

Test section – Speaking Part 2

Using PPF (past, present, future) strategy

Activities

1. Question making and pair work (warmer)
2. Analysing tense use

Aims

- to help students develop their response in the long turn by referring to different times
- to help students develop their grammatical range

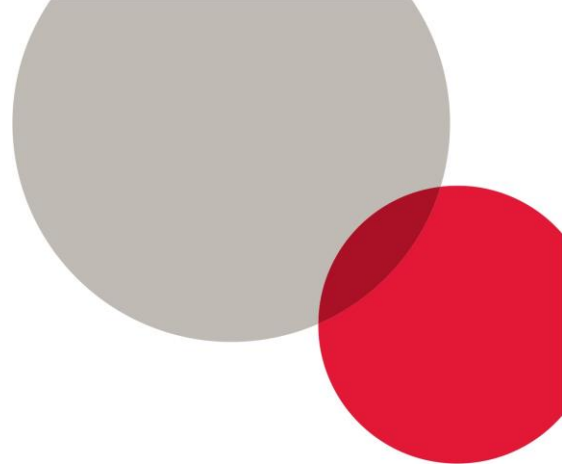
Learning outcomes

- Students will have practised developing and extending their long turn.
- Students will have practised a range of verb tenses in answers to 'typical' Part 2 topics.

Information about this section of IELTS

Part 2 tests the ability to talk about a topic, develop ideas about a topic, and the use of relevant vocabulary and grammar. The examiner will give the test taker a 'task card' with written prompts and will ask them to talk about the topic for one to two minutes including the bullet points on the card. The test taker will have one minute to prepare for the talk and will be given a piece of paper and a pencil to make notes. These notes can be referred to during the talk. The examiner will tell the test taker when to begin speaking and when to stop. At the end of the talk, the examiner will ask one or two very brief follow-up questions. This part lasts 3-4 minutes.

Time	45 minutes
Level	B1-B2
Class	Suitable for groups / large classes; 1:1, F2F / Online
Interaction	Pair or group work
Materials	Worksheet attached



Activity 1: Warmer

Time: 10 minutes

Procedure:

- introduce the focus of the lesson: Speaking Part 2 (The Long Turn).
- copy the Part 2 task card onto the board.

Describe a memorable trip you've had.

You should say

- **when you went on the trip**
- **where you went**
- **what you did on the trip**

and say why it was memorable.

- tell students to work alone and transform all four prompts into questions.

Answers

When did you go on the trip?

Where did you go?

What did you do on the trip?

Why was it memorable?

- put students into pairs to ask and answer the 4 questions.
- get class feedback.
- you could also do a class survey of who travelled furthest, who least far, or which trip sounds the most exciting / frightening etc.

Activity 2

Material: Worksheet

Time: 20 minutes

Procedure:

- photocopy the worksheet, double-sided, for each student.
- tell students to read the task card and the partial responses and to try to guess what PPF stands for (Past, Present, Future) (Ex 1).

- get them to write Past, Present, Future on the left of the worksheet.
- tell them to read the third extract and to underline different ways of talking about the future (Ex 2).

Answers

“Actually, I’m **planning to** take my girlfriend there next year but **we’re going to** stay at a beach resort this time because I’ve heard there are some lovely places by the sea. **We’ll probably** just take day trips to cities and temples. I can’t wait!”

- you may wish to brainstorm other ways of talking about the future (present continuous / present simple).
- point out that using PPF will help them to develop longer answers and show the examiner that they can use a range of grammatical structures.
- tell students to work alone and to make notes on things they can say about their memorable trip using past, present and future forms (Ex 3).
- put students into pairs to talk for 2 minutes about their trip (Ex 4).
- go around and monitor the use of different verb tenses.
- tell students to look at the second topic (Ex 5).
- put students in pairs to write possible questions about the topic.
- remind them to write questions that use past, present and future forms.
- Whole class feedback.
- write the list of questions on the board.

Possible answers

How long have you had it?

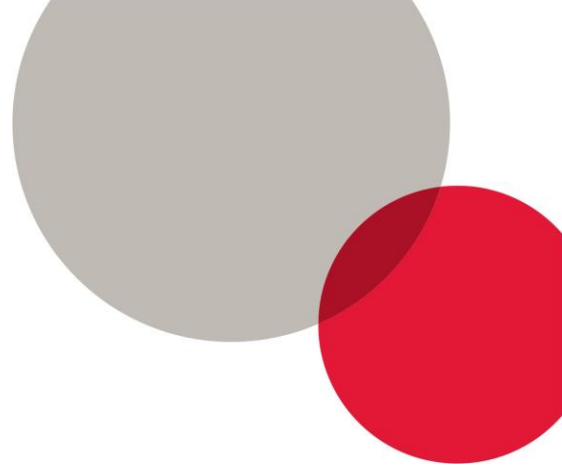
When did you get it?

How did you get it?

What do you do with it?

Who was it from?

Why is it important?



Where do you keep it?
How long will you keep it?

- students work alone and make 1- or 2-word notes in answers to the questions. Give them 60 seconds.
- copy the task card onto the board.

Describe something you own which is very important to you.

You should say

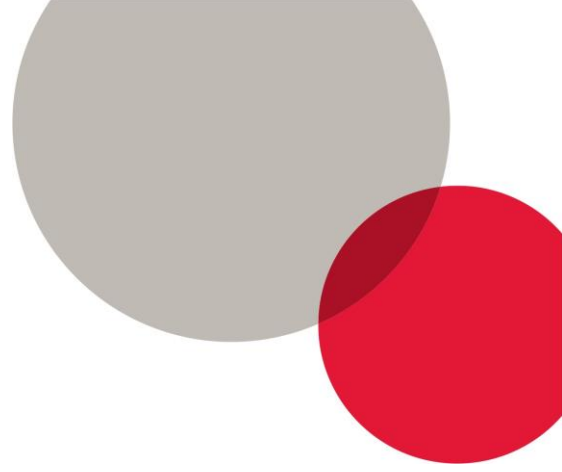
- where you got it
- how long you have had it
- what you use it for

and explain why it is important to you.

- put students into pairs to take turns to speak about their possession for two minutes.
- go around and monitor and make notes on tense use.
- get each student to report briefly back to the class on their partner's object.

Extra information

- You may wish to download the Public Band Descriptors for the Speaking section or tell your students to do so.
https://takeielts.britishcouncil.org/sites/default/files/speaking-band-descriptors_0.pdf
- You can then point out the important differences in the Grammatical Range and Accuracy criterion for the levels appropriate to your class.



Grammatical Range and Accuracy	
Band 7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> uses a range of complex structures with some flexibility frequently produces error-free sentences, though some grammatical mistakes persist
Band 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> uses a mix of simple and complex structures, but with limited flexibility may make frequent mistakes with complex structures, though these rarely cause comprehension problems
Band 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> produces basic sentence forms with reasonable accuracy uses a limited range of more complex structures, but these usually contain errors and may cause some comprehension problems

What is PPF?

1 Look at the task card below and some extracts from how a candidate answered the question. Work in pairs. Discuss what PPF stands for. Use the underlined words and phrases to help you.

Describe a memorable trip you've had.

You should say

- **When you went on the trip**
- **Where you went**
- **What you did on the trip**

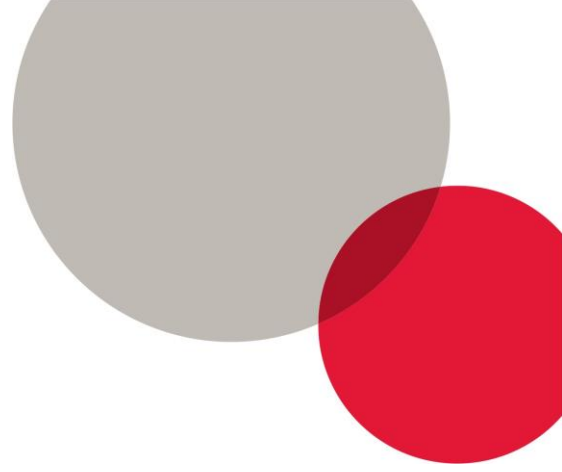
And say why it was memorable.

P _____ "It was definitely far more exciting than any holiday I'd been on before. I'd only been to Europe so Asia was a completely different experience for me..."

P _____ "I've got some photos from the trip on my computer. They come up as screensavers after my computer hasn't been used for a while, so I look at them and start dreaming about going back there..."

F _____ "Actually, I'm planning to take my girlfriend there next year but we're going to stay at a beach resort this time because I've heard there are some lovely places by the sea. We'll probably just take day trips to cities and temples. I can't wait!"

2 Underline the different ways of talking about the future used in the third extract.



3 Work alone. Think about the trip you answered questions about before, and make notes about what you could say in the past, present and future.

Past

Present

Future

4 Work in pairs. Take turns to talk for 2 minutes about your trip. Use your notes to help you.

5 Brainstorm possible questions which may appear on the task card.



