



Lesson 8: Future Plans

IELTS Speaking Part 3



The English Hub

Introduction to IELTS Speaking Part 3

What is Speaking Part 3?

- This section follows your Part 2 long-turn. It's a **4–5 minute conversation** where the examiner asks **follow-up and abstract questions** based on your Part 2 topic.

In this section, you should:

- Discuss **opinions, trends, future predictions**, and ideas beyond your personal story
- Use **complex grammar structures** and **topic-specific vocabulary**
- Support your ideas with **examples, justifications, and comparisons**

Today's focus: **Future Plans** – a frequent and versatile IELTS theme.

Sample IELTS Part 3 Questions: Future Plans

- **How do you think people's work will change in the next 20 years?**
- **Do you believe that future generations will live better lives?**
- **Should schools prepare students for the future or focus on the present?**
- **What role will technology play in future societies?**

Tip: Give developed responses using:

- Future tenses
- Speculative phrases
- Real or imagined examples
- Balanced opinions



Grammar Focus: Future Forms

When and how to use each form:

- **will** → decisions made at the moment, future facts
- “People **will live** longer due to better medicine.”
- **going to** → intentions or plans
- “I’m **going to travel** after graduation.”
- **might / may / could** → possibilities
- “People **might work** from home more in the future.”

Mini Task: Write three future sentences, one with *will*, one with *going to*, and one with *might*, related to life in the future.



Grammar Focus: First Conditional

Used for real future possibilities with conditions.

Structure:

- **If + present simple, will + base verb**

Examples:

- “If people stop using fossil fuels, the planet **will become** cleaner.”
- “If students study hard, they **will find** better opportunities.”

Task: Write one first conditional sentence about a future plan in society or education.



Vocabulary: Talking About the Future

Key Vocabulary:

- predict, adapt, innovation, automation, uncertainty, evolving, long-term, forecast, shift, transition

Phrases:

- in the near future
- in the coming decades
- by 2050
- over the next few years
- sooner or later

Activity: Write a short paragraph (2–3 sentences) predicting how one area of life (e.g. work, education, travel) will change.



IELTS Speaking Practice: Education in the Future

How do you think schools will change in the future?

Include:

- One future form
- One conditional
- One prediction with a reason
- One specific example

Sample:

“I think schools will become more digital. If technology improves, students might attend classes from home. For example, online platforms already exist, and they’re likely to become more advanced.”



Compare & Contrast Activity

Compare **past and future lifestyles** using these prompts:

- Technology
- Family life
- Leisure activities
- Work culture
- Use phrases:
 - “In the past...” / “Nowadays...” / “In the future...”
 - “Compared to...”
 - “It’s likely that...” / “It’s unlikely that...”

Task: Choose one topic above and speak for 1 minute comparing the past and future.



Expressing Uncertainty and Possibility

Use these phrases to **speculate** — a vital IELTS skill.

- It's likely that...
- There's a chance that...
- It's hard to say...
- I wouldn't be surprised if...
- We might see...

Task: Use two of the above to predict how daily life will be different in 50 years.



Roleplay Activity: Future Dilemma

Situation:

Your classmate says:

“Robots will take over most jobs. What’s the point of studying?”

Your reply should include:

- Your opinion
- One future tense
- One modal of possibility
- One example or condition

Example:

“I disagree. While some jobs might be automated, new ones will appear. If people continue to learn, they’ll be more adaptable in future industries.”



Idioms and Expressions for the Future

Add some of these to sound natural:

- “just around the corner” – very soon
- “in the long run” – after a long time
- “a sign of things to come” – example of the future
- “a step in the right direction” – a positive move
- “ahead of their time” – very advanced

Task: Use one idiom in a sentence predicting something about the future.



IELTS Speaking Drill

Question:

Do you think people will live longer lives in the future?

Include:

- One prediction
- One conditional
- One contrast
- Optional idiom

Example:

“Yes, people will probably live longer because of medical advances. However, if unhealthy habits continue, we might see more disease. In the long run, lifestyle changes will be essential.”



Grammar Challenge: Correct These

Find and fix the mistakes:

- “People will adapting to new technology.”
- “If climate change continue, we see big problems.”
- “In future, jobs maybe disappear.”

Corrected:

- People **will adapt** to new technology.
- If climate change **continues**, we **will see** big problems.
- **In the future**, jobs **may** disappear.

Task: Write your own future prediction sentence using one of the corrected forms.

Structured Speaking Task

Prompt:

What are your predictions about future travel and tourism?

Include:

- 1 future form
- 1 first conditional
- 1 example
- 1 idiom

Example:

“Travel might become more eco-friendly. If new fuel sources are developed, planes will pollute less. Space tourism is just around the corner; it’s already been tested!”



Common IELTS Mistakes: Future Forms

- “People will to travel more in the future.”
- “If we will change the law, society becomes safer.”
- “Technology going change everything.”

Task: Correct these in your notes. Then, write a new sentence using **"if"** + present simple → future result.



Vocabulary Recap

Review the following vocabulary:

forecast

trend

predict

transition

future-proof

uncertainty

likely

automation

innovation

Possibility

Task: Choose any 4 words and use them in a single structured paragraph about life in the next 30 years.



Discussion Question

What skills will people need to succeed in the future?

Use:

- One opinion
- One future phrase
- One example
- One modal verb (e.g. must, might)

Example:

“In the future, people will need to be adaptable. Technology is changing fast, so soft skills like communication will be essential. They might also need to keep learning throughout their lives.”



Review Checklist

- ✓ Use different future forms accurately?
- ✓ Give extended, logical answers?
- ✓ Use idioms or speculations naturally?
- ✓ Avoid common grammatical mistakes?
- ✓ Speak clearly and confidently?

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!



Final Challenge

Prompt:

“Do you think young people today are more focused on the future than previous generations?”

Instructions:

- Speak for 1.5–2 minutes
- Use at least one of each:
 - Future tense (will / might / going to)
 - First conditional
 - Adverb of certainty (definitely, probably, possibly)
 - Idiom from today (e.g. "just around the corner")
- Finish with a clear conclusion

