

IELTS Speaking Part 3

Discussion topics:

- **What things makes an office comfortable to work in?**

I think a certain number of factors would play a part in making a workplace as **(1) comfy** as it gets. I don't think I'll be exaggerating if I said that workplace is like home to some people specially for those who have the habit of working overtime. With that in mind, I'd say the first and a quite **(2) crucial** thing is to make sure that your office is quiet so you don't get disturbed every now and then. By the way, having a couple of family pictures here and there, some stuff that could **(3) convey** a sense of attachment to your **(4) next of kin**, I figure would **(5) put the damper on** the need to leave early because of missing your beloveds. By the way , if you ever **(6) had the liberty of** choosing the people you gotta work with, make sure your interests are **(7) aligned** in the first place .. that'll save you a lot of trouble later on.

- **Do you agree that the building people work in is more important than the colleagues they work with?**

I guess I believe otherwise. So from where I sit, both the building and the colleagues work **(8) in tandem** and finally define our productivity or job satisfaction. Having a brand new office with high-end facilities would not guarantee a good performance at work **(9) by any means**. A contrary scenario could also be correct, my cousin actually, he was so **(10) diligent** when it came to working as he was involved in some pretty major stuff there but since his work place didn't really **(11) live up to the hype** he started to lose interest. He'd only been working for a year when he resigned.

- **Why do people become workaholic?**

Well, actually becoming a non-stop working machine is sometimes the end result of being obsessed with getting all the jobs done at the same time. I am workaholic, I'm giving you **(12) a firsthand account** why I feel this way. So there is this thing **(13) eating your brain up** all the time, **(14) figuratively** speaking though, and whenever you stop to take five, it keeps telling you that there is not gonna be anyone **(15) picking up** your slack so **(16) put some muscle into it** and **(17) buckle down**. There might also be some other reasons as well which I'm not aware of but I guess it's got a root in the **(18) psyche**. Well it might sound like a cool thing on the surface as it sort of **(19) propels** you to work more but the question is at what cost? **(20) Working your fingers to the bone** is not the solution I believe

Collocations and useful phrases

1. comfy

comfortable: a comfy chair

2. crucial

something that is crucial is extremely important, because everything else depends on it SYN vital

3. convey

to communicate or express something, with or without using words

convey a sense/an impression/an idea etc.

You don't want to convey the impression that there's anything illegal going on.

4. next of kin

our closest living relative or relatives:

May I have your name, address and next of kin, please?

5. put a damper on something DISAPPOINTED

to make something less enjoyable, active, or great than it could have been:

A couple of knee injuries put a damper on his football career.

6. liberty

freedom and the right to do whatever you want without asking permission or being afraid of authority

7. align

to publicly support a political group, country, or person that you agree with

align yourself with somebody/something

Church leaders have aligned themselves with the opposition.

8. in tandem

AT THE SAME TIME /doing something together or at the same time as someone or something else:

The two companies often work in tandem.

9. by any means

An action, an object or a system by which a result is achieved

10. diligent

someone who is diligent works hard and is careful and thorough:

a diligent student

11. live up to the hype

be as good as expected and anticipated by the public

I heard that album was great and it certainly lived up to the hype. I love it!

12. first-hand experience/knowledge/account PERSONALLY/YOURSELF

the experience that has been learned or gained by doing something yourself or by talking to someone yourself

journalists with first-hand experience of working in war zones

13. eating One's Brain

Said of an individual, circumstance or location perceived as insidiously annoying.

14. figuratively

a figurative word or phrase is used in a different way from its usual meaning, to give you a particular idea or picture in your mind

15. take up/pick up the slack

to make a system or organization as efficient as possible by making sure that money, space, or people are fully used:

Without another contract to help pick up the slack, employees may face job losses.

16. put some muscle into it

used to tell someone to work harder

17. buckle down

to start working very hard

18. psyche

someone's mind, or their deepest feelings, which control their attitudes and behavior

19. propel

to move, drive, or push something forward

20. work your fingers to the bone (also work your socks off informal)WORK

HARD

to work very hard