

100 IELTS Speaking Part 2 Cue Card Starters

Natural opening lines for person, place, object, event, skill and experience cue cards. Start fast, then add detail.

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Tip: highlight 8-12 items this week, practise them in a timed mock, then unlock Pro for fuller banks and AI feedback.

Person cue cards

Describe a teacher, friend, relative, neighbour or someone you admire.

Starter	Cue type
I'd like to talk about my old English teacher, who really shaped how I study.	Person: teacher
The person I'm going to describe is my closest friend from university.	Person: friend
I'm going to talk about my grandmother, who has always been a role model for me.	Person: family member
Someone I really admire is a colleague I worked with a few years ago.	Person: admired person
I'd like to describe a neighbour who once helped me out in a tough situation.	Person: neighbour
The person that comes to mind is my cousin, who is incredibly good at sports.	Person: skilled person
I'll talk about a famous person I respect, a scientist who changed how people see health.	Person: public figure
Let me tell you about a person who always makes me laugh.	Person: funny person
I'd like to talk about someone who has had a big influence on my career choice.	Person: influencer
The person I have in mind is a relative who lives abroad and whom I rarely see.	Person: relative abroad
I'm going to describe a child I know who is remarkably creative.	Person: child
One person who stands out is a stranger who gave me useful advice on a train.	Person: stranger
I'd like to talk about a successful person I met through my family.	Person: successful person
I'll describe a person who is very good at cooking and loves feeding others.	Person: cook
The person I want to describe is a leader I once worked under, and I learned a lot from her.	Person: leader

Place cue cards

Describe a city, building, park, restaurant, holiday spot or quiet corner.

Starter	Cue type
I'd like to describe a city I visited last year that left a lasting impression.	Place: city

The place I'm going to talk about is a small cafe near my home.	Place: cafe
I'll talk about a park where I often go to clear my head.	Place: park
One place I've always wanted to visit is a mountain village in the north.	Place: place to visit
Let me describe the library I used to study in when I was a student.	Place: study place
I'd like to talk about a beautiful beach I went to on a family trip.	Place: beach
The building I have in mind is an old temple in my hometown.	Place: historic building
I'm going to describe a quiet place where I like to relax after work.	Place: quiet place
I'll talk about a restaurant that serves the best local food I know.	Place: restaurant
The place I'd like to describe is a museum I visited with my classmates.	Place: museum
I'd like to talk about a place in my country that tourists often overlook.	Place: hidden place
Let me tell you about a market where I used to shop with my parents.	Place: market
The room I'm going to describe is my bedroom, which is small but very cosy.	Place: room
I'll talk about a crowded place I went to and how I felt there.	Place: crowded place
I'd like to describe a place where I felt completely at ease.	Place: comfortable place

Object cue cards

Describe a gift, device, piece of clothing, book or something you own.

Starter	Cue type
I'd like to talk about a gift I received that meant a great deal to me.	Object: gift
The object I'm going to describe is my laptop, which I use every single day.	Object: device
Let me talk about an old watch that once belonged to my father.	Object: family item
I'll describe a piece of clothing I bought that I never wear but can't throw away.	Object: clothing
The thing I'd like to describe is a book that completely changed my outlook.	Object: book
I'm going to talk about a piece of furniture that I find really useful.	Object: furniture
One item I could not live without is my phone, and here's why.	Object: essential item
I'd like to describe a photo that I keep on my desk.	Object: photo
I'll talk about a toy I loved as a child and still remember vividly.	Object: childhood item
The object I have in mind is a bicycle that I've had for many years.	Object: vehicle
Let me describe a useful app that I have on my phone.	Object: app

I'd like to talk about something I bought online and was pleasantly surprised by.	Object: online purchase
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Event cue cards

Describe a celebration, trip, party, meeting, wedding or festival.

Starter	Cue type
I'd like to talk about a family celebration that I enjoyed a lot.	Event: celebration
The event I'm going to describe is a wedding I attended last summer.	Event: wedding
Let me describe a festival in my country that people look forward to all year.	Event: festival
I'll talk about a birthday party that did not go as planned.	Event: party
One memorable trip I took was a weekend away with my friends.	Event: trip
I'd like to describe a time when I attended a concert, and it was unforgettable.	Event: concert
I'm going to talk about a sports match I watched	Event: sports event
The event that comes to mind is my graduation	Event: graduation
I'll describe a meeting I took part in that turned out to be productive.	Event: meeting
Let me talk about a time when I had to wait a long time for something.	Event: waiting
I'd like to describe a day when everything went wrong, but it ended well.	Event: eventful day
One event I'll never forget is a surprise party my friends organised.	Event: surprise
I'm going to talk about an occasion when I got lost in a new place.	Event: getting lost
I'll describe a time when I helped organise a community event.	Event: community event
The special day I'd like to describe is the first day at my current job.	Event: first day

Skill and activity cue cards

Describe something you learned, a hobby, a sport or a thing you want to improve.

Starter	Cue type
I'd like to talk about a skill I learned as a teenager that I still use.	Skill: learned skill
The activity I'm going to describe is cooking, which I took up during lockdown.	Skill: hobby
Let me describe a sport I enjoy playing with my friends on weekends.	Skill: sport
I'll talk about a skill I'd like to learn in the future, which is playing the guitar.	Skill: future skill
One thing I'm quite good at is organising my time, and I'd like to explain how I do it.	Skill: personal strength
I'd like to describe a time when I learned something new from a video.	Skill: online learning
I'm going to talk about a language I'm learning besides English.	Skill: language
The hobby I have in mind is photography, which I've enjoyed for years.	Skill: creative hobby

Let me talk about a difficult task I managed to	Skill: difficult task
I'll describe a time when I taught someone how to do something.	Skill: teaching
I'd like to talk about an outdoor activity that helps me stay healthy.	Skill: outdoor activity
The new thing I tried recently was a pottery class, and I loved it.	Skill: new experience

Experience and time cue cards

Describe a time you felt proud, a decision, a mistake, a change or a memory.

Starter	Cue type
I'd like to talk about a time when I felt really proud of myself.	Experience: pride
The occasion I'm going to describe is when I made an important decision.	Experience: decision
Let me talk about a time when I made a mistake and learned from it.	Experience: mistake
I'll describe a time when I had to be patient, which was hard for me.	Experience: patience
One time I felt very nervous was before my first job interview.	Experience: nervous
I'd like to describe a change in my life that turned out for the better.	Experience: change
I'm going to talk about a time when I received good news unexpectedly.	Experience: good news
The time that I'd like to describe is when I helped a stranger.	Experience: helping
Let me tell you about a time I was late for something important.	Experience: being late
I'll talk about a time when I had to speak in front of many people.	Experience: public speaking
I'd like to describe a time I took advice from someone and was glad I did.	Experience: advice

Media, culture and ideas cue cards

Describe a film, song, TV show, website, news story or tradition.

Starter	Cue type
I'd like to talk about a film that I've watched more than once.	Media: film
The song I'm going to describe always reminds me of my school days.	Media: song
Let me describe a TV programme that my family enjoys watching together.	Media: TV show
I'll talk about a website that I find really helpful for study.	Media: website
One piece of news that caught my attention recently was about a local project.	Media: news
I'd like to describe a traditional custom in my country that I value.	Culture: tradition
I'm going to talk about a piece of art that I saw in a gallery.	Culture: art
The advertisement I have in mind was funny and very memorable.	Media: advertisement

Let me talk about a podcast that I listen to on my way to work. Media: podcast

I'll describe a historical figure whose story I find inspiring. Culture: history

Wildcard and flexible starters

Safe openers that work for almost any cue card when you need a second to think.

Starter	Cue type
Well, the first thing that comes to mind is...	Any: thinking opener
That's an interesting topic, and I'll start with the background.	Any: topic opener
Let me begin by saying what, where and when.	Any: structure opener
I'll go through the points on the card one by one, starting with who.	Any: card points
I haven't thought about this for a while, but let me	Any: unprepared topic
To give you a bit of background first,	Any: background
The main reason I chose this is that it is very personal to me.	Any: reason opener
I'll try to be as specific as I can.	Any: detail promise
There are a few things I'd like to mention about	Any: list opener
Let me paint a picture of it for you.	Any: descriptive opener

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