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~ Speaking Model ~

~ IELTS Speaking Exam / Part Two / "A book or article you have read" ~

This tutorial will provide an example of Part 2 of the IELTS Speaking Test. The candidate has two minutes to talk about the following speaking task:

Describe a book or article you have read recently.

You should say:

- What kind of book / article it was
- What was the main theme / storyline
- Where you read it

Explain why you read it.

Some Words of Advice

- Remember these are prompts to guide your thinking so they do not have to be discussed in the order they are given.
- There are many ideas you could discuss as long as they are very closely related to the prompts.
- However, you should make sure that you do cover the points that are given to you, which will be more than enough for a talk of only two minutes.



Segment 1.

"An article I have just read was entitled "The Effects of Tourism on a small seaside community in South Vietnam". It's the sort of article I have to read for my course in Tourism and this particular article was recommended by my tutor who said that it was a very important article in the field. Usually we are given a collection of articles to read. Some are regarded as "core" reading while others are useful to read for extra information. Anyway, I read it about four or five days ago and made notes on some of the important points the author made."

- *Although the language is not complex, you should note that the speaker has a good range of vocabulary and uses words that are more formal in nature eg: "entitled" (instead of "called").*
- *The speaker handles tenses well, both active and passive ("was recommended", "are regarded", "have just read", "made notes")*

Segment 2.

"Basically, it's about the rapid transformation of a sleepy fishing village in South Vietnam into a large seaside resort for foreign tourists. For centuries, the village had lived a hand-to-mouth existence, earning its income from the sea by selling on its surplus fish to villagers from the hills. The village had quite an old population as most of the young people had decided that earning a living from the sea was not something they wanted and so headed off to the larger towns further south. No one in the village starved but it was quite poor in many ways."

- *Once again note the range of vocabulary which is exactly what the examiner is looking for ("transformation", "seaside resort", "surplus fish", "starved") and some suitable collocations ("a hand-to-mouth existence", "earning a living") and examples of expressive verbs ("headed off to")*
- *Note also the conversational marker "basically".*



Segment 3

"All that changed when the village was chosen as the location for a luxury resort that comprised a 350-bed hotel, landscaped gardens and a state-of-the-art fitness centre. The village people simply had no say at all in the development as the government bought up the land and sold it on to the company that had been chosen to build the resort."

● *The Speaker adds further details which add to the length of the talk and allow further opportunity for relevant vocabulary ("landscaped gardens", "state-of-the-art fitness centre")*

Segment 4

"After that background, the article explains in some detail the effects this development had on the village. Both positive and negative aspects are dealt with. It explains how some of the younger villagers were trained to work in parts of the resort, offering them an opportunity to support their families who could no longer live from the sea. However, it does deal with some "dark" issues like the damage done to traditional ways of living, the loss of ancient skills and the sudden desire to make as much money from foreign visitors as possible."

● *The speaker is producing a strong description of the article which shows that he/she knows the article well. It is, therefore, wise to choose a book/article that you know you can talk about for a couple of minutes by relating the theme/storyline.*

Segment 5

"I read this article as I do most articles while sitting in my garden and using my tablet computer. I tend to do a lot of written work inside at a desk but reading I prefer to do outside, unless, of course, it is raining.

Although I had to read this article, I enjoyed it because it was well-written and offered some interesting insights into how modern life is damaging ways of living that had existed for centuries."

● *The speaker is wise enough to cover the remaining prompts (the where & the why) and not get carried away with simply describing the article.*

● *It is clear that the speaker is a very good speaker of English: a range of vocabulary is used & sentences are complex.*