IELTS

Speaking test video: examiner feedback

Part 1

Danielle is an extremely-able candidate who answers the questions in a measured manner. Although she always responds appropriately, her replies tend to be a little short and Part 1 is quite limited as a result. What she says is fluent, very natural and extremely accurate in lexical and grammatical terms but if she offered more in her responses, she would show her full range.

Her pronunciation is excellent, with good examples of stress and intonation throughout.

Tips for Part 1

- The first two or three questions of the interview are always on the subject of where you live or what you do or study. They are designed to help you relax and make a good start, so think about what you might say and practise saying it aloud.

- It is better to offer too much rather than too little. Remember the examiner cannot assess the language you know if you don't produce it during the test!

Part 2

Danielle covers all the prompts appropriately and fluently, and paints an excellent picture of her Christmas-card making as a child. Although she has to be asked to provide more, she does so readily and her performance overall is adequately extended.

Her language throughout is very impressive and her grammar is almost faultless. The lexical resource she displays is wide with some very idiomatic and less-common items appropriately used, *the first thing that came to mind*; *sticky bits*; *some kind of bird or puppies or whatever …*; *spending quality time together*; *a family tradition that's been passed down*.

She speaks in a measured manner, with excellent stress and intonation, and she can be understood throughout without any difficulty.

Tips for Part 2

- Try to give as much detail as you can about your topic. Paint a picture around the story or event that you have to describe to give it as much life and interest as possible.

- Don't worry if you don't finish what you were going to say. The examiner will stop you when the two minutes is up.

Part 3

Danielle answers all the questions in Part 3 thoughtfully and relevantly, with adequate extension.

She displays some very sophisticated and idiomatic lexical items but, on occasion, is a little hesitant when looking for both ideas and the appropriate language (for instance in the final exchange, when discussing the future of robots in manufacturing). Here we see there are limits to the appropriate vocabulary Danielle has in her resource.

In terms of grammar, Danielle's performance is very impressive with only a few non-systematic errors.

Her pronunciation is faultless throughout, with a very sophisticated use of stress and intonation.

Tips for Part 3

- Be eager to enter into a discussion and don't be afraid to disagree. You can use phrases like: *I don't agree with that completely because … or I don't really think that's true … I believe … .*

- Concentrate on the discussion and try to enjoy the subject. If you show interest, your language will be richer.

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Fluency and Coherence

Danielle is a quite a slow and measured speaker but she is fluent, with a very wide knowledge of the language. Danielle always answers the questions appropriately and relevantly but she could offer a little more at times.

Lexical Resource

Danielle's lexical resource is very wide and she uses a lot of very idiomatic and less-common items appropriately.

Grammatical Range and Accuracy

Danielle's knowledge of grammar is very impressive, *I've never been very good with numbers, but as soon as I get in the habit of typing something in, I can usually remember*. Although it's possible to find some non-systematic errors, these are few and far between and never impact on communication.

Pronunciation

Danielle's pronunciation is almost faultless, and she displays a highly sophisticated usage of stress and intonation, verging on native speaker standard.

Global comments

Danielle's performance is extremely impressive in all departments. Her knowledge of the language is clearly very high, but it is possible that she could impress even further if she offered just a little bit more.