

Prepare for {IELTS}

Part 1 – Pens and Pencils

Do you usually use a pen or a pencil?

I'd say, nine times out of ten*, I use a pen, but if I was drawing something, then I'd use a pencil because you can rub out/erase any mistakes/errors.

*nine times out of ten = on nearly every occasion; nearly every time

Which do you use more often?

On the whole, I use a pen much more frequently than a pencil because you have to sharpen a pencil so you need a pencil sharpener and I don't always have one with me.

When was the last time you bought a pen or pencil?

Off the top of my head*, I can't honestly remember. I tend to get freebies** when I'm staying in a hotel or in a meeting so I haven't bought one in ages.

*off the top of my head = If you say something off the top of your head, you say it without thinking about it much before you speak, especially because you do not have enough time

**freebies = a thing that is provided or given free of charge

What do you think if someone gives you a gift of a pen or pencil?

Look, it's the thought that counts*** so I appreciate any present I am given. And you can never have too many pens and pencils.

***it's the thought that counts = used to say that you are grateful for a gift from someone even though it is small or unimportant