

Lesson 7: Environment

IELTS Speaking Part 1



What Is IELTS Speaking Part 1?

IELTS Speaking Part 1 is a **4–5 minute** section at the beginning of the speaking exam. You'll answer **simple personal questions** on **everyday topics**.

Purpose:

- To test your ability to speak naturally
- To help you warm up with the examiner
- To focus on fluency and coherence

Today's topic: **The Environment** – a common subject in IELTS and a chance to express opinions about nature, pollution, and your lifestyle.



Sample IELTS Questions: Environment

- Do you care about the environment?
- Are there any environmental problems in your area?
- What do you do to help the environment?
- Have you ever taken part in an environmental campaign?
- What can individuals do to help the planet?

Tip: Give complete, thoughtful answers – not too short, but not long speeches. Include an example or opinion.



Grammar Focus: Present Simple for Facts and Habits

Use **Present Simple** to talk about habits and environmental routines.

Structure:

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

Examples:

- "I recycle plastic and glass at home."
- "My city has a good public transport system."
- "People often throw litter in the park."

Task: Write two Present Simple sentences about your daily environmental habits.



Grammar Focus: Present Perfect for Life Experiences

Use **Present Perfect** to talk about **experiences or changes** related to the environment.

Structure:

have/has + past participle

Examples:

- "I've joined a clean-up event before."
- "She has never recycled at home."
- "We've used less plastic since last year."

Task: Write one positive and one negative experience using Present Perfect.



Vocabulary Builder: Environmental Words

Key Nouns:

pollution, climate change, waste, plastic, nature, deforestation, greenhouse gases

Verbs & Phrases:

recycle, reuse, reduce, protect, conserve, go green

Task: Choose 3 of these and use them in a sentence about your own behaviour or your country.



Activity: Describe a Local Issue

Question:

Is there an environmental problem in your area?

Try to include:

- What the problem is (e.g. litter, traffic pollution)
- How it affects the area
- Your personal opinion

Example:

"In my area, air pollution is a problem. There are too many cars and not enough green spaces. I think more trees should be planted."



Grammar Focus: Using "Should" and "Must"

Use **should** for suggestions.
Use **must** for strong advice or rules.

Examples:

- "People should recycle more often."
- "We must stop using plastic bags."
- "Governments should invest in clean energy."

Task: Write two suggestions using "should" and one strong opinion using "must".



Discussion Practice: Personal Responsibility

Prompt:

What can you do in daily life to protect the environment?

Tips:

- Use Present Simple
- Use one modal verb (should/must)
- Mention daily habits

Example:

"I try to save water by turning off the tap. I also bring my own shopping bag. We should all reduce plastic waste."



Vocabulary Builder: Nature & Conservation

Nature Words:

wildlife, forest, oceans, national parks, endangered species, clean air

Task: Choose two vocabulary words and explain why they are important to protect.

Example:

"Oceans are important because they support marine life and help control the Earth's temperature."



Pronunciation Practice

Repeat these words after your tutor or say them independently:

- environment
- pollution
- climate
- global warming
- energy
- rubbish

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



Error Correction Activity

Can you correct the following sentences?

- People throw rubbish in the street every days.
- He has take part in a recycling project.
- We should to use less plastic.



Mini-Quiz: Fill the Gaps

Choose the correct word:

- We must _____ energy. (protect / conserve / pollute)
- Plastic pollution is a serious _____. (solution / question / problem)
- I always _____ my old bottles. (reduce / recycle / react)

Word bank: recycle, conserve, problem



Speaking Practice: Opinions

Question:

Do you think young people care about the environment?

Structure:

- State opinion clearly
- Give one reason
- Use an example

Example:

"I think many young people do care about the environment. For example, some of my classmates always bring reusable bottles and walk to school."



Compare: Past and Present Habits

Prompt:

Do people protect the environment more now than in the past?

Example:

"In the past, people didn't think about pollution. Now, many recycle and use public transport. I believe people are more aware today."

Task: Use Present Perfect and comparative phrases (more than / less than before).



Useful Phrases for Environmental Topics

- "We need to be more aware of..."
- "It's important to take small steps."
- "Our actions have an effect on nature."
- "Everyone has a role to play."
- "It starts with simple changes."

Task: Use two of these to create a sentence about environmental impacts.

The English Hub

IELTS Fluency Practice: Personal Story

Question:

Have you ever done something to help the environment?

Include:

- When it was
- What you did
- How it made you feel

Example:

"Last year, I joined a local beach clean-up. We collected plastic for three hours. It felt great to make a small difference."



Grammar Focus: "Used to" for Past Habits

Use **used to** to describe environmental habits that are no longer true.

Examples:

- "People used to throw rubbish anywhere."
- "We used to waste a lot of water at home."
- "My town didn't use to have recycling bins."

Task: Write two sentences using "used to" about old environmental habits.



Quick Answer Challenge

Answer the following questions in 2–3 full sentences in 1 minute:

Do you use public transport or drive?

How do you save energy at home?

What's one thing your community could improve?

