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Ben: Advanced IELTS speaking techniques. In this tutorial, we're going to look at emphatic structure. Now, there are two parts to this tutorial. The second part we're going to look in detail at inversion, but that's coming in a week or so.

Now, in this tutorial, we're going to look at-- well, you will learn the importance of emphatic structure and this will help you in your IELTS exam because you'll be able to develop a range of complex structures for the exam in part 1, 2, and 3. This is an excellent way to raise the level of your English and what I like about it is that it's quite formulaic.

Once you learn the formula and you've got a hold of the formula, you can apply it to any situation. So, no matter what the examiner asks you, you can apply this formula and give quite a sophisticated answer. In this case, it's quite a sophisticated emphatic structure.

What we're going to focus on first is using cleft sentences for emphasis. Now, a cleft sentence is a sentence which is in two parts because it's got two verbs and this helps you add emphasis, which is very useful for the IELTS speaking exam. Now, in the exam, you are going to be asked about things you like or something you do or something that you did and cleft sentences are perfect.



Now, imagine you get asked what you like to do in your free time. You can say, "Well, I really like going to the cinema with my friends," or the more sophisticated way would be to say, "What I really like is going to the cinema with my friends." Now, with the second sentence we've emphasized the information we want our listener to focus on and it demonstrates that you can use a more complex English-- a more complex structure to communicate more effectively.

So, the form these cleft sentences take are we can use 'what' clauses or we can say the reason why or the thing that, the person who, the place where, the time which or the time when. So, I'll give you an example. "I feel most content in my family home." Now, that's a normal sentence. If you want to make it an emphatic sentence, we could say, "The place where I feel most content is in my family home."

Now, grammatically what we've done here is we've put the person, place, or the thing we're talking about at the beginning of the sentence and then we use the verb 'to be'. Here are some more examples. What I like the most is summer. The reason that I'm learning English is to get a job in hospitality. The place where I most enjoyed going was to my grandparents' house. The people I try to avoid are ones who are too cynical. The thing restaurants need to remember is that not everyone eats meat. The music that I hate the most is modern jazz.

Now, you can see from those last four examples we use the same structure and we use this structure to express a more emotional response. So, verbs that we can use which are quite



frequent in these types of sentences are: enjoy, dislike, adore, hate, like, loath, love, need, prefer, want. These are the ones that kind of display or show our feelings.

Let's look at how we can apply this technique for IELTS speaking part 1. Now, in IELTS speaking part 1 as you know, you're going to be asked about yourself. There're going to be topics that you can easily answer because the goal is to help you feel relaxed in the exam because when you are relaxed you can show your true ability. So, we're going to be asked about our likes, our dislikes, maybe opinions, just questions personal about you.

So, we could-- a typical question could be what kind of music do you like? And the way we could answer this using the technique we've just explored would be what I really enjoy the most is heavy metal. It really helps me relax.

Another question could be do you think it's better for children to grow up in the city or the countryside? That's probably more type 3 question, but anyway... The thing I like about the countryside is that it's usually more relaxed than the city center. There's usually quieter and personally, it just corresponds more with my personality or whatever. So, the two ways we use the cleft sentences are what I really enjoy the most and the second one we said the thing I like about the countryside is...

Now, let's have a look at how we can use this in part 2. So, imagine we get the cue card, "Describe a piece of art you like. You should say what the work is, when you first saw it, what



you know about it, and explain why you like it." So, let's have a look. The answer we could start with is, "The piece of work that I like the most is Sunflowers by Vincent van Gogh. I first saw it when I went to the Van Gogh museum in Amsterdam. What I love about it is..."

You see? And we're not exactly taking the words from the cue card. We are taking a similar structure because it says, "what the work is" but we're adding, we are elaborating and we're say, "Well, the piece of work that I like the most is..." and likewise with the second part of-- with the second sentence.

"What I love about it..." We didn't say what I like about it. We made it a little bit more emphatic. We said what I love about it is the fact that we can interpret many different emotions from a single piece of work or whatever you want to talk about.

Now, how would we do this in part 3? Well, imagine we get the question, "How has art changed in the last few decades in your country?" Well, we could say, "The thing that has changed in the last few decades is the concept of art. Nowadays, people consider graffiti as art. The place where this is most obvious is in big cities like New York and London."

Just there, I hope you caught the two cleft sentences. We have the thing that has changed-- sorry, the thing that has most changed in the last few decades is the concept of art. We had it at the beginning then in the second part, the place where this is most obvious is in big cities like New York and London. The place where this is most obvious...



Now using these structures, learning them and then using them will help you improve your English and the almost-- because I said before they're formulaic that we can apply them and we can get-- buy ourselves some time to develop the real content or the real meat of our answers.

So, it's almost like a get-out-of-jail card or a filler, but a filler that's going to give us some points. Let's have a look at those structures again because I think they are incredibly useful. So, we have 'what' clauses, we have the reason why: the reason why I like heavy metal... or the reason why I like electronic music... or the thing that I like most about my home town...

These are all very useful. So, make sure you're writing these down. The next one: The person who influenced me most when I was a child was probably my economics teacher, Mr. Sykes. The place where I feel most comfortable is in my garden, in my hometown, in the hammock, for example. Or the time when I felt most confident or the time when I felt most nervous was just last week actually.

Hopefully there you'll have heard some other devices that were incorporated. These structures they can be really useful. They can really just help you pick up the points. And as I said before, I believe they're quite straight forward to learn and they are formulaic, so we can apply them to any situation and really, I would start trying to use them in your everyday conversations straight away. That way you are more likely to remember it.



Also, why not practice a few task 2 or look at some task 3 answers and try and incorporate them into-- incorporate those phrases into your speaking practice and into your everyday speech.

For the second part of this tutorial, I'm going to play you a recording by a student and this is a part 3 sample answer and like we've done before in the past, if you can guess the accent, if you can guess the country where the student is from probably by their accent I hope, then send us an email, tell us and for the first five correct answers, we're going to give-- we'll give those correct-- the students who answered correctly we will give them a free essay correction.

By the way, there are other ways to get essay corrections; obviously at the site. Just a word of warning before we jump into this-- it's not a word of warning, but I would like you to be aware of these cleft sentences and emphatic structures that I've intertwined into it.

So, the first one is-- it's in the middle of the sentence and it's, "However, the piece of art I love the most would most definitely be by far the English artist..." okay, and so on. So, the piece of art I love the most would most definitely be by far the English artist.

The next one is the place I saw it was on the internet. The third one was the reason why I like it so much is because... you see. So there are-- I've used exactly what I've been talking about before is included in the text and if you need to see these just to help you memorize them remember that in the IELTS podcast apps on the Play store and on Apple iOS the app store, you



can download our own ieltspodcast.com app and you will get sent directly to your phone the transcripts for each episode. This will be really helpful especially for exercises like this where you can just read along, circle, underline and really just get involved. So, let's listen to the recording.

Recording: Well, to be honest, I must admit I am not a massive art fan. However, the piece of art I love the most would most definitely be by the English artist called Banksy. He's quite a mysterious and secretive artist yet he's reached global stardom. I should mention that I haven't actually seen his work in real life. The place I saw it was on the internet if I recall correctly. What I know about it is that last year, the specific piece of art was put up for auction in London and at the exact time it was sold, it started to self-distract. Hidden inside the frame was a shredder and the artwork dropped through the internal shredder and was pretty much destroyed. The reason why I like it so much is because this was a truly unique point in art history. Nothing like this had ever been done before. I think the artwork immediately shot up in value after this incident.

Ben: So, if you managed to guess where she was from that is perfect. If not, no worries. I don't think it's going to influence your IELTS score that much, but if you-- well, it might do actually because if you don't guess where she's from, then you won't get the essay correction. Anyway, that's beside the point.



What I wanted to say just before we finish is that if you're having any struggle, if you're struggling with your IELTS, if you're having any problems with it, then get in contact. We can help you. It's what we do day in day out. It's what we've been doing for quite a few years now successfully. That's why we're growing. That's why we've got a new essay corrector on board and it's just what we like doing.

We enjoy helping students pass. We enjoy helping them improve and we enjoy helping them improve by giving feedback, by encouraging them, by motivating them. So, if you think you'll benefit from this then get in contact. We'd love to hear from you. Have a great day and keep on preparing for IELTS. All the best.

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