

## IELTS Speaking Part 2

Describe a profession one of your relatives has

You should say:

- what their profession is
- the duties they have
- how long they have had it

and say why you think they have chosen this profession

### Model answer

I'm going to talk about my **late** grandfather. He was into cars his entire life and **aspired to make a living** around them. He **started off** as a mechanic at a shop where he worked during his time in college. After graduating, he was lucky to **make an acquaintance with** a local race team manager and **was taken on as** a **substitute** driver. Eventually, he **worked his way up to** chief engineer of the team.

His duties involved making sure that their cars were mechanically in top shape. This meant both **routine maintenance** and any modifications or upgrades that had to be made to keep the car **competitive**. He would even test-drive the cars himself to better understand **the direction the team had to move in**.

My grandfather had been doing this for more than fifty years until he eventually **passed away** at the age of 79 last year. I guess the reason he kept doing the same thing was because he believed it to be his **calling**. I really envy him. I'd say not many people find their true **vocation**.

## IELTS Speaking Part 3

### Life and work

#### Should a person do what they like for a living?

At first, it might sound like **a no-brainer** - definitely do what you love and make money with it. What could possibly go wrong? As a popular **adage** goes, do something you love, and you won't have to work a day in your life. However, this idea can be **deceptive**. Take taxi drivers as an example: do they enjoy the **monotony** of **night shifts**, the chaotic inner-city traffic, the moody clients **day in, day out**? They probably chose their **occupation** because they were **keen on** cars and driving, but many of them surely **resent** it now. So my point is no, one should probably **stay away from the idea** of **turning their passion into profession**.

#### Some countries suggest having a four- or even three-day working week. What are the advantages and disadvantages of this proposal?

This idea seems pretty good, and people are going to love it, but for different reasons. Some will **appreciate** the extra free time that they get to spend with their loved ones. Others will **relish the fact** that their **workload** is going to get lighter. However, ultimately it will **encourage** both employers and employees to **cut down on** so-called "**time-theft**" - spending their time at work in a **suboptimal** way. It should be understood that only by using the reduced number of **working hours** in a more efficient way can a company maintain same productivity and **stay afloat**. This implies making some of the employees **redundant**, namely those unable to adjust to **higher standards**.

**Is it a good idea to work more while you are young and more energetic? Why?**

This is a choice all of us either have already made or will have to make in the future. **It is no secret** that while you are **in your prime** you should take advantage of the resources available to you - your enthusiasm, energy and ability to learn quickly. All of this is more **immediately available** in your younger years. On the other hand, some might say that it is much better to enjoy your life rather than spend it **climbing up the career ladder**. Personally I'd say that it is wiser to **make the best use of** your opportunities and create a strong **work portfolio** while you're young. At the end of the day, working hard doesn't have to mean no fun or free time to do what you love!

**Jobs of the future****What professions are going to be needed in the future? What about professions that will no longer be necessary?**

It's hard to tell what exactly the future might be like as we live in a world of **ever-increasing pace**. However, it's fun to make predictions, so I would assume that one of the most needed industries in the future is likely to be IT. Even today such **skilled workers** like programmers and web-designers are **in constant demand** and are consistently earning much more on average. As our lives get even more dependent on computer technology, we will see the demand for such specialists increase even further.

Speaking of professions that are likely to be **redundant** we should again be thinking of computer-controlled things that could successfully replace human operators. For instance, any job involving driving is under threat of disappearing. Driving a taxi, delivering food or goods, public transit - even planes - those are the things a machine can control. Even today, we can see self-driving cars for sale, and while they can't provide fully autonomous driving experience it is undoubtedly only a matter of time before they **perfect** the technology.

**How has the way we work changed recently? What other changes might we expect?**

One of the greatest changes in the business environment we have witnessed recently is the idea of working from home. The pandemic forced many companies to keep their staff working from their own places. Meetings and conferences could be held without ever leaving your house - who could have thought this was possible just a few years ago? Now it's a reality we live in and while some people might not like it, this practice showed employers a way of **cutting down expenses** as they no longer have to have staff on premises. Therefore, we might witness further **distancing from** the conventional model of working in an **office cubicle** and towards working remotely. Large businesses constantly seek ways to optimise **running costs** and not having to pay rent on **office spaces** must be a very **lucrative** idea.

**Is it possible that in the future, only a small part of the population will have to work?**

This is **a distinct possibility**. The utopian world described in works of science fiction, where only **a fraction of** **populace** does any meaningful work, can become a reality in the future. Just like industrialization made work much more efficient, **manual labour** will eventually **get superseded by** newer methods of production. This is likely to free up the majority of population, eliminating the need for them to be working full-time. Maybe the concept of 'work' will shape up into an occupation people do to **feel purpose** in their lives rather than a necessity to earn a living. After all, spending one's life with no meaningful occupation can **take a toll on** anyone.

**Job and career vocabulary**

**Aspire (v)** - to have something as a goal and do one's best to reach it.

**To make a living** - to earn money to cover the costs of food, housing and other essentials, e.g. if you make a living

by selling cars, that is how you make money to afford products and services.

**To take on** - if an employer takes you on, they hire you.

**Substitute (n)** - a substitute is a person who does the job of somebody who is currently unable to perform it due to illness or other reasons, e.g. a substitute teacher.

**Work your way up** - to progress in your career from lower ranks to higher ones.

**Competitive (adj)** - as good as others. For instance, a competitive salary is a salary that is not lower than at other positions of similar nature.

**Move in a direction** - to progress in a particular way.

**Calling (n)** - a feeling that you should have this particular career.

**Vocation (n)** - see 'calling'.

**Monotony (n)** - performing the same, usually boring task over and over again.

**Night shifts** - time of work that starts late in the evening and ends early in the morning.

**Day in, day out** - if you do something day in, day out, you do it for a very long period of time.

**Occupation** - what you do for a living.

**To turn passion into profession** - a phrase that means doing what you love professionally, e.g. becoming an artist because you love drawing or painting.

**Workload (n)** - the amount of work that you have to do or have already done over a given period of time.

**To encourage (v)** - to approve of doing something or to make doing something easier.

**Time-theft (n)** - the act of wasting time that you are paid for, e.g. having small talks with your colleagues instead of performing your duties.

**Suboptimal (adj)** - not the best it can be.

**Working hours** - the time of the way you are at work, e.g. most people's working hours are 9 am to 5 pm.

**Stay afloat** - if a business stays afloat, it manages to keep its profits higher than its expenses.

**Redundant (adj)** - unnecessary. If a person is made redundant, they are let go (fired).

**In your prime** - a person in their prime is as good looking, smart and strong as they will ever be.

**Climb up the career ladder** - to advance in your professional path.

**Work portfolio** - a selection of works you have done or the amount of work experience that you have.

**Skilled workers** - a professional who has special skills needed to perform a job, e.g. an electrician.

**In constant demand** - if something is in constant demand, people need it all the time.

**To cut down expenses** - to reduce the amount of money spent on something.

**Office cubicle** - the working space in an office where you are separated from your colleagues by panels.

**Running costs** - the amount of money spent on keeping the business running.

**Office spaces** - see 'cubicle'.

**Lucrative (adj)** - attractive from the financial point of view.

**Manual labour** - the kind of work done by hands rather than through intellectual effort.

## General vocabulary

**Late (adj)** - (usage: late + name) deceased (dead).

**To start off** - to begin with something.

**Make an acquaintance with** - to meet someone, to get to know somebody's name.

**Routine maintenance** - regular inspection and replacement of parts to make sure it works properly.

**Pass away** - (more formal) to die.

**A no-brainer** - a choice that is easy to make because of how obvious it is.

**Adage (n)** - a wise saying.

**Deceptive (adj)** - looking like it is something else while it isn't.

**To resent (v)** - to have a strong dislike for something, to hate it bitterly.

**Stay away from** - to avoid something intentionally.

**Appreciate (v)** - to enjoy something and realise how rare and precious it is.

**Relish (v)** - to enjoy and appreciate something greatly.

**Cut down on** - to reduce the amount of something or to stop eating something.

**It is no secret that** - used to say something obvious or known to everyone.

**Make the best use of** - use something in the best way possible.

**Immediately available** - easily or readily accessible, either because it is cheap or because of its high quantity.

**Ever-increasing pace** - constantly growing speed.

**Distancing from** - moving away from something; usually not used literally.

**A distinct possibility** - a likely outcome of a situation.

**A fraction of populace** - part of the people living somewhere.

**Get superseded by** - to be replaced by something more modern or more efficient.

**Feel purpose** - to have the feeling of being needed, to have an aim for your life.

**Take a toll on** - have a negative effect.