



Lesson 5: Travel and Tourism

IELTS Speaking Part 1



The English Hub

What Is IELTS Speaking Part 1?

IELTS Speaking Part 1 lasts **4–5 minutes**. You'll be asked about **personal and familiar topics** such as hobbies, hometown, travel, and daily life.

Purpose:

- To assess your fluency with basic everyday English
- To warm up the interview with natural, comfortable questions

Today's topic: **Travel and Tourism** – a very common IELTS subject.



Sample IELTS Questions: Travel & Tourism

- Do you enjoy travelling?
- What's the most interesting place you've visited?
- Do you prefer travelling alone or with others?
- Have you travelled abroad?
- Is tourism popular in your country?

Tip: Expand your answer naturally – add *where*, *why*, *who* *with*, and a short opinion.

Grammar Focus: Past Simple for Travel Experiences

Use the **Past Simple** to describe past trips and holidays.

Structure:

Subject + past verb

Examples:

- “Last year, I visited Spain with my family.”
- “We stayed in a small seaside town.”
- “I really enjoyed the food and the weather.”

Task: Write 2–3 sentences about your last trip using Past Simple.

Grammar Focus: Present Perfect for Experiences

Use the **Present Perfect** to talk about travel experiences in your life (unspecified time).

Structure:

have/has + past participle

Examples:

- “I’ve travelled to five countries.”
- “She has never been on a plane.”
- “We’ve visited many historical sites.”

Task: Write 2 Present Perfect sentences about places you have or haven’t visited.

Vocabulary Builder: Travel Words

Places:

seaside, countryside, mountains, capital city, national park

Travel Activities:

sightseeing, hiking, exploring, relaxing, sunbathing, camping

Accommodation:

hotel, hostel, guesthouse, homestay, resort

Task: Use at least 3 travel words in a short description of a past holiday.

Activity: Real vs Imaginary

Choose a scenario:

- **One real place** you've visited
- **One place** you want to visit in the future

Say:

- Where it is
- Why you like / want to visit it
- Something memorable about it

Example:

“I went to Italy last summer. I visited Rome and saw the Colosseum. I loved the history. I'd love to go to Japan next for the culture and food.”



Grammar Focus: Comparatives & Superlatives

Use **comparatives** to compare two places.

Use **superlatives** to describe something as the most.

Structure:

- “...is **more relaxing** than...”
- “It’s the **most beautiful** city I’ve seen.”

Examples:

- “The mountains are more peaceful than the beach.”
- “Paris was the most exciting place I’ve visited.”

Task: Compare two places you’ve been to using a comparative and a superlative.



Speaking Practice: Favourite Trip

Question:

Can you describe a trip you really enjoyed?

Include:

- Where you went
- What you did
- What you liked most
- Use Past Simple + an adjective (amazing / relaxing / exciting)

Example:

“I went to Edinburgh last year. I explored the old city and visited the castle. The view was amazing, and the weather was surprisingly nice.”

Vocabulary Builder: Adjectives for Places

Positive:

scenic, peaceful, vibrant, historic, modern, charming

Negative:

crowded, noisy, expensive, touristy

Task: Choose 2 positive and 1 negative adjective to describe a place you've visited.



Grammar Review Quiz

Choose the correct form:

- I **have been** / **went** to Thailand in 2022.
- She **have visited** / **has visited** Paris three times.
- That was the **more beautiful** / **most beautiful** trip of my life.



Activity: Which Do You Prefer?

Choose and explain:

- Mountains or beach?
- Travelling with family or friends?
- Group tour or travelling alone?

Example:

“I prefer travelling with friends because it’s more fun and relaxed. We can share ideas and try different things together.”



Pronunciation Practice

- Repeat after your tutor or practice saying the following words:
- tourism
- destination
- adventure
- attraction
- island
- excursion

Task: Say 3 of them in a short sentence about travel.

Speaking Drill: Tourism in Your Country

Question:

Is tourism important in your country?

Include:

- A region or popular site
- One economic or cultural reason
- An opinion (use “I think...” or “It seems...”)

Example:

“Tourism is very important in my country, especially in cities like Bath and York. These places attract visitors for their history and architecture.”



Natural Phrases for Travel Speaking

Useful Phrases:

- “It was a once-in-a-lifetime experience.”
- “I had the time of my life.”
- “We got lost, but it was fun!”
- “The scenery took my breath away.”
- “I’d go back in a heartbeat.”

Task: Use one of these in a story about a past trip.

Listening & Responding

Statement:

“I don’t enjoy travelling. I prefer staying at home.”

Respond to this statement and include the following:

- Share your opinion
- Suggest a positive about travelling

Sample:

“That’s interesting. Have you ever been abroad? I think travelling can be a great way to learn about new cultures.”

Grammar Focus: Future Plans with “Going to”

Structure:

am/is/are + going to + verb

Examples:

- “I’m going to visit Scotland next summer.”
- “We’re going to try camping for the first time.”

Task: Write two sentences about your future travel plans using “going to”.

IELTS Tip: Keep It Personal and Real

In Part 1:

- Don't memorise! Speak naturally
- Add small details to make answers sound fluent
- Use a full sentence (not just “yes” or “no”)
- Smile – it helps you sound more relaxed



Lightning Round: 3 Quick Answers

Give short but complete answers to the following questions:

- Do you prefer travelling in your own country or abroad?
- What's one place you'd recommend to a tourist in your country?
- What do you usually take with you when you travel?

