

IELTS Speaking Part 2

Talk about a career opportunity you had

You should say:

- what the opportunity was
- how you felt about it
- if you used the opportunity

and say if you are happy with your decision

Model answer

About a **decade** ago when, I had just started working for a local air company as an accountant, **upper management** approached me with a rather **lucrative** offer. They were offering company-paid pilot training for people under 30 who had a **good command of English**. The company would later guarantee employment with good career **prospects**.

I was very tempted to take the offer, but something **clicked in me** and I turned it down at the last second. First and foremost, the life of a pilot is very **nomadic** by nature - you are always on the move, you are everywhere - and nowhere. Secondly, it is a lot of responsibility - piloting a ship with over two hundred people onboard would be too much for me. Finally, I kind of enjoyed my accounting position at the time. Although it wasn't the most **glamorous** of occupations, it paid well and I knew **the trade** like no one else.

Looking back at that day, I somewhat regret not going for it. **I wonder how my life would have turned out if I had taken the offer**. Would I make a good pilot? It is hard to tell now, as I have been doing finance consulting for quite some time. It does not sound too exciting, but I seem to be good at it. Maybe this is my real **calling** after all.

IELTS Speaking Part 3

Work today and tomorrow

What skills should a person have to have more chances of getting a job in the future?

It would be unwise to deny that our world is getting more automated. As we **grow more reliant on** machines, we will make many jobs **obsolete** as they can be effectively performed by robots. This is likely to create a whole class of unemployable - people who failed to learn a skill a machine is unable to have. Cashiers, taxi drivers and many others might end up without any prospects of employment. Therefore, something that a human can do and a machine cannot is the skill to have in the future.

What might the workplace of the future look like?

I doubt that the workplace that exists now is going to be transformed much. It will probably be a computer with a **folder** or a stack of documents next to it. If we try really hard to be imaginative, we can think of a holographic projector that the user controls by voice or hand gestures. It doesn't sound too practical, though. What might change is the definition of the workplace. By that, I mean that employees might **get relocated** to their own flats to **cut down on overheads**. We have already seen that happen, and it will probably happen again, this time staying **for good**.

Jobs and careers

Is it better to change your jobs frequently or work at the same place as long as possible?

Gurus of career advice believe that changing your place of employment every five years or so is the best practice. It looks good on your CV, as it shows ambition and flexibility on one hand while being able to **commit** on the other. It also broadens your professional horizons and gives you a better understanding of the industry you work in. But we all do have a mind of our own, and the decision doesn't have to be based on future employment prospects alone. If you like your job, there is no reason not to keep it. Growing professionally and focusing on the matter at hand instead of **flustering about** trying to find the best job possible.

How can schools help young people choose their careers?

This is an aspect of education that state schools have been largely ignoring recently. Students get all kinds of abstract knowledge, most of which is largely **inapplicable** in working life. As a result, 18-year-olds leave schools with no idea of purpose or direction in life. Some **go through the motions** of higher educations, others choose an occupation that doesn't require any special qualifications.

Schools should introduce a subject related to professional orientation, where they would give students an idea of what it's like to work full-time, what kind of positions they can realistically expect to get with and without degree or experience. This would drastically reduce the number of youngsters who feel lost in the ruthless modern job market.

Job and career vocabulary

Upper management - high-ranked employees in charge of making important decisions in the company.

Lucrative (adj) - interesting or attractive financially.

Trade (n) - a job that requires special training, used figuratively here. Normally, it would mean a manual job, such as a carpenter or an electrician.

Calling (n) - one's real purpose, something that they should really do. 'She has always believed that teaching is her real calling'.

Folder (n) - a thick cardboard or plastic book-like container that is used to store and catalogue documents.

Relocate (v) - to move to another city or country, usually because of your work.

Cut down on overheads - to try and reduce operational costs, such as renting a place of work or office supplies.

Commit (v) - to promise to do something, e.g. work at a company for a certain period of time.

Go through the motions - to do something mechanically, without enthusiasm or emotional engagement.

General vocabulary

Decade (n) - ten years

Good command of English - good knowledge and understanding of the language.

Prospects (n) - possibility of something happening in the future.

Click (v) - (here) - to suddenly become clear or obvious.

Nomadic (adj) - characterised by constant movement, not staying at the same place for long.

Glamorous (adj) - attractive, exciting and desirable.

I wonder how ... - more of a grammar note rather than vocabulary. It's a good idea to introduce a conditional clause in your answer. This particular one is Third Conditional which shows unreal results of an unreal action. Think of it as an alternative way things could have gone. Just google 'Third conditional' if you are unfamiliar with this grammar.

Grow reliant on smth - to become more and more dependent on something.

Obsolete (adj) - outdated, not modern.

For good - forever.

Fluster about - to move frantically, in a state of confusion, without accomplishing much. *'When the doorbell rang, she started flustering about the flat trying to get dressed'.*

Inapplicable (adj) - useless; impossible to find use for.