

IELTS

Speaking test video: examiner feedback

Part 1

Manon answers all the questions steadily and appropriately, with adequate expansion. She is sensible not to speak too fast, especially at first, and soon begins to show her ability and range in English.

She shows a good degree of grammatical control and appropriate vocabulary when talking about familiar topics, *communication; events manager; my relatives; really struggled; statistics; hilly; facilities; bike paths; landscapes*.

As she relaxes, she produces some very natural spoken discourse markers, *As I said; No, not really; Why not, yes?*, and some good examples of stress and intonation.

Her pronunciation is generally clear, despite quite a strong Francophone accent and occasional slips with individual sounds, for example the omission of the initial 'h' in words such as *high* and *hasn't*.

Tips for Part 1

- Take your time, especially at the start of the interview. This will help you relax.
- Like Manon, a simple reply to 'Where you are from?' is fine. The examiner knows that a long response will be something you have rehearsed and so won't be a good indication of your ability.

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Part 2

Although the preparation of a recipe is unusual as an example of something 'made by hand', Manon's response is relevant and appropriate enough.

Again, she speaks slowly and steadily, making the most of her ability in the language. However, she runs out of material early, suggesting she may not have made notes on all the prompts or had focused on writing full sentences in the preparation time. Nevertheless, she resumes quickly and produces more relevant material when prompted.

Once more she displays good control of structure and a degree of complexity, *when I was a child, I used to spend a lot of time with my grandmother and we really liked to cook ... which is a famous breakfast in Belgium; and I think it's thanks to my grandmother ...*. She has an appropriate range of vocabulary, though it might be better if she had offered more.

There are good examples of stress and intonation in her delivery, and only occasional slips with individual sounds, *grundmother* (grandmother).

Tips for Part 2

- If you come to a stop, look again at the prompts in case you've missed one.
- Try not to use up all the material you've prepared in the first few sentences. Aim to expand on each of your notes as fully as possible before moving on to the next one.

Part 3

Manon answers all the questions relevantly but has a tendency to be repetitive, returning to the same ideas several times (cooking, local goods etc). As a result, we don't see if she is capable of a wider range of vocabulary or structure.

On several occasions she allows sentences to drift away with phrases such as *... or something like that ... or ... and stuff like that ...*, which indicate a limited lexical resource.

Tips for Part 3

- If you don't understand a question, it's fine to ask the examiner to repeat it.
- Try to move on from things you have already said in the interview – Part 3 is a good time to show your full range.

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Fluency and Coherence

Manon is able to respond at some length to the questions and speaks steadily, if a little slowly, throughout the interview. She would do better to offer more ideas and avoid repetition. Nevertheless, she shows some pleasing examples of spoken discourse markers and always tries to keep going.

Lexical Resource

Manon's lexical resource is appropriate but fairly limited. This is sometimes shown by a lack of ability to paraphrase, and also a tendency to return to the same topics and ideas.

Grammatical Range and Accuracy

Manon has good control of structure and an ability at times to produce sentences of some complexity. Errors occur with prepositions and tenses but she is careful to attempt accurate structures.

Pronunciation

Manon has quite strong Francophone accent and displays familiar errors in this respect with vowel sounds and the initial 'h' in certain words. Despite this, she can be understood throughout and she displays some effective use of intonation and stress.

Global comments

Manon starts well by speaking steadily and settling herself down. However, she doesn't develop utterances and ideas as fully as she might, and sometimes resorts to repetition. It's clear that she has a good knowledge of structure and some very natural features of delivery, but she needs to offer more and expand her vocabulary.

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