

IELTS Speaking Interview Transcript

***** Note: Some information has been removed for privacy reasons.
Removed information appears as “_____.”*****

Feedback follows the transcript on page 4 of this document

BLUE = INTERVIEWER QUESTIONS

RED = CORRECTIONS or ADDITIONS

PURPLE = wrong word usage, plus a note to explain.

Part One

Tell me about your hometown.

My hometown is very rural. It's located about one hour away from the main city. It is surrounded by ~~the~~ mountains and ~~there is~~ a river. In front of my house, there's a river where there are many insects that ~~growl~~ at night, which can survive only ~~in the~~ pure water ~~area~~. It's very beautiful.

Note: Insects “chirp” or “buzz,” but dogs or bears “growl.” You should use “chirp” or “buzz” here.

What's the best thing about living in your hometown?

I think that you can enjoy nature a lot. If you want to swim, instead of going to a pool, you can actually swim in the river, where you can catch a lot of fish and you can do a BBQ on the shore of the river, so it's very interesting.

What kind of jobs do the people in your town do?

Mainly, they are farmers. They ~~make~~ grow rice and vegetables. Basically that's it.

Would you say it's a good place to live?

I think it's a good place to live after you retire. I mean, there is nothing much you can do other than playing outside, so if you are middle-aged, like 20 or 30, I don't think there's much to entertain you.

Let's move on and talk about accommodation. Tell me about the kind of accommodation you live in.

I live in _____. I live in **an** apartment, which was built about 20 years ago. My place is... The room structure is 1K, which means that I have one living room and **a** kitchen, and I have **a** separate bath and toilet. And the colour ... Well, my floor is in brown, and my wall is ivory-colored. So it's good.

How long have you lived there?

I **have** lived **there** only 6 months now.

What do you like about living there?

It's very convenient. It's very close to **the** _____ Station. Actually, there are two stations nearby my house. One is about 2 minutes away, and the other is about 10 minutes, so it's very convenient. And it's very close to the airport... Haneda airport. It takes me about 15 minutes to get to the airport from my house. So it's very convenient for me. And also, right next to my apartment, there is **a** 7-11. And there **are is a** Lawson as well. So I can get to choose what I eat **in-the at** night.

What sort of accommodation would you most like to live in?

I think that I'd like to live in a... I don't want to live in a big house. I think that I want to live in a house that is big enough so that people are not squished. I just want to have.... Well, my ideal house is one place where people can get together, and that's all I want.

Part 2: Describe one of the most important things you own. You should say: What it is, how long you have had it, and why it's important to you.

One of the important things that I own is the picture album from my high school. I'm 29 years old, so I have had it for at least 12 years now. So, I didn't get it... So in this picture album, as you can tell, I have lots of pictures from my high school. Why it's very important to me is that, especially when I was in the States, well, I didn't have any friends at all... Well, at the beginning. And I couldn't speak English, so I didn't have any... It was so difficult to make friends. And also, I was kind of homesick for at least a year. So, by looking at the picture album, I was able to be reminded of my good times, which made me happy. And even now, **apart- now that I am far away** from my hometown, I sometimes look at it to see how young I was and how energetic I was in order to **cheer up myself. Cheer me up- cheer myself up.**

Is your photo album easy to replace?

No. Well, I have some pictures on my computer, so... but I mean it would be difficult to replace it.

Part 3

Let's consider how people's values have changed. What kind of things give status to people in your country?

I think it's been changing. Like, it used to be watches... Expensive watches, expensive cars, but these days I don't think young people care about those expensive things. I think they are **interested in living a** very plain life. So, most **of** people do not **have-even even have** cars. And if they want to have cars, they just go for eco-friendly cars, like you know, small cars. Such cars and expensive watches do not give them status. I think that what gives status to people in Japan is probably ... Umm, I've never thought about this. At work, I'm sure that people care about promotions all the time. And even for women, they used to tend to be housewives, but now they have been changing their minds, they tend to go out getting careers in society, so title or... is important. Where you stand at work is very important.

Have things changed since your parents' time?

I think so. Like I said, they used to care about cars or things that can be seen, like tangible things. But I think people value intangible things such as quality of life, the balance of work and personal life and professional life. And so on.

Let's talk about the role of advertising. Do you think advertising influences what people buy?

I think so. I think so. Because, if you don't know what to purchase, you usually go for the items that you've seen a lot. So **if you've seen a product that has been advertised a lot a-lot-of advertisement**, you probably think that **such** item is really good. So... yes. But I think that advertisements **has have** been changing, though. Advertisements used to focus on the quality of products. So they tried to explain what the features of the product were, or what kind of services they are. But now I think that they are focusing on more about how the product can change your life. Like, for example, I don't know... Nike. Just do it, right? But there's no explanation about their product, right? It's more like how the product can change your life, mindset. So I think it's pretty interesting.

That's the end of the interview. Thank you very much.

FEEDBACK

Overall, you've done a really excellent job on this interview. Your speaking was fluent, pronunciation was good, and you made very few errors in speaking.

Please note that you sometimes forget articles (**a/the**) before nouns, and sometimes forget plurals when speaking about general nouns (advertisements**s**/watches**es**).

In the actual test, I recommend that you take a bit more time before you start speaking to prepare your answers so that you can more fully develop the topic to give a more detailed, longer answer using more varied structures that will show the examiner your excellent English.

For example, you began the majority of your answers with "I think." If you introduce a bit more variety in the language and structure of your answers (e.g., *In my opinion*, *From my perspective*, etc., your band score will increase).

Great work! If this were the actual interview, I would have given you a score of 7.5. If you expand your answers and use more variety in your language, you will have no trouble achieving a score of **8 or above.**