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~ Speaking Model ~

~ IELTS Speaking Exam / Part Two / "Leisure time activity" ~

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 an activity you do in your leisure time.

You should say:

- What kind of activity this is
- Who you do this activity with
- Where you do this activity

Explain why you enjoy this activity.

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

"The activity I spend most of my time doing is swimming, although, to be honest, this is only for about six months of the year because for the rest of the time the water is too cold. I swim from about mid-September to the middle of March in open water about 5 kilometers from our home. The sea temperature during this period never falls below 27 degrees but from April onwards most swimmers find it too cold to continue. I have tried swimming in a wetsuit but I have never found it comfortable. When I say swimming, I don't mean that I am a professional swimmer but I do take my swimming seriously and try to swim vigorously instead of just lazing and floating on the water."

- Note the conversational phrase: "to be honest" / "When I say"
- A range of vocabulary is used: "comfortable" / "professional" / "vigorously" / "lazing" / "floating" - which makes the talk more interesting than using simple words.

Segment 2

"My wife usually swims with me. In fact, she is a better swimmer than myself and usually seems to be the first in the water and gets out after me. When our daughter is free, she also joins us but that is becoming increasingly rare nowadays as she has too much studying to do. If for any reason, my wife can't make it, I do go alone but I don't enjoy it so much. Occasionally we invite friends along but more often we just meet up with people on the beach and chat a little before swimming."

- Note that the speaker tries to add some details to the simple prompt "Who do you do this activity with?", and that the sentences use linkers "when", "but" and "as" to develop complex sentences.

Segment 3

"As I said, the beach is about 15 minutes' drive from our house. Roads around where we live are quiet so 15 minutes is the maximum amount of time it would take to get to the sea. I can't stand swimming in swimming pools or things like that, so if I don't swim in the sea, I don't bother swimming at all. I think I have just got used to swimming in salt water. The sea is usually calm during the swimming season but even if it is windy or slightly rainy, we still swim. That's far better than being in a swimming pool."

- Note the conversational linking phrase "as I said" and the attempt to go beyond simple sentences with linkers like "so", "so if", "but even if".



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.*