8+ > IELTS HACKER_

FREE PREVIEW

06/06



THE SPEAKING QUESTION BANK

IELTS 2026 SPEAKING QUESTION BANK

Every question. A Band 8+ answer.

100 Part 1 topics, 100 cue cards and 500 Part 3 questions, each with a natural Band 8+ answer, 1-minute notes for every cue card and the useful phrases highlighted.

Part 1 · Part 2 · Part 3

Academic + General Training

848
Part 1 answers (100 topics)

100
Part 2 model answers with notes

500
Part 3 answers

108k
words of model answers

Now say it out loud.

Practise these questions with Lina, our AI examiner, on IELTS HACKER.

ieltshacker.com

How to use this book

A model answer helps only if you speak first. Read this page before you start.

1 Speak first, then read

- **Answer the question out loud yourself** before you look at the model answer.
- **Record yourself** on your phone, then read the model and compare: what did it say that you didn't?
- **Time yourself:** Part 1 about 20 seconds, Part 2 the full 2 minutes, Part 3 about 40 seconds.

2 Take the phrases, not the answer

- The **highlighted** words are the useful phrases. Each topic and cue card lists them again at the end.
- **Borrow 2 or 3 phrases** and use them in your own answer about your own life.
- **Don't learn answers by heart.** Examiners notice, and a memorised answer rarely fits the exact question.

3 Make it your life

- The answers are written as one young person from Bangladesh: his hometown, his family, his studies.
- **Change the details to yours.** The structure and the language are what you are learning.
- Real, small details (a name, a place, a price) sound more natural than big general statements.

4 Part 1: short and natural

- **Answer + reason + example:** 2 to 4 sentences, like the answers here. Not one word, not a speech.
- **Paraphrase the question** instead of repeating it: "Do you like rain?" → "I'm quite a fan of wet weather, actually."
- Prepare the four topics that **open every test** first.

5 Part 2: use the minute

- Every cue card has **1-minute notes**: that is exactly what to write in your preparation time. Key words, not sentences.
- **Cover every point**, and give the most time to the "explain" line.
- **One story, many cards:** prepare 10 to 12 flexible stories and reuse them.

6 Part 3: think bigger

- **Opinion → why → example → the other side.** Look for this shape in every Part 3 answer.
- Talk about **people and society**, not only yourself.
- It's fine to pause and think: "That's an interesting question. I'd say..."

7 A simple plan: the whole book in 50 days

Every day
2 Part 1 topics and 2 cue cards with their Part 3 questions: answer, record, then read.

Every day
Write 5 phrases you liked in a notebook and use each one in a sentence about yourself.

Every week
A full Speaking test with Lina, our AI examiner, to see your band.

Last 2 weeks
Repeat the topics you found hardest and speed up your 1-minute notes.

Reading is not speaking

Practise these questions out loud with Lina, our AI examiner, on IELTS HACKER. She asks, you answer, and you get your band with feedback on fluency, vocabulary, grammar and pronunciation.

ieltshacker.com

Contents of the full book

310 pages. The page numbers are those of the full book.

Part 1 · 100 topics · 848 questions and answers

01 Work or Studies 5
02 Hometown 6
03 Home and Accommodation 7
04 The Area You Live In 9
05 Advertisements 10
06 Ambitions 11
07 Art 12
08 Bags 13
09 Bikes 14
10 Birthdays 15
11 Borrowing and Lending 16
12 Cars 17
13 Clothing 18
14 Collecting Things 19
15 Colours 20
16 Computers and Tablets 21
17 Crowded Places 22
18 Days Off 23
19 Dreams 24
20 Emails and Letters 25
21 Evening Time 26
22 Feeling Bored 27
23 Films and Cinemas 28
24 Flowers and Plants 29
25 Food 30
26 Friends 31
27 Fruit and Vegetables 32
28 Gifts 33
29 Handwriting 34
30 Headphones 35
31 Helping Others 36
32 History 37
33 Hobbies 38
34 Housework and Cooking 40
35 Jewellery 41
36 Jokes and Comedy 42
37 Keys 43
38 Languages 44
39 Laughing 45
40 Libraries 46
41 Losing Things 47
42 Maps 48
43 Memory 49
44 Mirrors 50
45 Mobile Phones 51
46 Morning Time 52
47 Museums 53
48 Music 54
49 Names 55
50 Noise 56
51 Numbers and Maths 57
52 Old Buildings 58
53 Opportunities 59
54 Outer Space and Stars 60
55 Paper 61
56 Parks and Gardens 62
57 Patience 63
58 Perfume 64
59 Pets and Animals 65
60 Politeness 66
61 Public Transport 67
62 Punctuality 68
63 Puzzles 69
64 Rain 70
65 Reading 71
66 Robots 72
67 Rubbish and Recycling 73
68 Rules 74
69 Science 75
70 Secondary School 76
71 Shoes 77
72 Shopping 78
73 Singing 79
74 Small Businesses 80
75 Snacks 81
76 Social Media 82
77 Sports Programmes 83
78 Staying Up Late 84
79 Street Markets 85
80 Sunglasses 86
81 Sweets and Chocolate 87
82 Taking Photos 88
83 Tea and Coffee 89
84 Teachers 90
85 Team Sports 91
86 Text Messages 92
87 The City You Live In 93
88 The Internet 94
89 The News 95
90 Tidiness 96
91 Tiredness 97
92 Travelling 98
93 Typing 99
94 Video Games 100
95 Walking 101
96 Watches 102
97 Weather 103
98 Websites 104
99 Weekends 105
100 Wild Animals 106

Part 2 and Part 3 · 100 cue cards · model answers, 1-minute notes and 500 Part 3 answers

PEOPLE

001 A person you know who succeeded in doing something difficult 109
002 A person you know who always seems cheerful 111
003 A person you know who is very good at planning and organising 113
004 A person you know who loves taking photographs 115
005 An older person you admire 117
006 A person you know who makes things by hand 119
007 A person you know who is very interested in history 121
008 A person who taught you an important skill 123
009 A person you know who is popular with other people 125
010 A sportsperson you admire 127
011 A person you know who has made their lifestyle healthier 129
012 A well-known person from your part of the country 131
013 A person you met only once and would like to know more about 133
014 A person you know who enjoys growing plants 135
015 A friend from your childhood 137
016 A person you know who has chosen a career in medicine 139
017 A person you know who runs a successful business 141
018 A person you know who speaks a foreign language well 143
019 A person you know who is good at solving problems 145
020 A person you know who often helps other people 147
021 A person you know who enjoys the job they do 149
022 A member of your family you are proud of 151
023 A person who has inspired you to do something 153
024 A creative person whose work you admire 155
025 A friend of yours who is good at music 157

PLACES

026 A noisy place you have been to 159
027 A natural place in your city, such as a park or garden 161
028 A crowded place you have visited 163
029 A short trip that you did not enjoy 165
030 An interesting building you have visited 167
031 A place away from the city where you enjoyed the natural scenery 169
032 A city you have visited and would like to visit again 171
033 A tall building in your city that you like or dislike 173
034 A place you found boring 175
035 A place in your country that you would recommend to visitors 177
036 A home that you like visiting but would not want to live in 179
037 A place where you like to spend your free time 181
038 A quiet place where you like to go 183
039 A river or lake that you have visited 185
040 A foreign country you would like to visit 187

OBJECTS AND THINGS

041 A film you did not enjoy 189
042 An exciting book that you have read 191
043 Something you own that you could not live without 193
044 A gift you would like to buy for a friend 195
045 A video you watched online that you found interesting 197
046 A law you would like to introduce in your country 199
047 A live sports match that you watched 201
048 A traditional food that is special to you 203
049 An advertisement with a famous person in it that you remember 205
050 A story about an animal that you know well 207
051 A law to protect the environment that you would like to see 209
052 A long-term goal you would like to achieve 211
053 A piece of local news that people in your area were interested in 213
054 An app on your phone that you find useful 215
055 A piece of technology you would like to own 217
056 Your idea of a perfect job 219
057 A special cake that you remember 221
058 A television programme that you like 223
059 Something that has been in your family for a long time 225
060 A photograph that you like 227
061 A toy you liked when you were a child 229
062 A traditional product from your country 231
063 A website that you often use 233
064 A wild animal that lives in your country 235

EVENTS AND EXPERIENCES

065 A good decision you made 237
066 An interview with a well-known person that you found interesting 239
067 A time when you saved money for something 241
068 A skill you learned when you were a child 243
069 A speech or talk that you found boring 245
070 A time when you received very good service from a shop or business 247
071 An enjoyable evening you spent with friends 249
072 Something you did that was a waste of time 251
073 A party that you enjoyed 253
074 A time when you helped someone 255
075 An occasion when you changed a decision you had made 257
076 A short course you have taken 259
077 A time when you lost something in a public place 261
078 Something you do regularly that helps you save time 263
079 A time when you got up very early 265
080 A time when you had to change your plans 267
081 A time when you worked as part of a team 269
082 A time when technology let you down 271
083 A time when you waited a long time for a reply from someone 273
084 A time when you changed your opinion about something 275
085 A positive change you have made in your life 277
086 A time when a piece of equipment you owned stopped working 279
087 A day out that did not cost much money 281
088 A language other than English that you would like to learn 283
089 An event that you organised 285
090 A time when you were stuck in a traffic jam 287
091 A journey by road that you would like to make 289
092 A time when you taught someone how to do something 291
093 A long journey that you remember well 293
094 An occasion when the electricity went off 295
095 A time when you got lost 297
096 The first time you used a foreign language to communicate 299
097 An activity you tried for the first time 301
098 A festival that is important in your country 303
099 A meal that you remember well 305
100 A time when you gave advice to someone 307

8+ > IELTS HACKER_

4 to 5 minutes

PART 1 · INTRODUCTION AND INTERVIEW

100 topics, 848 answers

The examiner asks about you and everyday topics: 4 to 5 short questions on 2 or 3 topics. A good answer is 2 to 4 natural sentences.

100
topics, with the four that open every test first

848
questions, each with a Band 8+ answer

2 to 4
sentences in a good Part 1 answer

Opens every test
Work or studies, hometown, home, the area you live in. Prepare these first.

Answer + reason + example
Look for this shape in every answer.

Highlighted phrases
Natural language that lifts your vocabulary score.

Useful phrases
Listed again at the end of each topic.

HOW TO USE THIS PART

1. Cover the answer and say yours out loud.
2. Read the model answer and compare.
3. Use two of its phrases about your own life.

01 Work or Studies

OPENS EVERY TEST

Q1 Do you work or are you a student?

I'm a student. I'm in the third year of a bachelor's degree in information technology at a private university in Dhaka. Alongside that, I run a small YouTube channel where I teach ICT to college students, so I suppose I'm a part-time teacher as well.

Q2 Why did you choose that subject?

Mainly because I've been fascinated by computers since I was about twelve, when my brother let me take his old desktop apart. On top of that, IT is one of the few fields in Bangladesh where a good degree almost guarantees a decent job, so it felt like a sensible choice too.

Q3 What do you find most difficult about your studies?

Probably **the sheer pace**. Technology moves so quickly that what we learn in one semester can feel slightly out of date by the next, so I'm constantly **teaching myself new tools** online. The theory-heavy maths courses were a struggle as well, to be honest.

Q4 What would you like to do after you finish your studies?

My plan is to work as a cybersecurity analyst for a couple of years, ideally at a bank or a software firm, and then apply for a master's degree abroad. **In the long run**, though, I'd love to combine that with teaching, because explaining things is what I enjoy most.

Q5 Are you working or studying at the moment?

Studying, mostly. I'm doing an IT degree at a university in Dhaka and I've got about a year and a half left. I do a bit of online teaching on the side, but that's more of **a passion project** than a proper job.

Q6 What is your favourite part of your course?

Without a doubt, the security modules. Last semester we had to find weaknesses in a dummy banking website, and it felt more like solving a puzzle than doing coursework. I also enjoy programming in Java, because you can see the results of your work straight away.

Q7 Do you prefer to study in the morning or in the evening?

Late in the evening, definitely. Dhaka finally goes quiet after about ten, my flatmates settle down, and I can concentrate for two or three hours without interruption. In the morning my brain doesn't really wake up until I've had a cup of tea.

Q8 Is there anything you would like to change about your course?

I'd add far more practical work. We spend a lot of time memorising theory for exams, whereas employers want people who've actually built things. **If it were up to me**, every course would end with a real project for a real client rather than a written paper.

Q9 What do you do? Do you work or study?

I'm a full-time student. I moved from my hometown to Dhaka three years ago to study information technology, and I'm now in my third year. In my spare time I record ICT lessons for higher secondary students and upload them online.

Q10 **What is a typical day at your university like?**

Classes usually run from nine until about two, with a lab session a couple of times a week. After that I grab lunch with my classmates in the canteen, spend an hour or two in the library and then head to the gym before going home.

Q11 **Do you get on well with the people you study with?**

Very well, luckily. There are about forty of us in my section and we've been together since the first semester, so we know each other's strengths. Whenever there's a group project, we already know who'll write the code and who'll do the presentation.

Q12 **Do you think your subject will be useful in the future?**

I'm fairly confident it will. Almost everything in Bangladesh is going digital, from banking to bus tickets, and every one of those systems needs protecting. If anything, I think the demand for people who understand security is only going to grow.

USEFUL PHRASES **a passion project** **without a doubt** **the sheer pace** **teaching myself new tools** **in the long run** **I'm fairly confident it will** **if it were up to me**

02 Hometown

OPENS EVERY TEST

Q1 **Where is your hometown?**

I'm from Netrokona, a district town in Mymensingh division, about a hundred and sixty kilometres north of Dhaka. It's quite close to the Indian border, so on a clear day you can actually **make out the Garo Hills** in the distance.

Q2 **What is your hometown known for?**

Two things, mainly. One is a sweet called balish mishti, which literally means pillow sweet because of its size and shape. The other is its folk music; a lot of well-known baul singers have come from our area, and people there are very proud of that.

Q3 **What do you like most about your hometown?**

The pace of life, I'd say. Nobody is in a rush, shopkeepers know your family, and you can cross the whole town by rickshaw in fifteen minutes. After the chaos of Dhaka, going back feels like someone has **turned the volume down**.

Q4 **Has your hometown changed much in recent years?**

Quite a lot, actually. When I was a child the main road was lined with tin-roofed shops, whereas now there are multi-storey markets and even a few coffee shops. The roads are busier as well, mostly because of the battery-powered rickshaws that have appeared everywhere.

Q5 **Where are you from?**

I come from a town called Netrokona in the north of Bangladesh. It's a small, green place with a river called the Mogra running through the middle of it, and it takes about four or five hours to get there from the capital.

Q6 **Is your hometown a good place for young people?**

Yes and no. It's a safe and friendly place to grow up, and the schools are decent. The problem comes after college, because there are very few universities or professional jobs nearby, which is why most of my friends have ended up in Dhaka or Mymensingh.

Q7 **What do people in your hometown do for a living?**

A lot of families depend on farming, particularly rice, and in the low-lying wetland areas fishing is a major source of income. In the town itself, most people run small businesses or work as teachers and government employees.

Q8 **Would you like to live in your hometown in the future?**

Eventually, yes. For my career I'll probably have to stay in a big city for a while, but I can picture myself going back in my forties, perhaps to start a training centre for young programmers. It would be nice to give something back.

Q9 **Can you tell me something about the town you come from?**

Of course. I grew up in Netrokona, which is a quiet district town in the north of the country. It's surrounded by rice fields and wetlands, and it's the kind of place where everybody seems to be somebody's cousin.

Q10 **What is the best time of year to visit your hometown?**

I'd recommend the monsoon, strangely enough. The wetlands around the town, which we call haors, fill up and look like an inland sea, and you can travel between villages by boat. Winter is lovely too, because that's when every household makes rice cakes.

Q11 **How often do you go back to your hometown?**

About once every two months, and always for the big holidays. It's only a few hours by train, so if I've got a long weekend I'll jump on the Haor Express without thinking twice. My mother would never forgive me if I stayed away longer.

Q12 **Is there anything you would like to improve about your hometown?**

The opportunities for young people, more than anything. I'd love to see a proper IT park or at least a few modern training centres there, so that school leavers didn't feel they had to move away. Better drainage in the rainy season would help as well.

USEFUL PHRASES make out the Garo Hills · turned the volume down · yes and no · give something back · strangely enough · without thinking twice · more than anything

03 Home and Accommodation

OPENS EVERY TEST

Q1 **Do you live in a house or a flat?**

At the moment I live in a flat. It's on the fifth floor of a fairly new building near my university, and I share it with two friends from my course. My family home, back in my hometown, is a two-storey house.

Q2 **Which room do you spend the most time in?**

My bedroom, because **it doubles as my study** and my recording studio. I've got my desk, my laptop and a small tripod set up by the window, so I can attend online classes, do assignments and film my lessons all in the same spot.

Q3 **What do you like about the place where you live?**

The location is the best thing about it. I can walk to campus in ten minutes, which in Dhaka is **a real luxury**, and there's a gym on the same street. The flat also gets a lovely breeze in the evenings, so we rarely need the air conditioning.

Q4 **Is there anything you would like to change about your home?**

I'd love a bigger kitchen. Three of us share a space that's barely large enough for one person, so we end up **cooking in shifts**. A balcony with room for a few plants would be nice too, as the current one is tiny.

Q5 **Where are you living at the moment?**

I'm renting a three-bedroom flat with two classmates in Bashundhara, which is a residential area in the north-east of Dhaka. We moved in at the start of our second year, when we got tired of living in a crowded student hostel.

Q6 **How long have you lived there?**

Just under two years now. Before that I spent my first year in a hostel, which was cheap but incredibly noisy. Moving to the flat cost a bit more, but having my own room **has made a huge difference** to my studies.

Q7 **Who do you live with?**

I live with two friends, Shuvo and Tanvir, who are both on the same course as me. We get along surprisingly well considering how different we are; Shuvo is extremely tidy, Tanvir plays the guitar at midnight, and I'm somewhere in between.

Q8 **What kind of home would you like to have in the future?**

Ideally, a house with a rooftop garden, somewhere a little outside the city centre. I grew up with a roof where we flew kites and dried pickles in the sun, and I'd like my own home to have that kind of open space.

Q9 **What kind of home do you live in?**

I live in a rented flat in Dhaka during term time. It's **nothing fancy**, just three small bedrooms, a shared living room and a kitchen, but it's bright and it's close to everything I need. For holidays I go back to my parents' house.

Q10 **How is your flat decorated?**

Quite simply, to be honest, since we're students **on a budget**. The walls are plain white, but we've hung up a string of fairy lights and a big map of Bangladesh in the living room, where we stick a pin in every district one of us has visited.

Q11 **Do you prefer living in a house or a flat?**

A house, **if I had the choice**. A flat is convenient and secure, but you're always aware of the neighbours above and below you. In a house you have a bit of outdoor space, and you can make noise without worrying about anyone complaining.

Q12 What can you see from the windows of your home?

Mostly other buildings, I'm afraid, as is usual in Dhaka. From my bedroom window, though, I can see a row of coconut trees and a small playground where children play cricket every afternoon, so it isn't a bad view at all.

USEFUL PHRASES it doubles as my study · a real luxury · cooking in shifts · has made a huge difference · nothing fancy · on a budget · if I had the choice

PREVIEW Part 1 continues in the full book: 100 topics and 848 questions, every one with a Band 8+ answer. ieltshacker.com

THE OTHER 97 PART 1 TOPICS IN THE FULL BOOK

The Area You Live In · Advertisements · Ambitions · Art · Bags · Bikes · Birthdays · Borrowing and Lending · Cars · Clothing · Collecting Things · Colours · Computers and Tablets · Crowded Places · Days Off · Dreams · Emails and Letters · Evening Time · Feeling Bored · Films and Cinemas · Flowers and Plants · Food · Friends · Fruit and Vegetables · Gifts · Handwriting · Headphones · Helping Others · History · Hobbies · Housework and Cooking · Jewellery · Jokes and Comedy · Keys · Languages · Laughing · Libraries · Losing Things · Maps · Memory · Mirrors · Mobile Phones · Morning Time · Museums · Music · Names · Noise · Numbers and Maths · Old Buildings · Opportunities · Outer Space and Stars · Paper · Parks and Gardens · Patience · Perfume · Pets and Animals · Politeness · Public Transport · Punctuality · Puzzles · Rain · Reading · Robots · Rubbish and Recycling · Rules · Science · Secondary School · Shoes · Shopping · Singing · Small Businesses · Snacks · Social Media · Sports Programmes · Staying Up Late · Street Markets · Sunglasses · Sweets and Chocolate · Taking Photos · Tea and Coffee · Teachers · Team Sports · Text Messages · The City You Live In · The Internet · The News · Tidiness · Tiredness · Travelling · Typing · Video Games · Walking · Watches · Weather · Websites · Weekends · Wild Animals

8+ > IELTS HACKER_

7 to 9 minutes

PART 2 AND PART 3

100 cue cards, 500 discussion answers

Part 2: 1 minute to prepare, then speak for up to 2 minutes. Part 3: 4 to 5 minutes of discussion on the same theme.

100
cue cards: people, places, objects and events

100
sets of 1-minute notes and 2-minute model answers

500
Part 3 questions, each with a Band 8+ answer

The cue card
Exactly as the examiner gives it to you.

My 1-minute notes
What to write while you prepare: key words only.

Band 8+ model answer
About 2 minutes, with the useful phrases highlighted.

Part 3 · Discussion
5 questions on the theme, each with a Band 8+ answer.

HOW TO USE THIS PART

1. Read the card and write notes for 1 minute.
2. Speak for 2 minutes and record yourself.
3. Compare with the model, then answer Part 3.

CUE CARD 001 · PEOPLE

Describe a person you know who succeeded in doing something difficult

You should say:

- who this person is
- what they did
- why it was difficult

And explain how you felt about their success.

MY 1-MINUTE NOTES

1. aunt = mother's elder sister, village
2. passed secondary exams at 43
3. left school at 15 (marriage)
4. studied with youngest son, open university
5. after 10 pm, maths, neighbours laughed
6. I sent maths videos
7. better Bangla grade than her son
8. proud - finished what she started

BAND 8+ MODEL ANSWER · about 2 minutes

I'd like to talk about my aunt, my mother's elder sister, who lives in a village about ten kilometres from my hometown. Two years ago she did something that most people around her **thought was impossible**: she passed her secondary school exams at the age of forty-three.

She'd had to leave school at fifteen, when she got married, and for the next twenty-five years her life was cooking, farming and bringing up three children. But she **never stopped regretting it**. So when her youngest son started preparing for the same exam, she quietly enrolled through the open university and began studying alongside him.

It was difficult for all sorts of reasons. She hadn't opened a textbook for a quarter of a century, and maths in particular had **changed beyond recognition**. She could only study after ten at night, once the housework was done, by which time she was exhausted. **On top of that**, some of the neighbours laughed at her, and one relative **told her to her face** that she was wasting her time. I helped a little by recording short maths explanations on my phone and sending them to her.

When the results came out, she'd passed comfortably, with a higher grade in Bangla than her son, which he still **hasn't lived down**. Honestly, I was prouder of her than of anything I've achieved myself. **What struck me most** was that she hadn't done it for a job or for money; she simply wanted to finish something she'd started. Whenever I feel like **giving up on** a hard course now, I think of her bent over a book at midnight.

USEFUL PHRASES thought was impossible · never stopped regretting it · changed beyond recognition · on top of that · told her to her face · hasn't lived down · what struck me most · giving up on

PART 3 · DISCUSSION · 5 questions on the same theme

1 **What kinds of success do people in your country admire most?**

Traditionally, academic and professional success. A child who becomes a doctor, an engineer or a senior government officer brings honour to the whole family, and parents will mention it within a minute of meeting you. That's slowly widening, though. Cricketers and footballers are national heroes now, and young people increasingly admire entrepreneurs who've built something from nothing. Personally, I think we still undervalue quieter kinds of success, like being a good teacher in a village school for thirty years.

2 **Do you think success depends more on hard work or on luck?**

Mostly hard work, but it would be dishonest to ignore luck. Where you're born, whether your parents can afford tuition, even which teacher you happen to get; none of that is earned. I've met people in my hometown who were clearly brighter than me but had to start working at sixteen. What effort does is make the most of whatever chances you're given. So I'd say luck decides the starting line, and hard work decides how far you run from it.

3 **Why do some people give up when things become difficult?**

Often because they can't see any progress. If you've studied for weeks and your marks haven't moved, it's natural to conclude that you're simply not capable. Fear of embarrassment plays a part as well; failing publicly feels worse than not trying. I also think expectations matter. People who assume success should come quickly are shocked by the first obstacle, whereas those who expected a long, messy struggle tend to carry on. Having even one person who believes in you makes a huge difference.

4 **Is it important for children to experience failure?**

I believe it is, provided it happens in a safe way. A child who loses a race or does badly in one test learns that disappointment is survivable and that effort changes results. If parents remove every obstacle, the first real failure arrives at twenty, when the stakes are far higher. That said, there's a difference between useful failure and humiliation. Publicly ranking young children by exam results, which is still common here, mostly teaches the ones at the bottom to stop trying.

5 **How do people usually celebrate when they achieve something?**

In Bangladesh the first thing anyone does is buy sweets and share them with relatives, neighbours and colleagues; good news is considered incomplete until people have eaten something. For bigger achievements, such as a university place or a job abroad, the family might cook a feast and invite half the neighbourhood. Younger people add a modern layer by posting the news online and treating their friends at a restaurant. Either way, success here is rarely celebrated alone. It belongs to everyone who helped.

CUE CARD 026 · PLACES

Describe a noisy place you have been to

You should say:

- where it is
- when you went there
- what made it so noisy

And explain how you felt about being there.

MY 1-MINUTE NOTES

1. Dhaka's main river port, old city, on the Buriganga
2. went last winter to see off a classmate on an overnight ferry
3. ferry horns you feel in your chest
4. men shouting destinations, porters yelling, hawkers
5. had to speak into his ear
6. overwhelmed at first - I'm from a quiet town
7. then enjoyed it: noise with a purpose, the city's heartbeat
8. ears rang for an hour

BAND 8+ MODEL ANSWER · about 2 minutes

The noisiest place I've ever been is the main river port of Dhaka, on the bank of the Buriganga in the old city. It's where the big passenger ferries leave for the south of the country, and I went there one evening last winter **to see off** a classmate who was travelling home by overnight boat.

I'd expected it to be busy, but **nothing prepared me for** the sound. It comes **from every direction at once**. The ferries themselves are the loudest: four-storey white vessels moored side by side, each sounding a horn so deep that you feel it in your chest. Above that, men stand on the gangways shouting the names of destinations, competing for passengers. Porters push through the crowd with enormous loads on their heads, yelling at everyone to move. Hawkers sell tea and peanuts **at the top of their voices**, and underneath it all there's the steady thud of engines. To speak to my friend, I had to put my mouth beside his ear.

My feelings changed while I was there. For the first ten minutes I was overwhelmed; I come from a quiet town, and **my instinct was to get out**. But gradually I began to enjoy it. It was **noise with a purpose**, thousands of people all going somewhere, and it felt like standing next to the city's heartbeat. An old boatman told me the port used to be even busier before the great bridge to the south was built, which I found **hard to imagine**. My ears rang for an hour afterwards, but **I'd gladly go back**.

USEFUL PHRASES to see off · nothing prepared me for · from every direction at once · at the top of their voices · my instinct was to get out · noise with a purpose · hard to imagine · I'd gladly go back

PART 3 · DISCUSSION · 5 questions on the same theme

1 Where does most of the noise in modern cities come from?

Traffic is far and away the largest source: engines, and above all horns, which in South Asian cities are used almost continuously. Construction comes second, since a growing city is always being drilled, hammered and piled somewhere. Then there's commercial noise, with shops and vehicles advertising through loudspeakers, and generators roaring whenever the power fails. Social events add their share; a wedding with amplified music can keep a whole neighbourhood awake. Compared with all that, the noise people usually complain about, such as neighbours' televisions, is trivial.

2 How can constant noise affect people's health?

More seriously than most people realise. The obvious damage is to hearing, and traffic police and drivers in very loud cities often suffer it. But the hidden effects may be worse. Constant noise keeps the body in a state of mild alarm, which raises blood pressure and stress, and it breaks up sleep even when it doesn't fully wake you. Children in noisy classrooms find it harder to concentrate. People also become irritable and less patient with one another. Because the harm is gradual and invisible, it gets far less attention than air pollution.

3 Why do some people enjoy noisy places?

Because noise is often the sound of life. A stadium, a festival or a busy market is exciting precisely because thousands of people are making a din together, and the energy is infectious. Young people in particular associate loudness with fun and silence with boredom. For some, a noisy place is also a relief from loneliness; you can feel part of a crowd without having to talk to anyone. It probably depends on what you're used to. Someone raised in a lively city may find the countryside so quiet that it's unnerving.

4 Should there be stricter laws against noise at night?

I think so, provided they're enforced sensibly. Sleep isn't a luxury, and one household's celebration shouldn't cost three hundred neighbours their rest, especially students before exams and people who start work at dawn. A clear rule, such as no amplified sound or construction after ten at night, is easy to understand. The difficulty in my country is cultural as much as legal. Weddings and religious gatherings are occasions when nobody wants to complain. So the law needs to be backed by a change in what we consider polite.

5 Is it becoming harder to find quiet places?

In cities, undoubtedly. Open spaces have shrunk, traffic runs later into the night, and even parks have loudspeakers and generators. But I think the bigger change is inside our own pockets. With a phone and earphones, people fill every silent moment with music, videos or podcasts, so many of us never experience quiet even when it's available. That's a pity, because the mind needs gaps. I notice that my clearest thinking happens on a bicycle or a train with nothing playing. Silence has become something you have to choose deliberately.

PREVIEW **Part 2 and Part 3 continue in the full book: 100 cue cards with notes and model answers, and 500 Part 3 answers.** **ieltshacker.com**

What you get in the full book

Everything in this preview, complete: 310 pages with clickable contents and bookmarks.

100
Part 1 topics
Every topic the examiner can ask about, with the four that open every test first.

848
Part 1 answers
A natural Band 8+ answer for every question: answer, reason and example.

100
Cue cards with model answers
People, places, objects and events, each with a 2-minute Band 8+ answer.

100
Sets of 1-minute notes
Exactly what to write in your preparation minute, for every cue card.

500
Part 3 answers
Five discussion questions on each card's theme, each with a Band 8+ answer.

1,460
Useful phrases
Highlighted inside the answers and listed again after every topic and cue card.

Get the full book

The complete IELTS Speaking Question Bank 2026 is available from IELTS HACKER. Visit the website or message our Facebook page.

ieltshacker.com



Never run out of things to say.

The Speaking test rewards answers that are natural, developed and personal. This book gives you one for every question you are likely to meet, in all three parts of the test, written the way a confident speaker really talks.

What is inside

- **100 Part 1 topics:** 848 questions, each with a natural answer
- **500 Part 3 answers:** five discussion questions for every cue card
- **Answers set in Bangladesh,** easy to change into your own story
- **How to use the book:** speak first, then read, with a 50-day plan
- **100 cue cards** with 1-minute notes and 2-minute model answers
- **Useful phrases highlighted** in every answer and listed again after it
- **Cue cards by type:** people, places, objects and events
- **Full contents** with the page of every topic and every cue card

Academic + General Training | Part 1 · Part 2 · Part 3 | Self-study | 310 pages

THE IELTS HACKER 2026 SERIES: 6 BOOKS

01 Listening
02 Reading
03 Writing
04 Speaking
05 Vocabulary
06 This book Question Bank

Read it on paper. Say it out loud.

Practise these questions with Lina, the AI examiner on IELTS HACKER.

ieltshacker.com

IELTS is a registered trademark of its owners. IELTS HACKER is not affiliated with them.

© 2026 IELTS HACKER. All rights reserved.