

## IELTS SPEAKING TEST. BAND 7. MARTIN PORTAS. TRANSCRIPT. EDITED

**James:** Good morning. My name is James. Can you tell me your full name, please?

**Martin:** Yes, good morning. My full name is Martin Portas Gutierrez.

**James:** Okay, and what shall I call you?

**Martin:** Martin.

**James:** Okay Martin and can you tell me where you're from?

**Martin:** I'm from Uruguay.

**James:** From Uruguay, okay. Can I see your identification please?

**Martin:** Sure.

**James:** Thank you. Thank you, that is fine. I'd like to begin by asking you questions about your education.

**Martin:** Okay.

**James:** What is the education system like in Uruguay?

**Martin:** There are some private high schools and universities, but it's mostly a public education system. It has a tradition of being public for maybe over one and a half centuries. It's really good. From primary school to university, you have free access to education. It's kind of hard sometimes for kids to go to university because they need to move to the capital and parents need to pay for that, which sometimes is really expensive.

**James:** What kind of school did you go to as a child?

**Martin:** I went to a public school. It was in a really small town, around 10 kilometres away from my house. It was really small, I would say about 150 students only and it was really, really nice. I liked it.

**James:** Okay. What was your favourite subject as a child?

**Martin:** I was always a big fan of science and geography. I was really interested in geography. I don't have any specific reasons as to why, but I always liked it and also found everything related to science or technology really interesting.

**James:** Okay, next let's discuss traveling.

**Martin:** Okay.

**James:** Do you like to travel?

**Martin:** I like travelling a lot.

**James:** Okay. Why?

**Martin:** Because it's really nice to go to another country and feel the culture, the places, the typical traditions from the people in that country that you're visiting and I like not only going to the tourist places, but going to place like a supermarket in another country. It could be really interesting to see from what people eat and how people dress. I feel I enjoy trying different foods so going to different countries is a really nice experience.

**James:** Okay and what kinds of places do you like to visit?

**Martin:** Mostly cities. I also like going to mountains and beaches, but when I'm traveling I prefer visiting new cities because it's where you have a bigger concentration of culture activities and people.

**James:** Okay and what is the best place you've ever visited?

**Martin:** That's a really good question. I feel that the place that I enjoyed most was Barcelona in Spain. I really like that city, it was amazing. It has incredible museums, statues and a lot of things to see. I like that a lot.

**James:** Okay.

**James:** Now I'm going to give you a topic and I'd like you to talk about it for one to two minutes. Before you talk you have one minute to think about what you're going to say.

**Martin:** Okay.

**James:** You can make some notes if you wish. Do you understand?

**Martin:** Yes, I do.

**James:** Okay. Here's your topic. Remember you have one to two minutes to complete this. Don't worry if I stop you. Can you start now please?

**Martin:** Yeah, sure. The topic is about the one big decision that I have to make in my life. I have no doubts about that the biggest decision that I had to make was when I was studying medicine at school. I studied that for four years and I changed. I decided to change to programming. It was a really stressful moment in my life. It was not an easy decision. All my best friends were in medical school. I was doing quite good. In three years, I think that I failed only one test, but I was not happy about when I started getting closer to going to hospital because the first three four years you actually don't work in a hospital, so when I started getting closer to that I started feeling that it was not something for me. I have loved technology all of my life so I was in a moment where I needed to decide what I wanted to do, if I needed to continue in medicine or change and I decided to change. It was a difficult time for me, for my family, for my friends, it was a really tough decision. It was really stressful and not a pleasant experience. Now I feel really happy about my decision, but it took me a while to actually feel confident that I had made a good decision.

**James:** Okay, did you have anything else to add?

**Martin:** Yes. For anyone who wants, who has doubts over situations like this, take your time, but I feel that it's a risk work taking.

**James:** Okay. Thank you. Would you make the same choice again if you had to?

**Martin:** Yes, I would make the same choice again for sure.

**James:** Okay. Thank you. May I have the paper and pencil back please?

**Martin:** Sure.

**James:** Thanks.

**James:** So let's talk about using the internet and its impact on society.

**Martin:** Okay.

**James:** Which websites are popular among your generation?

**Martin:** There is no doubt that the main or the most popular website among me and my friends is Facebook for sure. It's what everyone uses and how people communicate right now.

**James:** Okay, why?

**Martin:** I think the combination between chat, posting images and comments, it's like a mix between twitter, chat and Instagram. People like sharing their activities and the things they like, they like to show off what are they doing.

**James:** Is this typical for people from your country?

**Martin:** Yes. Everyone has Facebook.

**James:** Okay and how has the internet changed social behaviour?

**Martin:** What I feel is that now you really don't have a sense of distance. You can live in any part of the world. I went to Uruguay six months ago for the first time after one and a half years living here and I don't feel that I have been away for so much. I have so much communication that you kind of lose the sense of being away because you're on your phone all the time checking what your friends are doing, sending you text messages or calling you, so you don't feel so far from them. People from Uruguay have access to these new technologies. The internet in Uruguay is really, really fast. It works great.

**James:** Should companies check job applicants online profiles?

**Martin:** That's a really good question. I'm not exactly sure how this can help to have a real sense of the people that you're hiring. For example, I try to post only funny stuff. I don't like posting pictures of people or myself, I just enjoy posting funny things. I don't know how this could help the company that is hiring me to make a decision about if I'm good or bad for a web developer position based on the pictures that I post so I don't think so.

**James:** What sorts of public profiles do you think companies could use?

**Martin:** Well, I feel that LinkedIn could be the best one because there you post a more serious profile of yourself and more things related to work and not related to your private life so I think that could be a good option. It's always not 100% accurate because there's no way to check the background of the information that you have, but I think that LinkedIn could be the best one.

**James:** Okay. Finally let's discuss successful people.

**Martin:** Okay.

**James:** How do you define success?

**Martin:** I feel that success is people who do whatever they are doing with a lot of passion and enjoy what they do. I feel that you're successful once you put passion in what you're doing.

**James:** Do you think people from Uruguay view success the same?

**Martin:** I'm not exactly sure about what everyone else in Uruguay thinks because sometimes people think about success in terms of how much money they make. I don't feel this way because you can make billions and if you're not happy with what you're doing, you're not really successful.

**James:** So what personal characteristics do you think that most successful people need to have?

**Martin:** I would say a lot of passion and common sense, a lot of common sense and a sense of humanity and I feel that it's really important that you think how any activity that you are doing can affect others.

**James:** All right, thank you. This is the end of the speaking test.

**Martin:** Okay.