



IELTS Speaking Part 3

Lesson 2: Hobbies and Interests



The English Hub

What is IELTS Speaking Part 3?

IELTS Speaking Part 3 follows directly after your Part 2 long-turn speech.

Purpose of Part 3:

- To test your ability to **discuss wider issues** beyond personal experience
- To see how well you **support opinions, make comparisons, and discuss change or trends**

Format:

- Duration: **4–5 minutes**
- Style: **Dialogue** between you and the examiner
- Topics: **Abstract, opinion-based**, linked to Part 2

In this lesson:

- You'll practise developing detailed answers on the theme of **hobbies and interests**, learn grammar to express opinions and conditions, and build strong speaking strategies.



IELTS Part 3: Key Skills to Show

In this part, the examiner is checking for your ability to:

- Express clear opinions
- Justify your ideas with examples
- Discuss **changes over time**
- Compare different viewpoints
- Use complex grammar and vocabulary naturally

Examples of Part 3 Questions:

- “Why do people have hobbies?”
- “Are hobbies important for children and adults in the same way?”
- “How have people’s hobbies changed over the years?”



Grammar Focus: Expressing Preferences and Opinions

Use these phrases to **express strong or balanced opinions**:

Structures:

- “I prefer ___ because...”
- “In my opinion, ___ is more useful than ___ because...”
- “Some people argue that ___, but I believe...”
- “I would rather ___ than ___ because...”

Example:

- “I prefer creative hobbies like painting because they allow personal expression.”
- “Some people enjoy physical hobbies, while others prefer quieter activities. Personally, I prefer the latter.”

Mini Task: Say one sentence comparing two types of hobbies using a preference phrase.



Grammar Focus: Second Conditional

The **Second Conditional** is useful for **hypothetical** or **imaginative** answers in Part 3.

Structure:

If + past simple, would + base verb

Examples:

- “If I had more free time, I would learn how to play the guitar.”
- “If people didn’t have hobbies, life would be quite boring.”

Mini Task: Finish this sentence:

“If I could choose any hobby in the world, I would...”



Vocabulary: Talking About Hobbies

Categories of hobbies:

- **Creative:** painting, writing, knitting, photography
- **Physical:** football, running, yoga, martial arts
- **Social:** volunteering, board games, dancing
- **Relaxing:** reading, gardening, meditation

Useful verbs:

- enjoy, practise, participate in, take up, improve, explore, devote time to

Task: Use two hobby verbs and one category noun in a sentence about your interest.



Common IELTS Part 3 Questions: Hobbies

Practise answering:

- **Why do people need hobbies in their daily lives?**
- **Do you think people have less free time now than before? Why?**
- **Are group hobbies better than solo hobbies? Why or why not?**

Task: Choose one and answer in 3–4 sentences. Use:

- One opinion phrase
- One example
- One comparative or conditional sentence

Activity: Hobbies Through the Ages

Discuss:

How do hobbies differ across generations?

Use:

- Time expressions (nowadays, in the past, over the years)
- Contrast linkers (however, whereas, while)

Example:

“Older generations often enjoyed outdoor hobbies like gardening or walking, whereas younger people today tend to play online games or watch content on streaming platforms.”

Task: Compare one hobby you enjoy to one your parents or grandparents enjoy(ed).



Functional Language: Expanding Your Answer

To sound fluent and confident, avoid short answers. Use **expanding phrases**:

- “One reason is that...”
- “Another point to consider is...”
- “To give an example...”
- “This is because...”
- “What I mean is...”

Task: Answer this question using two expanding phrases:
Do hobbies help with stress?



Roleplay: Expressing Opinions in Dialogue

Partner or self-practice:

You're being interviewed on TV about hobbies.

- Answer:
- What's your favourite hobby?
- Is it better to have one hobby or many?
- Do hobbies reflect someone's personality?

Include:

- 1 opinion phrase
- 1 conditional sentence
- 1 example from real life



Grammar Challenge: Fix the Mistakes

Find and fix the grammar:

- “If I will have more time, I learn cooking.”
- “He prefer playing video games than reading.”
- “Painting help me to feel relaxed.”

Corrected:

- If I **had** more time, I **would learn** cooking.
- He **prefers** playing video games **to** reading.
- Painting **helps** me to feel relaxed.

Extension: Create your own “If...” sentence about a future or imagined hobby



Pronunciation Drill: Emphasis in Opinion

Practise reading these aloud with **natural intonation**:

- “I would definitely choose something creative like drawing.”
- “If I had the chance, I’d travel the world and take up photography.”
- “Group hobbies are great, but some people prefer solitude.”

Focus: stress on key words, linking words naturally



Idioms for Hobbies and Free Time

Add colour and personality to your speaking with idioms (use sparingly):

- “take a break from the daily grind” – relax after work
- “switch off and unwind” – relax mentally
- “throw yourself into something” – be very enthusiastic
- “have a go at” – try something new
- “not my cup of tea” – not something you like

Mini Task: Use one idiom to describe a hobby you love (or dislike!)



IELTS Speaking Drill: Quickfire Responses

Answer each in 2–3 full sentences:

- **Do people spend too much time on hobbies?**
- **How important is it for children to have hobbies?**
- **Should schools include hobby-based classes?**

Use at least one idiom or complex grammar form per answer.



Mini Debate Activity

Task: Debate the statement
“Hobbies should be productive, not just fun.”

You must:

- State your opinion clearly
- Give 2 reasons
- Use one contrast sentence
- Use one example or personal story

Example Starter:

“Although hobbies are often seen as fun, I believe they should also help us grow in some way. For instance, volunteering or writing can be enjoyable but still teach us something valuable...”



Vocabulary Recap

Top 10 topic words:

Pastime

Leisure activity

Creative outlet

Relaxation

Devote

engaging

productive

pursuit

recreational

motivation

Task: Choose 3 and include them in a 3-sentence mini speech.



Common Mistakes in Part 3 (and Fixes)

“I like hobby.” →  “I like **this** hobby.”

“It help me relax.” →  “It **helps** me relax.”

“I do hobbies when I free.” →  “I do hobbies **when I’m free.**”

Activity: Fix and expand these sentences:

- “People enjoy hobby because fun.”
- “Video games is waste of time.”
- “If I had more free time, I will learning piano.”



IELTS Model Response (Band 7.5–8)

Question:

Why do people need hobbies in their lives?

- “In my opinion, hobbies are essential because they allow people to switch off from the stress of everyday life. Many individuals today work long hours, and engaging in a relaxing or fun activity can help improve mental health. For example, a colleague of mine recently started gardening and said it made her feel more balanced. Without hobbies, people might focus too much on work and lose creativity or joy in life.”

Why it works:

- ✓ Opinion clearly stated
- ✓ Developed with a real example
- ✓ Complex grammar and topic vocab used naturally



Review Checklist

Discuss with your tutor:

- Did I use opinion phrases and linking expressions?
- Did I include reasons, examples, or comparisons?
- Did I use conditional or complex grammar accurately?
- Did I use precise vocabulary related to hobbies?

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!



Speaking Practice Task

Question:

Are hobbies becoming less popular in modern society? Why or why not?

In your response, include:

- An opinion
- One contrast
- One “If...” conditional sentence
- One real-world example

Speak for 1.5–2 minutes



Final Challenge: Hobby Talk

Choose one of the following and prepare a 1-minute spoken answer:

- A hobby you'd like to start and why
- The role hobbies play in developing social skills
- Why hobbies are (or aren't) becoming more digital today

Use a structure:

- Opinion
- Reason
- Example or Comparison
- Reflection

