



Lesson 10: Personal Information

IELTS Speaking Part 3



The English Hub

What is Speaking Part 3?

IELTS Speaking Part 3 is a **4–5 minute analytical discussion** with the examiner. It builds upon your Part 2 answer and asks you **broader, abstract questions**.

In this lesson, you'll learn to:

- Talk about **family, background, hometown** from a *wider perspective*
- Compare the **past and present**
- Use correct **tense** and **vocabulary** for discussing personal/social development



Example IELTS Part 3 Questions (Personal Information)

Answer the following questions with your tutor:

- How has family life changed in your country in recent years?
- Do you think people feel more or less connected to their hometown nowadays?
- Is it important for people to stay in contact with extended family?
- What are the advantages of growing up in a small town vs a large city?

Strategy: Extend your answers with **reasons**, **examples**, and if possible, **contrasts** or **conditions**.



Grammar Focus: Past Simple vs Present Perfect

How to use each form:

- **Past Simple:** specific time (e.g. last year, in 2010)
- **Present Perfect:** past action with result in the present, or an unspecific time

Examples:

- “My grandparents **lived** in a small village.” (past)
- “Family roles **have changed** in recent decades.” (ongoing impact)

Task: Write two sentences about your hometown or family, using one tense in each.

Grammar Focus: Comparatives and Superlatives

Use these to compare generations, places, or situations.

Structure:

- **Comparatives:** more..., -er
- **Superlatives:** the most..., the -est

Examples:

- “Cities are **busier** now than in the past.”
- “The countryside is one of the **quietest** places to grow up.”

Task: Compare your hometown now and 10 years ago using a comparative form.

Vocabulary: Personal & Social Identity

Key Terms:

hometown, upbringing, extended family, generation, tradition, community, lifestyle, rural, urban, social values

Activity: Choose 3–4 of these and explain something about your background using each one in a sentence.



IELTS Speaking Practice: Hometown Change

Question:

How has your hometown changed since you were a child?

Include:

- One comparative
- One past simple fact
- One opinion phrase

Sample:

“My hometown is more developed now. There used to be only a few shops, but now it’s full of cafés and markets. I think it’s a positive improvement, although some traditions have been lost.”



Activity: Compare Childhood and Adulthood

Compare these topics in your childhood vs now:

- Time with family
- Use of technology
- School pressure
- Freedom

Use phrases:

- “Compared to...”
- “Nowadays...”
- “Back then...”
- “It used to be...”

Grammar Focus: “Used to” and “Would”

How the form is used:

- **used to** → past habits or situations
- **would** → repeated past actions (not states)

Examples:

- “We **used to live** in a shared house.”
- “My dad **would tell** us stories every evening.”

Mini Task: Write two things you or your family used to do that have changed today.



Roleplay: Rural vs Urban Living

Prompt:

Imagine you meet up with an old friend to catch up after they moved to a new city.

Your friend says:

“Living in the countryside is boring. Cities are better for children.”

Respond using:

- Comparative
- Personal example
- One modal verb (should/can/might)

Sample:

“I disagree. Children can be happier in the countryside where life is calmer. I used to play outdoors all day. That’s better than watching screens indoors.”



Vocabulary Builder: Family & Relationships

Using these in responses will help build your vocabulary:

- nuclear family
- single-parent household
- sibling rivalry
- close-knit family
- family bond
- household responsibilities

Task: Choose 3 and write a short description of your family or a general family trend.



Expressing Opinions and Reasoning

Useful structures:

- “I find that...”
- “The main reason is...”
- “This is because...”
- “That may be true, however...”
- “It depends on...”

Task: Answer this using at least two phrases:

“Do people today value family more or less than in the past?”



Speaking Drill: Extended Family Importance

Prompt:

Is it important to stay in touch with your extended family?

Structure:

- Opinion
- Example or tradition
- Modal verb
- Optional contrast

Example:

“Yes, I believe we should stay in contact with our extended family. They can support us emotionally and share family traditions. Although modern life is busy, we still manage to meet on holidays.”



Error Correction Activity

Fix these common errors:

- “I have grew up in a big town.”
- “People not spend time with family.”
- “My hometown change every year.”



Pronunciation & Stress Practice

Practice saying the following words:

- hometown
- community
- generation
- upbringing
- neighbourhood
- connection

Task: Choose 2–3 and use them in full, clear sentences about your background.



Idioms and Natural Expressions

- “run in the family” – a common family trait
- “move with the times” – adapt to change
- “a family man” – someone very involved with family
- “get on like a house on fire” – have a good relationship
- “back in the day” – in the past

Mini Task: Use one idiom in a short story about your family or hometown.



Compare Generations Activity

Choose a topic and compare generations:

- Parenting
- Careers
- Respect
- Education

Use:

- “Older generations used to...”
- “Nowadays...”
- “People today prefer...”
- “Things have changed because...”

Speaking Tip: Support with at least one example or cultural reference.

Quick Speaking Round: 3 Questions

Respond with:

- 1 opinion
- 1 example
- 1 modal or past tense

Questions:

- Why do some people never leave their hometown?
- Is living in a big family better than a small one?
- How has technology changed communication in families?

Practice fluency, variety, and grammar.



Vocabulary Review

Review the following vocabulary:

Upbringing
Extended family
Urban vs rural
Used to
Tradition

Community
Connected
Childhood
Adapt
Generation

Activity: Choose 5–6 and summarise your family background or hometown.



Two-Minute Challenge

Prompt:

“How do you think family life will change in the future?”

Use:

- One modal verb
- One comparative
- One opinion phrase
- One example
- Optional idiom

Example:

“I think families will become smaller and more mobile. Unlike before, people might move abroad for work. In my view, technology will help families stay in touch. It’s all part of moving with the times.”

