

# **4 Essential Strategies for Maximizing Your IELTS**

# 1. Know what's coming

- How long is the speaking test?
- How many parts or sections are there?
- What does each part consist of?
- What areas of my language are assessed?
- Who grades my performance – the examiner or somebody else?

## 2. Just answer the question!

RATHER THAN...

*I don't know... I can't answer that question.*

TRY THIS:

*Hmm, that's a tricky question. Let me think about that... yeah, I guess I would say that...*

### 3. Get in the habit of answering the question “why?”

#### OKAY

**Examiner:** *What’s your favorite color?*

**Candidate:** *Blue, I think.*

**Examiner:** *Why?*

**Candidate:** *I don’t know. I just like it.*

#### BETTER

**Examiner:** *What’s your favorite color?*

**Candidate:** *Blue, I think. Yeah, blue, because it reminds me of the ocean and the sky. I feel calm when I see the color blue. I also like to wear blue – it looks good on me.*

# 4. Remember that the examiner's lips are sealed

## RATHER THAN...

*Should I talk about my home country or Boston? \*It really doesn't matter which one you speak about. It's more important that you address the question and express yourself coherently.*

## TRY THIS:

*Well, I'd like to talk about Boston, because I'm really starting to feel like this is my second home... Well, I'm only here in Boston for a short time, so I'll talk about my hometown in [country].*

# Answer's structure

OPENING  
(optional)  
ANSWER

Hmm. It's hard to say because I like all seasons but...

I would say summer would have to be my all-time favorite.

REASON/EXAMPLE

You know, the summer is just great. There are so many things to do outside, you can be near the water, yes...if it's too hot, it's better to hang out at the beach. I really love the beach and watersports like surfing...

CLOSE

so, yeah, if I had to choose one, it would be summer for sure.