

TOPIC: **WORK**

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. Describe the company or organization you work for.

- I work for the Energy Development Corporation (EDC); it is a company that focuses on the development of renewable energy.

2. What is your position?

- I am part of the geophysical survey team, I am a geologist.

3. What are your responsibilities?

- Our team is **accountable for** identifying if a significant resource is present, as well as to collect and analyze samples within the area of research.

4. What do you like about your job?

- **The best thing about my job** is that I can travel and discover places in which I otherwise would not be able to see.

5. What do you dislike about your job?

- **Conducting projects** in far-flung areas means being away from my family for several days. Thus, I don't spend a lot of time with my wife and kids. I miss them so much.

6. How many hours do you work each day?

- When I am out in the **field work**, I spend several hours traveling to the area, then the survey usually lasts for a couple of days, and sometimes – even weeks. When there is no fieldwork, I usually work from 8 am to 5 pm at the office.

7. What would be your ideal job?

- My **ideal job** is be something that always brings something new to life, not a **repetitive monotonous work**. I am good at my **responsibilities**, but I also expect some pleasant moments at my **workplace**.

PART 2

**Describe the job you would like to have the most.
You should say:**

- **what this job would be**
- **where you would work**
- **which qualifications you would need and**
- **explain why you would like to have this job most.**

I must admit that I have realized one of my passions a little bit too late in life. Seems like I have always wanted to become a chef in a nice high-end restaurant. Eating food is great, isn't it? But the process of cooking food and the skill it requires to have is **what I find even more intriguing and fascinating.**

I could probably **enjoy working** and being trained in fine dining restaurants or some cruise ships that offer a variety of international dishes. I **would like to get to know** different cultures all over the world through food. I think it is one of the aspects that distinguishes countries.

To be able to be a chef, I need to have education in culinary arts. I also **need to undergo** a training in various restaurants to **be able to apply the knowledge** and information I obtained at school. A chef is **a highly creative person**, since one of his/her responsibilities is to arrange food with a final touch and think of its overall appealing look on the plate.

The kitchen is the only place I have ever felt like I really belong to. I love its heat and the pressure, apparently.

PART 3

1. Which jobs are the most respected in your country?

In my opinion, these are **highly-skilled professional careers** such as in the fields of law, medicine and engineering. Usually parents encourage their children to **undertake** such **careers**, because they are always a source of **nice salary** and peaceful life. Plus, to my opinion, being a doctor is a very **honourable craft**, as long as it implies helping people to **live happier life**.

2. Some people say it's better to work for yourself than be employed by a company. What's your view?

On this question, I agree with a Chinese billionaire Jack Ma. For young people, it is wiser **seek first employment** at a smaller company, because in a **big corporation** recent graduates frequently get lost in the large system and endless **repetitive tasks**, ending up unnoticed. At a **family-owned enterprise**, on the contrary, it is easier to seize opportunities and **take initiatives**. As one grows, it is important to focus on learning and developing hard skills. When there is a subjective border of learning reached, one might reconsider the career choice in favour of a more responsible place at a bigger corporation or even **entrepreneurship**.

3. What changes in employment have there been in recent years in your country?

There has been a rejuvenation of the “entrepreneurial spirit” in our country: more and more people become involved in **starting their own businesses**. The “start-up” community is now more alive than ever, even college students launch their **start-up businesses** while in a university. Even though there is a high failure rate of start-up businesses; people nevertheless are starting to take risk and put their ideas into creation.

2. KEY VOCABULARY

charge

a price asked for goods or services

You no longer need to worry for future **charges** from Audible and your membership is completely cancelled now.

loan

an amount of money borrowed from a bank

If you're looking for a **loan**, approach our local banks.

credit

money available for a client to borrow

Redland Bank will not normally give **credit** to applicants under 18 years old.

wealth

a large number of valuable things or money

Wealth is not the same thing as money.

savings

the money that you have saved

I don't have a strong view as to how you should diversify your **savings**.

to earn

to get money for work that you do

Indeed, up until recently the average English farmer **earned** £ 77 per week.

profit

financial gain, especially the difference between the amount earned and the amount spent in buying,

Typically, the higher the **profit** margin, the more the value.

operating, or producing something

finances

the money that an organization or person has

He refused to answer questions about his personal **finances**.

cost

an amount that has to be paid or spent to buy or obtain something.

Since 2004 the building has been boarded up so that the **cost** of refurbishing it has increased hugely.

discount

a reduction of the selling price of something or of the total cost of an invoice

I frequently ask for **discounts**.

refund

a repayment of a sum of money, typically to a dissatisfied customer

I have provided a **refund** of \$14.95 back to your credit card.

budget

the amount of money a person or company has for something or a plan describing expenditure

Robert Rodriguez first film, El Mariachi, was famously produced for a **budget** of \$7,000.

offer

an amount of money that someone is ready to pay for something

The creditors declined the **offer**, preferring to realize the estate themselves.

deposit

a sum of money that you pay upfront to prove that you will buy something

No **deposit** is necessary and no payments need to be made during the first year of the agreement.

to spend

to use your money to pay for something

Managers are often wary about **spending** money on flat-screen monitors.

worth [adj]

used to describe that something has value especially in money

She received a year's membership **worth** £200 at Lifestyle Fitness Suite at Riversdale.

income

money received for goods or services or coming from other sources as for instance, investments

There are many ways to create a second source of **income**.

expense

the money spent on something

What are the living **expenses** in Sydney?

prosperity

the state of being wealthy and having everything that you need for good life

It is a fallacy (a mistaken belief) that obtaining a degree will inevitably result in a successful career and guaranteed **prosperity**.

luxury

expensive things that you enjoy but do not really need

Not only is it possible to live without **luxury**, in fact, the majority of people in the world do.

afford

have enough money to pay for to buy something

We could not **afford** the house with a large studio.

loss

the fact of losing something or you have less of something than you had before

First Bank does not expect any **loss** of revenue from the deal.

payment

a sum of money paid in

Card **payments** accounted for \$12 trillion

	exchange for goods or services	globally in 2013.
revenue	income generated by selling goods and services.	Everbrite reported \$760 million in gross revenue in 2012.
mortgage	a legal agreement in which you borrow money from a bank	You don't truly own the house until you've paid off your mortgage .
downturn	a decline in economic, business, or other activity	Oil industry downturn is nothing new, it's always comes in cycle.
bankrupt	a person or company who is unable to pay for debts because they have no money	Once you are bankrupt , your unsecured creditors will cease to contact you.
bargain	a thing bought or offered for sale cheaper than is usual or expected	He is proud of his ability to spot a bargain .
expenditure	amount of money spent by someone (person, company, government)	The cost of government expenditures is covered by taxes or increasing the money supply.
salary	monthly (yearly) payment that you earn from your job	What is your monthly salary ?
debt	something, typically money, that is owed	Debt matters if it is too large compared to assets and income.

to withdraw

remove (money) from a place of deposit

You have got not enough funds to **withdraw** this amount.

lend

grant to (someone) the use of (something) on the understanding that it shall be returned

She can only **lend** the book once, for a two-week period.

purchase

the action of buying something

The **purchase** can be made online.

accumulate

gather together or acquire an increasing number or quantity of

Nikson says he began **accumulating** his fortune in 1952, when his father, an advertising executive, gave him \$5 for his fifth birthday.

allocate

distribute (resources or duties) for a particular purpose

The city government has **allocated** substantial funding in recent years for afforestation to control air pollution.

commodity

raw material or primary agricultural product to be bought and sold

Russia's economic crisis has been exacerbated by the drop in the world prices for oil, its main export **commodity**.

compensate

give (someone) something, typically money, in recognition of loss,

The French government will also sign an accord with insurance companies to **compensate** victims of school violence.

suffering, or injury incurred;
recompense

decline

a gradual and continuous
loss of strength, numbers,
quality, or value

The market suffered its worst **decline** in 2013.

incentive

a thing that motivates or
encourages one to do
something

Economic **incentives** provide you the motivation to pursue your goals.

lease

a contract by which one
party conveys land,
property, services, etc., to
another for a specified time,
usually in return for a
periodic payment

The closer you are to the end of your **lease**, the more flexible your landlord is likely to be.

margin

the difference which exists
between net sales and the
cost of merchandise sold
and from which expenses
are usually met or profit
derived

The gross **margin** actually just turned positive for the first time in 2014.

merchant

a person or company involved in wholesale trade, especially one dealing with foreign countries or supplying merchandise to a particular trade

As a small **merchant**, you can sell not only on Amazon or eBay, but also on other major marketplaces.

manufacturer

a person or company that makes goods for sale

We supply, install and configure computers from leading **manufacturers**.

financial reward

money, given in recognition of one's service, effort, work or achievement

As a charity, we do not get any **financial reward** for our work.

affluent

(formal) having a lot of money and a good standard of living; wealthy

My retirement income in the UK gave us a comfortable but certainly not **affluent** lifestyle.

3. WORD FORMATION

charge	noun	Price for delivery is included in the charge for each sandwich.
to charge	verb	You can charge any rent you agree with the tenant on.
free of charge	phrase	What's the best free-of-charge software for making an org chart?
investments	noun	My firm, GMD Partners, has 25% of our total investments in the financial services sector.
to invest	verb	When you can't keep savings in the form of money, you invest them in something that will produce value in the future.
wealth	noun	Wealth is not the same thing as money.
wealthy	adjective	Not all Chinese Indonesians are wealthy , only a fraction of them are.
to earn	verb	Indeed, up until recently the average English farmer earned £ 77 per week.

earnings	noun	House prices are rising faster than earnings .
save money	verb	You do not have to purchase everything, you ought to to be smart and save money .
savings	noun	Not having a car is a huge source for money savings .
profit	noun	Typically, the higher the profit margin, the more the value.
to profit	verb	An exposure would profit me indirectly to a considerable extent.
profitable	adjective	Udemy is a profitable business model.
finances	noun	He refused to answer questions about his personal finances .
financial	verb	If you are looking for some financial advice, start off by talking to close friends or family members.
cost	noun	Since 2004 the building has been boarded up so that the cost of refurbishing it has increased hugely.
to cost	verb	A home computer will cost you anywhere between \$500 and \$1000.

cost-effective

adjective

The most **cost-effective** way to ship books is actually by using a Print on Demand (POD) printer.

it will cost you nothing

phrase

Greet people with a smile, it will cost you nothing, but it may bring positivity to someone else.

budget

noun

El Mariachi, was famously produced for a **budget** of \$7,000.

to budget

verb

Do you need any advice on dealing with debt and how **to budget**?

offer

noun

The creditors declined the **offer**, preferring to realize the estate themselves.

to offer

verb

We can **offer** help and advice in the search for other posts

deposit

noun

While planning an investment, it can be difficult to choose between a fixed and recurring **deposit**.

to spend

verb

You don't have to **spend** a fortune to look good.

spending

noun

In that period, public **spending** will rise by 5.9% per year on average.

prosperity

noun

It is a fallacy (a mistaken belief) that obtaining a

		degree will inevitably result in a successful career and guaranteed prosperity .
to prosper	verb	Britain is the kind of society that can prosper best from globalization.
prosperous	adjective	Provinces in the Eastern China, a comparatively prosperous region, have also directed large amount of funds into provinces in the Southwest China.
luxurious	adjective	The most luxurious honeymoon destination is Vamizi Island.
luxury	noun	The Ronam costs fifty thousand pounds a year to run, and the Tory administration believes this to be a luxury it cannot afford.
to afford	verb	We couldn't afford the house with a large studio.
affordable	adjective	All web-based small business accounting software is affordable .
loss	noun	First Bank does not expect any loss in revenue from the deal.
make a profit or make a loss	phrase	The fact that most apps make a loss proves that they are mostly wrong.
purchase	noun	We want all of our customers to be completely satisfied with their purchases .

to purchase

verb

There are a set of signs people use to identify intent for **purchase**.

to compensate

verb

The French government will also sign an accord with insurance companies to **compensate** victims of school violence.

compensation

noun

Currently only 6 out of 10 offenders ordered by the courts pay **compensation** to victims.

4. COLLOCATIONS

reasonable
small
fixed
standard
total
annual
daily,

adjective+

charge

at a
for a
on

preposition+

charge

be willing to
look to
plan to
seek to

verb+

invest

big
good

adjective+

profit

greater
high
huge
record
substantial
low
modest
small

bring (in)
earn
generate
make
realize
reap

verb+

profit

margin, rate

profit+noun

profit

big
easy
government, public, taxpayers'

adjective+

money

amount, sum

+of+money

money

get out, take out
withdraw
lose, run out of, spend
waste
invest

verb+

money

tuition, membership, school
entry, entrance, admission, cancellation,
booking

+fee

fee

high
low
additional, extra
estimated
real | annual, monthly
fixed

adjective+

cost

bear, cover, meet, pay
increase, push up
bring down, cut, lower, reduce | keep
down
estimate
calculate

verb+

cost

an increase/a reduction in cost, at no
extra cost
cost of living
at a cost of \$10/\$100

phrase

cost

labour/transport/legal

noun+cost

cost

accept
reject
turn down

verb+

offer

acceptable
attractive
fair
favourable
reasonable
tempting

adjective+

offer

high
steep
low
bargain
attractive
fair
reasonable
right

adjective+

price

good
average
asking
purchase
retail
sale
selling
market

adjective+

price

consumer
commodity
food

adjective +

price

house
land
property
share
electricity
energy
fuel
oil

go for
quote sb
charge
increase,
raise
cut
lower

verb+

price

increase in
rise in
a drop/a fall/a reduction in price
pay a heavy price (for sth)

phrase

price

go up, rise, skyrocket
drop, fall, go down,

price+verb

price

go from ... to ... , range from ... to ... ,
start at

verb+

price

level
range

price+noun

price

above-average, high, large
sufficient
average

adjective+

income

future
permanent
secure
regular
steady
annual
monthly
weekly
national
per capita

adjective+

income

family
household
gross
net

adjective+

income

have
receive
earn
generate,
boost
increase

verb+

income

monthly
weekly
high

noun +

pay

low
poor
full

holiday
maternity
overtime
sick

pay
cheque
packet
slip
increase
rise
cut

negotiations
agreement
award
deal
offer

a cut/an increase/a reduction in pay

adjective+

pay + noun

adjective+

phrase + in pay

pay

pay

pay

pay

5. USEFUL RESOURCES

THIS TOPIC ON IELTS BLOGS

- [IELTS Speaking Part 1: "work" topic \[ielts-simon.com\]](#)
- [IELTS Speaking Practice: Work - part 1, 2 and 3 sample questions \[ielts-academic.com\]](#)
- [IELTS Work Vocabulary \[ieltsspeaking.co.uk\]](#)
- [IELTS Speaking: Job \[ielts-exam.net\]](#)

PODCASTS

- [How Can A Monotonous Job Be Meaningful? \[npr.org\]](#)
- [TAS 125: \(Success Leaves Cues\) Scott's Complete Story and Path of Becoming an Entrepreneur \[theamazingseller.com\]](#)

- [48 Days To The Work You Love \[gspn.tv\]](#)

ARTICLES

- [I'm not very smart, but I work extremely hard. Will I be able to succeed ? \[quora.com\]](#)
- [What do you do when you oversleep for work? Take urgent leave? \[quora.com\]](#)

VIDEO

- [Nigel Marsh : How to Make Work-life Balance Work \[TED](#)

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- [Scott Dinsmore: How To Find Work You Love \[TED](#)

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