



Lesson 1: Education and Work

IELTS Speaking Part 3



The English Hub

Introduction to IELTS Speaking Part 3

What is IELTS Speaking Part 3?

- Part 3 is the **final section** of the Speaking Test. It lasts **4–5 minutes**.
- The examiner asks **3-6 more abstract or opinion-based questions**
- Questions are **connected to the Part 2 topic**
- You are expected to **explain ideas, compare opinions, and justify your answers**
- This part tests your **ability to discuss broader issues clearly and logically**
- *Example Topics:* Education, work, technology, society, culture, lifestyle, environment



Part 3 vs. Part 2: What's the Difference?

IELTS Part	Type	Focus	Style
Part 2	Monologue	Personal Experience	Story-like
Part 3	Dialogue	General Opinions	Analytical, Reflective

In Part 3, avoid repeating your Part 2 answers. Instead, **expand the conversation** with ideas like:

- “It depends on...”
- “There are several factors to consider...”
- “In my opinion...”
- “I can see both sides...”

Grammar Focus: Expressing Opinions (with Connectors)

To speak clearly and logically, use **connectors and opinion phrases**.

- **Examples:**

- “In my opinion, education should be free.”
- “Personally, I believe that practical skills matter more than theory.”
- “From my point of view, online learning has both pros and cons.”

Mini Task: Say one sentence using “I believe...” and one using “In my opinion...” related to education or work.

Grammar Focus: Contrasting and Comparing Ideas

Use **linkers** to compare or contrast ideas.

Contrasting:

- although / even though
- however
- whereas / while
- on the other hand

Example:

“Although university degrees are useful, many people gain experience through apprenticeships.”

“Some students enjoy group work, while others prefer to study alone.”

Mini Task: Compare two views on higher education using “whereas” or “although”.



Vocabulary for Education and Work

Education:

curriculum

tuition fees

academic pressure,

lifelong learning,

vocational training

Work:

career path

work–life balance

Promotion

job satisfaction

unemployment

Activity:

Choose 3 words and explain them in your own sentence related to either school or work.



IELTS Part 3 Practice Questions (Education Focus)

Answer the following:

What are the advantages and disadvantages of distance learning?

How has education changed in recent years in your country?

Do you think school prepares students well for the workplace? Why or why not?

Tips:

- Give detailed answers, not just “yes” or “no”
- Use 2-3 sentences with **explanations, examples, or comparisons**

IELTS Part 3 Practice Questions (Work Focus)

Discuss:

- **What factors influence someone's career choice?**
- **Is job satisfaction more important than a high salary?**
- **How has the job market changed for young people?**

Task: Choose one and answer in 3–4 full sentences using:

- an opinion phrase
- an example
- a contrast phrase (e.g. 'however', 'while')

Useful Sentence Frames for Complex Answers

To help build your answer clearly, you can start by using these phrases:

- “There are several reasons why...”
- “It depends on the individual, but I would say...”
- “For example, in my country...”
- “One possible reason is that...”
- “While some people think..., I believe...”

Practice: Use one frame to answer:

Should children have homework every day? Why or why not?



Speaking Activity: Agree or Disagree?

Say whether you agree or disagree and explain **why**, using **at least 3 full sentences**.

Statements:

- “People should choose jobs based on salary.”
- “University is more important than work experience.”
- “Everyone should be allowed to work from home.”

Use at least one connector: although, whereas, because, in my opinion

Grammar Practice: Complex Sentences

Combine these ideas into one complex sentence using the correct connector:

- Education is important. Not everyone can afford it.
→ “Although education is important, not everyone can afford it.”
- I enjoy my job. It can be stressful sometimes.
→ “I enjoy my job, even though it can be stressful sometimes.”
- Some people work late. Others leave early.
→ “Some people work late, while others leave early.”

Task: Create one new complex sentence using your own ideas.

Functional Language: Giving Examples

Use these phrases to make your answers richer and more specific:

- “For example...”
- “Take my country, for instance...”
- “In many cases...”
- “Let’s say someone is studying medicine...”

Task:

Answer this question using an example:

Should education be free for everyone?

Pronunciation and Intonation Practice

Focus on **intonation** when giving opinions or explaining ideas.
Practice these aloud:

- “In my opinion, teachers should receive higher pay.”
- “There are both benefits and drawbacks to working remotely.”
- “Some believe that university is essential; however, others disagree.”

Activity: Say each sentence with clear rhythm and stress on key ideas.



Idioms and Natural Expressions

What is an idiom?

a phrase or expression whose meaning cannot be understood from the literal meanings of its individual words. Have a look at the examples below, would you have guessed what they meant without the definition?

- “climb the career ladder” – advance professionally
- “hit the books” – study hard
- “burn the midnight oil” – study/work late
- “work your socks off” – put in a lot of effort
- “learn the ropes” – understand how something works

Mini Task: Use one idiom in a sentence about your studies or job.

Task: Structured Pair Speaking (or Self-Talk)

Discuss the question:

Is lifelong learning necessary in modern jobs?

- Structure your answer:
- **Opinion**
- **Reason**
- **Example**
- **Alternative view / contrast**
- **Conclusion**

Speak for 60-90 seconds using this model.



Common Mistakes in Part 3

 “Yes, I agree.”

 “Yes, I agree because... For example...”

 “I don’t know.”

 “That’s a difficult question, but I think...”

 “It depends, but I would say...”

Task: Take a weak answer and improve it with a longer explanation.



IELTS Practice Drill (Timed Speaking)

Question:

How can education systems be improved in the future?

Speak for 1–2 minutes. Try to include:

- 1 opinion phrase
- 1 example
- 1 contrast phrase
- 1 idiom (optional)

Compare Two Ideas

Task: Compare vocational training and university education.

- Structure:
- What each one offers
- Who they are suitable for
- Which one is more valuable in your opinion (and why)

Use: “While...”, “Whereas...”, “In contrast...”

Review Checklist

Discuss with your tutor:

- Did I give clear opinions with reasons?
- Did I use complex sentences and connectors?
- Did I speak for more than one sentence per answer?
- Did I include examples or comparisons?

Have a go at the question on the next slide if you wish to improve any of your concerns from the checklist, take turns with your tutor to give you further examples of answers!



Further practice

Task:

What role should governments play in improving education and employment?

You should:

- Give a clear opinion
- Provide at least one real-life example
- Use a contrast or condition phrase (e.g. “unless”, “while”, “however”)
- Include at least 1 idiom or complex phrase

Speak for 1.5-2 minutes