

IELTS Speaking

Speaking features: chunking

Paul Winterbottom

Part 1:

Chunking:

1. grouping words as we are *thinking / speaking*... (different from *writing*)
2. related to *thoughtful* answers... do *not rush* (it sounds prepared)
3. applies throughout the exam (especially part 1 and part 3)
4. closely connected with *stress (and fillers)*
5. flexible – differences in chunking are possible
6. it is *phrasing / grouping* – *not* a long pause
7. **heuristic: no chunk more than 5 or 6 words**

1:

to be honest... not really... I would much rather... read a book... play a video game... things like that...

(Did you like to go outside when you were young?)

2:

actually... I do... quite often... I think... the last time... must have been... about... maybe about 3 hours ago... something like that... possibly a little bit longer...

(Do you often send emails?)

3:

yes... I absolutely love it... but... to be honest... I am extremely busy.. at the moment... I really wish I had... a bit more... free time... to read more...

(Do you like reading?)

4:

well... yes... I think so... but... I had to study a lot... I wish I had had more... hmm... free time... to go out... with my friends...

(Did you like to go outside when you were young?)

5:

to be honest... no... very rarely... unfortunately... I find it extremely difficult... to... to stick to them...
so... actually... these days I don't... very often...

(Do you make plans every day?)

6:

definitely... I would much rather... go with some friends... I mean... we can talk about it... maybe go for something to eat... personally... I think it's... a lot more enjoyable...

(Do you prefer to go to a movie alone or with others?)

7:

well... it depends... sometimes... or occasionally... it's OK... but... usually... I much prefer... a physical book... to a screen... I think... the last time I read... an e-book... hmm.. it must have been... at least 6 months ago... something like that...

(Do you read electronic books?)

8:

it was red... I think... I wish it had had... more gears... but still... I really liked it...

(Did you have a bike when you were young?)

9:

well... I suppose... one of them is my... desk chair... actually... it's quite old... I think... I must have bought it... about 5 years ago... but... it is extremely comfortable... I much prefer it... to the chairs in the library... at my university...

(What is the thing you like most in your home?)

10:

well... it depends... if it is not important... then I suppose it's OK... but if it is very important... to me... then... actually... I would rather not...

(Do you like to lend things to people?)

