

# IELTS Speaking Practice Handout

## Public Spaces, Libraries and Community Life

雅思口說 Part 1 / Part 2 Cue Card / Part 3 Discussion | Topic: neighborhoods, libraries, public spaces

### Teacher Notes 教師備課

- Design preset: compact reference guide for classroom-ready handouts.
- Level: IELTS speaking preparation / CEFR B1-B2+
- Class time: 60-90 minutes
- Skills: extending answers, organizing cue-card ideas, discussing abstract topics, using examples
- Official format reference: IELTS Speaking has three parts and lasts about 11-14 minutes.

### Warm-up Questions 暖身口說

- What public place do you often visit?
- Do you think your city has enough parks or libraries?
- Where do you usually study when you need to focus?
- What makes a neighborhood comfortable to live in?

### A. IELTS Speaking Format 雅思口說考試架構

| Part   | Time    | What happens                                                     | This lesson practice                                       |
|--------|---------|------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|
| Part 1 | 4-5 min | Short questions about familiar topics.                           | Neighborhoods, parks, libraries and public places.         |
| Part 2 | 3-4 min | One cue card, one minute to prepare, then speak for 1-2 minutes. | A public place, a community event, a study place.          |
| Part 3 | 4-5 min | A deeper discussion connected to Part 2.                         | City life, public spaces, libraries and lifelong learning. |

### A. Vocabulary 單字解析

| Word         | Part | 中文    | Easy meaning                                        | Example                                                  |
|--------------|------|-------|-----------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|
| neighborhood | n.   | 社區；鄰里 | the area near where people live                     | My neighborhood has a small park and a library.          |
| public space | n.   | 公共空間  | a place that many people can use                    | A park is an important public space.                     |
| accessible   | adj. | 容易進入的 | easy for people to reach or use                     | Libraries should be accessible to everyone.              |
| facility     | n.   | 設施    | a place or service people can use                   | The sports facility is open until ten.                   |
| community    | n.   | 社區；群體 | people who live in the same area or share interests | The event brought the community together.                |
| inclusive    | adj. | 包容的   | welcoming many different people                     | An inclusive park is safe for children and older people. |

|                   |      |      |                                           |                                                  |
|-------------------|------|------|-------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|
| lifelong learning | n.   | 終身學習 | learning that continues through life      | Libraries support lifelong learning.             |
| socialize         | v.   | 社交   | to spend time with other people           | Teenagers often socialize at cafes after school. |
| well-being        | n.   | 身心健康 | health and happiness                      | Green spaces can improve well-being.             |
| renovate          | v.   | 翻新   | to repair and improve a building or place | The city will renovate the old library.          |
| atmosphere        | n.   | 氣氛   | the feeling of a place                    | The reading room has a quiet atmosphere.         |
| urban             | adj. | 都市的  | related to a city                         | Urban life can be convenient but stressful.      |

## C. Model Dialogs 口說範例

### Dialog 1 | Part 1: Neighborhood

|                  |                                                                                                    |
|------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Examiner</b>  | Do you like the area where you live?                                                               |
| <b>Candidate</b> | Yes, I do. It is not perfect, but it is convenient and quite safe.                                 |
| <b>Examiner</b>  | What facilities are near your home?                                                                |
| <b>Candidate</b> | There is a park, a few cafes, a small clinic, and a public library within walking distance.        |
| <b>Examiner</b>  | Has your neighborhood changed recently?                                                            |
| <b>Candidate</b> | Yes. A new community center opened last year, so people have more places to meet and take classes. |

### Dialog 2 | Part 1: Libraries

|                  |                                                                                                 |
|------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Examiner</b>  | Do you often go to libraries?                                                                   |
| <b>Candidate</b> | Not every week, but I go when I need a quiet place to study.                                    |
| <b>Examiner</b>  | What do you usually do there?                                                                   |
| <b>Candidate</b> | I usually read, use a computer, or prepare for exams. The atmosphere helps me focus.            |
| <b>Examiner</b>  | Do young people still need libraries?                                                           |
| <b>Candidate</b> | Yes. Libraries are useful because they offer books, internet access, and a calm place to learn. |

### Dialog 3 | Part 1: Public Places

|                  |                                                                                                                       |
|------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Examiner</b>  | What public place do you often visit?                                                                                 |
| <b>Candidate</b> | I often visit a riverside park near my home, especially in the evening.                                               |
| <b>Examiner</b>  | Why do you like going there?                                                                                          |
| <b>Candidate</b> | It gives me a break from busy streets. I can walk, relax, and clear my mind.                                          |
| <b>Examiner</b>  | Do you prefer indoor or outdoor public places?                                                                        |
| <b>Candidate</b> | It depends on the weather. I prefer outdoor places when the air is fresh, but indoor spaces are better on rainy days. |

### Dialog 4 | Part 3: Public Spaces and City Life

|                  |                                                                                                                            |
|------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Examiner</b>  | Why are public spaces important in cities?                                                                                 |
| <b>Candidate</b> | They are important because they give people shared places to relax, exercise, and meet others without spending much money. |
| <b>Examiner</b>  | Should governments spend more money on parks and libraries?                                                                |
| <b>Candidate</b> | In my opinion, yes. These places support health, learning, and social connection, so they are                              |

|                  |                                                                                                                                     |
|------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                  | not just nice extras.                                                                                                               |
| <b>Examiner</b>  | What problems can happen if a city has too few public spaces?                                                                       |
| <b>Candidate</b> | People may feel more isolated, and families may have fewer safe places to spend time. The city can also feel crowded and stressful. |

## Dialog 5 | Part 3: Libraries and Lifelong Learning

|                  |                                                                                                                                   |
|------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Examiner</b>  | Do you think libraries are still useful in the digital age?                                                                       |
| <b>Candidate</b> | Yes. Even though people can search online, libraries provide quiet study spaces, trusted resources, and help from staff.          |
| <b>Examiner</b>  | How can libraries attract young people?                                                                                           |
| <b>Candidate</b> | They can offer comfortable reading areas, digital tools, language events, and workshops related to students' interests.           |
| <b>Examiner</b>  | Should libraries only focus on books?                                                                                             |
| <b>Candidate</b> | No. Books are still important, but modern libraries can also support lifelong learning, digital skills, and community activities. |

## D. Part 1 Practice 短答延伸

Use this pattern: direct answer + reason + example.

- Yes, I do. My neighborhood is \_\_\_\_\_ because \_\_\_\_\_.
- There is a \_\_\_\_\_ near my home, and I usually \_\_\_\_\_ there.
- I prefer \_\_\_\_\_ places because \_\_\_\_\_.
- Recently, my city has become \_\_\_\_\_. For example, \_\_\_\_\_.

### Part 1 Question Bank

- Do you like your neighborhood?
- What public places are near your home?
- Do you often go to parks?
- Do you often go to libraries?
- What kind of place helps you study well?
- Do you prefer quiet places or lively places?
- Has your city changed in recent years?
- What facility would you like to have near your home?

## E. Part 2 Cue Card Practice 長篇回答

For each cue card, make quick notes for 1 minute. Then speak for 1-2 minutes.

### Cue Card 1 | Describe a Public Place You Like

Describe a public place in your city that you like.

- where it is
- what people can do there
- how often you go there

- and explain why this place is important to you

*Notes: place / people / activities / reason / feeling*

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

### Model Answer

I would like to describe a public library near my home. It is in the city center, but it is on a quiet street, so it feels calmer than other places nearby.

People can borrow books, study, use computers, and sometimes join small talks or workshops. I usually go there before exams because the atmosphere helps me focus. It is also useful when I need reliable information for school projects.

This place is important to me because it is free and accessible. I think not every useful place has to be expensive. A good public library gives students, workers, and older people a shared place to learn and spend time safely.

### Cue Card 2 | Describe a Community Event

Describe a community event you joined or heard about.

- what the event was
- where it was held
- who joined it
- and explain why it was good for the community

*Notes: place / people / activities / reason / feeling*

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

### Model Answer

One community event I remember was a weekend clean-up event in a local park. It was held on a Saturday morning, and many students, families, and local workers joined.

People picked up trash, planted a few small trees, and cleaned the benches. It was not a big event, but it made the park look much better. Some neighbors also talked to each other for the first time.

I think it was good for the community because people felt responsible for the place they shared. It also showed that public spaces are not only the government's job. Residents can help protect them too.

### Cue Card 3 | Describe a Place Where You Can Study Well

Describe a place where you can study or work well.

- where the place is
- what it looks like
- what helps you focus there
- and explain why you prefer this place

Notes: *place / people / activities / reason / feeling*

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

### Model Answer

A place where I can study well is a small reading room in a public library. It has large desks, good lighting, and simple wooden chairs. The design is not fancy, but it is comfortable enough.

What helps me focus is the quiet atmosphere. Most people there are reading or working, so I also feel motivated to stay on task. Another good point is that I can put my phone away and avoid distractions.

I prefer this place because it gives me a clear study mood. At home, I may want to lie down or check my phone. In the library, I feel that I should use my time more seriously.

## F. Part 3 Discussion Practice 深入討論

Use these answer moves: give a reason, compare groups, discuss government responsibility, and speculate.

- In my opinion, public spaces are important because \_\_\_\_\_.
- Compared with the past, people today \_\_\_\_\_.
- This issue affects children because \_\_\_\_\_, but it also affects older people because \_\_\_\_\_.
- In the future, I think cities may \_\_\_\_\_.

### Part 3 Question Bank

- Why do cities need public spaces?
- Should governments make more places free for the public?
- How can public libraries help students and adults?
- Are public spaces more important for children or older people?
- What makes a neighborhood a good place to live?
- How can cities become more inclusive?
- Do people today socialize less than in the past?
- Will online services replace physical public spaces in the future?

## G. Speaking Checklist 自我檢查

| Goal                                                | Check         | Teacher notes |
|-----------------------------------------------------|---------------|---------------|
| I can answer Part 1 with answer + reason + example. | Yes / Not yet |               |
| I can speak for at least 90 seconds in Part 2.      | Yes / Not yet |               |
| I can use public-space vocabulary naturally.        | Yes / Not yet |               |
| I can give two-sided answers in Part 3.             | Yes / Not yet |               |
| My pronunciation is clear enough to understand.     | Yes / Not yet |               |

## H. Quiz 測驗

1. IELTS Speaking usually has three parts. True or false?

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

2. In Part 2, candidates normally have one minute to prepare. True or false?

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

3. What does 'accessible' mean?

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

4. What is a public space?

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

5. Give one benefit of public libraries.

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

6. Make one sentence with 'neighborhood'.

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

7. Give one way to extend a Part 1 answer.

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

8. Name one IELTS Speaking assessment criterion.

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

9. Give one Part 3 opinion about public spaces.

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

10. What should candidates avoid in Part 1?

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

## I. Answer Key 答案

1. IELTS Speaking usually has three parts. True or false? - True.

2. In Part 2, candidates normally have one minute to prepare. True or false? - True.

3. What does 'accessible' mean? - Easy for people to reach or use.

4. What is a public space? - A place that many people can use, such as a park or library.

5. Give one benefit of public libraries. - They offer books, internet access, quiet study space, learning support, or community activities.

6. Make one sentence with 'neighborhood'. - Possible answer: My neighborhood has a park and a library.

7. Give one way to extend a Part 1 answer. - Add a reason, example, comparison, or result.

8. Name one IELTS Speaking assessment criterion. - Fluency and coherence / lexical resource / grammatical range and accuracy / pronunciation.

9. Give one Part 3 opinion about public spaces. - Possible answer: Public spaces are important because they help people relax and socialize.

10. What should candidates avoid in Part 1? - Only giving very short yes/no answers.

## **J. Source Notes** 教材參考來源

This handout is original classroom material rewritten for IELTS Speaking / CEFR B1-B2+ learners.

- IELTS.org: IELTS Academic Speaking test format and assessment criteria.
- UN-Habitat: Public space information for cities, health, inclusion and community life.
- IFLA: Public libraries and lifelong learning / connected learning background.