



[Music]

Female Voice: You are now listening to the IELTS Podcast. Learn from tutors and ex-examiners who are masters of IELTS preparation. Your host, Ben Worthington.

[Music]

Ben: Recent IELTS Speaking questions for Part 3. Hello there. My name is Ben Worthington. In this tutorial, we are going to look at Part 3. Now, you all know that Part 3 is when it can get difficult. Here is where you really need to switch on. Be alert because you're going to get lots of questions that might seem similar to the previous questions and it can get frustrating. And all the examiner is doing here is probing and is testing if you can say similar material, but in a different fashion.



Now, when you are in Part 3, there are lots of different techniques we can use. We're going to look at one where we structure our answer and I think the key here though the one that separates like the bands 7s and 8s and 9s from the rest is if you can develop your answer and if you can give like an adequate full answer.

Now, in Part 1 we're not really interested in doing this. A few sentences; that's enough. We don't really need to give reasons. We're not going to be rude and blunt or short, but in Part 1, we're just going to give adequate answers, but in Part 1-- sorry in Part 3, we want to develop it a little bit. We want to show off. We want to show the examiner what we can do all within the realms, all within the boundaries of still being like a natural speaker.

So, here are some recent questions seen around the internet and sent in by our students. So, first one. Questions about the weather. Should people check the weather forecast every day? Well, to be honest, I've never really thought about it. However, I guess it depends on where they are. For



example, in England the weather can be quite erratic, so it's useful to check the weather every day whereas in Spain, for example, especially from spring through to autumn, it's pretty much guaranteed every day to be sunny. So, I guess it largely depends on where you are because it's going to impact your day in some areas and impact your day differently depending on where you live basically.

Right. So, in that answer, there was a comparison. I guess it depends because in England the weather can be erratic whereas in Spain it's generally sunny every day. So, there we go. And I used just a little comparison. I want to show the examiner that I can compare different pieces of information and then I just summarized with I guess it depends on where we live.

I was going to share a little anecdote about my girlfriend who checks the weather constantly all the time and she uses the Alexa app and she shouts to it, but I felt myself going off topic if I went down there because I couldn't really kind of like conclude anything from a little story about



somebody always talking to the Alexa app asking for the weather. So, I just kept it to it depends where you live.

By the way, the depend answer-- it depends-- is a good cop-out. It's a good sort of like cover-all answer. You can use it as-- it's just an easier route and this also sets you up very elegantly for the comparison. So, it depends because if you live in this country xyz whereas if you live in this one xyz.

Next question. What are people's opinions on weather forecasts? People's opinions on weather forecasts I guess generally change depending on where they are or how valuable maybe the weather forecast will be for the day. It's honestly a difficult question because I've never really thought about it before and personally, I always take it with a pinch of salt because I don't want to be entirely dependent on the weather and I don't want to lose a good day.



For example, if the weather says it's going to be cloudy and rainy, I might still go out and do my activities because there's a chance that it could be wrong whereas other people, for example, my girlfriend she takes it as gospel. So, if the weather forecast says it's going to be five degrees, she will wrap up according to the weather forecast. So, I guess it depends also on how dependent you are. For me, a little bit of cold weather does not bother me at all. So, I guess it depends on each kind of person.

So, there we go. I had a little idiomatic expression there-- take it with a pinch of salt i.e. don't believe it 100% like use your own wits-- use your own brain and apply that to the situation. Also, take it as gospel that means-- it means basically that you believe 100% what the weather forecast tells you or you believe whatever somebody tells you as fact if you believe it as gospel.

So again, it's a difficult one and I kind of concluded with the it depends and that was a reasonable answer. In summary, the answer was that if the weather affects you a lot, then you're



going to pay attention to it. If it doesn't affect you a lot, then you're not going to pay that much attention to it.

Also, I added a little example in there and like our Writing Task 2 essays an example really adds a little bit of-- kind of like evidence, adds some more content to your answer, and it also gives you more to talk about in the speaking.

Next question. How does the weather influence people's life? Well, some people make their plans all around what the weatherman would or will say. Personally, I don't pay that much attention, but I know my mum, for example, when she goes and visits my brother, she always checks the weather because she has to go over the moors and if the weather is bad, then it's going to really make the route dangerous. So, I guess the weather can have an impact, but it also largely comes down to where you are and what you are doing.



There we go. So, I really wanted to avoid saying it depends, so I said it comes down to and again, I gave an example. Now, a lot of people think like what is the right answer here. The right answer is something that-- it's kind of like asking you give me an example of how the weather influences people's lives. So, I just gave a personal example about my mum. Maybe you could talk about workers-- construction workers. I think personally it's best to use personal examples because then you don't have to invent them and you've probably got the vocabulary already as well.

In the next-- no, I can't do it in the next one, but in the final question, I'll give you a hypothetical example. So, next one, how many seasons are there in your country? There are four seasons in England and out of those my favorite is spring and summer. Some people say that the British summer is from Wednesday to Tuesday. However, the summer isn't too bad and it's probably my favorite. The other seasons autumn and winter can get me a little bit down because it's quite dark,



it's quite cold, it's rainy, it's windy and it's not the best weather for being outdoors which is what I like. So overall, there are four seasons in Britain and I guess each person has their own favorite.

There we go. That was a challenging question and to expand my answer because the answer is four. That's the answer. There's four seasons. So, to expand the answer I just said what I liked and what I disliked. It's quite straightforward. I did think about talking about other countries where there's less seasons, but none came to mind. I couldn't think of any other countries where there are less than four seasons probably because I was thinking on the spot.

Anyway, final questions. Which festivals are related to the seasons in your country? Well, in England, we have Halloween which I think historically may have been related to the season of autumn. It's a little bit hard to say, to be honest. However, there is one festival or one kind of festival holiday. It's called May Day and if I remember correctly, May Day does have some kind



of pagan link back to the beginning of spring and new birth and new life. And that's the only festival I can think of at the moment.

However, there are a few summer festivals and these ones usually are music festivals which are outdoors and these are definitely related to summer because it would be impossible to have these or it would be unwise to have these festivals in the middle of winter.

There we go. So, in the end, I couldn't think of a hypothetical example. Actually, I did. I said it would be impossible to have the music festival in the middle of winter. It would be really a silly idea, but again, that was a difficult question to answer until I got warmed up because I'm not thinking every day about the festivals related to the seasons in England.

This goes to show as well that going in to the exam with a cold brain having not spoken English for a while would definitely be at your detriment. You need to get warmed up. I find this with



my Spanish all the time. If I started speaking Spanish now, it's going to sound choppy. I'm going to be missing words, but after a full day of speaking English by the end of the day, I'll be back up to my normal level.

And when you go into the exam, you want to be at your highest level possible. So, I strongly recommend as much speaking practice as you can possibly squeeze in before the exam and even if you're sat there waiting, try and at least change your thoughts and start thinking in English and like think of sample answers, maybe just review the different collocations, but there's plenty to do. And going in there warm will definitely help your score.

Moving on to the next batch of questions. Questions about animals. Now, if you'd listen to the previous one-- the previous podcast, we were talking about wild animals. So, this seems like a typical follow-on question or a typical follow-on set of questions about what we were talking about in Part 2. So, let's see.



Why are people keen on keeping pets? Well, I guess you could say that sometimes pets can act like friends or even a substitute for having children. And the good thing is about having pets instead of children is that it's probably cheaper. It's probably less responsibility. It's most likely easier and I guess as well it's good maybe for couples to buy a dog together and see how each partner responds to looking after a dog before getting a child. It does sound a little bit odd maybe, but I think it is a common step among couples who are thinking about starting a family. So, I guess there are many reasons and it just really comes down to the people buying the pets or starting with the pets.

What are the differences between the animals in zoos and those in the wild? To be honest, I've never really thought about it, but I guess you could say the animals in the zoos they must be bored. They're living in a confined place. They are seeing the same thing every day. They don't even have to hunt or forage for their food and I guess the animals in the wild maybe they're



happy. It's really difficult to say, but I guess you could probably say the ones in the wild most definitely have a more exciting life for sure because they're still either hunting or being hunted and they're still trying to survive whereas the animals in the zoo their survival is considerably easier I guess.

What should the staff at zoos teach the public about animals? Well, this one I've never thought about either, to be honest. If I worked in a zoo, I guess I would want to teach the public about how we conserve and protect and help the animals in the zoo because I guess some members of the public might think that it's cruel for the animals. So, I guess my job would be to educate the public in the fact that we are conserving the animals that we have possibly got a breeding program and it's also protection for the animals because if they were released and in the wild they could be hunted and killed. So, I guess I would try and teach the public the benefits of the zoo. That's what I think they should teach anyway.



Is it important to preserve wildlife? Yes, definitely. Although there are different ways to preserve wildlife, I think if we don't start preserving it, then we'll quickly lose different species or lose even more species than we've lost already. As far as I know, there are different ways to preserve it.

For example, we have zoos, we have safari parks, and I think as well there are even like breeding programs where they capture the animals and then-- I'm not entirely sure to be honest but I think they capture the animals, make sure they breed, and then re-release them, but yes. So, to answer your question, it's definitely important to preserve wildlife.

How will saving wildlife benefit local people? I guess it really depends. I mean I know there are villages in India that get attacked by tigers, so I don't know if they would actually agree that saving tigers would benefit them, but as far as I know, in Europe anyway, there's a big campaign to save the bees because if we save the bees then the flowers will also be saved because they get



pollinated by the bees and then if the flowers are saved and the local nature is saved, then local people obviously have a richer and greener habitat to live in. So, I guess it largely depends on where you live on how wildlife will benefit you because as I said, maybe for some people it won't benefit them at all.

What's the impact of population growth on wildlife? Well, as I said before about the tigers, I guess if the population continues to grow, then wildlife may lose some of their habitat. Also, sometimes some of the wild animals actually learn to adapt and prosper. For example, foxes in London are quite a common sight early in the morning and these wild animals have learned to adapt to live in cities as have raccoons in Canada I think and probably in the U.S. as well. So, I guess for some species it can be a boon, but for others, it could mean a loss of living area and habitat and plenty of other dangers.



All right. Let's move on to the next one. Questions about shopping. So, I'm guessing this would come after the Part 2 cue card about a purchase and in my purchase I talked about an iPhone 5 I got years ago. So, let's go.

How often do people in your country/city go shopping? In England, I think shopping unfortunately nowadays has almost become a hobby and I say unfortunately because I find it a little bit depressing because in the past, we would only go shopping for things we need whereas now it's almost become a source of entertainment. So, to answer your question, I think younger people go shopping almost daily whereas maybe the older generation are still shopping for goods and services when they need them.

How do people normally shop? Well personally, I go shopping to the supermarket or to the green grocers or to the food market at least three times a week and I think this is largely because of lockdown. Instead of doing one big normal shop, I'll spread it out because my other sources of



activities are now non-existent. So, going to the shops has become-- it's a way to break up the day, but I think normally in non-lockdown conditions people will do one big shop every couple of weeks, but I guess it depends on the person also.

Why do some people like to go to big shopping malls and some like small shops? I guess with big shopping centers and malls, you have more selection whereas with the small shops, I'm guessing you possibly get more unique products that you cannot find in the big chains. And the big chains are the shops that are usually in the shopping centers.

But also personally, I like the small shops. I like the shops where I can possibly have a conversation with the owner and I can get an education about the product. For example, just the other day I went into a hunting shop and I asked for some knives because I was going camping and he told me all about the different benefits of the knife and if I went to a shopping center, I



don't think I would get the same level of service. So, I guess it depends really on the product and the experience that you want.

Why is online shopping more and more popular? I guess it's more popular because the convenience it brings. I mean in theory, you can purchase your products online and within a few days they arrive on your doorstep. And I guess as well with most of the countries around the world going in lockdown as well, that's preventing them from going outside and going to the shopping centers or the little shops. So, they don't have any option. So, that's another reason. Coronavirus is making online shopping more popular.

Do you think online shopping will replace shopping in stores? I don't think it will eventually replace it and I don't think so because of a few reasons. First of all, it's always an experience to get to know the owner or the seller because they can give you insights that maybe you cannot



find online. Also, if you're buying directly from the owner or from a shop, you can see the person, you can ask some questions that might not appear.

For example, when you buy online you don't have the product in your hands, but when it's in your hands, some questions might arise that you wouldn't have thought of just by looking at the product on a screen. So, I don't think physical shopping in shops is ever going to go away, but I do think online shopping will increase due to the benefits we mentioned before.

So, there we go. Lots of sample answers for you there and remember we can use comparisons, we can use examples, we can give a few different reasons, we can give anecdotes. Using all of these tools will help you score higher.

Now, if you're still struggling, remember we've got the speaking feedback service. We are promoting that at the moment. We've got a very special price for that. So, if you go to



ieltspodcast.com you'll see the banner on top. We're only going to do it for about 20 feedback services. So, if you want that, I would move quickly.

And if you're struggling with your IELTS, remember you can get help at ieltspodcast.com. We have the Jump to Band 7 or It's Free course. We're getting some fantastic results from the students taking the course and passing and we're interviewing them every week. So, if you want to join them and join a podcast with us, then have a look at that course. We'd love to see you on there and more than anything we'd love to see you pass IELTS. Have a great day and good luck with your preparation.

[Music]

Female Voice: Thanks for listening to ieltspodcast.com