



~ Speaking Model ~

~ IELTS Speaking Exam / Part Two / "A Memorable Holiday" ~

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 your most memorable holiday.

You should say:

- What kind of holiday it was
- Who was with you on holiday
- Where the holiday took place

Explain why you enjoyed the holiday so much.

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.

"My most memorable holiday was many years ago when I was 18 or 19, I think. I had just finished my school studies and had a gap of about three months before I was due to go off to university to study pharmacy. Finishing my school life was a tremendous relief after many months of pressure and not a little stress in the final year so I was determined to "let my hair down" and plan for a really exciting holiday. The result was that I spent two months in Sabah which is part of East Malaysia, tramping around rainforests, climbing high mountains, eating tropical fruit, swimming in the deep blue sea and generally forgetting about school life and thinking grand thoughts about my chosen career as a pharmacist. So the holiday was a strange mix of activity followed by periods of relaxation and doing nothing in particular."

● Note the attempt to use idiomatic expressions "let my hair down" and well-used phrases like "grand thoughts", "a tremendous relief", "a strange mix of activity" & "the deep blue sea". This attempt at using language will be noted by the Examiner and rewarded.

● It's always useful to add some color to the description. See how it is done using the same grammatical construction: tramping / climbing / eating / swimming / forgetting / thinking.

Segment 2.

"I wasn't alone as a group of us went, all friends and all school-leavers, just looking for the same thing: relaxation and a bit of fun. There were two girls and three blokes, including myself. In fact, it was planned that there would be eight of us but three dropped out at the last minute. I forget why - maybe lack of money or they decided they would do some work experience before going off to college. In the end, five seemed about right because getting more than five people into a rented car would have been impossible as would getting rooms in the same hotel have been."

● Note that the speaker tries to add some interesting details about who went on this holiday and their reasons for doing so. Remember, then, to avoid simple statements ("Five friends went") and make your description a bit more detailed.

● One more point, your talk does not have to be totally true!



Segment 3

"I had been to Malaysia before and I think I had shopped in Kuala Lumpur once or twice but East Malaysia was totally new to me. Anyway, I went for the wildlife and the natural environment, not to see the skyscrapers and fashion shops. We moved around Sabah quite a lot, went up into the highlands and climbed Kinabalu, the highest mountain in Asia, if I remember correctly.

I think I enjoyed it so much because it came at the right time in life and I was single then! It was the company I think that made it as we all got on extremely well together and enjoyed doing the same things. Also I met a large number of interesting travelers that I still keep in contact with – and that was ten years ago. We exchange emails and send photos – that sort of thing. The animals I saw were fascinating and the trees & plants in the rainforests were species that I had never seen before. All in all, it was a great vacation and I'd love to go back to Sabah. Maybe I will."

● *Based on the notes that the speaker made (a very important point to note!), the where and the why points are covered in some detail.*

● *Note the conversational expressions: "anyway" & "all in all" which indicate attempts to link ideas and the phrases "if I remember correctly" & "that sort of thing".*

Segment 4

"I do enjoy swimming for many reasons. It's always a good excuse for getting out of the house but, more importantly, I feel refreshed after I have been swimming. It helps me relax and forget about all things I need to do. In some strange way, after I have swum, I seem to focus better on my work and get things done quicker. I think the real reason why I enjoy it is that it makes me feel that I am doing some real exercise and, hopefully, losing weight."

● *Once again, the speaker makes an effort to provide a variety of details about why he/she enjoys swimming so that it seems like a FULL answer.*

● *Phrases like "in some strange way" and "the real reason why I ..." show that the speaker handles chunks of language well.*