

What is Cue Card Strategy in IELTS Speaking Part 2?

Worksheet

Cue card strategy is your plan to structure the 2-minute talk using the card's bullet points and your notes. Effective strategies include noting key ideas, organizing them logically, and linking them with transitions for maximum coherence.

Questions

1. What should you do with the cue card's bullet points?
 - A) Memorize them word-for-word
 - B) Skip the ones you find difficult
 - C) Use them as a framework to structure your 2-minute talk
 - D) Read them aloud without elaborating
2. During the 1-minute prep, what is the best thing to write?
 - A) Full sentences in essay form
 - B) Short phrases and keywords for each bullet
 - C) A memorized speech
 - D) Only the main idea, nothing else
3. Which strategy improves coherence most?
 - A) Speaking faster to fill the time
 - B) Using transition words to link ideas and bullets
 - C) Repeating the same vocabulary
 - D) Avoiding examples
4. What is a key mistake in cue card strategy?
 - A) Taking notes
 - B) Forgetting one of the bullet points
 - C) Elaborating with personal examples
 - D) Speaking at a natural pace
5. Topic: Describe a place you have visited. Bullet points: Where is it? When did you visit? What did you do? Why do you want to go back?
6. Topic: Describe a skill you have learned. Bullets: What is it? How long did it take? Who taught you? Why was it important?
7. Topic: Describe a memorable meal. Bullets: What? Where? Who was there? Why memorable?
8. Define: What is a cue card strategy?
9. Define: How should you use the 1-minute prep time?
10. Define: Should you write full sentences during prep?

Answer Key

1. C) Use them as a framework to structure your 2-minute talk — The bullet points are prompts to guide your talk. You should address all of them with your own words and examples.
2. B) Short phrases and keywords for each bullet — Short notes are quick to write and reference. Full sentences take too long and encourage recitation instead of natural speech.
3. B) Using transition words to link ideas and bullets — Transition words (first, next, then, finally) connect your ideas logically and improve coherence scores.
4. B) Forgetting one of the bullet points — Every bullet point must be addressed. Skipping one loses coherence marks and looks like you didn't understand the task.
5. 1 min prep notes: 'Greece / summer 2023 / beach, temples / sun, sea, culture' Opening (15 sec): 'I'll talk about Greece, which I visited last summer.' Body (90 sec): Cover each bullet—describe location, date, activities in chronological order, explain why it impressed you. Conclusion (15 sec): 'I'd return in a heartbeat.'
6. Notes: 'Photography / 6 months / uncle / capture moments, creativity' Start: 'I'll describe learning photography.' Develop: Explain the skill (detailed), timeline, your uncle's teaching approach, and its impact (examples of photos). Finish: 'It changed how I see the world.'
7. Notes: 'Birthday dinner / restaurant / family / special occasion, laughter, togetherness' Introduce meal and setting (25 sec). Describe food and atmosphere (60 sec). Explain the social/emotional significance (45 sec). Close: 'It's a cherished memory.'
8. A plan to structure your 2-minute talk using the card's bullet points and notes for maximum coherence and fluency.
9. Read the question, circle key words, jot down 2-3 ideas for each bullet, then organize them logically.
10. No—write short phrases and keywords. Full sentences slow you down and tempt you to memorize.

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