

Describe an Activity

In IELTS speaking part 2, you might be asked to describe an activity, which can include a hobby, sport or game. I recommend that you prepare ideas for one sport (e.g. swimming) and one game (e.g. chess). As both can be used to describe a hobby, you will cover all three possibilities.

Look at these two examples and note the underlined vocabulary.

Describe an activity you like doing.
You should say:
what activity it is
who you do it with
how you do it and how often
and explain why you enjoy doing this activity.

I am a keen runner. I've been jogging for about five years now. It has become an essential part of my daily routine. I wake up early, have a quick breakfast and then go outside for a 5km run. I run for two main reasons.

First, I want to be in good shape and running is a good cardiovascular workout. It definitely makes me healthier. I also want to be slim, and running is a really effective way to burn calories.

Secondly, running is really good for my mental health. It makes me feel refreshed and rejuvenated. When I don't run, I tend to feel more tired and depressed. I find that running gives me an energy boost for the rest of the day.

Keen: wanting to do something very much.
In good/bad, etc shape: in good/bad, etc health or condition
Cardiovascular: relating to the heart
Workout: a period of physical exercise
Burn calories: to destroy calories
Refreshed: less hot or tired.
Rejuvenated: to feel energetic again.
Boost: to improve or increase something.

Describe an indoor game that you enjoyed as a child.
You should say:
what the game was
where you played it
who played this game with you
and why you liked it

I played on the PlayStation 2 games console with my two brothers. The game that we enjoyed the most was called Pro Evolution Soccer 2. It is a football simulation game and we were really addicted to it. It was a multiplayer game, so we could compete against each other.

We are big football fans, and the game allowed us to choose our favourite teams. The matches were really intense because we were very competitive. We often got really angry with each other! But we soon calmed down and started a new game.

Some of the best memories I have with my brothers are of us playing that game. We spent so much time hanging out and playing it, it really helped us to bond. It sounds funny, but I think we are so close today because of that game!

Games console: a piece of electronic equipment for playing games on.

Simulation: a model of a real activity.

Multiplayer: used to refer to computer games in which several players can compete against each other.

Fan: someone who admires and supports a person, sport, sports team, etc.

Competitive: wanting very much to win.

Hang out: to spend a lot of time in a place or with someone.

Bond: a close connection joining two or more people.

Practice Question

Describe an interesting hobby
You should say:
What it is
What kind of people do it
How it is done
And explain why you think it is interesting.