

TOPIC: THE INTERNET

Sample answers, useful vocabulary and resources for IELTS speaking exam

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References to teaching and authentic materials related to this topic: IELTS blogs, podcasts, videos and articles

1. SAMPLE ANSWERS

PART 1

1. Do you use the Internet much during the day?

- **Actually**, yes. I am amazed how much the Internet has to offer in terms of education, business, communication and art, so I frequently find myself **browsing pages** and looking for useful **content**.

2. What do you usually do on the Internet?

- The list of things that I do there is quite long, but primarily I look for and buy **e-books**, listen to **insightful podcasts**, take **online courses**, seek and apply for internships and international events.

3. What are some advantages of the Internet?

- There are so many things that the Internet can help us with! I always strive to use the educational potential of it to the full. For example, with the **World Wide Web**, one is now able to apply for internships abroad and undertake online interviews via Skype.

4. Do people in your country use the Internet a lot?

- **Absolutely**. In fact, I think people use it all the time for different purposes. Professionals include digital into their research, kids use it to learn faster, teenagers prefer it for communication and games.

PART 2

Describe a website that you often use. You should say:

- **what type of website it is**
- **how you found out about it**
- **what it allows you to do**

and why you find it useful.

If I have to talk about a website that I regularly use, I think that would be Gmail by Google, which is one of the most widespread **e-mail service providers** out there. As far as I can remember, I first learned about it when I was in middle school. I had been curious about what the Internet had to offer even back then, and a lot of educational sites required an **e-mail account** for registration and communication.

I have been using Gmail for more or less nine years, and so far, I **haven't had a thought** to change to another email service, as long as Google keeps on **innovating, rolling out** new features that make work easier and more fun. Google Drive, for example, is one of the best tools, because it allows me and my team **store, exchange and create files in the cloud**, especially when working on a project together.

I **communicate** with my colleagues through the web most of the time, and for that Google Hangouts **comes in handy**. It is a flexible, free and easy service to **conduct** personal and professional video- and **audio-calls** anywhere, using only the Internet connection.

To sum it all up, Google services, in general, are perfect for working or studying individuals like me, because they are cloud-based, free, easy to use and quickly employ innovation.

PART 3

1. What will be the next big development online?

- **(Answer)** I think the upcoming digital **breakthrough** could be the popularization of **blockchain smart-contracts in logistics**. **(Explain)** Even though blockchain in general remains a **questionable technology** in terms of usage, I strongly believe that it can enhance logistics of big corporations, make deliveries faster, human error-free and more reliable. This would revolutionize our **online shopping**.

2. How has the Internet changed social behavior?

- **(Answer)** Generally, the Internet has influenced social interaction of people in both positive and negative ways. **(Explain)** The magnificent effect of the Internet in socializing is that one can now easily communicate and make friends with people all over the world, without having to step out of home. However, because of this, some people have become somewhat **isolated**, and now spend most of their time online, **neglecting real communication** with friends and family around them. **(Example)** An example of this might be when a couple goes on a date, but then one partner spends most of their time on the phone, either replying to work emails or checking social media.

3. Should companies check job applicants' online profiles?

- **(Answer)** I don't think it is absolutely necessary for companies to check applicants' profile online, **(Explain)** because not everything stated in their social media is reliable. However, even it's not necessary, companies increasingly find benefits in reviewing **social media accounts** of prospective colleagues, **(alternative)** because one can truly express their personality there. Still, would be better if firms looked into LinkedIn or **professional CV record** of an applicant to avoid any **biased decisions**.

2. KEY VOCABULARY

INTERNET FOR COMMUNICATION / NETWORKING

email

these are messages distributed by electronic means from one user to another through the Internet.

I check my **email** from time to time, because I sent job applications online and the companies might get in touch with me anytime.

video conference

a face-to-face communication between people from different places with the use of internet software

Skype is a famous tool to conduct a **video conference** with our relatives abroad.

social media

a website or application that enables users to communicate with each other by posting information, comments, messages, pictures and videos

The use of **social media** such as Facebook, Twitter and Instagram has become a trend to people of different ages.

INTERNET FOR BUSINESS

e-commerce

the sale of goods and services online

E-commerce will definitely open more job opportunities to people.

online shopping

a form of e-commerce, which allows consumers to directly buy goods or services from internet sellers

Most of the people prefer **online shopping** to going to physical shops, because they don't have to endure commuting just to buy goods.

internet marketing

the process of promoting a business or brand and its products or services over the internet to reach customers

Websites are vital tools for effective and successful **internet marketing** campaigns.

virtual assistant

an independent contractor who provides administrative services to clients and typically works from their home office

A **virtual assistant** provides services to individuals, organizations or companies, but they work online instead of going into an office.

INTERNET FOR ENTERTAINMENT

streaming

the delivery of internet content in real-time to the viewer

There are many movie **streaming** websites, where people can enjoy watching movies for free.

real time

the actual time in which the occurrence of an event, reporting or recording of it are almost simultaneous

With the use of internet, I can watch the hottest news in **real time**.

to download

transferring music, videos, games or documents you find on the Internet to your computer or other device

You can **download** Candy Crush game on your mobile phone by going to the Play Store.

to subscribe

to give consent or approval to receive notifications or services regularly

I have **subscribed** to Netflix so that I will be able to watch the latest TV series in the U.S.

INTERNET – ADJECTIVES

online

connected to or available through a computer or a computer network a With all the life insurance companies available online, it is not difficult to do an online life insurance comparison.

addictive

habit-forming, hard to break away from, easy to say yes to I choose very **addictive** games for download.

distracted

unable to concentrate or focus I am so easily **distracted**.

INTERNET – VERBS

to browse

to look for information on a computer, especially on the Internet It is possible to spend a whole evening **browsing** for the perfect movie.

to stay in touch

to stay connected Working from home, however, I can **stay in touch** by email or by phone, and make sure all the urgent tasks are accomplished.

to waste

to use more of something than is necessary, or to use it in a way that does not produce the best results Some people just can't resist **wasting** time on the Internet due to all the lucrative activities it provides.

3. WORD FORMATION

a subscriber

noun

The majority of Kyle Hanagami's YouTube **subscribers** are those who are interested in dancing.

to subscribe

verb

I saw an advertisement on the Internet, which entitles people of a freebie once they **subscribe to the service**.

to browse

verb

Starbucks offers free Wi-Fi, so you can **browse** the web while sipping your coffee.

a browser

noun

The most popular **browsers** that are used now are Google Chrome, Internet Explorer, Firefox and Opera.

a hacker

noun

A **hacker** is someone who uses a computer to access data, steal or change it without being authorized.

to hack

verb

They **hack** into banks and transfer tremendous amounts of cash into their personal accounts.

downloadable

adverb

If you need some teaching aids for your class, you can check some **downloadable** materials on the website I told you about.

to download

verb

You can also **download** nursery rhymes there.

4. COLLOCATIONS AND PHRASES

high-speed
free
accessible

adjective +

Internet

create
set up
form
make
build up

verb +

network

electronic
national
international
foreign
mass
broadcasting

adjective +

media

a lack of
channels of
lines of
a means of

noun + of +

communication

live
mass
musical

adjective +

entertainment

5. USEFUL RESOURCES

THIS TOPIC ON IELTS BLOGS

- [IELTS Topic Vocabulary for Speaking test: The Internet \[thetesttaker.com\]](#)
- [IELTS Speaking Part 3: How will the Internet affect our lives? \[ielts-simon.com\]](#)

PODCASTS

- [Our Obsession With Our Devices](#)

ARTICLES

- [How Much Time Do You Spend Online Per Day? \[quora.com\]](#)
- [28% of Time Spent Online is Social Networking \[adweek.com\]](#)

VIDEOS

- [This is What Happens When You Reply to Spam Email \[ted\]](#)
- [Learn English - Internet Vocabulary \[engVid\]](#)

- [IELTS SPEAKING SAMPLE ANSWER # INTERNET \[ieltsband7.com\]](#)

- [6 Minute English. Is the internet good or bad? \[bbc\]](#)

- [Should the net be regulated like drugs or casinos? \[quora.com\]](#)

- [How I turn negative online comments into positive offline conversations \[TED\]](#)

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