**Learn IELTS Vocabulary: Your Neighbourhood**

**IELTS Speaking Test Sample:**

***Neighbourhoods and neighbours*** can be one of the very first set of questions you receive. Since these topics can also appear in Part 2 and Part 3, it is definitely an vocabulary area you should prepare for.

The following model answers cover each part of the test and a glossary of some of the higher-level vocabulary is included at the end of the page. If there are any new words for you — record them on paper or on an app so that you can review them later.

Before you read the conversation, you might like to download this free PDF quiz and have a go at completing the blanks.

**Part 1-style questions**

**Examiner**: What is your neighbourhood like?

**Candidate**: My neighbourhood is ***magnificent***! All my neighbours are really friendly and ***outgoing***, especially my next-door neighbour. He’s my age, so we often ***gossip*** about school and other things, and generally ***get along***.

**Examiner**: How well do you know the people who live next door to you?

**Candidate**: We both ***attend*** the same school, so I know him and his family fairly well. We don’t really ***hang out*** much though, but it’s ***reassuring*** knowing I can chat to someone outside my main ***clique*** of friends.

**Examiner**: Do you think you are a good neighbour?

**Candidate**: I would like to think I am! I definitely ***aspire*** to be one, and last summer I helpedmy neighbours in ***erecting*** a new fence, even though I didn’t have to. I also always return their ball when it ***materializes*** in our garden. Then again, I do play the drums, which I guess could be ***irritating*** for my neighbours.

**Part 2**

***Describe a change that could improve your local neighbourhood.***

***You should say:***

***- what the change would be***

***- what problems this change addresses***

***- how the change can be implemented***

***and explain how this change would improve your local area.***

**Candidate**:

Our local neighbourhood ***desperately*** needs a ***desirable*** park. Currently, there is only a large field at the end of the street, and it is ***overgrown*** with bushes and weeds. There is an ***innumerable*** amountof children of ***varying*** ages on my street, and the nearest playpark is a ***significant*** walk away.  
  
By ***revamping*** the field into a ***legitimate*** play area, the whole neighbourhood would be more active, and feel more like a community. Parents are always ***eager*** to make surethat their kids exercise enough, and with a real football pitch and climbing frame nearby for ***convenience***, everyone would get out more!

The best way to do this would be to clean up the park first: right now there are loads of weeds and bushes ***obstructing*** people. ***Depressingly***, the park is also ***plagued*** by litter, so this would need to be removed. After we’ve done that, we should ***construct*** a climbing frame and other fun equipment for younger children, such as slides and swings.

**Part 3-style questions**

**Examiner**: Is it important for children to grow up in a good neighbourhood? [Evaluate]

**Candidate**: The answer is ***unequivocally*** yes. A child’s experiences growing up ***influences*** who they become as an adult.

Along with a ***compassionate*** home environment, being in a good neighbourhood where a child can feel comfortable ***strolling*** down the street is ***vital*** for giving them a healthy childhood. A bad neighbourhood will likely either ***petrify*** a child, or cause them to ***fall in with the wrong crowd.***

**Examiner**: Do you think the types of neighbourhoods people live in will change much in the future? [Predict]

**Candidate**: Our world is always ***transforming***, and so I ***envisage*** that our neighbourhoods and ways of life will change ***drastically*** in the future. People will probably go out less, as shopping centres and the ***retail industry*** moves more online.  
  
I hope, however, that local parks, cafes, and community centres remain important, as they are the ***lifeblood*** of any neighbourhood.

**Examiner**: Is community becoming less important in the digital age? [Analyse]

**Candidate**: Community is still a ***crucial*** part of people’s lives, however many people are finding their own communities online. Although online communities are important, I fear that this is leading to the ***disintegration*** of the local community, which is a ***serious*** problem.  
  
Finding friends online is useful, but nothing can ***substitute*** the importance of a ***close-knit*** local community. Because of this, I prefer smaller towns to ***bustling*** urban areas, as they often ***nurture*** a sense of local community as well as having the benefits of digital technology.

## Definitions for IELTS Achievement Vocabulary

**Part 1**

**magnificent —***amazing / great*

**Outgoing —***sociable*

**Gossip —***talk / casual conversation*

**Get Along —***be friends*

**Attend —***to go to something*

**Hang Out —***spend time with someone*

**Reassuring —***removing doubt, comforting someone*

**clique —***a group of people*

**Aspire —***To want to be*

**erecting —***to put up / construct*

**Return —***To go back to something*

**materializes—***To become visible, to arrive somewhere*

**Irritating —***annoying, frustrating*

**Part 2**

**Desperately —***To really need something*

**desirable —***wanted*

**Currently —***At the current time, right now*

**Overgrown —***Covered in plants/ grown too large*

**innumerable —***uncountable, lots of*

**Varying —***Differing in some way*

**Significant —***important / large*

**revamping —***upgrading / redeveloping*

**Legitimate —***certified / real / proper*

**eager —***keen, interested*

**Convenience—***ease*

**Obstructing —** *blocking*

**Depressingly —***sadly / upsettingly*

**Plagued —***caused continual trouble and distress*

**Construct —***build / create*

**Slides —***a surface someone can slide down for fun - usually for children*

**Swings —***A seat that swings off a bar above it - common in playgrounds*

**Part 3**

**unequivocally —***definitely, undeniably*

**Influences —***things that affect someone or something*

**Compassionate —***supporting / showing sympathy and concern*

**Comfortable —***something that is relaxing / physical or mental ease*

**Strolling —***walking confidently*

**Vital —***important*

**petrify —***to scare*

**Fall in with the wrong crowd —***join/become a part of a bad or problematic group*

**Transforming —***Changing / shifting*

**Envisage —***foresee or predict*

**drastically —***significant, sudden*

**Retail Industry —***the business of general sales*

**Lifeblood —***necessary to something*

**Crucial —***something of great important*

**Disintegration —***Fragmentation / destruction*

**Serious —***important with negative connotations*

**substitute —** *change something for something else*

**Close-knit —***strong, close relationships between people within a group*

**Bustling —***lively, packed*

**nurture —***develop / grow*

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