TOPIC: TRAVEL

Sample answers, useful vocabulary and resources for IELTS speaking exam

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1 SAMPLE ANSWERS
   Sample questions and answers from speaking part 1, 2 and 3.

2 KEY VOCABULARY
   Words and terms frequently used when talking about travel.

3 WORD FORMATION
   Learn how to use a wide variety of parts of speech, such as nouns, verbs, adjectives.

4 COLLOCATIONS
   Find out groups of words that are usually used together by native speakers.

5 USEFUL RESOURCES
   References to teaching and authentic materials related to this topic: IELTS blogs, podcasts, videos and articles.
1. Do you like to travel?
   - Yes, I do. I am keen on broading my horizons and there is nothing that helps to do it more comprehensively than travelling.

2. What kind of places have you visited in your life?
   - Sadly, I didn’t get to see many destinations inside and outside of my native country. I have traveled a bit in the South of Russia and went to see parts of Switzerland, Italy, France, Ukraine, Serbia, Belarus and Germany.

3. Which place would you really like to visit? Why?
   - I had first thought about this when I was in middle school, much before I first left Russia. I remember seeing Machu-Pikchu in one of our books about nature and falling in love with it. Since then, I have always wanted to go to Peru and this old Inks city.

4. What’s the best place you’ve ever visited?
   - The city that has really astonished me with its beautiful architecture and history was Paris. This is not only the capital of culture, economics and education, but also the place full of vivid art and romance.

5. How do you prefer to travel on long journeys?
   - When it takes a lot of time to get to a destination, I definitely prefer to travel by a sleeping train. These are trains with comfortable beds where it’s possible to relax and recharge before reaching new places.
Describe an interesting journey you have been on. You should say:

• where you went
• how you travelled there
• who you went with

and explain what was so memorable about the journey

One of my favourite trips is the one I did in March to Paris. There is a peculiar thing about me - I don’t like travelling without a clear purpose. I would rather go to a conference abroad than just fly to another country with no purpose other than wandering streets. So, this is exactly what happened on my journey to France. I was invited to attend a 3-days workshop on corporate mergers and acquisitions with BCG that stands for Boston Consulting Group.

The hosting company paid all my expenses including a round flight to Paris, however I had a hard time receiving a visa, so I had to reschedule initial itineraries. After I finally landed in the French capital, a transfer driver picked me up and drove to a chateau, which turned out to be a beautiful countryside hotel set up in an old mansion.

There was not only me, but also 50 other young people - students from the best European universities. The acceptance rate to this annual event is only 4%, so I felt very privileged to be there. I have not only made friends from all over the world, but also solved a real-life business case where we had to value and sell a company, presenting the strategy to the management board afterwards. And the best final part of the event was a sight-seeing trip around Paris, where I admired the Eiffel Tower, the Notre Dame de Paris, and many other breathtaking cathedrals and palaces that France is so famous for.
PART 3

1. Which method of travel do you consider safest?

Well, in my opinion, travelling by train is the safest. So far, it has been the means of transportation that is the least prone to accidents. Since it runs along its own railway, it is not very likely for two trains to crash. I reckon, most accidents that happen with trains are due to mechanical or technical issues which could be avoided if the system is checked and monitored properly.

2. Has travel become safer in recent years?

Yes, I believe so. The modern technological progress allows for constant improvement of transportation quality, especially because the demand for journeys is rising. This is due to the ability to use enhanced materials that can endure higher loads and tougher exploitation conditions. Another breakthrough is the Artificial Intelligence solutions that make transport more reliable - it is able to predict accidents, crashes and break-downs.

3. What are the pros and cons of low-cost air travel?

Low-cost air travel allows people with budget constraints to cover long distances in short periods of time. However, when travelling on board of low-costers one should remember that they trade their comfort for cheap tickets. Usually, meals and baggage fees are not included into initial price. Planes might be old and seats may not be that comfortable. There is also a possibility of poor customer service on board.
### 2. KEY VOCABULARY

#### TRAVEL – BY AIR

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<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Definition</th>
<th>Example</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>an airport</td>
<td>a place aircraft flights run to and from</td>
<td>Every city that starts quick growth needs a proper <strong>airport</strong>.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>to take off</td>
<td>the action of becoming airborne</td>
<td>The plane that is about to <strong>take off</strong> from Nice heads to London.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a plane</td>
<td>an airplane</td>
<td>All <strong>planes</strong> of our airline are properly checked every week.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>to land</td>
<td>come down through the air and alight on the ground</td>
<td>The plane <strong>landed</strong> safely with the only remaining engine.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>low-cost air travel</td>
<td>travel via an airline that generally offers lower fares and fewer comforts</td>
<td>Bradford International Airport is served by many operators including <strong>low-cost airlines</strong>.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>check-in</td>
<td>the place where travellers report to on arrival at the airport</td>
<td>It is possible to <strong>check-in</strong> on your own if you travel with a <strong>carry-on</strong> only.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a carry-on</td>
<td>a small suitcase that is carried on board of planes</td>
<td>I try to go on business trips with <strong>a carry-on</strong> only.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<tr>
<td>a voyage</td>
<td>a long journey usually involving travel by sea</td>
<td>Tasman made several voyages to the Far East.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a ship</td>
<td>a large boat that carries passengers or goods by sea</td>
<td>The wooden ship took fifteen days to arrive to America.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>to sail</td>
<td>to travel in a boat with sails, especially as a sport or recreation</td>
<td>There are many lakes and rivers where you may fish, canoe or sail.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a sailboat</td>
<td>a boat propelled by sails</td>
<td>I have a 30-foot cruising sailboat.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a port</td>
<td>a town or city with a harbor where ships load or unload</td>
<td>Because our town is a port, and because it has two rivers, there are often many people from other countries here.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a ferry</td>
<td>a boat or ship for conveying passengers and goods, especially over a relatively short distance and as a regular service</td>
<td>We caught the overnight ferry from Belfast to Birkenhead.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a cruise-ship</td>
<td>a passenger ship used for pleasure voyages</td>
<td>The distinction between ocean liners and cruise ships has blurred over years.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a boat</td>
<td>a small vessel propelled on water by oars, sails, or an engine</td>
<td>There is also boats available for hire.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
TRAVEL – BY LAND

a subway
an underground railway system
The New York City’s subway system is one of the world’s largest.

an underground
an underground railway system
The Moscow’s underground is like a moving public thoroughfare.

the tube
the underground system in London
The house is located in a quiet residential area close to the tube.

a train
a series of connected railway vehicles pulled by a locomotive
London is 80 minutes away by shuttle service, with trains every 30 minutes.

traffic
vehicles moving on roads
Summer holidays often mean hours stuck in traffic in a hot car.

a road
a path for vehicles to drive on
Follow the road down to Clanbrassil Street.

a railway
a track made of parallel bars on which trains run
Probably the most famous landmark along the railway is Ribblehead Viaduct with its 24 arches.

TRAVEL – VACATION

a hike
a walk outdoors for pleasure
Take a hike on some of these tracks.

a camp
a place with tents or other shelters for people holidaying or travelling
The tour involves staying in camps in the mountains.
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<td>a vacation</td>
<td>a period of time away from work, especially in which one travels; holiday</td>
<td>We found that people were taking fewer <strong>vacations</strong> and spending more time in one destination.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a trip</td>
<td>a journey or visit somewhere</td>
<td>My wife Jen and I visited Borneo in March 2004, as a part of a longer <strong>trip</strong> including visits to Thailand and Nepal.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a travel agent</td>
<td>the person working in company that provides travel and tourism related services to the public</td>
<td>Travelers really need <strong>travel agents</strong> to arrange complex trips.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a travel</td>
<td>the action of traveling, typically abroad</td>
<td>International <strong>travel</strong> was catastrophically affected by the September 11th attacks on New York.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a tourist</td>
<td>a person who is traveling or visiting a place for pleasure</td>
<td>Many areas have important natural features which serve to attract tourists.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a tour</td>
<td>a visit around a place or several places, usually for the purpose of pleasure/tourism</td>
<td>It is more common to see elderly going on <strong>tours</strong> as a main retirement activity.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a suitcase</td>
<td>a case with a handle and a hinged lid, used for carrying clothes and other personal possessions</td>
<td>She has a whole <strong>suitcase</strong> of shoes.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sightseeing</td>
<td>the activity of visiting places of interest as a tourist</td>
<td>The group members took us <strong>sightseeing</strong> in the Yellowstone National Park.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a route</td>
<td>a way or course taken in getting from a starting point to a destination</td>
<td>The driver must take you to your destination following the shortest possible <strong>route</strong>.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<tr>
<td>a passenger</td>
<td>somebody who travels in a vehicle, aircraft, train, or vessel but is not the driver or a member of its crew</td>
<td>Railway passengers in Germany have to deal with unreliable timetables.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a motel</td>
<td>a roadside hotel designed primarily for motorists</td>
<td>We found a nice motel on the other side of Mississippi.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>luggage</td>
<td>suitcases and bags used when travelling</td>
<td>He has no luggage, no passport, just the clothes on his back.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a journey</td>
<td>a trip from one place to another</td>
<td>How long is the train journey?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a hotel</td>
<td>an establishment providing accommodations, meals, and other services for travelers and tourists</td>
<td>We will make all your hotel bookings and arrange the tour for you.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a hostel</td>
<td>cheap hotel</td>
<td>It is widely known the fact that hostels are cheaper than hotels.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>to book</td>
<td>to make a reservation or registration</td>
<td>During the course of one week four hundred guests were booked into a hotel.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>an excursion</td>
<td>an organized trip, often one that is part of a holiday a leisure activity</td>
<td>During the trip the pupils will go on several excursions.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a destination</td>
<td>the place where someone or something is going</td>
<td>It took us five days to reach our destination, Ban Pong, 30 miles north of Bangkok.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>to go abroad</td>
<td>to visit a foreign country or countries</td>
<td>Many youngsters dream to go abroad.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a ticket</td>
<td>a piece of paper or small card that gives the holder a certain right, especially to enter a place, travel by public transport, or participate in an event</td>
<td>There is no booking fee when you buy tickets in person at galleries.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
a guide | a person who shows others the way
locals | a person who lives in the surrounding area

He began his journey to the ruin of ancient Loulan City, accompanied by five cameramen and two local guides.

Talking with locals is a great way of really getting to know a new place.

In the Chinese countryside nobody seems to know where anything is.

Stav and I are off to Sharm to go scuba diving and lounging around in the sun.

Touring motorcyclists are not supposed to get lost.

countryside | the land and scenery of a rural area

To get lost

tropical islands | Islands with extremely hot climate, situated in the regions of the world that lie between the tropics

TRAVEL – ADJECTIVES

adventure activities | all activities that happen during an exiting trip

I will never forget incredible adventure activities we experienced during the trip.

indigenous peoples | first peoples, aboriginal, native peoples, occurring naturally in a particular place

New Zealand recognises its indigenous peoples in its constitution.

dangerous places | hazardous places, likely to cause harm

It’s a good idea to know how to behave and what not to do when traveling to dangerous places.

tropical islands | Great Barrier Reef is the world's largest reef covered with hundreds of unique tropical islands.
<table>
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<th>Word</th>
<th>Definition</th>
<th>Sentence</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>exciting</td>
<td>causing one to feel great enthusiasm and eagerness</td>
<td>Nottingham is a vibrant and <strong>exciting</strong> city, recently voted the third best shopping city in the UK.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>fantastic</td>
<td>extraordinarily good or attractive</td>
<td>Head all the way to the top for a <strong>fantastic</strong> view of the city.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>foreign</td>
<td>from, in, characteristic of or of another country</td>
<td>He has a slightly <strong>foreign</strong> accent to his language.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>overseas</td>
<td>from, to, or relating to a foreign country, especially one across the sea</td>
<td>Earnings from <strong>overseas</strong> visitors contributed more than £3 billion to the economy.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>memorable</td>
<td>noteworthy or pleasurable and therefore likely to be remembered</td>
<td>At any time of year, a visit to Durlston is a <strong>memorable</strong> experience.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cross-country</td>
<td>across a region or country</td>
<td><strong>Cross-country</strong> travels allow you to see the beauty of this country.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tiring</td>
<td>making one feel tired</td>
<td>It has been a <strong>tiring</strong> journey, and I shall sleep well tonight.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pleasant</td>
<td>giving a sense of happy satisfaction or enjoyment</td>
<td>In the afternoon we took a walk - just long enough to feel <strong>pleasant</strong> tiredness.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**3. WORD FORMATION**

- **a check-in** (noun) Don’t forget that a self check-in is available to you.
- **to check-in** (verb) You can now check-in online via the airline website.
- **a hike** (noun) Take a hike on some of these tracks.
- **hiking** (gerund) I am a teacher in a local high school and my hobbies include hiking and photography.
- **to travel** (verb) As you travel the mountain roads look out for the monuments of 1944.
- **travel** (noun) International travel was catastrophically affected by the September 11th attacks on New York.
- **safety** (noun) When travelling near crocodile habitats, observe safety signs and don’t swim in rivers.
- **safe** (adjective) Australians experience a safe lifestyle.
4. COLLOCATIONS AND PHRASES

to come by

to go by

to travel by

It's two hours by

take

take by

travel by

catch

get

miss

wait for

run for

board

get on

hop on

jump aboard/on

get of

verb+by+

ship

verb+

train
catch  
get  
take  
miss  
board,  
get on  
get off  
step off  
go by  
go on  
take  
travel by  
run for  
catch  
get  
miss  
board  
get on/onto

plane

verb+

bus

verb+
air
bus
car
coach
rail
sea
train
foreign
international
overseas
world
long-distance
business
leisure
cheap
risk
agency
business
compamy
firm
industry
arrangements
plans
allowance
costs
expenses
insurance
be able/unable to
be free to
want to, wish to
be forced to
have to

verb+

travel

long
short
bus
car
railway
train
comfortable
easy
pleasant
safe
arduous
hard
tiring
dangerous
cross-country
epic

adjective+

journey
extended
long
quick
overnight
weekend
annual
forthcoming
fantastic
great
memorable
round
foreign
overseas
round-the-world
European
shopping
sightseeing

adjective+

trip
5. USEFUL RESOURCES

THIS TOPIC ON IELTS BLOGS

- IELTS topic vocabulary for speaking test: Travel [thetesttaker.com]
- Holiday Vocabulary [ieltsspeaking.co.uk]
- IELTS Speaking Vocabulary. Travel & Holidays [ielts-up.com]

PODCASTS

- Useful Expressions for Travelling [teacherluke.co.uk]
- Flight Stories [teacherluke.co.uk]
- Travelling in Indonesia (Part 1) [teacherluke.co.uk]
- Podcast 46 – Air Travel in Australia [slowenglish.info]
- The point and the pleasure of travel Excess Baggage [bbc.co.uk]

ARTICLES

- What it is like to quit your job and travel the world? [quora.com]
LOOKING FOR ENGLISH TUTOR TO PREPARE FOR IELTS SPEAKING EXAM?

VISIT: YOUTUBE.COM/DARIANSANDMARTIN

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