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**Ben:** Hello there IELTS students. In this tutorial, we are looking at some speaking topics from the new speaking booklet that has recently been offered or introduced into the exam sessions. So, as we said before, every four months, a new booklet is introduced, okay? So, every four months one of them is changed. So, there's usually two booklets at each exam session and each examiner is given one booklet or the other and every four months, one of these booklets is changed.

So, between January and April, there's a booklet, between May and August, and then between September and December, okay? So, each year, two new booklets are introduced and a total of four booklets are in use over the year, okay? So, each booklet has around 25 topics, okay?



So, if there's four different booklets each year, that means we've got over 100 topics. However, we've got some of the topics from the recent booklet and although as we've just recovered-- sorry-- with so many topics so many booklets, it probably wouldn't be advisable to just focus on certain topics hoping that you get those certain topics.

However, what would be advisable is at least getting ready for the style of questions, getting ready and listening to sample answers, and just getting your brain ready to answer these types of questions because for example, we've got one topic. It's called education and work. The first question would be describe an activity you did at your school or workplace.

Now, describing is a skill in itself. If I can describe what I did at school or at a workplace, I can probably describe an activity that keeps me healthy. I can probably describe a time when I used my mobile phone in an emergency. So, what we're really looking at here would be description skills, okay?



And as we said in a tutorial we've done before, later on later on you're going to get questions which ask you to analyze, to agree, to disagree, to suggest causes and effect, to predict, to hypothesize, but at the first part of Part 3, you usually get questions about identifying, classifying, comparing, and contrasting. So, you could probably gauge whereabouts you are in Part 3 depending on the questions that you're getting asked.

Anyway, let's go into some of the question topics and some sample answers. I'll give you the questions first and you can start maybe priming your brain, giving it a quick warm-up into what kind of answers you would give.

So, topic 1: education and work. Describe an activity you did at your school or workplace. Another question: Describe an activity you did at work, school, or in sports as part of a team. Topic 2: health. Describe something that you do that keeps you healthy. Describe an article on healthy living that you read in a magazine or online. Describe an energetic person that you know.



3) Technology. Describe a time you are not allowed to use your mobile phone. Describe a useful piece of equipment, but not a computer that you use at home. Describe an important text message that you recently received.

4) Personal growth. Describe a talent you have and want to improve. Describe a time you set a goal for yourself. Describe a plan you have for the future, but not related to work or studies. Describe an ideal job that you want to do in the future. Describe a time when you tried to do something, but it was not very successful. Describe a time when you received some important information.

Now, as I've said before, perhaps you can listen to this again and you can just jot down a few bullet points of what you would say or ideally, you would record yourself on your phone and push yourself to give an answer. And it's important that I should say at this point in time that you hear the question and you think oh, yeah. I could talk about that. That's not difficult.



Trust me. When you do start talking about it, the blanks start appearing not only in your memory about what actually happened, but also in your language skills. So, you've got two problems then. You've got one, not only find or possibly create the memory if you do intend on telling porkies or little white lies, but second, you've also got to find the language to describe the situation that you had. So, there's two challenges there.

And just thinking that you will be able to do it is not enough. That's why it's a really good idea to jot down a few ideas or even better speak into your phone, record it, and you will quickly see-- you will quickly discover there are blind spots. There are blind spots in your language skills and those are what you want to work on.

So anyway, let's get into it. Describe an activity you did at your school or workplace. Well, at one workplace when I used to be a teacher at an academy in Spain, one of the activities we did was teach students with flashcards. And honestly, I really enjoyed it because it was a really effective



way of teaching and the students once they adapted and learnt the system we were working in, they really loved it as well because their grades started going up considerably.

And it really seemed like a win-win situation because the students were happy, I was happy because my students were improving, the parents were over the moon. It just seemed such an enjoyable activity and effective. So yeah. That would be an activity I did at a workplace. There we go.

So, I just rounded off the question. I gave some details there; flashcards and explained. I went a little bit further than just describing the activity. I put in some character there, some personal anecdotes.

Next one: health. Describe something you do that keeps you healthy. Well, to be honest, I am quite health conscious, so I do quite a few things. For example, I really watch my diet. I try to avoid fatty foods because those are said to be quite bad for you, but I guess the biggest factor that



keeps me healthy is probably my sports routine. I quite enjoy doing sports especially running, yoga, and sometimes boxing, but recently because I've been traveling quite a bit, I've gotten back into running and just this morning, I went for a long run along a canal near where I'm staying and it was just simply beautiful.

Okay. I'm probably not going to tell the examiner that I was coughing and nearly dying while I was running, but I'm going to end it was beautiful at the end. I could see the sun poking through the trees, see the canal, saw the wildlife, some ducks and squirrels and all that. I'll give the examiner a more positive side. I'm not going to say that I was coughing and cold and stiff for the first few minutes of the run. It's not necessary to go into that level of detail. I'll just say yeah, I love doing it blah blah blah.



So yeah. Again, I'm going into detail. I gave not just one activity. I kind of gave an overview, but then I just quickly went back to the question and kept it focused, kept it on topic of describing something that keeps me healthy. There we go.

Next topic: technology. Describe a time you were not allowed to use your mobile phone. Well, to be honest, this is quite difficult because nowadays in most cases, I can use my mobile phone especially because I work remotely and I don't really have a manager or I'm in a situation where I'm not allowed to use it.

However, we do have a rule my partner and me that when we're having a meal together something just as simple as a breakfast or a lunch that we turn the phone over screen down and it's aside and it's just me and her and we're talking with each other because personally, I get a little bit irritated when I'm talking to somebody and they're looking at the screen and it's kind of rude.



So, we have this rule where we're not allowed to use our phones while we're eating. I don't think it's actually a permission. We are allowed, but we just don't do it. So, just to clarify, but it's the closest I can get to the question at the moment.

Okay. So there we go. It was quite clear. There was a justification. I developed the answer, okay? I just developed it. I said why because it might seem a little bit strange to some people that you can't look at your phone while you are with your partner, but I gave the context; when we're having a meal, screen over, phones upside down and that's that.

4) Personal growth: ambition. Describe a talent you have and want to improve. Well, to be honest, I think it would be generous to say it is a talent, but I definitely want to improve in this area. I've been practicing yoga for quite a while and if anybody saw me, they would definitely not say I have a talent. However, I definitely want to improve.



And I go through bursts. I will sign up for an intensive course and get really into it, get a routine and then I may stop for a few months and go and my joints get stiff again, but then once I get back into it, I start improving quickly.

Eventually, I want to reach instructor level, but it's taking a while because I'm stopping and starting and the pandemic with lockdowns and centers closing down and then restrictions isn't helping either. However, it's questionable whether it's a talent, but I definitely want to improve.

There we go. There was quite a little bit self-deprecating there. Maybe I do have a talent if you compare me to a 300 kg obese grandma whatever. Maybe I've got a talent compared to that person, but yeah, I wouldn't say it's a talent especially when I see other people. However, I do want to improve. It wasn't as if I totally changed the direction of the question. I just acknowledged it's probably not a talent, but I definitely want to improve.



So, we've got time for a couple more questions. Describe a time you set a goal for yourself. Well, actually fairly recently, I discovered I'm going to be a father and my partner is a non-native English speaker and I need to learn her language basically because our child is going to be bilingual.

So, the goal I've set for myself is to speak Hungarian and it was going really well. I was getting an hour in every morning with my tutor, but then travel came, disrupted my plans and I'm finding it hard to get back into it. However, I still have a goal to have at least a basic conversation before the end of the year. A very basic conversation. We're talking A1 A2 level. And that's my goal for myself.

There we go again. So, that was a little bit unclear for me anyway because we could say describe a time you set a goal for yourself. I set a goal but still hasn't attained, but I could also talk about a goal that I set 10 years ago and I achieved. So, it's quite open-ended there.



Now, describe a time when you tried to do something, but it was not very successful. Okay. Well, I would like to tell you about the time I decided to learn salsa. I had some Latin American friends and some Spanish friends who were encouraging me and I thought it would be quite fun to learn especially because it was something that I would never normally do. I'm more into sports, yoga, boxing, running, and dancing just something out of my comfort zone.

So, I was attracted to do it and I did a few courses. I even did a few intensive courses and after I finished these courses, once I went back into like a nightclub and started dancing salsa and the woman I was dancing with she said is this your first time dancing? And I just smiled. I said yes because I did not want to admit that I'd been doing courses all summer.

So, I guess that was definitely a time I wasn't that successful. And since then I've learnt that sometimes I can force it and really put in like insane amounts of determination and still not



progress and in other cases-- I think my biggest takeaway though was just to admit that it's not for me and just to change course, just to quit.

Okay. So, that's it from us today. If you want to carry on improving with your speaking, we've got the IELTS Speaking Confidence course, we've got the writing course and we're having a lot of success with this. We've got students lined up for more success interviews. Hopefully, we'll be interviewing you soon once you've passed.

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