

IELTS Speaking Part 2: describe an event

Describe a sports event that you enjoyed watching.

You should say

what event you watched

where you were

who you watched it with

and explain why you enjoyed watching it.

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

I'm going to describe what I think was **the most memorable event in recent years** that I remember, which was the London 2012 Olympic Games. This was **a spectacular festival of sport over the course of** several weeks here in England, and I think it was **a once-in-a-lifetime experience** for us to have the Olympic Games in our own country.

I was unfortunately at home watching most of the Olympics on television. I **didn't manage to go down to London** to see any of the events **in person**, but I enjoyed them all on TV at home, in my own house, or sometimes with friends or family at their houses. And I do remember **the events themselves**, though, were in all different places across London, mainly at the Olympic Park area, in the main stadium or the **various other smaller stadiums** for the different events, like the swimming, the basketball etc., and I watched various of these different events when they were on television.

As I said, I was watching at home, usually on my own or with family or occasionally with friends. I remember, for example, watching the **100 metres sprint** race, which is probably **considered to be the most important** or the most famous event in the Olympic Games; we often call it the **"blue riband" event**, and there was a lot of **hype and anticipation surrounding** the 100 metres at the London Olympics because everyone wanted to see whether Usain Bolt would win again, or whether anyone would be able to beat him.

So I enjoyed this event, the London Olympic Games, because I think it was an **unforgettable experience** to see it in my own country. There were some great **performances and victories** by the athletes, and I **enjoyed every minute**.

Notes:

- The section highlighted in green is my example or 'story'. This example helped me to keep talking and add some interesting detail to my description.
- No description will ever be perfect, but the important thing is to try to include some of the good vocabulary that you have prepared.

**Describe a concert or musical event in your country.
You should say**

**who the musicians are
where the concert is held
what type of music is played**

and explain why people attend this musical event.

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

I'm going to describe a concert that I've actually been to, that **takes place** here in Manchester, where I live. The **musicians who perform** this concert are classical musicians; it's an orchestra called the Hallé orchestra, which is obviously **made up of** the **conductor, the string instruments, like violins, the percussion, the woodwind instruments, the brass instruments** etc.

And these musicians play in **a concert hall, a venue** called the Bridgewater Hall, here in Manchester, which is a **purpose-built** concert hall, **by which I mean** that it was **designed specifically** for music. The sound **acoustics** are really good in the concert room, and the **lighting, the stage** etc., they were all built specifically for music.

The type of music that you would expect from an orchestra would normally be classical music. But this particular concert, that I think **they put on once a year**, is a bit more popular or **mainstream** because the orchestra plays **theme music** from famous films, the **soundtracks** from films. And most of them are very popular, well-known Hollywood films like E.T., Indiana Jones, Jurassic Park, the James Bond films, that kind of thing.

And this is why people attend, because we all know, or most of us know, the music from those films, and it's **amazing to hear a full orchestra** playing these songs, these pieces of music in **a live venue**. The **sound quality is fantastic**, and to hear these pieces of music loud and live is really **wonderful**. I, for example, was particularly **blown away** by the E.T. soundtrack, which is a really **emotional piece of music** when you hear it, especially in a live venue like that.

Notes:

- Again, I included as much good vocabulary as I could.
- I also missed a few good phrases that I wanted to include e.g. the atmosphere was electric, it exceeded my expectations.
- I had enough to say this time, and didn't need to give a long example or story.

Finally, here are some other “describe an event” ideas from my blog
www.ielts-simon.com

Describe a family celebration that you remember.

You should say

what you were celebrating

who was present

what you and your family did to make the celebration special

and why you enjoyed the occasion.

Here's the sample answer from my blog. Can you improve this description with some good words and phrases from the video lesson?

- I'm going to describe my sister's wedding day, which took place a few years ago in the town where I grew up. For my sister it was the biggest and most important day of her life.
- I think there were around 100 people at the marriage ceremony, which was held in a church. Even more people came to the party, or the wedding reception as we call it, after the ceremony. Of course, most members of my family were there, as well as the groom's family and a collection of the bride and groom's friends and colleagues.
- To make the celebration special, we did what families normally do. My mother made sure that the church and the reception venue were nicely decorated - there were flowers everywhere! Obviously we all dressed for the occasion, and there were bridesmaids, gifts, a huge wedding cake, and so on.
- I enjoyed the occasion because it was great to see my sister so happy on her big day. The ceremony was perfect, and we all had a fantastic time at the reception. It's rare for me to see all of my family and friends together in one place, so that's probably what made the day so memorable for me.

Some ideas for the “describe a festival” topic:

A common topic for the short presentation (IELTS Speaking Part 2) is "describe an important festival in your country".

My advice is to look for a description of your festival on Wikipedia. Copy the best parts of the description and make small changes if necessary. As an example, I've copied a short description of Christmas from Wikipedia.

Christmas:

Christmas is an annual holiday that, in Christianity, commemorates the birth of Jesus Christ.

Popular customs of the holiday include gift-giving, music, an exchange of greeting cards, church celebrations, a special meal, and the display of various decorations; including Christmas trees, lights, nativity scenes, and holly. In addition, Father Christmas (known as Santa Claus in some areas) is a popular figure in many countries, associated with the bringing of gifts for children.

Over the Christmas period, people decorate their homes and exchange gifts. In some countries, children perform plays re-telling the events of the Nativity, or sing carols that reference the event. Christmas, along with Easter, is the period of highest annual church attendance.

A special Christmas family meal is an important part of the celebration for many, and what is served varies greatly from country to country. In England and countries influenced by its traditions, a standard Christmas meal includes turkey, potatoes, vegetables, sausages and gravy, followed by Christmas pudding, mince pies and fruit cake.

Try using these ideas (or your own festival ideas) to answer the question below.

Describe a festival that is important in your country.

You should say

when the festival occurs

what you do during it

what you like or dislike about it

and explain why this festival is important.