

LISTENING SKILLS
Identifying the context
Predicting in notes

SPEAKING SKILLS
Part 1: Talking about familiar topics
Giving extended answers

PRONUNCIATION
Word linking 1

EXAM LISTENING
Section 1



a

Topic talk

- 1 Look at the pictures and answer the questions below.
- Which life events do the photographs show?
 - What other major events in a person's life can you think of? Which ones have you already experienced?
 - Which milestones are particularly important in your culture?
- 2 Match the words and phrases in the box with the descriptions (a–h) below.

a place of your own ■ career ■ degree ■ driving test ■ early retirement ■ family gap year ■ sabbatical ■ voluntary work

Example

I've worked for fifteen years in the same industry and although I've been successful, I feel it's time to move on to something different. — career



b



c

- I spend two afternoons a week at a local charity; I visit elderly people in my neighbourhood and do odd jobs for them. _____
- I'm very nervous as I've already failed twice; I really want to get a licence so that I can be more independent. _____
- We had our first child last year so at the moment I'm a stay-at-home mum – it's hard work! _____
- My work has given me a year off so that I can write my book; I'm also planning to travel to Australia. I'm so excited! _____
- I intend to stop working by the time I'm 55; I've been working since I was 15 so I think I'm due some relaxation. _____
- When I leave school I'm not going straight to university; I'd like to work for a few months to save some money and then go travelling. _____
- After three years' hard work I'm finally going to graduate; my whole family is coming to the ceremony. _____
- I'd like to be independent and move away from home; I'd miss my mum's cooking though! _____

Technique

Using the correct collocation will make you sound more accurate in your speaking and will gain you marks in the IELTS Speaking test.

- 3** Match the phrases in the box in 2 with the verbs below to form collocations. Then rewrite the sentences using the collocations. Some of the verbs may be used more than once.

change ■ do ■ get ■ pass ■ start ■ take

Example

I've worked for fifteen years in the same job for the same company and now I feel it's time to change career.

- 4** Which of the life experiences in 3 have you already had? Which do you intend to do in the future? When do you hope to do them? Which do you think you will never do? Why?
- 5** The adjectives (a–g) below can all be used to describe life events and experiences. In each case decide which one is the opposite of the other two.
- a disappointing/rewarding/fulfilling
 - b unremarkable/unforgettable/memorable
 - c challenging/tough/straightforward
 - d once in a lifetime/ordinary/special
 - e trying/frustrating/satisfying
 - f dull/stimulating/exciting
 - g life-changing/insignificant/momentous
- 6** Which of the adjectives in 5 have positive meanings? Which are negative? Which are neither positive nor negative?
- 7** Which adjectives could you use to describe the events and experiences in 2? How would you describe some of your own life experiences?
- 8** Complete each of the statements below with an example from your own life.
- a A challenging experience I remember was ...
 - b A disappointing experience I had was ...
 - c A memorable journey I took was ...
 - d A life-changing decision I made was ...
 - e An exciting holiday I had was ...
 - f A frustrating experience I had was ...
- 9** Choose one of the experiences in 8 and talk to your partner about it. Try to develop your ideas with reasons and examples.

Exam information

In Speaking Part 2 you may be asked to talk about an experience or event in your life. Use adjectives to describe the event and how it made you feel.