

About *Speaking for IELTS*

Collins English for Exams series has been designed to be easy to use, whether by learners studying at home on their own or in a classroom with a teacher:

- Instructions are easy to follow
- Exercises are carefully arranged from simpler to more difficult
- All units follow the same basic structure to breed familiarity and confidence
- Answer key is clear and comprehensive

Because these fundamentals are in place, classroom teachers can focus on maintaining motivation, providing individual feedback, and facilitating pair and group work so that more interactive practice can take place. This resource will explain how the material works and how it can be adapted to make the most of the classroom learning context.

Each chapter in *Speaking for IELTS* provides opportunities to practise parts 1, 2 and 3 of the Speaking test. Audio CDs provide numerous sample responses, which can be used not only to check answers but also inductively to get learners thinking about what constitutes effective exam performance.

Each chapter has a similar structure, which can form the basis of regular classroom routines. It will provide 3–4 hours of content, 2 of which we recommend doing in class and 1–2 of which will make ideal homework tasks.

Vocabulary

We recommend that the majority of vocabulary exercises be done at home before the lesson.

- This preparation will get learners thinking about the topic and will introduce them to relevant vocabulary (*activate schemata*) without eating up classroom time.
- As repeated exposure to new vocabulary is required for mastery, the first 5–15 minutes of the lesson can be spent doing a 'spot check' of a selection of the vocabulary covered at home. Make these activities game-like, as suggested in the lesson plans, so that they can serve as ice-breakers.
- The remaining exercises throughout the chapter give ample opportunity to apply vocabulary learning to practice exam tasks.

Grammar

Most chapters contain a section covering the features of spoken grammar most useful for the test.

- Most exercises can be done individually and checked in pairs or small groups. Pair and group work trains learners to reflect on and explain how they have approached the task. This will help get them used to giving reasons for their choices – an important skill for the IELTS speaking exam.

Pronunciation

Each chapter provides pronunciation input and exercises that tackle the areas most likely to 'impose strain' on the listener.

- Use pair and group work to maximise student talking time.

Exam technique

Each chapter provides information and practice exercises covering key exam strategies.

- Throughout the units, a test-teach-test approach is taken: learners try exam practice exercises, receive additional input and opportunity for self-reflection, and then repeat the exercises incorporating what they have learned.
- We strongly recommend using pair work to increase fluency and confidence.
- Wherever possible, use audio recorders to facilitate learners' self-reflection.