# **IELTS Part 2: Describing places and people**

In Part 2, when describing places, people, times, etc. remember three things:

1. **Paraphrase.** Find another word for the topic in the question, by giving a synonym or an example.

Film > romantic comedy

1. **What, where, when, who, how.** Give information, what is it, where did you first see it, when did you first meet (it will give you an opportunity to talk about the past a bit), when would you like to see it again (talk about the future), who introduced you/ who would like this too, etc. How does this differ from other places/people, how did it make you feel, etc. Give a detailed description.
2. **Why.** Explain why you picked this place/person/etc. to talk about. Why is it important to you? Why is it special? What did it teach you? Give arguments for your opinion.

For more information on Part 2:

[IELTS Speaking Part 2: How to start your talk (ieltsliz.com)](https://ieltsliz.com/ielts-speaking-part-2-how-to-start-your-talk/)

[IELTS Speaking Part 2 Topics & Questions (ieltsliz.com)](https://ieltsliz.com/ielts-speaking-part-2-topics/)

[IELTS Speaking Part 2 Model Answer: Holidays (ieltsliz.com)](https://ieltsliz.com/ielts-speaking-part-2-model-answer/)

[IELTS Speaking - Part 2 - IELTS with Mark Teacher](https://markteacher.com/ielts-speaking-part-2/)

# **Describing places**

For example:

* Describe your favourite building in your home town
* Describe a new development in your city (a shopping mall, cinema, leisure facility)
* Describe a public place that needs improvements
* Describe a time you did some shopping in a street market
* Describe a quiet place you like to visit

In preparing for Part 2, trying choosing 2 or 3 specific things to describe in more detail.

*For example: Describe a quiet place*

My answer: The park near my house

* the duck pond
* the walking trails
* the outdoor cafes

This is a simple list that is easy to prepare and gives you a lot of flexibility. You can describe these ideas in any order, and you can focus on sharing as much detail as you can. It also stops you over-thinking and getting confused about what to talk about next. Keep it simple!

**Language Tips:**

I like…

*(I like + verb-ing)*

* I like sitting down and enjoying a coffee
* I like going there and shopping in the different stores
* I like visiting there every now and again
* I like eating there because the menu is fantastic

You can see…

*(You can + verb)*

* You can see huge skyscrapers
* You can relax and enjoy the peace and quiet
* You can listen to the birds and the wind
* You can buy some souvenirs
* You can eat some local food
* You can spend time by the beach

There are…

*(There is / are + things / objects / facilities / people)*

* There is a beautiful sunset in the evening
* There is a lot of traffic during rush hour
* There are street markets everywhere
* There are fun parties every night
* There are kids and families playing on the grass.

# **Describing people**

For example:

* Describe one of your best friends
* Describe someone you know who you think is a good parent
* Describe a famous person you would like to meet
* Describe a successful sports person that you like

Here is a list of useful sentence patterns, grammar points and vocabulary ideas you can use to describe people in IELTS Part 2 questions.

**Go back to the start!** There is always more information to share in the past. Starting as early as you can gives you more to say, and usually makes a considerably difference to the length of your story – meaning that it’s easier to talk for 2 minutes!

* We first met at a party / at school / at university
* We met each other through a (mutual) friend / family / work / video games / Facebook
* We were introduced by a friend of mine / a colleague / a teacher

Here are some useful (phrasal) verbs you can use to describe your friendship.

* At first, we didn’t really *get along*, but eventually we became good friends.
* In the beginning, we weren’t close friends, but after we *got to know each other*better…
* We weren’t very close until we realised that we both *had a lot in common*…
* Actually at first, *we didn’t like each other*at all, but after a while…

**Superlatives**

Superlatives Adjectives and highest and strongest degree of an adjective. Since you don’t have to be completely truthful (i.e. you can lie) in the IELTS Speaking Test, you can *embellish* and *exaggerate* some details, in order to demonstrate a wider variety of your English skills.

For example:

* “My friend Peter is the smartest person I know.”
* “Mohammed Salah is the best footballer player in Egypt.”
* “My mum is definitely one of the most patient people in my family.”

You can also construct sentences another way by using ‘the most’ after a  [verb + object pronoun].

For example:

* “Out of everyone in my family, my father has definitely inspired me the most.“
* “My maths teacher certainly helped me the most out of all my other teachers at school.”
* “Out of all the historical figures in England, Lord Nelson interests me the most.”