

Examiner's comments on the Speaking test videos

You have seen Misato's IELTS Speaking test. Now here are an examiner's comments on her performance. Are these comments similar to what you wrote in the comments in the previous three steps?

Misato speaks at length about the topics and is quite fluent. Her speech is not slow and she does not usually correct herself, but she hesitates quite a lot while she thinks about words or grammar (um; er; and then).

She sometimes manages to link and organise her ideas well, but not always (The weather is nice and I could go anywhere else). She uses good discourse markers (well; actually; to be honest; especially) and basic linking words (connectives) (so; but; when), but these are sometimes inaccurate (because of we have children/because we have children; Even I was young I was with my brother/Because I was young I was with my brother).

She can only get a Band 6 for Fluency and Coherence because of her hesitation and her occasional difficulty in linking ideas.

Misato has some good vocabulary (lose their imagination; switch off; need [the] concentration), although in general her vocabulary is quite simple (help them out; looking after; get some fresh air; countryside; freedom; neighbourhood). Her vocabulary is usually accurate and she does not make many errors. Misato generally paraphrases successfully (keep with them/protect them; everything around them/surrounded by toys).

She manages to say enough about all the topics, and she is easy to understand, so she is a clear Band 6 for Lexical resource.

In grammar there are some good and accurate complex structures (they stay indoors more than going outside, because they can play in front of [the] TV; they don't need to think about what to do; they just want to be told), but there are a lot of errors.

Misato uses the past tense correctly at times (I was with my brother; I always played with boys), but she is often incorrect with verb tenses (my parents are working, so I always helped them; when I was a child we don't have any toys; I always going out; we never been alone). She also often leaves out words such as articles and verbs (eg I'm currently [a] housewife; I used to work in [an] office; so [there was] quite a lot of freedom for me; they felt that [I was/it was] safe).

However, she is generally easy to understand, and she uses some complex structures, so she manages to get a Band 6 for Grammatical range and accuracy.

Her pronunciation is clear and easy to understand with some good stress (actually quite nice), but her rhythm is affected by her hesitation (and then – and then), which is often in the middle of a phrase or sentence (looking after um-er-students). This makes her a Band 6 for Pronunciation.

Overall, she communicates well and is easy to understand. To get a higher band she needs to hesitate less and to have more range and accuracy in vocabulary and grammar.

Overall band score: 6

What was most surprising or interesting about these comments? Tell us in the comments below.

