

Practice Using Timelines

IELTS speaking Part 2

In This PDF:

- There are 10 IELTS Task 2 speaking prompts. Each prompt is on its own page with an empty timeline structure to help you practice.
- After each practice question there is a model timeline that I have made on the following page. You may use this for inspiration when stuck.

Instructions:

Practice making timelines for these questions, complete all ten of them.

Compare your timeline to the model on the following page for inspiration, reflection, and comparison.

TIP: Different questions may require different ways of thinking about how to build a timeline. Start by reading the example timeline first. If you get stuck at any point, look at the following page to compare your ideas with the model.

Content guide:

- Practice questions and models: Pages 2- 21
- Frequently asked question: Page 22

An Example Timeline

Read this example first and notice how the timeline organizes the answer into the past, present, and future. Then, complete the same question yourself on the next page without looking at the model.

Describe a positive change in your life. You should say:

- what the change was about
- when it happened
- describe details of the change happened

and describe how it affected you later in life.



I would like to tell you about a positive change in my life. This was when i decided to start sleeping earlier

The past: in the past...	Present: but now that I have made this change...	Future: in the future
• Went to bed at 3 am • Woke up at noon • Hadnt time for breakfast or the gym • Low energy all day • Unproductive at school/work	• Now I sleep at 9:30 pm • Now I get up at 5:30 am • I exercise and eat healthy every day • I feel much better, happier, and more energetic • Much more productive at school / work	• I want to continue this because ○ I will be able to live a long healthy life ○ My career will be better ○ I feel better about myself

Try it!

Describe a positive change in your life. You should say:

- what the change was about
- when it happened
- describe details of the change happened

and describe how it affected you later in life.



I would like to tell you about _____ . This was _____ when i graduated from my previous school _____ .

The past: _____	Present: _____	Future: _____
• Procrastinated a lot • No energy to do everything i need to • I had no sense of achievement • I was angry at myself and not happy • • •	• I get many things done • More energy • I have sense of achievement • happier • • •	• • • • • • •

Practice it!

Describe a recent party you have been to.

You should say:

- Whose party it was and what it was celebrating
- Where the party was held
- What you did at the party

And explain how you felt about the event.



I would like to tell you about _____. This was _____.

The past: _____	Present: _____	Future: _____
• • • • • • •	• • • • • • •	• • • • • • •

Model Timeline

Describe a recent party you have been to.

You should say:

- Whose party it was and what it was celebrating
- Where the party was held
- What you did at the party

And explain how you felt about the event.



I would like to tell you about a party I have been to not long ago. This was last years christmas eve party that my company hosted.

The past: Before this party...	Present: At the party...	Future: After the party
• Everyone had to work the whole day • We went home for an hour or two to change or relax or before going to the party • I put on a new christmas sweater that I bought with a christmas tree on it • I took a taxi to meet everyone at the party	• Where it was • What we did • What foods were there • Who I talked to / Who was there • Did I enjoy it / why or why not?	• Everyone was tired and upset that we had to work the next day • I was not drunk becasue I didnt drink but many people were • I left the party early • Many people were not at work the next day they called out sick • How did my boss feel about it?

Practice it!

Describe an important decision you have made. You should say:

- what the decision was
- why you made that choice
- who helped you make the choice

and explain why the decision was so important.



I would like to tell you about _____ **This was** _____.

The past: _____	Present: _____	Future: _____
• • • • • • •	• • • • • • •	• • • • • • •

Model Timeline

Describe an important decision you have made. You should say:

- what the decision was
- why you made that choice
- who helped you make the choice

and explain why the decision was so important.



I would like to tell you about a significant decision that i have made. This was my decision to go back to school and study education.

The past: Before I made this decision...	Present: after I made this decsion...	Future: In the future....
• I worked in a boring government office. • I was not satisfied with my lifestyle • I daydreamed about being a teacher • I planned how I would change careers and what I would have to do • I had to work lots of overtime	• I had to quit my job • I had to join university again and go through the admission process • I had to tell my friends and family about my plan • I felt a lot of relief	• I plan to work at a highschool teaching english or math • I will have a much better worklife balance • I will be curious and passionate about my work • I will do something that will make a difference in the world

Practice it!

Describe an environmental problem or event. You should say:

- What it is
- Where it is happening
- What problems it causes

And explain what can be done to solve it.



I would like to tell you about _____. This was _____.

The past: _____	Present: _____	Future: _____
• • • • • • •	• • • • • • •	• • • • • • •

Model Timeline

Describe an environmental problem or event. You should say:

- What it is
- Where it is happening
- What problems it causes

And explain what can be done to solve it.



I would like to tell you about an environmental issue that I think is important for us to solve. This problem is air pollution.

The past: in the past...	Present: These days...	Future: in the future...
• I never thought about air pollution • I never noticed it • Air quality was not a worry • Nobody wore masks or had air purifiers • We were reckless with pollution from cars and factories	• Air pollution is a common topic • Everybody wears masks • We are trying to find ways to fix it ◦ Planting trees / electric cars ◦ Recycling • People are suffering from smog in inner cities	• I believe we will fix it • We will no longer drive electric cars • We will replace fossil fuels with green energy sources • We will use biodegradable products that do not need to be burned in landfills

Practice it!

Describe a piece of furniture that you own. You should say:

- what it is
- where you bought it
- how you use it

and explain why you like it.



I would like to tell you about _____. This was _____.

The past: _____	Present: _____	Future: _____
• • • • • • •	• • • • • • •	• • • • • • •

Model Timeline

Describe a piece of furniture that you own. You should say:

- what it is
- where you bought it
- how you use it

and explain why you like it.



I would like to tell you about a piece of furniture that I have which is my desk.

The past: in the past, my old desk...	Present: but my current desk...	Future: in the future
• Was too small to study ◦ Couldnt fit anything on it ◦ Low height • Wooden with cuts and digs and i couldnt write • Was ugly / not aesthetic • Hated to use it	• Is much larger, ◦ I can fit my laptop, some books, a notepad + water bottle ◦ Much higher - easier to write • Has a glass top and is very smooth to write on • Its beautiful, and looks clean and new • I love to use it	• I will not buy another desk unless something breaks or I have to move very far • I think this desk will help me to study and be productive

Practice it!

Describe a useful electronic device you would like to own. You should say:

- what it is
- how it would help your life
- if it would be expensive to buy

and explain why you would like it.



I would like to tell you about _____. This was _____.

The past: _____	Present: _____	Future: _____
• • • • • • •	• • • • • • •	• • • • • • •

Model Timeline

Describe a useful electronic device you would like to own. You should say:

- what it is
- how it would help your life
- if it would be expensive to buy

and explain why you would like it.



I would like to tell you about an electronic device that I really want to buy. The device that i want to have is an ipad.

The past: in the past...	Present: If I had this device	Future: in the future
• I have always worked from my home or accommodation using my large bulky laptop • I always wanted to work in cafes but felt awkward to do it with my laptop • Always saw many people work in cafes or parks looking so cool on their ipads ◦ (discuss feelings & memories)	• I would work from anywhere ◦ Parks / cafes / busses / etc. • I would be much more productive • Have a happier life because I can be more active and go places without worrying about how to work • Feel a lot of freedom and feel cool when I work from cafes, which is a dream for many people	• I think I will buy this device the next time there is a big sale ◦ (Discuss a common time where I usually see sales for this device)

Practice it!

Describe something healthy you enjoy doing.You should say:

- What you do
- Where you do it
- Who you do it with

and explain why you think doing this is healthy.



I would like to tell you about _____. This was _____.

The past: _____	Present: _____	Future: _____
• • • • • • •	• • • • • • •	• • • • • • •

Model Timeline

Describe something healthy you enjoy doing. You should say:

- What you do
- Where you do it
- Who you do it with

and explain why you think doing this is healthy.



I would like to tell you about something healthy that I do. The healthy thing I do is I run every day.

The past: before I started running	Present: after I started running...	Future: in the future
• I was overweight • I never did any exercise • I was jealous of people that lived healthy lives • I had a bad diet - junk food / fast food • I felt bad about myself • I struggled to be active because i was not in good shape like my friends	• I lost a lot of weight • I became addicted to running and doing all kinds of sports • I started to change my diet somehow, I was shocked • I felt really proud of myself • I could go do stuff with my friends (hiking, bike rides, playing football)	• I hope I keep doing it ◦ Live long ◦ Stay healthy as I get older • I Hope my family will join me •

Practice it!

Talk about somewhere you went on holiday. You should say:

- How you got there
- What activities you did there
- Who you went with

And say if you would recommend that holiday to a friend or not, and why



I would like to tell you about _____ . This was _____.

The past: _____	Present: _____	Future: _____
• • • • • • •	• • • • • • •	• • • • • • •

Model Timeline

Talk about somewhere you went on holiday. You should say:

- How you got there
- What activities you did there
- Who you went with

And say if you would recommend that holiday to a friend or not, and why



I would like to tell you about a place that I visited on vacation last year. This was dehradun, a mountain city in India.

The past: In the past...	Present: when I was at dehradoon...	Future: In the future
• I always visited high tech cities like dubai and bangkok • I never thought about visiting the mountains • As a kid my family always romanticised big city vacations	• I was shocked at how refreshed I felt • The pollution was so low • The population was so much lower than I expected • I saw lots of farm animals • The restraurants were so much better and cleaner • It was surprisingly more expensive than going to the big cities	• I will definitely go to dehradun again • I would also like to go to more mountain cities or smaller cities in remote locations

Practice it!

Describe someone who has had an important influence in your life. You should say:

- Who the person is
- How long you have known him or her
- What qualities this person has

and explain why this person has had such an influence on you.



I would like to tell you about _____ . This was _____ .

The past: _____	Present: _____	Future: _____
• • • • • • •	• • • • • • •	• • • • • • •

Model Timeline

Describe someone who has had an important influence in your life. You should say:

- Who the person is
- How long you have known him or her
- What qualities this person has

and explain why this person has had such an influence on you.



I would like to tell you about a great person who has influenced my life a lot. This is a great friend of mine, named Dave.

The past: Before I met Dave...	Present: After meeting Dave...	Future: in the future
• I lived a very normal life ◦ In what way? • Was not very satisfied ◦ why? • Had lots of dreams but no idea how to do it ◦ why?	• He showed me how he lives • He made me believe that I can live a life that I want • I started to make plans for the goals that I wanted to achieve • I changed my career and moved to asia	• I hope me and dave stay friends • I hope I can help other people like he helped me

Practice it!

Talk about one method of learning a foreign language you have used. You should say:

- What you did
- How long you used this method for
- How it compares to other methods of learning a language

And say if you will use that same method in the future or not, and why



I would like to tell you about _____ . This was _____ .

The past: _____	Present: _____	Future: _____
• • • • • • •	• • • • • • •	• • • • • • •

Model Timeline

Talk about one method of learning a foreign language you have used. You should say:

- What you did
- How long you used this method for
- How it compares to other methods of learning a language

And say if you will use that same method in the future or not, and why



I would like to tell you about a way that I used to study languages. The way I used to study languages was with grammar books.

The past: In the past...	Present: after I started using Italki...	Future: After the party
• I used many common methods: ○ Grammar books ○ Classes ○ Online courses ○ Mobile applications ■ But they never worked • I never got very excited with these methods • I think these methods were impractical and not helpful for real life communication	• I realized that this was much more practical • Language learning could be fun • I became really excited about studying and seeing my tutor • My tutor became a good friend of mine and in fact i have many tutors • I made really fast progress and now I impress my friends with my language ability	• I think I will use itlaki to learn another language • I will recommend it to my friends

Frequently Asked Questions

1. Isn't it bad that you are repeating yourself multiple times throughout the answer since you're saying the same ideas in the past and present.

- a. First of all, these ideas should only be a *VERY SMALL* part of your answer. In the actual speech you will say much more, you will compare and contrast, give opinions, discuss feelings and memories, and go into great detail about these things . Moreover, you are not repeating anything since you will paraphrase them and say them in different tenses and with different words, this will actually increase your grammar and vocabulary scores. 😊
- b. Second of all, this is recommended by IELTS examiners. 👍

2. What if I cant use the timeline for some questions?

- a. You can use the timeline for all answers. You just need some practice, and in this PDF I have included all varieties of Task 2 questions, especially the ones that may appear to be more challenging at first.

3. How can I write all of this down in the actual exam?

- a. You won't. In the exam you will divide your planning paper into 3 parts: past, present, and future, and mark down only key words or abbreviations just to remind you of what you wanted to say.
- b. Right now, in this PDF you are training your brain and self to be able to build timelines around any topic.

4. Do I have to use a timeline?

- a. Nope, you do not. However, the timeline is the easiest and simplest way to add a wonderful structure throughout your whole speech.
- b. A huge part of your score is related to your coherence and cohesion. That means you need to have a logical direction and progression. Honestly speaking, you are not writing a book here, you will simply not have enough time to create a unique structure for each answer and you absolutely are not expected to. Do not make it harder than it needs to be! Do what everyone else does, use a timeline and you *WILL* get a high band score ! 😎

All of my students who achieved bands 7, 8, and 9 in speaking used the timeline structure.