

EXPRESSING OPINIONS



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Expemo code:
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1 Presentation

In part 3 (and possibly in part 1) of the IELTS speaking test, the examiner will ask you for your opinions on different topics. Study the expressions in the table below.

Function	Examples
Expressing an opinion	<p>In my opinion, it's better to take the bus than the train.</p> <p>Personally, I think that professional sportsmen are paid too much.</p> <p>I believe that hospital staff are underpaid.</p> <p>I feel that computer games have a bad influence on children.</p> <p>I would say that the gap between rich and poor is growing.</p> <p>In my view, I think we watch too much television.</p> <p>Frankly speaking, I think we watch too much television.</p>
Expressing a lack of opinion	<p>If you really have nothing to say, it is better to express a lack of opinion and wait for the next question than to keep silent. You can say:</p> <p>I'm afraid I've never been interested in football.</p> <p>I'm afraid I'm not very keen on art.</p> <p>I'm afraid I don't know much about art.</p> <p>I'm sorry, I'm not familiar with that topic.</p> <p>I'm sorry, I'm completely unfamiliar with that topic.</p> <p>I haven't really thought about that. (<i>then try to give your best answer</i>)</p>



Things to remember

- Unless you say something that is very offensive, there are no 'good' and 'bad' opinions. The examiner is only evaluating your ability to communicate your ideas.
- Always try to give an opinion. Only express a lack of opinion if you really have nothing to say about a topic. If possible, try to explain why, for example: 'We don't have this tradition in my country'.
- Instead of keeping silent or hesitating, which can negatively affect your score, you can express a lack of opinion to give yourself time to think about what to say.

2

Practice

Work in pairs. Take turns to select, ask and answer a question from the list below. Try to give an opinion using the expressions in the table. If you have nothing to say about the topic, express a lack of opinion – your partner should ask you another question.

1. How can the type of school you go to affect career success?
2. What kind of art is most interesting?
3. Do people in your country prefer to read books or watch films/movies (*American English*)?
4. Why do you think that some parents choose to educate their children at home? Is this a good thing?
5. Why do people watch television serials?
6. How important are role models?
7. Have shopping habits changed over recent years? How?
8. Has the popularity of football/soccer (*American English*) changed in recent years?
9. Why do many young girls want to become models?
10. Do you think the transport system in your country will improve in the future?
11. What do you think are the typical character traits of people from your country?
12. Do you think all successful people are happy?
13. Do you think all happy people are successful?
14. Is water pollution a problem in your country?
15. What types of sport do you think are better, team sports or individual sports?
16. In what way does advertising influence what people buy?
17. What do you think is better – public or private transport? Why?
18. Has the level of crime in your country changed in recent years? How?
19. What are the main problems facing children in your country?
20. Why do countries have national holidays?