

IELTS Speaking Part 2: describe your favourite

Describe a song or piece of music that you like.

You should say

what type of music it is

where you first heard it

who performs it

and explain why you like this song or piece of music.

Here's the answer that I gave in the lesson. I've highlighted the best vocabulary.

I'm going to describe one of my favourite pieces of music, which is the **theme music** from the James Bond films. This is the **soundtrack** that begins every one of these James Bond films, and you hear the instruments straight away - it's **an instrumental piece of music**; there's no singing, there are **no lyrics**, it's just orchestra with electric guitar, and it begins every one of the James Bond films.

So the first time I heard this soundtrack was probably when I was a child and I watched my first ever James Bond film on television, and **I was immediately struck by the music**, how **impressive** it was and how **it gets you excited** before the film's even begun. The **spectacular opening sequences** that always begin any James Bond film, matched with this **iconic music**, are really exciting and **memorable**.

This is performed, obviously, by an orchestra, but as I said, **it incorporates electric guitar** and some drums as well. So it's **a mix of popular and classical** I'd say. I'm not sure who **composed** it, but I imagine any orchestra can play it.

The reason I like this music then, is because of **the expectation it creates** at the beginning of a James Bond film. You know that **you're about to** watch something special when you hear the **first few notes of this soundtrack**, of the theme music. It creates an **expectation of adventure, mystery, excitement**, I think it's really **dramatic** and **powerful** to hear this music at the beginning of the film, and they always match it with a spectacular opening sequence, and I think you're already **on the edge of your seat** before the film's even begun because it's a really special beginning to hear this music before the film **gets going**.

**Describe a book that you enjoyed reading.
You should say**

**what the book was about
how you found out about it
why you chose to read it**

and explain why you enjoyed reading this book.

I'm going to describe a book that I really enjoyed reading recently. The name of the book was 'Mindset'. It's a **non-fiction** book and the author is called Carol Dweck. I'm not sure how to pronounce her surname properly, but she's a psychology professor and so the topic of this book was related to **personality and development and motivation**. In particular, she was writing about people's own **personal views regarding ability**. Some people, **according to this author**, believe that **ability is innate** - you're **born with it, you have a talent that you can't change**. Other people, on the other hand, believe that abilities can be improved through gradual hard work, and this is the area of personality that she's looking at. So she **divides the two types of people** into people with a **'fixed mindset'** and other people with a **'growth mindset'**; that's why the name of the book is 'Mindset'. These two mindsets are about whether you believe that **our traits are fixed** or, on the other hand, you think that **we can grow and develop our talents through hard work**.

I found out about the book from **a friend who'd read it, who recommended it**, said it was really interesting.

And I chose to read it because I thought, well, this could help me with my job, with my own **aims or goals in life**, and I'm interested in that kind of area, psychology, anyway.

And I really enjoyed reading the book because **it did open my eyes to** motivation and people's growth and development. I found it really **informative, fascinating and even inspiring** to see how we can improve ourselves.

Note: As you can see, I spent most of the time describing the book, and I covered the other 3 points quite quickly. It's fine to answer in this way - you don't need to say an equal amount for each point; in fact, the points are there to guide you, but it isn't compulsory to cover them all.

Finally, here is the answer for the “favourite film” topic that I covered on my blog:

**Describe a film that you would like to see in the future.
You should say**

**what the film is called
what it is about
how you heard about this film**

and explain why you would like to see it.

I'm going to talk about a film that I'd like to see when **it comes out later this year**. It's the new James Bond film, and I saw in the news that it's going to be called 'Spectre'. I think 'Spectre' **refers to the name of the imaginary criminal organisation** that James Bond **has to defeat** in the film.

As 'Spectre' **hasn't been released yet**, I don't know exactly what it will be about. But I can guess that the hero, Bond, is going to be **on a mission to save the world from an arch-criminal** as usual. I'm sure it will be similar to most of the previous Bond films, with a **plot line involving lots of twists and turns**, and with Bond using his skills to **defeat his nemesis** in the end.

I first heard about this film when I was watching the news a couple of months ago, and since then I've seen the **official trailer** on TV. There have also been various articles in newspapers discussing the **actors who have been cast to play supporting roles** in the film. The James Bond films are always big news here in the UK, probably because Bond himself is an English character.

I'd like to see 'Spectre' at the cinema because I'm sure it will be **full of action scenes** and **special effects**, and I like the fact that Bond's **missions always take place in spectacular locations** in different parts of the world. Of course Bond films are **totally unrealistic, you could even say ridiculous**. But they're always fast, entertaining and fun, **a bit like a roller-coaster ride!**