, heritage, custom, ceremony, event

Adjectives:

traditional, cultural, national, historic, festive

Activity: Use 3 vocabulary words to describe a festival or celebration in your country.

Activity: Describe a Festival

Prompt:

Can you describe a celebration from your culture?

Include:

- The name of the festival
- When and why it's celebrated
- What people do

Example:

“We celebrate Diwali every year in autumn. It’s known as the festival of lights. Families clean their homes, light lamps, and enjoy sweets.”



Grammar Focus: Present Perfect for Changes Over Time

Use **Present Perfect** to describe changes in culture or traditions.

Structure:

have/has + past participle

Examples:

- “People have started celebrating Western festivals.”
- “Our customs have changed due to modern life.”
- “Many people have forgotten old traditions.”

Task: Write two Present Perfect sentences showing a change in cultural habits.

Useful Verbs for Cultural Topics

Useful Verbs:

celebrate, respect, follow, continue, preserve, represent, participate

Task: Choose 3 of these verbs and use them in complete sentences about your culture or one you know about.



Speaking Practice: Traditional Clothing

Question:

What kind of traditional clothes do people wear in your country?

Example:

- “In my country, men wear kurtas and women wear colourful sarees at weddings. The clothes are made from silk and cotton, and each region has its own style.”

Task: Use specific materials, colours, and occasions.



Grammar Focus: Past Simple for Cultural Events

Use **Past Simple** to talk about **events you've attended** in the past.

Structure:

Subject + past verb

Examples:

- “Last year, I attended a cultural dance festival.”
- “We visited a historical site and watched a performance.”
- “I wore traditional clothes and joined the parade.”

Task: Say 2–3 sentences about a cultural event you attended.



Answer Comparison: Quality Examples

IELTS Question: *Do you enjoy cultural celebrations?*

- **Basic Answer:**
“Yes, I like them.”
- **Good Answer:**
“Yes, I enjoy celebrating festivals like Eid or Diwali. They’re full of food and family time.”
- **Very Good Answer:**
“Yes, I really enjoy cultural celebrations because they bring people together. For example, during Diwali, we decorate the house, light candles, and share sweets with neighbours. It’s a time to connect with family and culture.”

Task: Try to answer the question above using the ‘Very Good Answer’ format!



Vocabulary Builder: Places & Events

Places & Events:

temple, mosque, shrine, gathering, fair, exhibition, national holiday, family reunion

Task: Describe one of these and say what happens during that event or gathering.



Pronunciation Practice

Repeat the following words after your tutor or try and say them independently:

- tradition
- celebrate
- heritage
- festival
- ceremony
- community

Task: Use three of these in one spoken sentence and practise fluency.



Mini Discussion: Changes in Traditions

Prompt:

Have traditions changed in your country?

Example:

“Yes, many people celebrate foreign holidays now, like Halloween or Valentine’s Day. Some traditional values have faded, but others remain strong.”

Use Present Perfect and compare past and present.



Functional Language: Giving Opinions

Useful Phrases:

- “I believe traditions are...”
- “In my opinion, culture helps...”
- “Personally, I feel that...”
- “I’ve noticed that nowadays...”
- “It’s important to keep...”

Task: Use two of these in a short opinion answer about your culture or a popular tradition in your country.



Lightning Speaking Round

Answer the following questions in 1–2 full sentences:

- What is your favourite festival?
- Do young people follow traditions?
- How are weddings celebrated in your country?
- Do you know other cultures?



Grammar Focus: “Used to” for Past Traditions

Use **used to** to describe customs from the past that are not common now.

Examples:

- “People used to cook everything at home during festivals.”
- “We used to wear traditional clothes more often.”
- “Children used to play traditional games.”

Task: Think of two ways about how old traditions are changing and describe them to your tutor.

Error Correction Activity

Can you correct the following sentences?

We celebrates this festival in July.

My family go temple every Sunday.

He have joined the event before.



Cultural Idioms

- “Old habits die hard.” (Traditions are difficult to change)
- “The heart of the community.” (Something central or important)
- “Passed down through generations.” (Tradition continued over time)

Task: Use one of these idioms, or some you can think of with your tutor to build two sentences.