

IELTS Speaking: Video Exercise

2 Improving Fluency and Coherence

Two of the criteria your examiner will use to assess your speaking are **Coherence** and **Fluency**. Coherence means how easy it is for the listener to follow and understand your ideas. Just as in writing, your notes can help you to organise and link your ideas in a logical way.

2.1  Watch Melanie giving her talk. As you listen, look at the task.

Describe a time when you helped someone.
You should say:
 who you helped and why
 how you helped this person
 what the result was
and explain how you felt about helping this person.

- 1 How does Melanie begin her talk?
- 2 Fill in the blanks in Melanie's first sentences.

You _____ a time when I

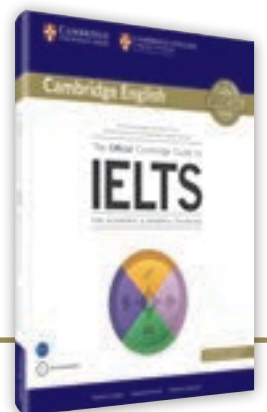
_____.

To that aim, _____

Aniseto.

- 3 How does she use the information in the question to help organise her ideas?

One way of linking your ideas is by using words and phrases like *after that*, *because of this*, *but*, *also*, etc. We also connect ideas using pronouns.



2.2 Below there are some examples of good coherence from Melanie's talk. The words and phrases she uses to connect her ideas are in bold. Complete extracts 1–8 with endings A–H.

- A** I decided to take English lessons.
- B** I helped him.
- C** I could help him a little.
- D** he couldn't speak English at all.
- E** it wasn't just for him, it was also for me.
- F** it wasn't a good thing.
- G** he was very friendly.
- H** I've chosen to talk about Aniseto.

- 1 You asked me to describe a time when I helped someone.
To that aim ...
- 2 I went to visit my uncle just as a tourist *but then ...*
- 3 I met a Venezuelan boy *and ...*
- 4 I'm not very good at English *but ...*
- 5 *So, that's it, that's how ...*
- 6 I wanted to do that *because ...*
- 7 I could practise my English *too, so ...*
- 8 Some people say that *now* he has a French accent, *so maybe ...*

2.3 Watch again to check your answers.

2.4 It is important to use a variety of language. Do you think Melanie uses a variety of connecting words and phrases or does she repeat the same ones?

2.5 Melanie also connects her ideas using pronouns. Look again at the sentence endings A–H and highlight all of the pronouns.

Fluency refers to the speed of your delivery and how hesitant you are. Candidates who are hesitant often say *er ...* a lot.

