



STUDY NOTES

EPISODE 8: CROCODILE TOURISM

Speaking Naturally

The **IELTS Speaking Test** assesses your ability to communicate effectively, using Spoken English. The following criteria are used to assess your performance:

- fluency and coherence
- vocabulary range
- the range and accuracy of your grammar
- pronunciation: rhythm, intonation patterns, stress

The study notes for this episode focus on the communication skills needed for **fluency** and **coherence**.

Fluency refers to your ability to speak smoothly and continuously. Coherence refers to your ability to speak in a well-organised, logical manner. This means you need to present your ideas and/or information in a logical sequence.

Linking or 'Connected Speech'

For fluency and coherence in your speaking, it is necessary to link words together in English sentences, concentrating on the last sound of the word and the first sound of the following word

There are different types of linking that occur between:

- **consonant + vowel** 'just a moment' /'dʒʌs tə 'məʊmənt/

here the final sound /t/ in *just* is linked with the *a* /ə/ and pronounced as one word / tə/

- **vowel + vowel** 'see you at home' /si ju w æt hoʊm/

'tea or coffee' /ti j ɔ 'kɒfi/

/j/

Study Tips

In the IELTS Speaking Test, it is important to speak clearly, at a reasonable pace and in a smooth manner. This is achieved by linking your words.

To make your spoken English sound natural you need to link words ending in a 'final consonant' sound to words with an 'initial vowel' sound.

