

# AFARINESH IELTS Radio – Podcast 37

## IELTS Speaking Part 3 Questions

### 1. What can schools do to help students prepare for the next stage of their lives?

Well, given the current state of education in all around the world specifically in developing countries such as ours, I think we're a long way away from giving students **down to earth** instructions in order to get their act together and **man up** for jumping to the next lily pad in their life. The way I see it, they gotta keep the memorization to a minimum and provide opportunities so that the students could get some real **hands on experience** how to deal with the kinda life they'll actually face. **Simply put**, there should be less talk, more action. I mean they gotta find the students' **strong suit** and work on it.

### 2. What advice would you give someone who doesn't like school?

I've always lived by the **motto** "follow you heart, it gets you to the right place" and I will make sure to **pass this on** to everyone I meet. I think school and education are **overrated**. Some kids simply don't **possess the makings** for this whole education thing and just to keep their folks happy and follow the **mainstream** they push themselves to do it. You know, I'd definitely **nix** the idea of studying where there is neither will nor passion to continue education. After graduation, they understand education was not all it was **cracked up** to be so I believe they'd be **better off** dropping out of school and **seek** their true talent.

### 3. How do you think school life differs from university life?

I think they're **worlds apart**. **First off**, the values change we you enter university. I mean, it's not like you're gonna be into the same child's play you used to when you were a schoolboy. It's **ironic** you know, when you're at school the teachers twist your arm to study but and don't give in, but in university, while you're left to your own devices and nobody says a thing, you feel the **urge** to **pull yourself up by your bootstraps**. Aside from these, I can't actually think of any other major differences between the two. One more thing, I figure there is also no stupid high school **prankster** in university.

## Language focus

### Down to earth

with no illusions or pretensions; practical and realistic.

### Man up

be brave or tough enough to deal with an unpleasant situation

### Hands on experience

Knowledge or skill that someone gets from doing something rather than just reading about it or seeing it being done

### Simply put

used for saying that you are just giving the basic facts about a complicated situation

### Strong suit

something at which one excels.

noun: one's strong suit; plural noun: one's strong suits

"compassion is not Jack's strong suit"

### Pass sth on

to tell someone something that another person has told you:

If he provided us with any information, no one passed it on to me.

### Overrate

have a higher opinion of (someone or something) than is deserved.

"an overrated player"

### Possess

to have a particular quality or ability: Different workers possess different skills.

### The makings

the essential qualities needed for something.

"she had the makings of a great teacher"

### Mainstream

the ideas, attitudes, or activities that are shared by most people and regarded as normal or conventional.

"they withdrew from the mainstream of European politics"

**Nix**

to answer no to something or say that you will not allow something: They nixed the idea of filming in Ireland.

**Crack up**

praise

wasn't all that it was cracked up to be

**Be better off**

to be in a better situation, if or after something happens:

He'd be better off working for a bigger company.

**Seek**

to try to achieve or get something: Do you think the President will seek re-election?

**Worlds apart**

very different or distant.

"our daughter's school is worlds apart from school as I knew it in the 1960s"

**First off**

as a first point; firstly.

"first off, I owe you a heck of an apology"

**Ironic**

happening in a way contrary to what is expected, and typically causing wry amusement because of this.

"it was ironic that now everybody had plenty of money for food they couldn't obtain it because everything was rationed"

**Urge**

to strongly suggest that someone does something

**Pull yourself up by your bootstraps**

Improve your situation by your own efforts.

**Prankster**

someone who plays tricks on people to make them look silly