

IELTS SPEAKING BAND DESCRIPTORS

Band	Fluency & Coherence	Lexical Resource	Grammatical Range and Accuracy	Pronunciation
9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> speaks fluently with only rare repetition or self-correction any hesitation is content-related rather than to find words or grammar speaks coherently with fully appropriate cohesive features develops topics fully and appropriately 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> uses vocabulary with full flexibility and precision in all topics uses idiomatic language naturally and accurately 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> uses a full range of structures naturally and appropriately produces consistently accurate structures apart from 'slips' characteristic of native speaker speech 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> uses a full range of pronunciation features with precision and subtlety sustains flexible use of features throughout is effortless to understand
8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> speaks fluently with only occasional repetition or self correction; hesitation is usually content-related and only rarely to search for language develops topics coherently and appropriately 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> uses a wide vocabulary resource readily and flexibly to convey precise meaning uses less common and idiomatic vocabulary skilfully, with occasional inaccuracies uses paraphrase effectively as required 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> uses a wide range of structures flexibly produces a majority of error-free sentences with only very occasional inappropriacies or basic/non-systematic errors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> uses a wide range of pronunciation features sustains flexible use of features, with only occasional lapses is easy to understand throughout; L1 accent has minimal effect on intelligibility
7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> speaks at length without noticeable effort or loss of coherence may demonstrate language-related hesitation at times, or some repetition and/or self-correction uses a range of connectives and discourse markers with some flexibility 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> uses vocabulary resource flexibly to discuss a variety of topics uses some less common and idiomatic vocabulary and shows some awareness of style and collocation, with some inappropriate choices uses paraphrase effectively 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> uses a range of complex structures with some flexibility frequently produces error-free sentences, though some grammatical mistakes persist 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> shows all the positive features of Band 6 and some, but not all, of the positive features of Band 8

IELTS SPEAKING BAND DESCRIPTORS

Band	Fluency & Coherence	Lexical Resource	Grammatical Range and Accuracy	Pronunciation
6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> is willing to speak at length, though may lose coherence at times due to occasional repetition, self-correction or hesitation uses a range of connectives and discourse markers but not always appropriately 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> has a wide enough vocabulary to discuss topics at length and make meaning clear in spite of inappropriacies generally paraphrases successfully 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> uses a mix of simple and complex structures, but with limited flexibility may make frequent mistakes with complex structures though these rarely cause comprehension problems 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> uses a range of pronunciation features with mixed control shows some effective use of features but this is not sustained can generally be understood throughout, though mispronunciation of individual words or sounds reduces clarity at times
5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> usually maintains flow of speech but uses repetition, self correction and/or slow speech to keep going may over-use certain connectives and discourse markers produces simple speech fluently, but more complex communication causes fluency problems 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> manages to talk about familiar and unfamiliar topics but uses vocabulary with limited flexibility attempts to use paraphrase but with mixed success 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> produces basic sentence forms with reasonable accuracy uses a limited range of more complex structures, but these usually contain errors and may cause some comprehension problems 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> shows all the positive features of Band 4 and some, but not all, of the positive features of Band 6
4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> cannot respond without noticeable pauses and may speak slowly, with frequent repetition and self-correction links basic sentences but with repetitious use of simple connectives and some breakdowns in coherence 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> is able to talk about familiar topics but can only convey basic meaning on unfamiliar topics and makes frequent errors in word choice rarely attempts paraphrase 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> produces basic sentence forms and some correct simple sentences but subordinate structures are rare errors are frequent and may lead to misunderstanding 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> uses a limited range of pronunciation features attempts to control features but lapses are frequent mispronunciations are frequent and cause some difficulty for the listener

USING PARAPHRASE EFFECTIVELY

My hometown
is nice. It's
big and very
nice. I really
like it.



Prepare for {IELTS}

USING PARAPHRASE EFFECTIVELY

USEFUL PHRASES FOR IELTS

TO SAY HOW MUCH YOU AGREE OR DISAGREE WITH SOMETHING

I couldn't agree more

I wholeheartedly agree

I agree to a great extent

I agree to some extent

I completely disagree

I completely agree

I totally agree

I agree to a large extent

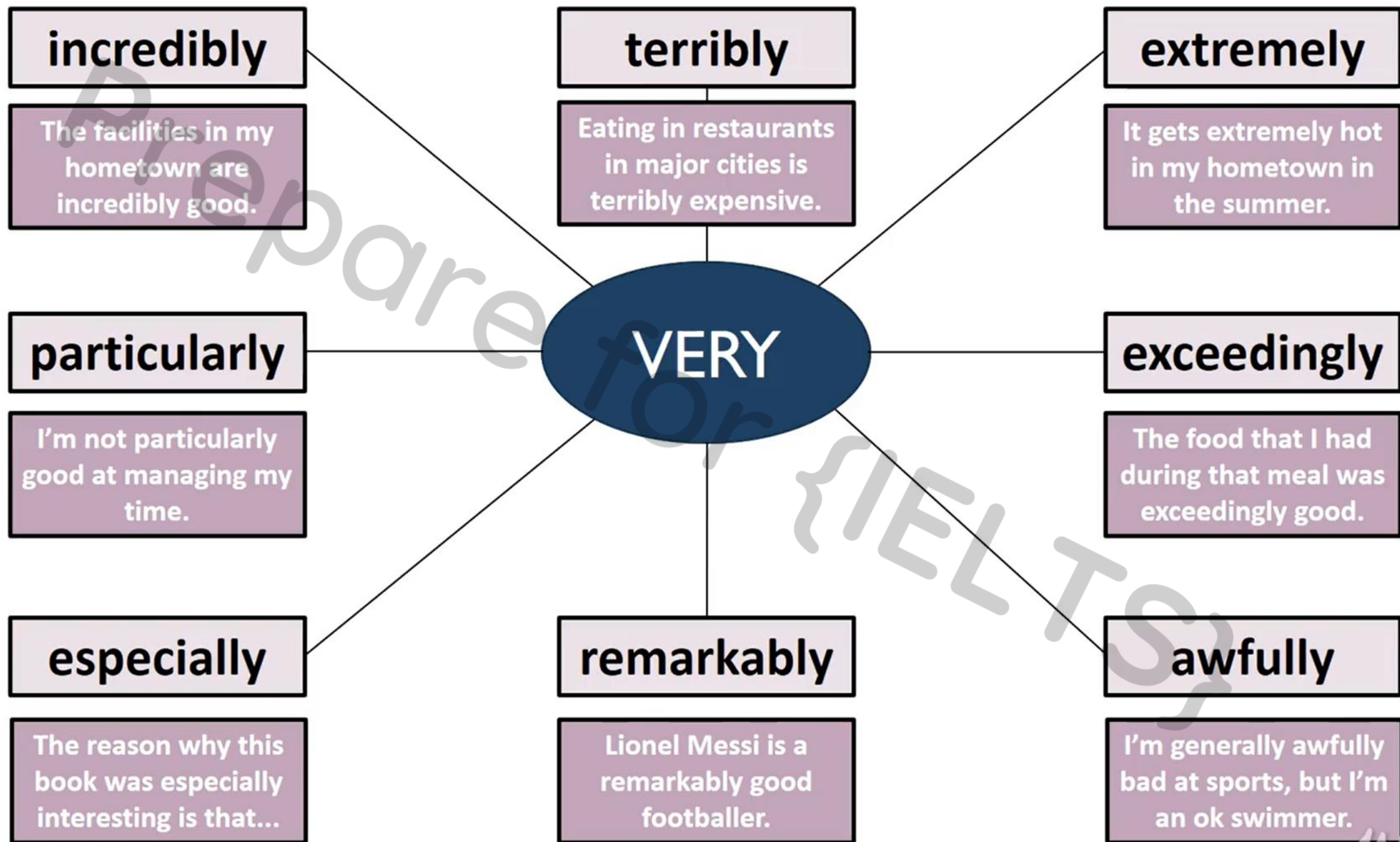
I partly agree

I disagree entirely

Yes, I agree that living in a city is better than living in the countryside.



Prepare for {IELTS}



HOW TO SAY 'I DON'T KNOW'

Do you know how to make a cake?

I'm not entirely sure how to make a cake because to be honest, it's not something I've ever done before... I suppose you need eggs, flour, butter and sugar and they are mixed together. Other than that, I don't really know.

HOW TO SAY 'I DON'T KNOW'

Why do you think rich people like to eat special foods?

I'm not sure how to answer that. It's not something I've ever thought about before... I guess they can afford special food and it tastes good. As I'm not a particularly wealthy person myself, it's hard for me to say.

HOW TO SAY 'I DON'T KNOW'

How has the food we eat changed in the last 50 years?

It's hard to say because I'm not particularly interested in food so it's not something I've given much thought to. I imagine it's not as healthy as before, **but I can't really give examples of how or why.**

USING COLLOCATIONS AND LESS COMMON VOCABULARY

Collocation	Meaning	Example
to be snowed under with	to have a lot of things to do	I'm snowed under with work at the moment so I don't go to the cinema much.
a distant memory	something that you cannot remember very well because it happened a long time ago	I have a distant memory of wanting to be a doctor when I was young.
vitaly important	very important	Being able to use a computer is vitaly important in this day and age,
a vivid memory	something you remember clearly	I have a vivid memory of visiting the museum on a school trip when I was in high school.
to think long and hard about something	to consider something for a long time	I thought long and hard about going abroad to study.

IDIOMS ABOUT PEOPLE

Idiom	Meaning	Example
To be a people person	Someone who is good with people	One of the reasons why he is so successful is that he is a people person.
To be head and shoulders above the rest	To be much better than everybody else	In the world of football, he is head and shoulders above the rest.
To be a charismatic leader	Someone who has an engaging persona	It is vitally important to be a charismatic leader and not just a good organiser of people.
To be full of beans	To be full of energy	My friend is always full of beans – day and night.
To be the life and soul of the party	To like having fun	I wouldn't describe myself as the life and soul of the party, as I am quite a shy person.