

*In the Name of God, the Omniscient,
the Omnipotent*

An Intensive IELTS Speaking Course
(General Module)

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CONTENTS

Acknowledgments	6
Preface	7
Introduction	8
PART 1 ... Learning to Speak a Foreign Language	11
PART 2 ... How to Improve Your Spoken English	28
PART 3 ... The IELTS Speaking Test	38
PART 4 ... Interview Samples	43
1. 'App' an Apt Word for Tech-Crazy 2010, but How Do You Even Say 'Culturomics'?	43
2. Finding Comfort in Euphemisms When Words Make Us Feel Uneasy	45
3. Writing Laws So Lawyers Are Not the Only Ones Who Can Read Them	48
4. Seriously: 'OK' Began as a Joke in a Newspaper in Boston in 1839	50
5. 'Jack and the Beanstalk,' Told with Food-Related Slang	54
6. Lost for Words? Here Are Some Tips to Remember About Improving Memory	57
7. Taking the Frustration Out of Phrasal Verbs	60
8. 'Don't Let Somebody Else's Words Dictate the Discussion All the Time'	63
9. Break In, Break Out, Break Up -- Give Us a Break! (OK, Not Exactly a Breakthrough Headline) --	65
10. Advice for What to Say If Someone Leaves You at a Loss for Words	69
11. Think Age Makes No Difference for Twins? Just Listen to Them Talk	72
12. Listening for What Sisters Say about Each Other, What They Really Mean	74
13. What Americans Mean When They Make an Appeal to 'Sensitivity'	77
14. How to Get the Most from a Complaint Letter	79
15. Words and Debates Change With Time, but First Amendment Stays the Same	81
16. How to Help Your Baby Learn to Talk? Try Talking to Your Baby	83

17. To Make a Long Story Short: Summary Skills for Better Readers and Writers -----	85
18. To Master Rhythms of English, You Really Have to Learn Reductions -----	88
19. George Carlin, 1937-2008: He Found Irreverent Humor in Language -----	90
20. 'Ms.' Has a Longer History (or Herstory) Than You Might Think -----	92
21. Feeling Limited by a Language? Here Is a Solution: Invent Your Own -----	94
22. Training Teachers in Places with Few Resources: Lesson from Burkina Faso -----	96
23. An English Professor Who Found a Calling in Web Accessibility -----	98
24. Talking in Rhythm: How to Manage the Stresses of American English -----	100
25. Trying to Get a Grip on Gestures? Here is a Handy Book -----	102
26. 'National Day of Listening' Promoted; Listening to Stories of Poverty -----	105
27. Key to a Better Accent in English? Students Say It's in the Music. Think People Always Know When You Are Being Sarcastic? Don't Assume -----	108
28. Think People Always Know When You Are Being Sarcastic? Don't Assume -----	110
29. Small Talk, American-Style; a Computer Language for Self-Expression -----	112
30. Wanna, Gonna, Hafta: Getting Relaxed With Reduced Forms of Speech -----	115
31. To Catch On to Phrasal Verbs, It Helps to Hook Up With an English Teacher -----	117
32. Want to Learn Some Slang? Let 'Hansel and Gretel' Show the Way -----	120
33. What Difference Does a Proposition Make? We'll Get Back at You -----	122
34. 'How Are Yinz Doin?' Pittsburghers Ask; 'Huh?' G20 Leaders May Wonder -----	125
35. Writing Prompt for Teens: What Issues Should Next US President Address? -----	129
36. Words of Comfort for an Unfortunate Event Other Than a Death -----	133
37. In Angola, Education Ministry Aims to Expand Teaching of English -----	135
38. In Pakistan, a Big Push to Teach English; Local Versions Flourish -----	137
39. Moving Beyond 'It's This or It's This' in Discussing Controversial Topics -----	139
40. Teacher Sees 'Big Push' to Promote English as a Foreign Language in UAE -----	141
41. English Teacher in Cameroon Sends a Positive Message about Texting -----	143
42. You Say LOL, I say LOHL; Either Way, Emo Kids Won't Be Laughing Out Loud -----	145
43. Step One to a Personal Statement for College: Make Sure It's Personal -----	147
44. Looking for Red Meat Political Terms That Won't Bring a Hail of Dead Cats -----	149
45. Why Handwriting and Spelling Drills, Done in Isolation, Miss the Point -----	151

46. Finding the Right Expression of Sympathy When Someone is Grieving -----	153
47. American Political Lingo, and a Candidate with Name Recognition -----	155
48. Smoothing Out English with Help from Sentence Pronunciation Rules -----	157
49. American English Hits a Homer When It Comes to Baseball-Related Idioms -----	160
50. Teaching English in Syria: For Some, a Job Is a Matter of Karma -----	162
51. Step Two in Writing a College Essay: Don't Think It's a College Essay -----	164
52. How to Reduce an Accent? First, Understand Just What an Accent Is -----	166
53. How Noah Webster's Dictionary Defined American English, and His Own Views -----	168
54. Remembering William Safire, 79, a Maven of the English Language -----	170
55. This Is an English Class, yet Even the Moroccan Is Speaking Spanish -----	172
56. Annotation and Other Tips for Getting the Most Out of Textbooks -----	174
57. What is the Story of Your Life? Please Summarize in Six Words -----	176
58. Learning Business English, and a Little Philosophy, in Tough Economic Times -----	178
59. Teaching Students How to Use Dialogue to Bridge Social Differences -----	180
60. Once Upon a Time, a Girl Could Be a Boy, and the Worrier Was to Choke -----	182
61. Hunting for the Snark in Sarcasm and Anonymous Expression on the Web -----	184
62. To Be a Good Teacher, 'You Have to Forget About All Your Problems' -----	186
 PART 5 ... 101 IELTS Speaking Topic Cards -----	 188
References -----	210

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Preface

This book is addressed to professionals and graduate students interested in taking IELTS. It will also be of interest to language teachers, language planners and all of those aiming to improve the techniques of test taking. The book will, hopefully, show them that introducing some clues will ultimately help them pass the tests successfully.

The collection provides invaluable guidance for educators and policy makers who must decide when to start IELTS teaching. The volume also includes systematic reviews of previous research and theory on the relationship between individual differences and test taking techniques. It is a unique addition to the research on real situation testing.

Finally, the authors hope this volume will help language learners benefit from and apply the practical techniques in order to pass the tests. Likewise, we hope that this book is but the beginning of a deeper quest into the nature of the test taking.

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Introduction

In this modern world English has its own unique position in communication and it is safe to say that most of the meetings and conversations happen in English. Language proficiency tests such as IELTS, and TOEFL (New Generations) intend to evaluate the overall or general capability of the candidates in using a foreign language. To face these exams successfully, following the traditional methods may not lead to the optimal response, due to the complexities and culture-bound trends in new testing systems. The judgments mostly happen through the listening and speaking sections of these tests, since in the other parts usually the knowledge about the language is measured.

A number of books advertise that they will teach you to speak fluently in a short period of time. While telling you they will teach you to speak, however, they will actually teach you to read, to write, and to memorize grammar rules, but they will largely fail to retrain your tongue to speak even the local language.

Or you may be in an area where there is little formal language study available. You may find a tutor or a small school that will claim to teach you the language. Again, however, the language instruction will likely do little to retrain your tongue to actually speak that new language.

In either case, you face the same obstacle. On the one hand, there are prestigious institutions that will expose you to correct methods and enriched cultural life, but they will fail to provide the necessary retraining so that you can rapidly learn to speak the local language fluently. On the other hand, there are inadequately prepared schools trying to teach their language courses without understanding what learning to speak a second language entails. So, we are not going to repeat this issue again in this book to lecture the learner, and you should remember everyone is able to make progress.

To satisfy this vital need, the present work has been prepared as a comprehensive guide for the Iranian IELTS candidates to be aware of the types of questions they may get exposed to in the coming interview. Meanwhile, the guide includes various practical strategies to raise the candidates' situational self esteem which is a decisive and crucial element to facilitate the

examination path. Its primary purpose, however, is to show you how to retrain your mind - and your tongue - in order to acquire a new language.

In this book you will find an Audio CD, as well, including the voices of whole sample interviews, while most of the available books present the sample interviews just in written form. While you are listening, try the following:

Before listening:

1. Look at the title of the passage and any pictures.
2. Ask yourself questions: What do you know about this topic? What do you think this passage will be about? What information do you hope this passage will tell you?

While listening:

1. Focus your attention on what is being said.
2. Listen for the main idea.
3. Listen for the key words and ideas.
4. Relate what you hear to what you already know.

After listening:

1. Ask yourself:
 - a) Did the passage match my guesses?
 - b) What did I learn from this passage?
 - c) Summarize the main idea of this passage in 1-2 sentences.
2. Write down any new words you feel are important.

In IELTS scoring system the developments happen gradually; therefore, the candidates shouldn't expect too much, i.e., mastery over the speaking ability does not happen overnight, although practice makes perfect in this regard.

Although the authors have tried their best to present a perfect manual, for sure there are some shortcomings. The authors earnestly expect the dear colleagues or experts in this field to send their constructive suggestions to: pmosalla@yahoo.com or ahmad.maleki@gmail.com in order to improve the next print.

And the final word, move beyond a motivation that simply desires to pass a test; but to one that views language as a key that unlocks opportunities.

Bon chance

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