

IELTS Speaking – Topic 1.1: Education and Learning

Câu 1: Do you work or are you student?

“Well, actually, presently I’m still a student. Although I already graduated from University for a bachelor degree but I’m now still attending master at Central Queensland University in Australia.”

Trong câu này, thay vì chỉ trả lời đơn giản là “I am a student.” thì hãy thể hiện khả năng sử dụng ngôn ngữ tự nhiên bằng cách sử dụng các Linking Phrases/Words. Những cụm linking các bạn có thể dùng để bắt đầu một câu trả lời có thể là:

OK then...	Right, OK...
Alright...	Well...
Well, you know...	Well first of all...
Actually...	

Và hãy đừng dừng lại ở việc chỉ trả lời “Tôi là học sinh.” mà hãy phát triển nó ra ít nhất thêm 1, 2 ý nữa bằng cách nói đến việc mình đang học cái gì, học ở trường nào. Ở đây có một số từ vựng các bạn có thể áp dụng:

Graduate from	Tốt nghiệp từ trường nào
Bachelor Degree	Bằng đại học
Master Degree	Bằng thạc sỹ
Attend + Class/Subject/School	Tham gia học (Không có giới từ)

Nhưng cũng đừng đi xa quá, trả lời luôn là mình rất thích môn học này môn học kia, mình rất thích trường mình vì nhiều lý do... Các bạn chỉ nên dừng lại ở hai ý: Trả lời thẳng vào câu hỏi và một ý để làm rõ hơn cho câu trả lời của mình nhé.

Để ý thêm một chút sẽ thấy câu trả lời này gồm một cấu trúc ngữ pháp phức (Although...) để được cộng điểm phần Grammatical Range.

Câu 2: What subject are you studying?

“Well, you know, my major in University is International Business and now I’m pursuing Marketing for my Master degree.”

Tương tự như trên, mình cũng bắt đầu với một cụm Linking (Well, you know)

Về từ vựng, một số từ vựng mình sử dụng về lĩnh vực học:

Major (n, v) My major is English I'm majoring in English	Chuyên ngành
Pursue + Subjects	Theo đuổi, theo học

Về câu trả lời, câu này bạn có thể kết hợp với câu 4, sau khi trả lời ngành học của mình xong, nói luôn lý do tại sao mình học ngành đó nếu bạn thấy câu trả lời của mình quá cụt và ngắn. Nhưng như câu trả lời trên kia thì cũng đã đủ rồi. Quan trọng là cách bạn nói như thế nào thôi.

Câu 3: Why did you choose to study that?

“To be honest, I chose it simply because I have passion for it. As well as that, it’s practical and useful in getting a job coz many companies are interested in looking for the talented in Marketing, you know, to boost the images and brands of their company. So it can be said that, I will be given great opportunities if I become skilled in this area.”

Các bạn chú ý cách sử dụng Linking words trong câu trả lời (từ tô đậm)

Với câu hỏi Why? Hỏi về lý do, chắc hẳn bạn sẽ đưa ra trên 1 lý do nên việc biết và sử dụng những cụm Linking là rất quan trọng, không những giúp bạn nói tự nhiên hơn mà còn giúp bạn câu giờ, có thêm thời gian suy nghĩ ý tiếp theo. Dưới đây là một số cụm Linking có thể dùng khi miêu tả ý thứ 2:

Another point which I could add is that	On top of that I can also add that...
A second feature which I should mention is that...	Also, I suppose I should say that...
As well as that...	The second reason is...

Về cách trả lời, hãy nhanh chóng brainstorm ít nhất 2 lý do tại sao bạn lại chọn môn học đó (Passion + Easy to get a job). Trong đó hãy tập trung phân tích một lý do (Why is it easy to get a job?). Như vậy bạn sẽ không phải mất thời gian nghĩ ra nhiều ý để “fill” câu trả lời của mình nữa. Lúc này bạn cũng cho examiner thấy khả năng phát triển ý và cách sử dụng ngôn ngữ linh hoạt của mình.

Về từ vựng, một số từ vựng về lý do tại sao chọn ngành học này như sau:

– practical = hands on	Thực tế
– highly regarded	Được đánh giá cao
– become skilled in	Giỏi về, có kỹ năng về
– the talented	Người tài
– to boost st	Làm tăng, làm nổi bật

Câu 4 : Do you like your University?

“Well to be quite honest, in general I would say that I’m having so much fun in my Uni and it’s awesome. I guess this is probably because I’ve met so many great and diverse people from different countries so that I have chance to experience multicultural environment. In addition to that, I’m kind

of surprised about the campus's atmosphere, you know, not a big campus but cozy and you can find any support just right there, nearby your side. And all the facilities, student service... pretty much different from those I got from my previous Uni, just like they broaden my mind.”

Các bạn chú ý cách sử dụng Linking words trong câu trả lời (từ tô đậm)

Với dạng câu hỏi này, hãy trả lời câu hỏi và đưa ra 2-3 lý do cho câu trả lời, vậy là ok. Câu trả lời có thể là Yes, No hay Both nhưng việc đưa ra lý do là rất quan trọng. Đừng chỉ ra lời Yes, I like hay No, I don't like nhé. Hay một câu trả lời như thế này cũng sẽ không được đánh giá cao:

“Yes, I like my University because it's beautiful”. Đúng là bạn trả lời và đưa ra được lý do thật đấy nhưng nó chả thể hiện được khả năng ngôn ngữ gì của bạn cả và vì thế, bạn cũng sẽ không được điểm cao cho câu trả lời này.

Hãy bắt đầu bằng những cụm Linking:

Well in general I would say that...	Actually, I suppose that for the most part I'd probably say that...
Well, to be honest I should really say that...	Of course I think I'd have to say that...
Certainly I would definitely say that...	Well, I guess that generally speaking I would certainly say that...

Sau đó đưa ra lý do bằng các cụm:

And I guess this is probably because...	This could be because...
This might be because...	This is due to the fact that...
I suppose the reason has something to do with the fact that...	

Các lý do thứ 2,3 các bạn có thể tham khảo các mẫu Linking như câu trên.

Một số từ vựng thay thế cho từ Like khi nói về việc bạn có thích hay không?

I'm fairly/pretty keen on...	I'm really into...
I'm quite a big fan of...	I simply adore...
I'm quite enthusiastic about...	I generally prefer...

Những từ vựng này có thể sử dụng thay thế cho nhau và có thể dùng trong trường hợp câu 5.

Câu 5: Is there anything you don't like about your studies?

“Of course I think I'd have to say that I'm not so into the size of class in my Uni which is too big and sometime I cannot stand staying in a classroom that I can barely hear a word of my teacher. As well as that, different accents of lecturers are really challenging, especially to those who are not good at English at the beginning like me. And the last one that makes me feel not totally satisfied about my studies is that some of my subjects I just have to take for the credits and that gets a little tedious sometime.”

Các bạn chú ý cách sử dụng Linking words trong câu trả lời (từ tô đậm)

Hãy nhớ rằng, khi bạn trả lời bất kỳ câu hỏi nào, các ý của bạn thật rõ ràng là điều cực kỳ quan trọng. Phải chắc chắn rằng examiner biết được bạn đang nói mấy ý bằng cách bắt đầu bằng những từ chỉ đường (từ tô đậm). Ở trên mình nêu ra 3 ý rõ ràng và giải quyết từng ý một.

Nêu ý 1 (I'm not so into the size of class in my Uni which is too big.) + support kỹ ý 1 (Sometime I cannot stand staying in a classroom that I can barely hear a word of my teacher.)

Nêu ý 2 (Different accents of lecturers are really challenging.) + cụ thể ý 2 (Especially to those who are not good at English at the beginning like me.)

Nêu ý 3 (Some of my subjects I just have to take for the credits and that gets a little tedious sometime.)

Một số từ vựng:

credit tedious be into sb/st	Tín chi Buồn chán, nhàm chán Thích
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Câu 6: Which subject do you like the most?

“I guess I have to go for English. Probably because I am a big fan of American comedy so for some reasons, English comes easy to me and I think it reaches my full potential.”

Câu này tương tự với hai câu Liking phía trên, các bạn có thể xem lại.

Một số từ vựng:

go for I am a big fan of st comes easy to sb reach sb's full potential	Chọn Thích, rất thích Cái gì dễ dàng với ai Giúp ai bộc lộ khả năng, tiềm năng
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Câu 7: Which subject do you think will be the most useful to you after you leave university?

“I suppose my English class will be the most valuable one left for my university time. You know, to access to another top-notch knowledge and skills and have a chance in a well – known foreign business. Probably, 90% of what I have learned I’ll never use though, I guess.”

Cách trả lời tương tự, đưa ra câu trả lời + lý do lý giải câu trả lời đó

Từ vựng

Access Top-notch Well-known	Tiếp cận Tuyệt vời Nổi tiếng
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Một số từ vựng khác về chủ đề này các bạn có thể dùng cho câu trả lời riêng của mình. Các bạn hãy tự tra từ điển các từ này để biết nghĩa và cách đọc, cách phát âm của nó nhé. Hãy cố gắng đặt một câu với một từ, một câu có nghĩa nhé, không đặt đối phó!

Nouns

Schoolwork	Branch of learning	Field of study
Lecturer theory	Extracurricular activities	Faculty
Social skills	Life skills	Transferable Skills

Verbs

Revise	Comprehend	Succeed in	Sit an exam
Skip classes	Do badly in an exam	Develop talents and interests	

Adjectives

Job-related	Theoretical	Reputable	Supportive
Highly regarded	Compulsory	Optional	

Idioms

Pass with flying colours (= pass with a high score)	I pass my entrance exam with flying colours.
Sail through (= finish st. Easily and quickly)	I can usually sail through all my assessments.
To flunk (= to fail/perforM badly)	I always seem to flunk my compulsory maths tests.

Cross that bridge when sb. come to it (= deal with a problem when it arrives)

I'm not worried about that now, I'll cross that bridge when I come to it.

IELTS Education Vocabulary

Topic Vocabulary >> Lesson 6: Education

You're likely to be asked questions about your studies during Part 1, you might have to talk about a class, a teacher or a school memory in Part 2 or give your opinions on education in Part 3. Therefore, being able to call on a wide range of vocabulary to talk about education is very important.

Read the following IELTS-style questions and answers below and pay attention to the phrases in bold. Use the 'Definitions' section at the bottom of the page to check the meaning of any phrases you don't understand.

Part 1-style questions

Examiner: Are you studying English at a school?

Michel: Yes ... I'm taking an intensive course at a local private language school ... I attend classes three times a week ...

Examiner: Would you say you are a good student?

Susan: I'm OK I think ... I'm pretty good at meeting deadlines and I'm keeping up with my studies... plus I find it quite easy to learn things by heart which is useful when learning a language ...

Examiner: When you were younger did you enjoy your time at school?

Theo: Yes ... I liked school ... it was an ordinary state school ... nothing special ... a single-sex school ... which I'm not sure I liked ... but the teachers were great ... I had lots of friends and I never played truant like some pupils there ...

Part 2-style task

Describe a time during your education that you really enjoyed. You should say:

when this period was

where you were

what you were studying at the time

and say why you were so happy.

Caroline: I'd like to tell you about my time at university ... I was a mature student ... I didn't go to university until I was 25 ... and it was my first time away from my parents so it was very exciting ... I was doing a Bachelors Degree and it was a bit of a challenge ... some people take a year out but I'd

been away from education for 8 years ... plus I had to work my way through uni so I was very busy ... and sitting exams at the end of each year was a new experience for me as well but I really enjoyed higher education learning about a subject I loved ... history ... and the social life was great as well ... I don't think I've ever had so many friends ... I had my graduation ceremony last year in the local cathedral and I know my parents were really proud ... so yes ... that was a really happy time ... I'm thinking of doing a Masters Degree soon ... though that might be through distance learning as I have a full-time job now ...

Part 3-style questions

Examiner: What qualities do you think a good teacher has?

Anna: They should be patient ... they should be subject specialists and be able to explain the subject clearly ... they should give feedback quickly ... for example not hang on to essay for ages like some of my teachers ...

Examiner: What are the advantages of studying on a distance learning course?

Florrie: It's a more flexible way of studying especially if you have a job ... tuition fees are usually cheaper ... but you have to be very motivated ... and I would imagine more people fall behind with their studies compared to face-to-face classes ...

Examiner: Do all children get equal opportunities in education?

Julie: In my country I think it is quite equal but in the UK I've heard that most people who go to the top universities have studied at public schools ... you have to be very rich to study in a school like that ... they're usually boarding schools as well so the fees are enormous ...

Definitions

to attend classes: to go to classes

bachelors degree: an undergraduate course which usually lasts 3-4 years

boarding school: a school where pupils live during term time

distance learning: a way of studying where tuition is carried out over the Internet or by post

face-to-face classes: as opposed to distance learning the traditional way of studying in a classroom with colleagues and a teacher

to fall behind with your studies: to progress less quickly than others

to give feedback: to offer guidance on a student's work

a graduation ceremony: an event where a successful student receives his or her academic degree

higher education: education, usually in a college or university, that is followed after high school or secondary school

an intensive course: a course that offers lots of training in order to reach a goal in as short a time as possible

to keep up with your studies: to not fall behind

to learn something by heart: to memorize it

a mature student: a student who is older than average and who has usually returned to education after a period at work

masters degree: a period of study which often follows the completion of a bachelors degree or is undertaken by someone regarded as capable of a higher-level academic course

to meet a deadline: to finish a job or task in the time allowed or agreed

to play truant: to stay away from classes without permission

private language school: an independent school run as a business concern

public schools: exclusive independent schools in the UK

a single-sex school: a school where only boys or girls attend (as opposed to a mixed-sex school)

to sit an exam: to take an exam

state school: a school paid for by public funds and available to the general public

subject specialist: a teacher who has a great deal of knowledge about the subject they teach.

to take a year out: to spend a year working or travelling before starting university

tuition fees: the money paid for a course of study

to work your way through university: to have a paid job whilst studying to support yourself financially