

# IELTS Speaking

## Phrases PDF



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## Phrases for IELTS Speaking PDF

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### Top 40 Best Phrases for IELTS Speaking

Using the right phrases in the IELTS Speaking test can significantly improve your score by showcasing fluency and natural language use. To support your preparation, we've listed the top 40 most effective phrases below, along with their meanings and examples for better understanding.

1.Short on cash

**Meaning** : Not having enough money

**Example** : He is not one who is short on cash

2.Went up

**Meaning** : increase/raise

**Example** : We went up to Montreal last weekend

3.Funny you should ask that

**Meaning** : interesting thing/ I was already thinking about that

**Example** : Funny you should ask that, I thought the same thing.

4.The rate dropped

**Meaning** : decreased/ fallen

**Example** : For higher earners, the rate dropped from 5 % to 3 %.

5.Over the moon

**Meaning** : Overjoyed/ delighted

**Example** : She was over the moon about her final score.

6.Cutting-edge

**Meaning** : Advanced/ innovative

**Example** : They succeed because of their cutting-edge equipment.



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7. Born to

**Meaning :** Having a natural ability

**Example :** He was born to be a musician

8. Let me think

**Meaning :** Consider or remember something

**Example :** Let me think about it and get back to you

9. Hold a sec

**Meaning :** asking someone to wait/ slow down

**Example :** Hold a sec. This is not what you said yesterday.

10. If I had to take a guess, I would say...

**Meaning :** Predicting about something

**Example :** If I had to take a guess, I would say she might be a dancer.

11. He's broke

**Meaning :** have/has no money

**Example :** I am pitiful that he's broke and homeless

12. Off the top of my head, I'd say...

**Meaning :** not thinking too much before conveying

**Example :** I'm not sure, but off the top of my head I'd say she's from Delhi.

13. I wouldn't be surprised if...

**Meaning :** something that already guessed/ sure enough

**Example :** I wouldn't be surprised if she wins this game

14. Flying high

**Meaning :** successful/ becoming popular/ making more money

**Example :** Over the last couple of years, the company seems to be flying high.

15. Pinching pennies

**Meaning :** spending as little money as possible

**Example :** John plans to buy a new car, so he's pinching pennies for every expense.



16. Be at the end of the rope

**Meaning :** tough time/ difficult situation

**Example :** Mary is a bit down as she is at the end of her rope.

17. well-off

**Meaning :** good condition/ have more money

**Example :** Sita's quite well-off enough to afford this expensive product.

18. Bite my head off

**Meaning :** angry/ yelling at someone

**Example :** My manager bit my head off when I asked him for permission

19. She's loaded

**Meaning :** rich enough/ wealthy/ intoxicated by alcohol or drugs

**Example :** The woman getting out of that expensive car is obviously loaded.

20. Black mood

**Meaning :** sad/ not in a good mood

**Example :** Arjun is in a black mood as he got low marks in exams.

21. Afraid of your own shadow

**Meaning :** fear/ frighten of small things

**Example :** Sometimes people who look confident are actually afraid of their own shadow.

22. Chill out

**Meaning :** relaxing/ calm down

**Example :** I was chilling out at last night's party.

23. Fed up

**Meaning :** unhappy/ bored/ irritated

**Example :** She was fed up with all his excuses for not being on time





24. Once in a blue moon

**Meaning :** A very rare occurrence

**Example :** Once in a blue moon, I go to a luxury restaurant with my family.

25. A hot potato

**Meaning :** Hot topic/ topic is discussed by a huge number of people

**Example :** The issue is back and it is a kind of hot potato these days.

26. Filthy rich

**Meaning :** extremely rich/ someone who is well enough to compensate for anything

**Example :** A friend of mine is filthy rich, so he buys what he wants.

27. A piece of cake

**Meaning :** very easy/ something easily done/ no trouble in doing something

**Example :** My friend said the exam would be hard, but it was a piece of cake.

28. Hit the books

**Meaning :** to begin studying in a determined manner.

**Example :** As I have an important exam next week, I have to hit the books this weekend.

29. Sit on the fence

**Meaning :** doubting or delay in making a decision

**Example :** If you are still sitting on the fence and not making any decision, it will not be nice.

30. Rolling in dough

**Meaning :** having excessive amount of money

**Example :** I wondered to hear that her dad is rolling in dough.

31. For ages

**Meaning :** a very long time/ a length of time

**Examples :** I met my long-distance friend after many ages.



32. Stroke of luck

**Meaning** : unexpected happens/ something occurs by chance

**Example** : We narrowly escaped a major accident last night, which was purely a stroke of luck.

33. I am scared of

**Meaning** : fear about something/ expressing something politely

**Example** : I always skip giant wheel rides as I am scared of heights.

34. Put it down

**Meaning** : to make a note of something/ unable to stop reading

**Example** : The book was so interesting I couldn't put it down.

35. Bored to death

**Meaning** : extremely bored/ uninteresting action/ irritated

**Example** : I was bored to death watching this movie

36. Bit down

**Meaning** : Feeling sad/ depressed/ unhappy

**Example** : She looks a bit down after her exam result

37. Let down

**Meaning** : disappointment/ fails to support or help someone

**Example** : Come to the party tonight. I believe you won't let me down.

38. Kidding

**Meaning** : teasing/ joking/ mocking

**Example** : I was kidding at the time, don't take it too seriously.

39. Fishy

**Meaning** : suspicious/ doubtful/ strange

**Example** : There is something fishy about him.

40. Stretching the truth

**Meaning** : telling something is not exactly true/ elaborating to make a story

**Example** : She was stretching the truth to frame a story.



## Check out more possible phrases for IELTS Speaking Part 1 and Part 2

1.High spirits

**Meaning** : excited/ enthusiastic/ cheerful

**Example** : All the students were in high spirits about the annual day celebration.

2.Under the weather

**Meaning** : feeling sick/ unwell/ a little sick

**Example** : I took medicine as I am feeling under the weather.

3.Fingers crossed

**Meaning** : hope that something will happen for sure

**Example** : Let's keep our fingers crossed that she will win the game.

4.Soulmate

**Meaning** : a person perfectly matched to another in attitudes or beliefs

**Example** : The couple I met last evening were perfect soulmates.

5.Bent out of shape

**Meaning** : become angry/ upset/ annoyed

**Example** : I literally got bent out of shape due to their humiliating act.

6.A drop in the ocean

**Meaning** : A small amount of something that gives not much difference

**Example** : His contribution in the celebration part is just a drop in the ocean

7.White elephant

**Meaning** : more expensive with less profit

**Example** : Our homeowner thought remodelling his bungalow might become a white elephant.

8.Sounds great

**Meaning** : A phrase used when we feel that the idea or decision is good.

**Example** : The idea you told sounds great to me, too!

9.Puzzled

**Meaning** : confused/ couldn't understand the exact thing

**Example** : I am still puzzled as to what's going on here.



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10. Long face

**Meaning :** facial expression of disappointment or sadness

**Example :** She made a long face as our outing plan was cancelled.

11. Mugged

**Meaning :** attacking someone/ robbing someone's money

**Example :** We consider that mugging is on rising in our area

12. It's on me

**Meaning :** agreeing to do something on their own

**Example :** Let's plan for dinner today, it's on me!

13. She could do it in her sleep

**Meaning :** An action that one does frequently/ very easy to do

**Example :** It's so familiar to me that I can even do it in my sleep.

14. On the other hand

**Meaning :** A phrase used to mention the contrast statement

**Example :** He is a nice guy, but on the other hand, he has a selfish personality.

15. It's up to you

**Meaning :** An important phrase is used when telling someone to make their own decision.

**Example :** I don't care if you go with him, it's up to you!

16. Looking back, I would say...

**Meaning :** To consider or think about past events or occurrences.

**Example :** Looking back, those days were filled with lots of fun and joy.

17. What rotten luck!

**Meaning :** bad luck/ unluckiness

**Example :** I lost this game too. What rotten luck!

18. My goodness!

**Meaning :** a little shock of good occurrence

**Example :** Maths teacher is absent. My goodness! I have not completed my homework.

19. Action speak louder than words

**Meaning :** It is best to execute it rather than just talking with words.

**Example :** I work hard to let my actions speak louder than words.



20. Probably not...

**Meaning** : A phrase used when you are not sure about what the action will be

**Example** : Someone - Are you planning your vacation?

You - Probably not !

21. Odds are that...

**Meaning** : A phrase used when there is some chances to happen

**Example** : Odds are they'll be serving some snacks at tomorrow's event.

22. I was so into it

**Meaning** : interested in some activity/ being very active in doing something

**Example** : I couldn't notice what you said as I was so into reading this book.

23. Look on the bright side

**Meaning** : A phrase used when one tries to be happy when bad things happen by considering some positives.

**Example** : I continue to face many downs but still I look on the bright side.

24. It's not the end of the world.

**Meaning** : A phrase that says the problem is not as big as it seems

**Example** : Failing exams doesn't have to be the end of the world.

25. Not up to the mark

**Meaning** : not satisfactory/ not as good as what was expected

**Example** : His performance in this project was not up to the mark.

## Useful Phrases for IELTS Speaking Part 1

Here are some commonly used and effective phrases that you need to use during **IELTS Speaking Part 1**. These expressions will help you sound more natural and fluent while answering questions:



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S.no	Phrases	Meaning	Examples
1	Knack	Natural ability or a tendency to do something	She has a <b>knack</b> for cooking many Italian foods
2	Lost track of time	Unaware of spending or passing so much time	I used to easily <b>lose track of time</b> whenever I saw my cousins.
3	Hopeless	A phrase can be used when you completely have no idea to do particular activity	I am <b>hopeless</b> at surfing
4	Gifted	A phrase used to describe someone born with natural abilities at something or when one feels special about that person.	Her parents say that she is a <b>God-gifted</b> child.
5	Inside out	A phrase used when you know someone extremely well	She knew that book <b>inside out</b>
6	Bear with me	A phrase used when you ask someone to be patience with your activity	Please <b>bear with me</b> until I find the right route.

## Useful Phrases for IELTS Speaking Part 2

Check out some important **phrases for IELTS speaking** provided below in the table format. You can use these common phrases in the speaking part 2 to improve your band score.

S.no	Phrases	Meaning	Examples
1	Chalk and cheese	A phrase means that the two people are totally different from each other.	My elder sister and I are like <b>chalk and cheese</b>
2	Down-to-earth	A phrase used when we refer to someone who never lets their importance and talent go to their head.	She is the most <b>down-to-earth</b> person I have ever met
3	pulling someone's leg	It means the lie or trick used with someone to make believe something in a playful way	Actually it was not true, <u>It</u> was just <b>pulling her leg</b>
4	Personally, I'd choose...	It can be used when preferring or deciding something. Also, you can use it while expressing your opinion.	<b>Personally, I'd choose</b> this shop for buying traditional clothes.
5	A person who stands out is...	A phrase used to describe a person's excellence in certain activities. To be better than ordinary people/things.	His performance always <b>stands out</b> among other workers.
6	Once in a while	A phrase used when we mention any occurrence that does not happen very often	He <u>visit</u> his native place <b>once in a while</b>



## Useful phrases for IELTS speaking part 3

**Phrases for IELTS speaking** are crucial parameters that make a huge difference in your score. Find the given phrases with precise meanings and examples to know what kind of phrases can be used and how to use them.


S.no	Phrases	Meaning	Examples
1	Well, I'd say that...	This is a good phrase to use when you need time to think about what to say next.	<b>Well, I'd say that</b> I love to visit that place because of its amazing architecture.
2	I strongly believe that...	You can use this phrase when you express your opinion and when you know it is a valid point.	<b>I strongly believe that</b> the positives outweigh the negatives in this case.
3	Yes, that's obvious	It can be used when something is easy to see and understand	<b>Yes, it is obvious that</b> there are many differences.
4	I completely agree that	You can use it when you wholeheartedly agree with something	<b>I completely agree</b> with your sayings on this topic
5	I am not quite sure about that...	It can be used when you are not aware of something/someone	<b>I am not quite sure about</b> where the shop is exactly situated.
6	To get to the main point	A phrase can be used when you get diverted from your main topic/ to stop talking about unnecessary points	He spoke for so long that I got irritated and interrupted him, telling him to <b>get to the main point</b> .




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