DAILYENGLISHPRO.COM

100 High-Scoring IELTS Speaking Part 3 Phrases (2026)

Opinion, comparison, speculation, cause-effect and evaluation language for Band 6.5-8 discussion answers.

Free PDF from https://www.dailyenglishpro.com | For personal IELTS study only

Continue on Daily English Pro

Use these phrases in a free CBT-style mock, then upgrade to Pro for full Speaking packs, AI credits and the content library.

- DailyEnglishPro.com: https://www.dailyenglishpro.com
- Free mock tests: https://www.dailyenglishpro.com/en/mock-tests
- eBooks: https://www.dailyenglishpro.com/en/tools/ebooks
- IELTS Guides hub: https://www.dailyenglishpro.com/en/guides

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

Opinion

State a clear stance, then add a reason so the answer does not stop at the phrase.

Phrase	Function	Follow-up tip
In my view,	Clear opinion opener	Follow with one reason in the same breath
From my perspective,	Slightly formal personal stance	Good when the topic is abstract or social
I tend to think that...	Softer, natural opinion	Sounds less absolute than 'I believe'
I'd argue that...	Debate-style claim	Use when comparing two policies or trends
It seems to me that...	Tentative but clear view	Pair with a short example from daily life
I'm of the opinion that...	Formal opinion marker	Keep the next clause concrete, not vague
Personally, I feel that...	Emphasises personal stance	Avoid stacking three opinion openers in a row
What stands out for me is...	Highlights one key idea	Name the idea, then explain why it matters
I'm convinced that...	Strong conviction	Use once per answer; back it with evidence
As far as I'm concerned,	Personal boundary of the view	Works well on lifestyle and education topics
My take on this is that...	Modern conversational stance	Follow with a contrast if the topic is two-sided
There's little doubt that...	Concedes a widely accepted point	Then add your own nuance after the concession
I wouldn't say that...; rather...	Reframe a crude claim	Useful when the question oversimplifies

Compare/Contrast

Show balanced thinking: place two sides side by side, then pick a lean.

Phrase	Function	Follow-up tip
Compared with...,	Direct comparison opener	Name both sides before judging which is better
In contrast,	Sharp opposite idea	Keep the contrast parallel in structure
On the other hand,	Balanced second side	Signal you are not ignoring the other view
Whereas...,	Contrast in one sentence	Good for past vs present or young vs old
Unlike in the past,	Then-versus-now contrast	Add one modern detail so it sounds specific
By the same token,	Extend a similar logic	Use after agreeing a point applies elsewhere
The key difference is that...	Pinpoint the main contrast	Examiners reward precision over long lists
They are similar in that..., but...	Partial similarity + twist	Ideal for technology or education topics
Looking at both sides,	Balanced framing	End with which side you lean toward
That said,	Soft pivot to the other side	Shorter and more natural than 'nevertheless'
In relative terms,	Qualify a comparison	Useful when talking about richer vs poorer areas
The gap between... and... is widening.	Trend-style contrast	Say what is driving the gap

If we put them side by side,	Explicit comparison set-up	Then give one clear criterion for judging

Speculate

Part 3 often asks about the future or unknown causes. Mark uncertainty instead of guessing wildly.

Phrase	Function	Follow-up tip
It's quite possible that...	Likely future or cause	Add why you think that outcome is plausible
I suspect that...	Cautious prediction	Sounds more natural than 'I guess' in Part 3
In the long run,	Long-term speculation	Contrast briefly with short-term effects
Looking ahead,	Future-oriented opener	Name one concrete change you expect
There's a good chance that...	Probability language	Avoid sounding 100% certain about the future
It remains to be seen whether...	Open uncertainty	Then give the factors that will decide it
One scenario is that...	Hypothetical path	Offer a second scenario if time allows
If current trends continue,	Trend-based forecast	Mention the trend before the prediction
I wouldn't be surprised if...	Mild expectation	Good for social change and tech topics
We might see more of...	Emerging pattern	Give one example of what 'more of' looks like
It's hard to predict, but...	Honest hedge + attempt	Shows maturity; still give a direction
Presumably,	Logical inference	Use when the question invites an educated guess

Cause-Effect

Link reasons to outcomes clearly. Examiners listen for logical chains, not buzzwords.

Phrase	Function	Follow-up tip
This is largely because...	Main cause after a claim	Keep the cause specific, not 'society' alone
One key factor is...	Primary driver	Name a measurable or observable factor
As a result,	Direct consequence	Use after you have stated the cause clearly
This leads to...	Cause-effect chain	You can stack a second effect if needed
The underlying issue is...	Deeper root cause	Useful when the surface reason is too shallow
That happens mainly due to...	Explain a trend	Works after describing what people do
Another contributing factor is...	Second reason	Avoid repeating the same idea in new words
Consequently,	Formal result marker	Keep the result clause short and concrete
This can trigger...	Stronger knock-on effect	Good for environment, health, crime topics
For that reason,	Link back to your stance	Makes the opinion feel justified
A knock-on effect is that...	Secondary consequence	Shows you can think beyond the first result
Part of the problem stems from...	Source of a difficulty	Then suggest what would reduce it
Once that happens,	Sequential effect	Useful in process-style social explanations

Evaluate/Advantage

Weigh benefits, drawbacks and importance. End with a clear judgement.

Phrase	Function	Follow-up tip
The main advantage is that...	Primary benefit	Add who benefits most
A clear downside is that...	Primary drawback	Balance with a benefit if the question asks
On balance,	Overall judgement	State which side outweighs the other
The benefits outweigh the costs when...	Conditional evaluation	Define the condition clearly
It is worthwhile if...	Value judgement	Useful for education and public spending topics
The real value lies in...	Where the benefit sits	Avoid listing five shallow pros
In practical terms,	Ground abstract talk	Bring the idea back to daily life

From an economic standpoint,	Lens for evaluation	You can switch to social/environmental next
It plays a crucial role in...	Importance claim	Say what would happen without it
The trade-off is that...	Cost of a choice	Shows sophisticated two-sided thinking
I would rate... as more important because...	Direct ranking	Give one decisive reason
Whether it is effective depends on...	Conditional assessment	Name the dependency factor

Soften/Disagree

Disagree politely, concede partly, or challenge oversimplification without sounding rude.

Phrase	Function	Follow-up tip
I agree up to a point.	Partial agreement	Then state the limit of the agreement
That's partly true, but...	Limited yes + twist	Keep the 'but' respectful and specific
I wouldn't go that far.	Soft disagreement	Offer a milder version of the claim
I'm not entirely convinced.	Polite doubt	Explain what evidence is missing
I take a slightly different view.	Alternative stance	State your view immediately after
That may be true in some cases; however...	Context-limited agreement	Give a counter-case
I understand the argument, but...	Fair hearing then pushback	Shows you listened before disagreeing
It's not as simple as that.	Reject black-and-white framing	Then introduce one complicating factor
We might be overlooking...	Missing angle	Name the overlooked group or effect
I have to disagree slightly.	Mild disagreement	Avoid sounding confrontational
With respect, I see it differently.	Polite contrast	Use sparingly; keep tone calm
That works in theory, but in practice...	Theory vs reality	Give a realistic counter-example
I'd qualify that by saying...	Narrow or refine a claim	High-band move: refine rather than reject

Examples

Abstract claims need grounding. One sharp example beats three vague ones.

Phrase	Function	Follow-up tip
A good illustration of this is...	Formal example lead-in	Choose a familiar, believable case
Take..., for instance.	Quick concrete example	Keep it short so you can explain the link
To give you an example,	Everyday example opener	Link the example back to your main point
This can be seen when...	Situational example	Describe the situation in one sentence
In practice,	Theory to real life	Useful after a general claim
For instance, in my country...	Localised example	Do not invent extreme statistics
A case in point is...	Classic academic example marker	Name the case, then the lesson
Think about how people...	Invite a familiar scenario	Works well with lifestyle topics
I noticed this when...	Personal observation as evidence	Keep it brief; Part 3 is not a story dump
Surveys often suggest that...	Soft research reference	Do not invent precise fake numbers
Even a simple example like... shows...	Accessible illustration	Good if the topic feels abstract
Looking at young people today,	Group-based example frame	Avoid stereotypes; add nuance

Wrap-up

Close the answer cleanly so the examiner hears a finished thought, not a trail-off.

Phrase	Function	Follow-up tip
So overall,	Summary judgement	Restate your stance in one short line
All things considered,	Weighing wrap-up	Ideal after a two-sided answer

To put it briefly,	Compress before finishing	Use if you have been speaking at length
That's why I would say...	Link reasons back to opinion	Strong close after cause-effect talk
In short,	Final compression	Avoid starting a brand-new idea after this
At the end of the day,	Conversational bottom line	Keep the final claim simple and clear
Those are the main points I'd make.	Soft exit	Useful when you have covered two angles
So I'd conclude that...	Explicit conclusion	Match the conclusion to what you already said
For those reasons,	Reason-based close	Plural works only if you gave more than one reason
That pretty much sums up my	Natural spoken close	Stop; do not keep adding fillers
Ultimately, it comes down to...	Core deciding factor	Name one decisive factor only
I think that covers the main idea.	Polite finish	Invite the next question without trailing off

Continue on Daily English Pro

Use these phrases in a free CBT-style mock, then upgrade to Pro for full Speaking packs, AI credits and the content library.

- DailyEnglishPro.com: https://www.dailyenglishpro.com
- Free mock tests: https://www.dailyenglishpro.com/en/mock-tests
- eBooks: https://www.dailyenglishpro.com/en/tools/ebooks
- IELTS Guides hub: https://www.dailyenglishpro.com/en/guides