

IELTS TEST

TOP TIPS

EBOOK

Compiled

By

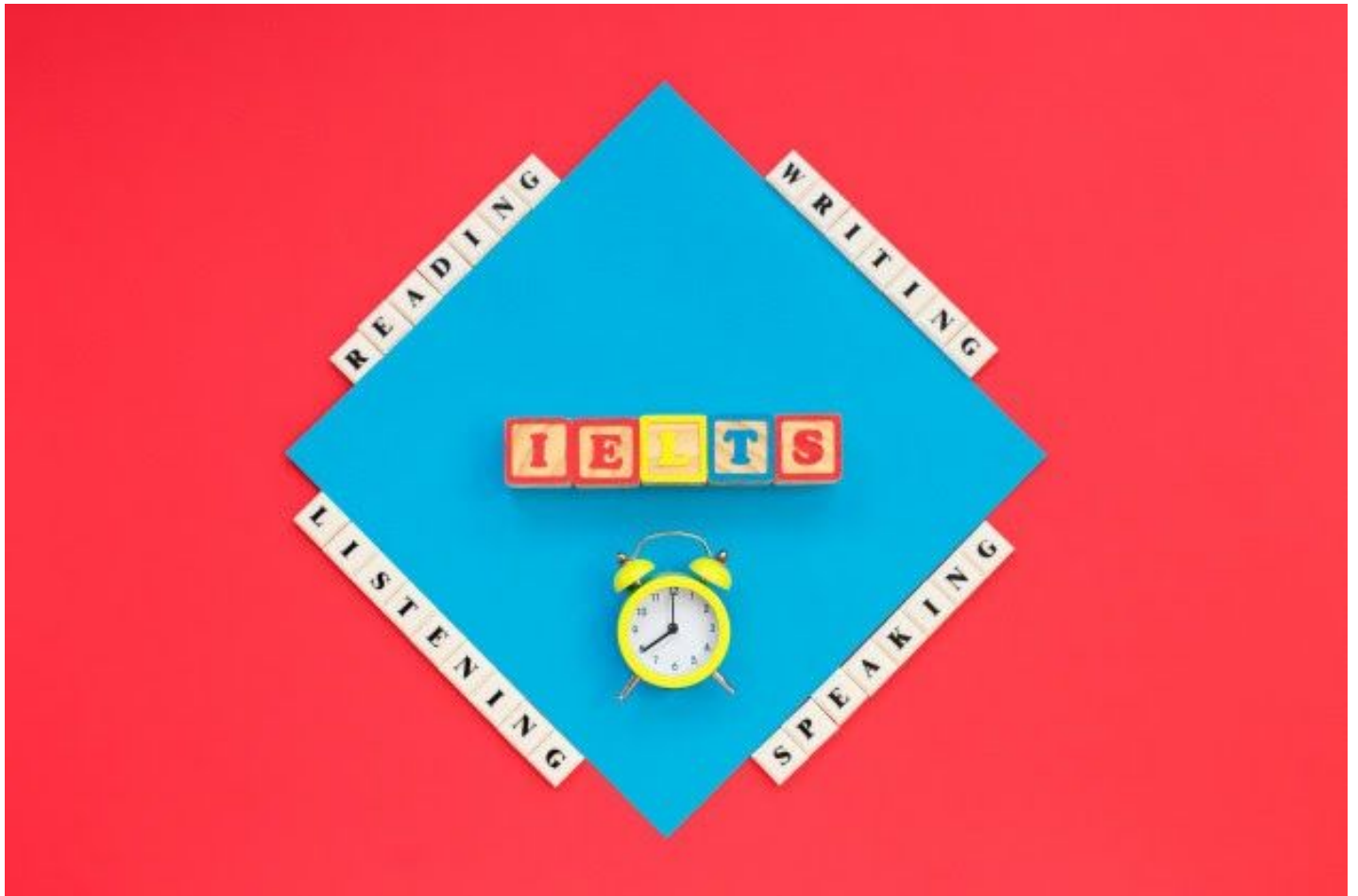
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IELTS GENERAL TIPS EBOOK

INTRODUCTION

What is IELTS?

The international English language testing system (IELTS) is the world's most popular English language proficiency test for higher education and global migration, with over 2 million tests taken every year.

IELTS assesses all of your English skills — reading, writing, listening and speaking, and is designed to reflect how you will use English at study, at work, and at play, in your new life abroad.

The IELTS test is developed by some of the world's leading experts in language assessment. It has an excellent international reputation, and is accepted by over 9,000 organisations worldwide, including schools, universities, employers, immigration authorities and professional bodies.

The IELTS test consists of four components: Speaking, Listening, Reading and Writing. You will

always take the Listening, Reading and Writing parts all on the same day one after the other, with

no breaks between them. Your Speaking test is usually scheduled on the afternoon of the test day; however, it can be scheduled within seven days before or after that. You will be contacted by your local IELTS test centre to inform you of the date and location of your speaking test.

WHAT DOES THE IELTS TEST MEASURE?

The IELTS test is about measuring *your ability to communicate effectively in English*, not how well you can memorise, or how well you can copy.

The test is all about the ability to communicate flexibly in English. It's not a test on how to memorise whole paragraphs and there is no quick fix to get a good score. If you memorize sentences and paragraphs, it's impossible to score well in IELTS.

The only way to improve your score is to improve your English.

There are two versions of the test:

1. IELTS Academic

2. IELTS General Training.

IELTS General Training is designed for those who are going to English speaking countries for secondary education, work experience or training programs. The test measures English language proficiency in a practical, everyday context. The tasks and tests reflect both workplace and social situations.

This book will look at all sections and we will practice tests for each of the four language components of the IELTS Training tests: Listening, Reading, Writing and Speaking.

How to prepare for IELTS.

Step 1

The 1st step is to understand your scoring.

It is important that you understand how the scoring works in the IELTS exam so that you can appropriately measure your progress.

The exam is graded on a scale of 1–9. These grades are known as ‘bands’. See a picture of the band score scale below so you can better understand the standard of English that each band represents.

The IELTS band score scale	
9	Expert user
8	Very good user
7	Good user
6	Competent user
5	Modest user
4	Limited user
3	Extremely limited user
2	Intermittent user
1	Non user
0	Did not attempt the test

Once you're familiar with the band system used for grading IELTS, you must apply this system to each section of the test.

HOW YOUR TOTAL BAND SCORE IS CALCULATED

Each section of the exam — Speaking, Listening, Reading and Writing — is a separate test and therefore will be given a separate band score.

Your final IELTS result will be an average of these four scores.

For example, let's say your IELTS results are:

Speaking- 8

Listening- 7

Reading- 7

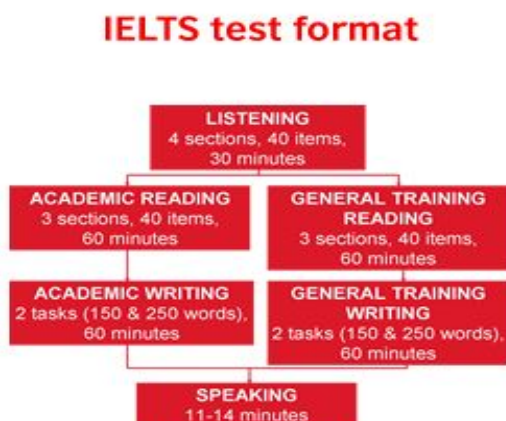
Writing- 6

Then your total score would be $(8+7+7+6)\div 4 =$ Band 7.

Step 2

The 2nd Step is to understand the test Format:

In order to excel in the IELTS test, you must first have a thorough understanding of what the exam will look like. This will prevent you from being taken by surprise on the exam day, allowing you to focus on the quality of your work. Take a look at the picture posted below that explains the exam format for all abilities.



Once you understand the exam format, you can familiarize yourself with the IELTS format by completing practice papers.

Step 3

The 3rd step is Identifying your current level.

If you are completely new to IELTS, the best way of getting an understanding of your current level is by completing real IELTS practice papers under exam conditions and marking yourself HONESTLY.

Taking practice papers is also a great way of improving your understanding of the exam format. However, you should only use tests from OFFICIAL and RELIABLE sources (I recommend only British Council, Cambridge and IDP resources)

The reason why you should only use tests from reliable and official sources is because fake tests are very misleading and can prevent students from understanding what the real test is like.

Remember: there is a big difference between **IELTS practice and IELTS preparation.**

Don't fall into the trap of believing that completing practice papers will improve your score — it is important to learn from your mistakes to expand your ability. This is why we launched this class, to help you discover your weaknesses and improve your score

Step 4

So let's move to the 4th step

Define your objective and equip yourself with the tools you need to achieve your objective.

Your objective when taking the IELTS is to achieve the highest score possible so that you won't have to retake the exam later.

Getting the scores you need on each section can be quite challenging, but a proper exam preparation and knowing the tips and tricks you need to give the IELTS examiner what they want is a good way to get a better score.

Listed below are a few General tips and tricks to help improve your IELTS skills.

1. Remember to follow the suggested timing in each section of the test to maximize points. For instance, there are more points possible on Task 2 than on Task 1.
2. Use the example given at the start of the Listening section to become more familiar with the speakers, situation, and sounds.
3. Don't try to understand every word and phrase you read in each of the IELTS sections. You won't have time to complete each section if you do.
4. Review the example answer if one is provided in the Reading section. This can help you develop a correct answer for the actual Reading section questions.
5. Make sure to organize your thoughts and ideas before writing them out on the Writing section.
6. Take a moment and make a rough outline of what you want to write as this will help you express your ideas and opinions.
7. Always allow plenty of time to review your essay question and check your work.
8. Avoid speaking to the recording equipment during the spoken part of the IELTS. Make sure to address the examiner directly by making eye contact as you speak.
9. Anytime you give a "yes" or "no" answer to the examiner make sure to provide a little more detail. Try to explain at least one point of what you were asked.
10. As you are listening to a recording, only focus on the questions that relate to the part that is currently being played.
11. You are often given short periods of time in between recording sections. Use this time to start to prepare answers to the questions.
12. Remember that the Listening section questions tend to follow the order of the information presented in the recordings.
13. Make sure to check your grammar and spelling anytime you transfer answers to the Answer Sheet.
14. Always read the instructions of each IELTS section to verify you are answering the questions correctly.

For instance, in some Reading tasks, you may be required to answer in your own words, while others will want you to use words from the text in your answer.

15. Some instructions require you to meet a minimum word usage requirement. Make sure to attain the minimum amount, but try to avoid using filler and unnecessary words.

As I usually tell my offline students, the key to succeeding in IELTS is constant practice, so we are going to do our first practice now.

PRACTICE EXERCISE 1

Read the text below and answer the questions. (18 minutes)

Calisthenics

The world's oldest form of resistance training

A) From the very first caveman to scale a tree or hang from a cliff face, to the mighty armies of the Greco-Roman empires and the gymnasiums of modern American high schools, calisthenics has endured and thrived because of its simplicity and utility. Unlike strength training which involves weights, machines or resistance bands, calisthenics uses only the body's own weight for physical development.

B) Calisthenics enters the historical record at around 480 B.C., with Herodotus' account of the Battle of Thermopylae. Herodotus reported that, prior to the battle, the god-king Xerxes sent a scout party to spy on his Spartan enemies. The scouts informed Xerxes that the Spartans, under the leadership of King Leonidas, were practicing some kind of bizarre, synchronised movements akin to a tribal dance. Xerxes was greatly amused. His own army was comprised of over 120,000 men, while the Spartans had just 300. Leonidas was informed that he must retreat or face annihilation. The Spartans did not retreat, however, and in the ensuing battle they managed to hold Xerxes' enormous army at bay for some time until reinforcements arrived. It turns out their tribal dance was not a superstitious ritual but a form of calisthenics by which they were building awe-inspiring physical strength and endurance.

C) The Greeks took calisthenics seriously not only as a form of military discipline and strength, but also as an artistic expression of movement and an aesthetically ideal physique. Indeed, the term calisthenics itself is derived from the Greek words for beauty and strength. We know from historical records and images from pottery, mosaics and sculptures of the period that the ancient Olympians took calisthenics training seriously. They were greatly admired – and still are, today – for their combination of athleticism and physical beauty. You may have heard a friend whimsically sigh and mention that someone 'has the body of a Greek god'. This expression has travelled through centuries and continents, and the source of this envy and admiration is the calisthenics method.

D) Calisthenics experienced its second golden age in the 1800s. This century saw the birth of gymnastics, an organised sport that uses a range of bars, rings, vaulting horses and balancing beams to display physical prowess. This period is also when the phenomena of strongmen developed. These were people of astounding physical strength and development who forged nomadic careers by demonstrating outlandish feats of strength to stunned populations. Most of these men trained using hand balancing and horizontal bars, as modern weight machines had not yet been invented.

E) In the 1950s, Angelo Siciliano – who went by the stage name Charles Atlas – was crowned “The World’s Most Perfectly Developed Man”. Atlas’s own approach stemmed from traditional calisthenics, and through a series of mail order comic books he taught these methods to hundreds of thousands of children and young adults through the 1960s and 1970s. But Atlas was the last of a dying breed. The tides were turning, fitness methods were drifting away from calisthenics, and no widely-regarded proponent of the method would ever succeed him.

F) In the 1960s and 1970s calisthenics and the goal of functional strength combined with physical beauty was replaced by an emphasis on huge muscles at any cost. This became the sport of body building. Although body building’s pioneers were drawn from the calisthenics tradition, the sole goal soon became an increase in muscle size. Body building icons, people such as Arnold Schwarzenegger and Sergio Oliva were called mass monsters because of their imposing physiques. Physical development of this nature was only attainable through the use of anabolic steroids, synthetic hormones which boosted muscle development while harming overall health. These body builders also relied on free weights and machines, which allowed them to target and bloat the size of individual muscles rather than develop a naturally proportioned body. Calisthenics, with its emphasis on physical beauty and a balance in proportions, had little to offer the mass monsters.

G) In this “bigger is better” climate, calisthenics was relegated to groups perceived to be vulnerable, such as women, people recuperating from injuries and school students. Although some of the strongest and most physically developed human beings ever to have lived acquired their abilities through the use of sophisticated calisthenics, a great deal of this knowledge was discarded and the method was reduced to nothing more than an easily accessible and readily available activity. Those who mastered the rudimentary skills of calisthenics could expect to graduate to weight training rather than advanced calisthenics.

H) In recent years, however, fitness trends have been shifting back toward the use of calisthenics. Bodybuilding approaches that promote excessive muscle development frequently lead to joint pain, injuries, unbalanced physiques and weak cardiovascular health. As a result, many of the newest and most popular gyms and programmes emphasise calisthenics-based methods instead. Modern practices often combine elements from a number of related traditions such as yoga, Pilates, kettle-ball training, gymnastics and traditional Greco-Roman calisthenics. Many people are keen to recover the original Greek vision of physical beauty and strength and harmony of the mind-body connection.

Questions 1– 7

**The text has eight paragraphs, A–H. Which paragraph contains the following information?
Choose the correct letter for questions 1 - 7**

QUESTIONS

- 1) the origin of the word ‘calisthenics’
- 2) the last popular supporter of calisthenics

- 3) the first use of calisthenics as a training method
- 4) a multidisciplinary approach to all-round health and strength
- 5) reasons for the survival of calisthenics throughout the ages
- 6) medical substance to increase muscle mass and strength
- 7) a reference to travelling showmen who displayed their strength for audiences.

Questions 8 – 12

Complete the summary below. Choose no more than two words from the text for each answer.

QUESTIONS

During the sixties and seventies, attaining huge muscles became more important than

(8) or having an attractive-looking body. The first people to take up this new sport of body building had a background in calisthenics but the most famous practitioners became known as (9) on account of the impressive size of their muscles. Drugs and mechanical devices were used to develop individual muscles to a monstrous size.

Calisthenics then became the domain of 'weaker' people: females, children and those recovering from (10) Much of the advanced knowledge about calisthenics was lost and the method was subsequently downgraded to the status of a simple, user-friendly activity. Once a person became skilled at this, he would progress to (11)..... .

Currently a revival of calisthenics is under way as extreme muscle building can harm the body leaving it sore, out of balance, and in poor (12)

ANSWERS

1. C

2. E

3. B

4. H

5. A

6. F

7. D

8. functional strength

9. mass monsters

10. injuries

11. weight training

12. cardiovascular health

PRACTISE EXERCISE 2

General Training Reading - section 2

This is the second section of the IELTS General Training Reading test. It contains two pieces of writing. Read each piece and answer the questions.

Questions 15-21

Read the text below and answer questions 15-21.

Beneficial work practices for the keyboard operator

A) Sensible work practices are an important factor in the prevention of muscular fatigue; discomfort or pain in the arms, neck, hands or back; or eye strain which can be associated with constant or regular work at a keyboard and visual display unit (VDU).

B) It is vital that the employer pays attention to the physical setting such as workplace design, the office environment, and placement of monitors as well as the organisation of the work and individual work habits. Operators must be able to recognise work-related health problems and be given the opportunity to participate in the management of these. Operators should take note of and follow the preventive measures outlined below.

C) The typist must be comfortably accommodated in a chair that is adjustable for height with a back rest that is also easily adjustable both for angle and height. The back rest and sitting ledge (with a curved edge) should preferably be cloth-covered to avoid excessive perspiration.

D) When the keyboard operator is working from a paper file or manuscript, it should be at the same distance from the eyes as the screen. The most convenient position can be found by using some sort of holder. Individual arrangement will vary according to whether the operator spends more time looking at the VDU or the paper – whichever the eyes are focused on for the majority of time should be put directly in front of the operator.

E) While keying, it is advisable to have frequent but short pauses of around thirty to sixty seconds to proofread. When doing this, relax your hands. After you have been keying for sixty minutes, you should have a ten minute change of activity. During this spell it is important that you do not remain seated but stand up or walk around. This period could be profitably used to do filing or collect and deliver documents.

F) Generally, the best position for a VDU is at right angles to the window. If this is not possible then glare from the window can be controlled by blinds, curtains or movable screens. Keep the face of the VDU vertical to avoid glare from overhead lighting.

G) Unsatisfactory work practices or working conditions may result in aches or pain. Symptoms should be reported to your supervisor early on so that the cause of the trouble can be corrected and the operator should seek medical attention.

Questions 15–21

The text above has seven sections, A–G. Choose the correct heading for each section from the list of headings below.

Select the correct number, i–x for questions 15–21.

LIST OF HEADINGS

- i How can reflection problems be avoided?
- ii How long should I work without a break?
- iii What if I experience any problems?
- iv When is the best time to do filing chores?
- v What makes a good seat?
- vi What are the common health problems?
- vii What is the best kind of lighting to have?
- viii What are the roles of management and workers?
- ix Why does a VDU create eye fatigue?
- x Where should I place the documents?

QUESTIONS

- 15) Section A
- 16) Section B
- 17) Section C
- 18) Section D
- 19) Section E
- 20) Section F
- 21) Section G

Questions 22–28

Read the text below and answer questions 22–28.

Workplace dismissals

Before the dismissal

If an employer wants to dismiss an employee, there is a process to be followed. Instances of minor misconduct and poor performance must first be addressed through some preliminary steps.

Firstly, you should be given an improvement note. This will explain the problem, outline any necessary changes and offer some assistance in correcting the situation. Then, if your employer does not think your performance has improved, you may be given a written warning. The last step is called a final written warning which will inform you that you will be dismissed unless there are improvements in performance. If there is no improvement, your employer can begin the dismissal procedure.

The dismissal procedure begins with a letter from the employer setting out the charges made against the employee. The employee will be invited to a meeting to discuss these accusations. If the employee denies the charges, he is given the opportunity to appear at a formal appeal hearing in front of a different manager. After this, a decision is made as to whether the employee will be let go or not.

Dismissals

Of the various types of dismissal, a fair dismissal is the best kind if an employer wants an employee out of the workplace. A fair dismissal is legally and contractually strong and it means all the necessary procedures have been correctly followed. In cases where an employee's misconduct has been very serious, however, an employer may not have to follow all of these procedures. If the employer can prove that the employee's behaviour was illegal, dangerous or severely wrong, the employee can be dismissed immediately: a procedure known as summary dismissal.

Sometimes a dismissal is not considered to have taken place fairly. One of these types is wrongful dismissal and involves a breach of contract by the employer. This could involve dismissing an employee without notice or without following proper disciplinary and dismissal procedures. Another type, unfair dismissal, is when an employee is sacked without good cause.

There is another kind of dismissal, known as constructive dismissal, which is slightly peculiar because the employee is not actually openly dismissed by the employer. In this case the employee is forced into resigning by an employer who tries to make significant changes to the original contract. This could mean an employee might have to work night shifts after originally signing on for day work, or he could be made to work in dangerous conditions.

Questions 22 and 23

Complete the sentences below. Choose no more than three words from the text for each answer.

QUESTIONS

22 If an employee receives a, this means he will lose his job if his work does not get better.

23 If an employee does not accept the reasons for his dismissal, a can be arranged.

Questions 24–28

Look at the following descriptions (Questions 24–28) and the list of terms in the box below. Match each description with the correct term A–E. Choose the appropriate letter A–E for questions 24–28.

24) An employee is asked to leave work straight away because he has done something really bad.

25) An employee is pressured to leave his job unless he accepts conditions that are very different from those agreed to in the beginning.

26) An employer gets rid of an employee without keeping to conditions in the contract.

27) The reason for an employee's dismissal is not considered good enough.

28) The reasons for an employee's dismissal are acceptable by law and the terms of the employment contract.

- A Fair dismissal
- B Summary dismissal
- C Unfair dismissal
- D Wrongful dismissal
- E Constructive dismissal

Remember, that you have 22 minutes to answer all questions. Please don't cheat yourself by not timing yourself.

All the best.

Answers.

15. vi

16. viii

17. v

18. x

19. ii

20. i

21. iii

22. Final written warning

23. Formal appeal hearing

24. B

25. E

26. D

27. C

28. A

GENERAL WRITING ABILITY



INTRODUCTION TO WRITING SKILLS

Writing

There are two tasks:

You will be allowed 1 hour to complete two tasks in the IELTS General Training Writing test.

Timing

The total time allowed for the IELTS General Training Writing test is 60 minutes. Time yourself and allow just one hour to complete both parts.

Writing Task 1 – you will be presented with a situation and asked to write a letter requesting information, or explaining the situation. The letter may be personal, semi-formal or formal in style.

You should spend about 20 minutes on task 1

You should write in a personal, semi-formal or formal style

You should write at least 150 words.

Writing Task 2 – you will be asked to write an essay in response to a point of view, argument or problem. The essay can be fairly personal in style.

You may get a lot of different topics for your IELTS Writing task 2. You can be asked to give your opinion, to state solutions to some problem, to describe advantages and disadvantages of something and so on.

Writing task 2 is the same for both Academic and General. Task 2 contributes twice as much as Task 1 to the Writing score. So we are going to focus more on task 2 writing in this class.

You will be presented with a specific topic and asked to write a 250-word essay about it.

You should give reasons for your answer and include examples from your own knowledge or experience

You should normally spend 40 minutes on IELTS Writing task 2

In this time you need to analyze the question, brainstorm ideas to write about, formulate an essay plan, and then write your response. ... Tell the reader what you are going to be writing about.

So you need to use your time carefully. You need a good IELTS essay introduction, but one thing you do not want to do is spend too long writing it so that you end up rushing your paragraphs.

Your paragraphs are the most important thing as they contain all your supporting arguments and demonstrate how good you are at organizing your ideas.

HOW YOUR WRITING IS GRADED

For you to reach band 8 or 9 you must answer all the questions. You are being marked on

1. Task achievement/response (how accurately you addressed the task)
2. Coherence and Cohesion (how organized your writing is)
3. Lexical resource (the range of your vocabulary)
4. Grammar range and accuracy (the correctness of your grammar)

Things that might affect your mark:

Fluency: if your handwriting is illegible for the examiner and he/she can't read it properly, you are likely to lose points.

Unoriginal answer: if you learnt a topic by heart and wrote it, you might get a low score for your essay. IELTS examiner assesses only your own thoughts and opinions.

Limited answer: if you only answer half of the question and don't expand your opinion, you will not get more than a band score 5 for the task.

HOW TO FULLY UTILIZE THE 60 MINS FOR YOUR WRITING TASK 1 and 2

You need to organize your ideas, write accurately, and use rich vocabulary. It is recommended that you divide your time accordingly.

For IELTS Writing Task 2, you have to write an essay discussing a topic. You will be given an opinion/argument, different points of view or a problem to discuss.

Most students prepare phrases for introducing and linking ideas. However, not many students prepare good ideas and opinions for IELTS topics.

IELTS Writing Task 2: how to use your 40 minutes

You have 40 minutes for task 2, so try organising your time in the following way:

First 10 minutes - read the question and make sure you understand what it is asking you to do. Write a plan for a 4-paragraph essay (introduction, 2 main paragraphs, conclusion) and spend most of the 10 minutes thinking of ideas for the 2 main paragraphs.

5 minutes - write your introduction: 2 sentences are enough

20 minutes - Spend 10 minutes on each of your main body paragraphs with supporting points and examples.

These are the most important part of your essay, and the key to a high score.

Last 5 minutes

Write a quick conclusion then check your work.

PLEASE NOTE:

These are suggestions, not rules.

Students are often surprised by this recommendation to use 10-minutes planning time. In my experience, a good plan helps you to write your essay much faster than you think.

IELTS Writing Task 2. Secret skill on How to answer any question

I want to share with you a secret skill to implement in order to answer any writing question type on IELTS.

1. Read the question very carefully, maybe three times. Ask myself "What's the topic?"

What is the question asking me to write about?"

2. Underline the key things that must be included in the essay.

3. Now think about how to structure your 4 paragraphs. You can write any type of essay in 4 paragraphs; you just need to decide what to put in each paragraph.

4. If you need to give your opinion, think "What is the easiest opinion to explain? What good vocabulary could I use?"

5. Then write down some vocabulary ideas that are related to the topic.

6. Try to write 2 sentences for the introduction: Introduce the topic, then give a simple answer (including your opinion if the question asks for it).
7. Write short 'topic sentences' to start each paragraph, then develop your ideas by explaining and supporting with examples.
8. Always look at the question from time to time in order to check to confirm you're answering every part of it.
9. During constant practice you must have known how many words per line, you write. If you know that you write about 10 words per line; you can quickly check the approximate number of words that I've written by counting the number of lines you have covered.
10. If you need more words (to reach 250), you expand one of your examples in the main body paragraphs. If necessary, I draw an arrow to show where I want to add the extra words.

Writing Task 2 Essay Types:

- 1-Problem /Solution
- 2-Opinion Essays/Agree / disagree
- 3-Advantage/ Disadvantage
- 4 Causes (reasons) & solutions
- 5 Causes (reasons) & effects
- 6-A Complex Question

NOTE:

Not every essay will fit one of these patterns, but many do. You may get some of these tasks mixed up. For example, you could be asked to give your opinion on an issue, and then discuss the advantages or disadvantages of it.

The golden rule is to ALWAYS read the question very carefully to see exactly what you are being asked to do.

TIPS FOR ANSWERING DIFFERENT ESSAY TYPES

1. PROBLEM/SOLUTION ESSAY

Tips for Writing Problem/Solution Essay

The IELTS Writing Task 2 Problem / Solution Essay task tests your ability to write about a problem(s) and suggest ways that the problem(s) may be solved.

You will be given a statement about a contemporary issue and two questions. One asks you to identify the cause of the problem, the other to suggest solutions to solve it.

One of the first things you need to do is to make sure that you are able to identify one of these questions when it arises.

You will need to first analyse the question carefully to make sure you understand what you are being asked to do. It helps if you highlight or underline the keywords in the exam task

Let's look at a typical IELTS Problem / Solution essay question:

Practice Que 1

One problem faced by almost every large city is traffic congestion.

- *What do you think the causes are?*
- *What solutions can you suggest?*

NOTE: Before you begin to write your IELTS Problem / Solution Essay, make a brief plan. You should make a note of the main causes and possible solutions. Two problems and two solutions are usually sufficient.

So example below

The question demands, you write causes and solution so we see

Problem 1- Causes

More vehicles on the roads these days. Most families now own more than one car

Problem 2 – Causes

Public transport is often inconvenient and overcrowded

Problem 3 - Causes
Bad roads / potholes

*The solution for problem 1

Car sharing schemes. Cycle lanes too to encourage people to use bicycles instead of cars.

*The solution for problem 2

More frequent and comfortable buses and trains would encourage people to use public transport.

*The solution for problem 3

Better infrastructure / repairs

So we can see this question is just causes and solution essay and not problem solution essay

Practice Que 2:

The internet has transformed the way information is shared and consumed, but it has also created problems that did not exist before.

What are the most serious problems associated with the internet and what solutions can you suggest?

*Problem 1. Children have easy access to dangerous sites, for example; pornographic sites.

* p2: Growth of online fraud and hacking

* p3: Fake news

*P4: Bullying

*P5: Time consuming etc

Solution

1. Government should make sure adequate legislation control are in place

2 Business organizations should improve their IT security system

3. Parents to restrict access to certain sites

SOME ADVICE

Your Problem /Solution essay should contain an introduction, two main body paragraphs and a conclusion.

Begin each paragraph with a topic sentence that states the main idea of the paragraph. The topic sentence (usually the 1st sentence) should indicate that you will discuss the cause of the problem, the topic sentence in the second paragraph should indicate that you will discuss solutions to the problem.

Tip:

In both paragraphs don't forget to use link words to signal that you are moving from one point to another.

In the first paragraph, you may need to use a vocabulary of cause and effect to explain why the problem exists.

To do this you will need to use language to express Cause and Effect/Result

Tip: Check your work.

Candidates often forget or run out of time and don't edit their writing carefully which can result in a lower band.

Make sure you:

- Check for mistakes in spelling
- Subject + verb agreement
- Capitalisation i.e. using capital letters on proper nouns
- Grammar – Especially the use of the definite and indefinite articles a/an/ the

NOTE:

An IELTS essay is structured like any other essay; There are three key elements:

1. Introduction
2. Body Paragraphs
3. Conclusion

Assignment

The internet has transformed the way information is shared and consumed, but it has also created problems that did not exist before.

What are the most serious problems associated with the internet and what solutions can you suggest?

I will post a model answer. If you want a complete evaluation, you have to pay our Tutor Vivian to give you a complete evaluation. I highly recommend you do that, as that can help you assess your progress. She will give you your band score and point out your areas of weakness and strength. This will help you improve your writing skill.

MODEL ANSWER

The enormous growth in the use of the internet over the last decade has led to radical changes to the way that people consume and share information. Although serious problems have arisen as a result of this, there are solutions.

One of the first problems of the internet is the ease with which children can access potentially dangerous sites. For example, pornography sites are easily accessible to them because they can register with a site and claim to be an adult. There is no doubt that this affects their thoughts and development, which is a negative impact for the children and for society. Another major problem is the growth of online fraud and hacking. These days, there are constant news stories about government and company websites that have been hacked, resulting in sensitive information falling into the hands of criminals.

It is important that action is taken to combat these problems. Governments should ensure that adequate legislation and controls are in place that will prevent young people from accessing dangerous sites, such as requiring more than simply confirming that you are an adult to view a site. Parents also have a part to play. They need to closely monitor the activities of their children and restrict their access to certain sites, which can now be done through various computer programs. Companies must also improve their onsite IT security systems to make fraud and hacking much more difficult by undertaking thorough reviews of their current systems for weaknesses.

To conclude, the internet is an amazing technological innovation that has transformed people's lives, but not without negative impacts. However, with the right action by individuals, governments and businesses, it can be made a safe place for everyone.

(285 words)

HOW TO WRITE CAUSES AND SOLUTION ESSAY

A LOOK AT THE DIFFERENCES B/W PROBLEM AND SOLUTION ESSAY AND CAUSES AND SOLUTION ESSAY.

These two essay types easily confused essays (problem solution / causes solutions essay)

What is the difference between a Causes Solutions and a Problem Solutions essay?

Problem solutions and causes solutions essay are very similar but there is a subtle difference, one type asks about the problems and the other type asks about the causes.

In both types of essay you have to mention the problem, but in a causes solution essay you are mainly focused on the cause of the problem and that is what you will write about, and of course the possible solutions.

Practice questions on Cause Solution Essay

QUESTION 1

An increasing number of professionals, such as doctors and teachers are leaving their own poorer countries to work in developed countries.

What problems does this cause? What solutions can you suggest?

QUESTION 2

An increasing number of professionals, such as doctors and teachers are leaving their own poorer countries to work in developed countries.

What are the causes of this problems? What solutions can you suggest?

NOTE: The first essay is asking in the instructions words: What problems does this cause? The word 'this' refers to the issue of 'professionals leaving their own poorer countries to work in developed countries'.

So you have to write about: the problems that happen as a result of these professional people (doctors, teachers, etc) leaving their own developing countries. You then have to write about: possible solutions to this issue of these professional people wanting to leave their own countries.

NOTE: In the second essay, the instruction words ask: What are the causes of this problem? . The word 'this' again refers to the issue of 'professionals leaving their own poorer countries to work in developed countries' so it's the same issue as in essay 1.

However, you have to write about why this problem is happening in the first place. In the essay, you do not need to focus on what happens when these professionals leave their countries, instead, you will write about what is causing this issue to happen. The solutions paragraph will be the same as the first essay, addressing ways to solve the cause of the problem.

Other instruction words to indicate a causes solutions essay:

- What are the reasons for this happening?
- Why is this happening?
- What is the cause of this issue?

IELTS likes to paraphrase the instruction words in essay tasks, so you may see the above instruction words in this kind of essay, they are all asking about the causes.

Overview: Cause and Solution Essay

What are the causes of this problem and what measures can be taken to solve it?

A cause and solution essay question is a common type of question in task 2 of the IELTS writing module. It is similar to a problem and solution question, except that the problem is already stated in the essay prompt. It is your job to suggest causes of the problem.

A common mistake students make when answering this question, is to confuse it for a problem and solution question. As a result, their response is often off topic.

To respond to this question, you should write about 2 causes and 2 solutions. The solutions can be preventative or reactionary.

In this type of essay it is easy to make your position clear by using subtle language to show how relevant or serious you think the causes are and how effective you think solutions will be.

Follow this advice:

P1. Introduce the topic and issue in your introduction and summarize the causes.

P2. Write about 2 causes

P3. Write about 2 solutions

*. Support your ideas with reasons and examples.

*. Address all parts of the task

P4. make sure you summarize the problem, causes and best solution in your conclusion

Here is an Example:

You should spend about 40 minutes on this task

Write about the following topic

In some countries, the average weight of people is increasing and their level of health and fitness is decreasing

What do you think are the causes of these problems and what measures could be taken to solve them?

Give reasons for your answer and include any relevant examples from your own knowledge or experience

Write at least 250 words

ANSWER

In many parts of the world, it seems that more and more people are becoming overweight and out of shape. To identify the causes of this phenomenon, we must examine society's contemporary lifestyle. In doing so, we can find solutions to tackle this problem effectively.

The main cause of poor health is people's sedentary lifestyle. This can clearly be seen from today's evolving workplace environment. Take people who work in the service industry, for instance. While people used to stay fit by working in jobs requiring lots of physical activity, people in the service industry often work from behind a desk.

Also at the heart of this problem is diet. Nowadays people are often too busy to cook at home and often resort to fast food or microwaveable meals. As a university student for example, I put on a lot of weight from eating instant noodles and ordering takeout when I had an assignment or needed to revise for my finals.

Perhaps the best way to tackle this problem is with education. Schools should teach children the benefits of healthy eating and nutrition. Additionally, the government can run public information campaigns that encourage people to be more active and take better care of themselves.

Another way to tackle this problem is through legislation. Governments can introduce sugar taxes on products containing added sugar or force fast food restaurants to inform consumers about the nutritional value of their food. Measures like these, could encourage people to make healthier dietary choices.

In summary, health issues resulting from diet and inactivity have become a serious concern in many parts of the world. Fortunately, preventative measures such as education can alleviate the problem. If schools don't teach children how to take care of themselves, then I believe this problem will likely persist.

Sample Question:

Also, You should spend about 40 minutes on this task.

Write about the following topic:

Obesity in children is a serious problem in a number of countries.

What are the causes of obesity in children?

Discuss the possible alarming effects of this problem in the future.

Here, Give reasons for your answer and include any relevant examples from your own knowledge or experience.

Write at least 250 words.

Solution to be given the next day.

This was the question.

You really need to read it like 3*, put down the topic word (TW) , key word (KW) and then instruction word (IW) to really see the picture of what is being asked and to keep you in the right direction.

Task response/achievement is the easiest section to score points so do not throw your points away here.

TW - Health

KW - Obesity in Children

IW - Causes Effect Essay.

Again watch out for the total words, 250 - 290 is very okay.

300 words you will start losing marks

Answer:

Over the past few years, developed countries have encountered various cases of children suffering from the problem of obesity. This essay will discuss the possible causes for this increasing problem among children and also suggests the possible consequences that may result in case of negligence.

Furthermore, one of the main causes of obesity among children is poor diet as they are often seen eating junk food. At almost every corner of the street, one can find restaurants offering mouth tempting fast foods. Kids at home also are found to eat processed food because their parents do not find sufficient time for preparing the food. For example, packaged foods are purchased and kept in the fridge for days. This food is not fresh and healthy. Hence affects their health, leading to build up of fat and compromising their fitness.

As a result, there are many possible consequences faced by the children. One such ill-effect is the risk of developing health related severe diseases like diabetes. So, This kind of debilitating illness implies that the child would need to be injected with insulin for the whole life. Moreover, overweight children are often found to be bullied . For example, many overweight kids are found disturbed facing the negative stigma of being obese On the whole, it is evident that there are various causes responsible for obesity among children and can lead to serious consequences in the future. Also, It is the duty of their parents and relatives to ensure that appropriate steps are taken to prevent this problem from getting worst in the future.

(279 words) Band 8

FOR A DETAILED LECTURE ON THE OTHER ESSAY TYPES PLEASE SIGN UP FOR OUR NEXT PAID CLASS NOW AT A 10% DISCOUNT

Advantage/ Disadvantage QUE

Some people believe that teaching children at home is best for children's development, while others think that it is important for children to go to school.

Discuss the advantages of both methods and give your own opinion.

Give reasons for your answer and include any relevant examples for your own knowledge or experience.

ANSWER CLUE: You must remember to mention the two sides of the debate, in this case, you must talk about children's development, in the context of home education and traditional school based education. If you talk only about the advantages and disadvantages of home education, you will have missed half of the question.

WRITING TASK 2 QUESTION

Agree and Disagree question

A person's worth nowadays seems to be judged according to social status and material possessions. Old fashioned values such as honour, kindness and trust no longer seem important.

To what extent do you agree or disagree with this opinion?

ANSWER CLUE: The question always starts with a statement and asks you to give your opinion on the truth of it.

As usual, write 4 paragraphs,

- An introduction
- 2 body paragraphs
- And a conclusion.

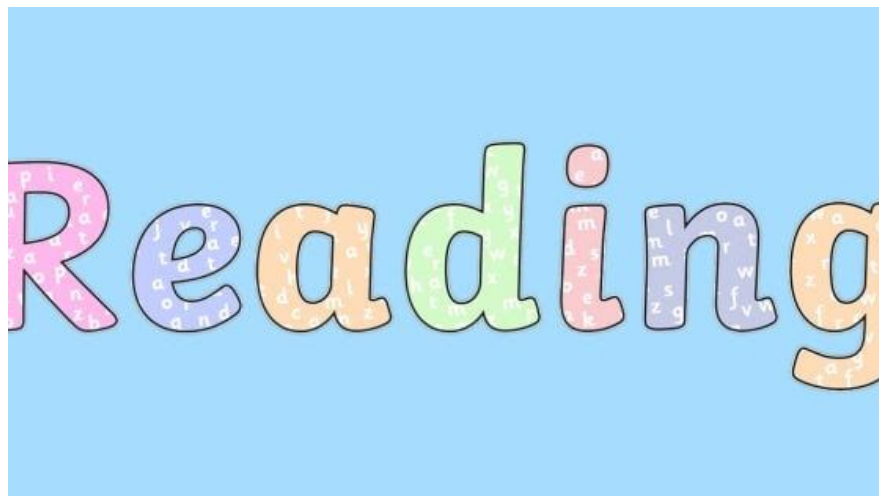
You can put your opinion on the introduction if you like , but you definitely need it in your conclusion.

Your body paragraphs will have one focus in each. In this type of question, you don't need to give opposing views, but you have to make two points, one in each body paragraph. And because it

mentions social status, possessions and social values in the question, you need to refer to these in your answer.

More CLUE to answer (when the students must have submitted their work)

If I'm writing this essay, I would talk about young people's obsession with money and use the famous example of "I'd rather cry in the back of a BMW than laugh on the back of a bicycle" and in the second body paragraph. I would probably talk about my grandmother's generation and how people were admired for the way they treated others and helped those in need. And in my conclusion, I would say that things are changing and nowadays people do care more for possessions than social values and it's such a sad situation.



INTRODUCTION TO IELTS READING

WHAT DOES THE IELTS READING TEST TEST FOR?

The IELTS Reading test is designed to assess a wide range of reading skills, including how well you

read for the general sense of a passage

read for the main ideas

read for detail

understand inferences and implied meaning

recognise a writer's opinions, attitudes and purpose

follow the development of an argument

Thus, in a nutshell the IELTS reading module tests a variety of reading skills such as your ability to find the main idea, paraphrase words and sentences, your general comprehension as well as your ability to find specific information from the reading passage.

Types of Reading Modules

There are two different reading modules:

Academic

General Training

Academic IELTS Reading Module

In the academic reading module, examinees will need to read three long passages of an academic nature. These passages are often about a scientific or historical topic and use a large amount of specialist vocabulary.

General Training IELTS Reading Module

In the general training reading module, examinees will need to read a variety of extracts taken from texts such as newspapers, books, magazines and employee handbooks.

In other words, the general training module uses texts that you would find in everyday life such as at home or at work – but not in an academic environment.

What is the IELTS Reading Test?

So, basically you have 60 minutes in which to read the three passages and answer 40 questions. The passages are not the same length and the number of questions after each passage varies, so be careful with time management, as that is one of the keys to getting a high score in IELTS Reading.

Usually, the IELTS reading module is taken before the writing test and after the listening test. It lasts for 1 hour and in this time you will need to read three passages or a variety of extracts and answer a total of 40 questions.

The questions become harder with each reading passage. Unlike the listening test, you will not have extra time to transfer your answers.

You will also be assessed on your spelling.

NOTE: The IELTS test consists of four components: Speaking, Listening, Reading and Writing. You will always take the Listening, Reading and Writing parts all on the same day one after the other, with no breaks between them.

Your Speaking test is usually scheduled on the afternoon of the test day; however, it can be scheduled within seven days before or after that. Usually, you will be contacted by your local IELTS test centre to inform you of the date and location of your speaking test.

Question Types in IELTSI Module

In the IELTS reading test, a variety of question types is used in order to test a wide range of reading skills. These include reading for gist, reading for main ideas, reading for detail, skimming, understanding logical argument, recognising writers' opinions, attitudes and purpose.

Remember, that I've previously informed you that the IELTS reading module tests a variety of reading skills such as your ability to find the main idea, paraphrase words and sentences, your general comprehension as well as your ability to find specific information from the reading passage.

The following question types are used in the General/Academic Training Reading Test:

1. Summary Completion
2. Table completion
3. matching headings
4. matching information
5. Matching features
6. Matching sentence endings
7. short answers questions
8. multiple choice questions
9. note completion
10. Diagram label Completion
11. Flow Chart Completion

- 12. Table Completion questions
- 13. Identifying information
- 14. Identifying writer's views/claims

A combination of all of these different question types is likely to be used, as together they thoroughly test a variety of different reading skills.

Scoring

There are 40 questions. Each question is worth 1 point, so your final score will be out of 40 points, these points are then converted into a band score.

Band scores for IELTS General Training Reading Module

Correct Answers Band Score

40	9
39	8.5
37-38	8
36	7.5
34-35	7
32-33	6.5
30-31	6
27-29	5.5
23-26	5
19-22	4.5
15-18	4
12-14	3.5
9-11	3
6-8	2.5

Band scores for IELTS Academic Reading Module

Correct Answers Band Score

39-40 9

37-38 8.5

35-36 8

33-34 7.5

30-32 7

27-29 6.5

23-26 6

19-22 5.5

15-18 5

13-14 4.5

10-12 4

8-9 3.5

6-7 3

4-5 2.5

Skills and Strategies to get a High Band in IELTS

Reading strategies you will need to apply to score high in IELTS Reading.

In the reading Test, you will have to locate, identify and extract different types of information from a large amount of text in a short time and to do this you will need to SKIM and SCAN the texts and then READ for detail.

These skills and strategies reflect real-life reading so in order to test the skills needed to cope in an environment where English is the language of communication, there is a large amount of text in the Reading Tests that you simply don't have enough time to read thoroughly before answering the questions. You will have to demonstrate that you have the relevant reading skills and strategies to survive in a general English environment.

Let's have a look at what the IELTS Reading tests for again. The reading tests a candidate's ability to;

1. Identify the topic, target audience and the writer's purpose
2. Identify and follow the arguments
3. Distinguish the main ideas from supporting information
4. Recognise the key information
5. Locate and extract specific information
6. Identify the relationship between pieces of information
7. Distinguish facts from opinions

The reading strategies you'll need are:

1. Skimming

This means reading very quickly to get the gist of the text: Looking at the headings, subheadings, the beginning of each paragraph, any pictures and illustrations, noticing the layout of the text and noticing the words that are repeated throughout the text.

2. Scanning

This means looking only for specific things in a text: Perhaps types of words, words with capital letters, numbers or specific words or phrases.

3. Reading for detail

This means reading every word and thinking carefully about the meaning all the time: In real life we rarely read for detail throughout a whole text, so in the test a candidate will need to read small parts of a text, perhaps just one sentence, for detail after skimming or scanning.

A greater awareness of these skills or strategies allows you to decide what the best approach to each question is. It will also give you the confidence that you are approaching each question in the correct manner.

Just like any skill, an awareness of them is only the first step. In order to master each of these skills, you must practice them. When you have mastered all of these skills and you know when to use them, the reading test will become much easier for you.

Understanding the organisation of a text

Skill 1

Identifying the topic, target audience and the writer's purpose.

This is the first thing you should do when you start to read any text. In IELTS Reading texts are designed to reflect the kind of texts you will need to read in your everyday life in an English-speaking environment.

Being able to identify the topic, the target audience and the writer's purpose means being able to predict the content, vocabulary and level of detail in the texts. Once you are equipped with all this, you can more quickly find the other elements that make up the organisation of a text.

NOTE: To identify the topic, target audience and writer's purpose, you'll be:

skimming the text for clues—look at the headings, the subheadings, the author's or organisation's name and any information about the author, diagrams, captions, the length and layout of the text, prominent words in the text and notice any words or names that are repeated in the text.

Scanning once you start understanding the ideas in a text, or 'getting the picture'—look for the presence of numbers, names or other words with capital letters, quotations and any words or phrases you think you might be expecting in the text.

NOTE:

Notice how quickly you were able to gain a lot of information about the text. In some sections of IELTS Reading you will be given some of this information in the question so it will be even quicker. Anyway, with practice you will do this as soon as you see a text and you'll do it so quickly, you'll hardly notice you are doing it!

Skill 2

Identifying and following the arguments

Skill 2 Identifying and following the arguments.

All texts of any length have some sort of overall point the author is making to the reader, a message, which can also be called the argument or the thesis if the text is a narrative or descriptive text. This is therefore also true of the texts in IELTS Reading so you will need to be able to identify the author's message, or the argument, and identify the main ideas in that argument

NOTE:

Please note for later reference—longer texts in English, such as the essay in Reading Section 3, have an introduction (usually one paragraph), a body (several paragraphs) and a conclusion (usually one paragraph in a short text).

The message is usually, but not always, in either the first paragraph (forming part of the introduction) or last paragraph (forming part of the conclusion). The body consists of paragraphs that, in a short text, each contain one main idea and the supporting information for that main idea. In longer texts there may be more than one paragraph for a main idea. The main idea is stated in a ‘topic sentence’ that is usually, but not always, the first sentence in the paragraph

NOTE: To identify and follow the arguments, you’ll be:

skimming for further clues—you have already skimmed for the topic, target audience and writer’s purpose and you now need to skim through the text, reading the first paragraph quickly, looking at the first sentences of each section or paragraph (depending on the length of the text) because that is usually where you’ll find the main ideas of the argument or message.

Scanning for content words that are connected with the argument and grammatical connectors that may be connecting information. The main ideas are not always at the beginning of the paragraphs.

Reading for detail to check the sentences are, indeed, part of the argument and also to try and guess the meaning of any unknown words in the main ideas.

Now imagine you are giving a summary of the information on the notices to a friend on the phone. To do this you need to identify the main ideas that lead to the writer’s message. Highlight the main ideas in each notice

NOTE: Notice how the writer’s message and the main ideas form a short summary of the text. If somebody asked you “What’s it about?” you could answer with the **topic**.

If somebody asked you “What does it say?”, a good answer would be the **writer’s message**.

If you wanted to give more information, **a summary**. In other words, you’d give them the main information. Summarising is a very useful and important skill and usually involves presenting information in your own words—this is called **paraphrasing**.

You will be expected to be able to paraphrase in IELTS Reading, perhaps a phrase or a sentence, and questions may use paraphrased parts of a text, perhaps a paraphrased summary

– In this book, we will share just 4 skills, but we have more than 10 skills to **Understanding the organisation of a text in IELTS Reading.**

We share over 10 skills extensively in our IELTS Coaching and Accountability Class.

Our Next class starts in February, so if you want to upgrade your skills, you can pre-register for the class via this link - <https://paystack.com/pay/ieltonline>

Skill 3

Distinguishing the main ideas from supporting information.

In order to be clear, a writer includes not only the main ideas or, in a purely factual text, the main information but also supporting information that explains the main ideas or information.

The function of the supporting information is to help the reader understand the main information by giving detail or examples, mixing up the main information and the supporting information will mean that you are unclear what the main information is and it will also suggest you do not understand the text.

It is therefore very important to be able to develop this skill.

NOTE: To distinguish the main ideas from supporting information, you'll be:

Skimming around the main ideas to see if the sentences are connected to the main idea. **Scanning** for connectors and vocabulary to establish whether the sentences are part of the main idea or are supporting information.

Reading for detail to check if the information is either the main idea or supports it rather than contradicts it.

Look again at the text, the supporting information has been underlined.

Look carefully at the difference between the main and supporting information.

Read all the bits of main information together then read all the bits of supporting information together.

Skill 4

Recognising the key information

Skill 4 is recognising the key information In addition to the main ideas. There will also be key information that gives the text more shape and makes it more interesting. A longer summary of a text will generally be created from the writer's message, the main ideas and at least some of the key information.

Summarising is a very important academic skill so you may be asked to complete a summary in the IELTS Reading.

To recognise the key information, you'll be:

Scanning for words and terms that are repeated or you predict may be important, such as names, dates, nouns or terms connected with the topic.

reading for detail to find other key information in the text, having identified what the main ideas are, you need to know what information supports them.

NOTE: Some texts in IELTS Reading are short texts full of facts so may not have much or any key information but you can only be sure if you understand which is main and which other information is.

You must therefore be sure to identify the writer's message as soon as you look at the text. Once you have identified the topic, target audience, writer's message and the main ideas, you will be able to locate other information and answer the questions in Reading very quickly.

Please these areas are very important before even going over to question types

They are the foundation of IELTS reading skills

We have also spent time looking through and analysing the texts in order to understand the reading skills and the organisation of the texts. In the IELTS test you will have an average of 20 minutes to understand the organisation of all the texts in each section and answer all the questions in that section.

IELTS READING TIPS

1. Time is your enemy. Use it wisely
2. Be aware of what sub skills they are testing in each question.
3. Each different question type requires a different strategy.
4. You don't have to understand every word. Accept that you won't know everything.
5. Read, read, read and then read some more. Practice makes perfect.
6. Read the instructions VERY carefully.
7. Improve your vocabulary and you'll improve your reading score
8. Don't waste too much time on one question, if you don't know it move on, come back to it later. If you don't still know the answer, GUESS. You don't lose marks for guessing wrongly.

PRACTICE QUESTIONS

Practice Question 1

NOTE: Remember to look at the text to establish the organisation of it before you answer any questions. Pay attention to spelling, if you copy a word incorrectly, your answer will be counted as wrong!

Health Clubs and Fitness Centres

A.

Active Life Fitness Centre

Fully equipped gym, fitness studio and classes (yoga, jazz dance, aerobics), swimming pool (swimming and aqua aerobics classes), sauna, Jacuzzi. □95

joining fee, £23 monthly membership fee gives you unlimited use of the facilities—except classes, which are extra. Special lower fees for students.

143, Danson Road, Burlington. Tel 01678 454545

B.

Bodyworks Gym

Fully equipped gym, fully staffed with trainers to instruct you on the use of the equipment, personal trainers, sports massage available. No joining fee, £28 per month membership for unlimited access to the gym—personal trainers and masseurs extra. Short term rates available.

26, Merrick Lane, Burlington. Tel 01678 321321

C.

Burlington Fitness Centre and Day Spa

Swimming pool, gym, sauna, yoga classes, spa with massage, facial therapies, mud wraps, diet counselling. Day rates for whole day packages or single visit rates for facilities and therapies. Monthly membership fees £15

for unlimited weekday use or £25 for weekend use of swimming pool, gym and sauna.

Valley Road, Hopton, Nr Burlington. Tel 01699 556677

D.

Churchill Square Health Club

Squash courts, tennis courts, golf practice range (tuition available for each of these games), gym, fitness studio (yoga, pilates and aerobics classes available). Membership only, please call for rates. Churchill Square, Burlington. Tel 01678 981781

Questions 1 – 4

Look at the four entries in a local telephone directory.

Write the letters of the appropriate entries next to each question.

NB you may use any letter more than once.

1 In which club can you have golf tuition?

2 Which TWO clubs have a swimming pool?

3 You are on holiday in the area for a week. Which TWO clubs could you use?

4 You are studying full time at a local college. Which club will give you cheaper rates?

Use 10 MINUTES TO ANSWER THIS QUESTION

Answers to health clubs and fitness centres

1 D

2 A and C

3 B and C (short term and single visit rates)

4 A (special lower fees for students)

11 Simple Ways To Improve Your Vocabulary For IELTS

IELTS might not have a specific test with respect to vocabulary but in turn it is used to assess every other skill in the exam. When attempting the skills [reading](#), [listening](#), [writing](#) and [speaking](#) we have to make use of different words with proper pronunciation and spellings.

And importantly when it comes to speaking and writing around 20 – 30% points are based on your vocabulary. This reason alone is enough for you to start preparing a rich vocabulary that can help you improve your band score.

1. Look up words you don't know

Many would advise you to read books, magazines and watch shows to learn new words but at the same time it is equally important to look up for the words you don't know. Many have the habit to leave difficult and new words thinking that those won't be required in our life or exam. But make a habit of looking up for words that you don't know about, either it being a difficult one to read, spell or write as well.

Example

Funambulism

The above word might seem strange for someone who might be looking at it for the first time, but using such sophisticated words can earn you a good impression.

- **Pronunciation** – Fue-nahm-bue-lism
- **Meaning** – Demonstration of cleverness, mental agility
- **Sentence** – Rajit deserved the award because he showed great funambulism with the project he finished.
- **Origin** – The word in latin means “one who performs on a tightrope” that gives the essence of a person with quick agility in terms of cleverness and mentality.

So once you've gone through the meaning, pronunciation, example sentence

and the true origin doesn't this word seem easier now? And this literally means you've learned a new word right now, which isn't so difficult when you look up for the meaning.

2. Vocabulary Notebook

It might seem a bit old fashioned to have a notebook to write down all new words and their meanings but it might help you understand those words better. Other than this you can even use the book to revise the written words when the exam is near. That is a way better option than hustling to find resources with new words right before the exam.

Contents of the notebook

When I say I have a notebook to note down new words, and then it doesn't simply have to be that word alone that you have to note down. Here is a list of things you have to note along with the word you are going to write in the book.

Example Main Word – Steep

So the main word which we are going to write down is “Steep” and the related content is listed below.

- Main word – Steep
- Synonym – Sharp, Abrupt
- Antonym – Gentle
- Example sentence – The prices may be steep this season due to fewer sales
- Literal meaning – flight of stairs or angle of a slope

3. Practice but don't exaggerate

So when you come with a notebook or find an app to learn new words, the only thing left to do is practice the word in real life. In case of speaking skill you can take on any topic or question that was recently asked in the exam. And then try to speak about the topic for 1 to 2 minutes with the vocabulary you've learned recently. Next in case of writing we need to make sure that we don't exaggerate sentences because we can use a single but sophisticated word.

And the most important thing is not to dwell too much on a single word, by trying to find tons of related example sentences. Well doing that might just waste your time because; if you want to learn then practice the word a few times which should be enough.

4. Try Vocabulary building apps

We all own Smartphones and there are tons of apps on play store, app store which can help us improve our language. Well for starters I advise you to make use of Magoosh vocabulary builder app which not only has word understanding, but it consists of exercises, meanings, synonyms that can really help you.

Some more apps are

- 7 little words
- Word to word
- PowerVocab
- A word a day widget

The reason I advise you to make use of Android apps to build your vocabulary is that you can even open these apps during your free time and learn new words right away. It saves a lot of time and it doesn't even have to be added as a part of your schedule when it takes less time to learn from these apps.

5. Use YouTube for Understanding

We all use YouTube for entertainment but it should not come to you as a surprise that there are hundreds of channels that provide English skills on the platform. And every such channel also talks about different words and they speak about how a word is pronounced, used in a phrase or sentence with examples.

Learning 2000 rich vocabulary words is not something easy to do and you might end up memorizing those words. At the end it might not hold any value when you memorize words and not be able to properly utilize them while speaking or writing.

So the action plan I am talking about requires YouTube and you collect only 100 – 200 new words that you want to learn properly. Then once the list is collected, start searching them online and you will be able to find all of those online with proper sentences and examples that might make you understand how one word can fit into a sentence properly.

6. Understand but don't memorize all the time

Phone numbers are meant to be memorized but not words, because a single word might have few definite meanings behind it. In simple words, we can express a word in different contexts that don't do not mean the same at the end.

The reason is simple, memorizing a word might be easy but sometimes the same word might not have one strict meaning. So the best way to understand this is to know about Homonyms that are words with the same spelling, pronunciation but having different meanings.

Examples

So let me give you simple examples of words we use in our everyday life.

Word – Pen

- Sentence 1 – Can you pass me the pen?
- Sentence 2 – Make sure to properly close the pen

So you might be thinking we are only talking about a pen that writes? Let us understand those two words with more meaning to them.

- Sentence 1 – Can you pass me the blue pen from my bag?

Here, "Pen" means a writing thing

- Sentence 2 – Make sure to properly close the pen area, so that no animals go out.

· Whereas here, "Pen" means a holding area of animals

7. Read Newspapers

Reading is the best habit to learn new words and it will also help you to improve your skills for the IELTS reading module. You can subscribe to a daily or weekly newspaper online or offline and have the habit of reading articles on a daily basis.

While you read articles, do underline the words that you do not know or notice carefully if you come to know about the use of a word in a different way. Then, check the word meaning in your dictionary and write down in your notebook. Learn the noted words and do revise them once or twice a week.

8. Keep a Dictionary

A very common method of learning vocabulary is to keep a small pocket-sized dictionary with you. If you never devoted time to learn new words in this way, you can develop this habit now. There are two ways you can use your dictionary to learn words. Firstly, you can refer to it any time you come across a new word and check its meaning in the dictionary. Secondly, you can start learning the words in sequence from the first to the last page of your dictionary.

In this way, you can at least become familiar to new words every day and depending upon how much time you devote per day, you may be able to read all the words in your dictionary in several days or months. However, for effective learning, keep in mind to learn a word whole-heartedly. If you feel you cannot understand a word, just skip it because learning a word incorrectly is even more dangerous.

9. Listen to Audios & Watch Videos

The best way of learning the usage of a new word is when you listen to it being used by others. So, you can watch TV programmes, news channels, movies, YouTube videos, group discussions, talk shows etc. You can also listen to audios such as podcasts, songs, radio channels etc. One more thing is that you can prefer watching or listening to the stuff that you find interesting so that you may not get bored and stop your plan to learn vocabulary.

The concept behind this method is that you are exposed to new words and hence, you learn faster in this way. When you watch videos or listen to some audios, pay more attention to the words and how they are used. Watching video stuff online is also a good idea where you can pause or replay the videos to learn at your own pace. You can start by listening to videos which have subtitles. This will help you improve your comprehension as well as listening skills.

10. Learn Idioms & Connectives

Use of idiomatic language and sentence connectors while you speak on a topic would be effective. In academic writing task 1, you should use connectives while idioms can be avoided as they are used for informal writing. And hence, students appearing in IELTS General Training may use them while

writing a letter. But make sure you use them when required and do not unnecessarily try to include them excessively.

Practice Question 2

1. Try to answer the questions on the following text in 30 minutes.
2. Then check your answers and spend some time looking carefully at the organisation of the text and the answers to the questions.
3. Be very careful to use correct spelling in answers 7 to 13.

Skiers—maybe it's time to try snowboarding!

A relative newcomer to winter sports, snowboarding has now become as accepted as skiing in many resorts, so all you devoted skiers out there, perhaps it's time to give it a try! Just about everyone has at least caught a glimpse of somebody snowboarding but many skiers may not have had the inclination to find out much about it until, that is, they try it for themselves.

That's what happened to me, a skier loyal to my sport who still loves skiing but who now knows the joys of both snow sports. You'll just never know that snowboarding really is as exciting as skiing until you try it—and I certainly recommend you do!

Snowboarding evolved from skateboarding and surfing in the 1960s when people started exploring the idea of surfing on the snow. After that, the sport quickly developed into a popular sport with distinct styles, competitions and a range of equipment. Although a lot of people compare snowboarding to skiing, the techniques are closer to skateboarding and surfing than to skiing.

Riders strap their feet to an epoxy-fibreglass board, which looks rather like a large skateboard, and ride down a ski slope or specially constructed pipe. In skiing, you shift your weight from one ski to the other, while in snowboarding you shift your weight from heels to toes, so from one edge of the board to the other, and also from one end of the board to the other. To stop, you push down on your heels or toes to dig one edge of the board into the snow.

Snowboarding style is very important in the world of snowboarding and there are three snowboarding riding styles. The style you select will largely determine how you snowboard, what equipment you use and where you ride. Once you get beyond the beginner stage, you'll be choosing your style.

Generally considered the most suitable style for beginners, FreeRiding is the most popular snowboarding style. FreeRiding is about mastering an all-round style on any snow, both on and off the piste. Although it does not involve as many aerial tricks as FreeStyle, it does involve jumps and aerial manoeuvres.

FreeRiding boards are longer and narrower than other snowboards and the rider rides slightly towards the back of the board. Riders wear soft boots which are attached to the board with strap or flow-in bindings.

FreeStyle is considered by many to be the most spectacular snowboarding style. It is done mainly in snow parks and half pipes and involves tricks done in the air using twists, turns and grabs as well as tricks done on the ground. FreeStyle boards are shorter, lighter and wider and the rider wears soft boots with strap or flow-in bindings.

FreeCarve or Alpine Snowboarding focuses on speed and riders strive to achieve the ultimate carving turn, demanding great strength on the part of the rider. Skiers who take up snowboarding often prefer this style because of its similarities to skiing. FreeCarve or Alpine boards are longer, narrower and usually stiffer than other snowboards and riders wear hard boots with plate bindings.

Each snowboarding style is different in technique and focus and requires different equipment so riders need to choose a snowboarding style at some point. Beginners, though, who are not sure which style to choose, usually start with FreeRiding until they are gripped by one of the other styles—and, whichever style they choose, gripped they usually are!

Questions 1 – 3

Choose the correct letter, A, B, C or D.

1 What is the article about?

A winter sports

B skiing

C FreeStyle

D snowboarding

2 What is the target audience?

A skiers

B snowboarders

C newcomers to winter sports

D anybody interested in winter sports

3 What's the writer's message?

- A. Snowboarding styles are important so you must choose one.
- B. Snowboarding is as exciting as skiing so skiers should try it.
- C. Skiers should choose FreeCarve as it is closest to skiing.
- D. Skiing and snowboarding have similar techniques.

Questions 4 – 6

Look at the following paraphrased descriptions of snowboarding styles A-E and match the correct description to the name of the style below.

- A It is done mainly on specially-constructed snowboarding parks rather than on ski slopes.
- B It is all about going fast, doing twists and tricks.
- C It is the style that most newcomers to snowboarding choose and involves some jumping.
- D It is the style that is most like skiing, it is all about going fast and riders need to be strong.
- E It is the most popular style and involves tricks on the ground rather than aerial manoeuvres.

- 4. FreeRiding
- 5. FreeStyle
- 6. FreeCarve

Questions 7 – 13

Complete the following summary of the article with NO MORE THAN TWO WORDS in each space.

Many skiers are reluctant to get interested in snowboarding but when they do try it, they see that it is as exciting as 7_____ and they usually become enthusiastic about it.

Snowboarding is like 8_____ surfing on snow. It started in the 9_____ and is now done in most resorts.

There are three styles: FreeRiding, which is the most 10_____ style and is usually the style most people start with; FreeStyle, which is done mainly in 11_____ and halfpipes and is all about tricks done on the ground and in the air; 12_____ or Alpine Snowboarding, which is the fastest style, involving spectacular turns and is the preferred style of 13_____ who take up snowboarding.

Answers

1 D (A quick scan shows snowboarding repeated far more)

2 A (revealed by the title and first sentence)

3 B (A and C are supporting information not main ideas; D is incorrect)

NOTE: To answer these three questions you needed to scan to the section on the style and then read in detail to match the words and paraphrasing.

4 C

5 A

6 D

NOTE: To Answer these seven questions you needed to scan to the main ideas in the text, which are in the same order as in the summary, then read in detail to match words and paraphrase, taking care to use no more than two words and to spell the words correctly.

7 as skiing

8 skateboarding or 9 1960s

10 popular

11 snow parks/snowboarding parks

12 FreeCarve

13 skiers

Reading Practice:

Coffee is one of the most popular hot drinks in the world. Almost a third of the world's population drinks coffee. People often meet at cafes or coffee shops for a coffee break during the middle of the morning or stop work in the afternoon to drink coffee.

About 7 million tons of coffee is produced every year. Brazil is, by far, the world's largest coffee producer. About a third of the world's production comes from this South American country. Other coffee producing countries include Vietnam, Indonesia and Colombia.

The United States is the biggest coffee consumer in the world. About 1.2 billion kilograms of coffee are consumed there every year. Drinking coffee is extremely popular in European countries, like Italy, France and Germany, as well as in Brazil.

Question

Choose the correct letter A – C

Which is the best title for the passage below?

- A. Coffee – a popular hot drink
- B. Coffee – the main consumers
- C. Coffee – the main producer

Remember ;

Skim

Scan

Read for detail when you have found your answer in the paragraph to be sure,

Spend 2mins on this question. Remember you don't have to read all

The correct answer is A

The opening paragraph and closing line both stress the same point which is about the popularity of coffee. While the first line alone or the last line alone might not themselves indicate aim, to have them both stressing the same point with so much detail in the * first paragraph is something you can't ignore.*

There are no fixed rules about choosing a title. But you must remember that information for all options will be given in the passage. So, your aim is not to match information, but to decide what the whole aim of the passage is. *You need to ask yourself – Why did this author write the passage? What was the aim of writing the passage? What was the key message that the author wanted to deliver?*

So in this lesson, *information about the producers and consumers was just extra information given in the passage for interest. But the main aim was to explain the popularity.*

Speaking

INTRODUCTION TO IELTS SPEAKING

What's the test like?

The speaking test will take about 11 to 14 minutes to complete. There are three sections in total.

These are as follows:

- Part 1 –Introduction and interview. This lasts for about 4to5 minutes. In this section, the Examiner will introduce him/herself and ask you questions about yourself.
- Part 2 –Individual long turn. Part 2 lasts for about three to four minutes. In this section, you will be asked to prepare and give a short talk for about one to two minutes on a given subject.
- Part 3 –Two-way discussion. Part 3 lasts for 4to 5minutes. In this section, you will be asked to have a short discussion linked to the subject you spoke about in part 2.

On your speaking test, speak with confidence, speak in a friendly manner and be fluent

Tips for Speaking

TIP 1 >> Listen carefully

Listen to the questions the examiner asks you and think about the structure of the question. Are they asking for your opinion or to say how something has changed from the past to the present?

Listening carefully to the question will help you to create your answer and deliver it in a logical way, using the correct grammar structures.

For example:

Has travel become safer in recent years? (The past to present, opinion)

What are the pros and cons of low-cost air travel? (Opinion, advantages, disadvantages)

How do you think people will travel in the future? (Present, future, opinion, hypothetical)

TIP 2 >> Know About the most common types of questions

Learn about the most commonly asked question types used in the part 3 questions. This will help you to identify how you should respond and what to look out for when you are practising.

Here are the common Types of Questions

- ✓ **Opinion** – When asked your opinion, be honest or if you don't really know about the topic, make it up! Think about things you have read about, heard and know from your own experiences to form your answers. Give reasons why and support with specific examples.
- ✓ **Assessment** – You may be asked what you think about someone else's opinion, do you agree or disagree? Give reasons why.
- ✓ **Hypothetical** – These types of questions ask you to comment on something that is an imaginary or unreal situation. Like saying 'In the future how do you think we will travel?' You have to use your imagination to give your answer and comment on something that hasn't happened yet.
- ✓ **Cause and Effect** – Think about the cause of the situation and the effects it has had.
- ✓ **Compare and Contrast** – To look at the similarities and differences of the given topic/question.
- ✓ **Past** – What has changed from the past until now? (the present)
- ✓ **Future** – Give your opinion on what might happen in the future (using would or could).

TIP 3 >> Stay Calm and Focus

Stay calm and focused as this will help you give your opinions to the best of your ability on the exam day. The examiner will test your ability to use English in part 3, even more so than in parts 1 and 2. The questions are more difficult and depending on the topic, may be something you know little about.

They will ask you questions to push your limits and see how well you can answer, demonstrating your use of the grammatical structures and vocabulary. Try to stay calm and think about your opinions, listening carefully to any keywords that tell you if they want to know about the past/present or present/future etc. Answer with confidence and aim for a high band score. Practice as much as possible with a speaking partner.

TIP 4 >> Answer All of the Questions

It is common for many people to say 'I don't know' or to lose focus when they get a question they know little about. Always answer the questions and if you feel as though you don't know about the topic, then buy yourself some time by saying; 'I haven't really thought about that before.... but in my opinion.....' then give your opinion, etc.

Obviously do not respond like that for every question, only for the ones where you are really stuck for something to say to start off with. The examiner will be looking for your ability to answer these

part 3 questions in depth and you need to give it your best shot if you are hoping to gain a high band score.

TIP 5 >> Take Your Time

Don't try to answer the questions as quickly as possible, take your time and answer them to the best of your ability. Give your opinion, the reasoning behind it and support with specific examples. If you can remember to do that (answer depending on the type of question asked) then your answers should stretch and show the examiner what you are capable of.

If you answer quickly, the examiner will keep giving you questions, progressing to more difficult questions as the test goes on. Take your time and answer the questions well, showing off your English language skills. You can also ask the examiner to repeat a question if you have not heard it correctly, but try not to do this for every question (only if you really need to).

IELTS Speaking marking criteria

This is how your speaking skills are graded on the IELTS Speaking test.

Your IELTS Speaking scores are calculated using 4 criteria:

1. **Fluency and coherence** = how clear and structured is your speech. To increase score for Fluency and Coherence:
 - connect your sentences by linking words and signposts.
 - extend your answers, add all the relevant details.
 - speak smoothly and continuously
 - use pausing correctly.

2. **Lexical Resource** = how good is your vocabulary. To increase score for Lexical Resource:
 - Use a wide range of vocabulary.
 - discuss different topics freely, using appropriate words.
 - speak formally or semi-formally.
 - choose words accurately
 - use idiomatic language

3. **Pronunciation** = how naturally you sound. To increase score for Pronunciation:
 - pronounce words as clearly as possible.
 - record your speech and work on the words that you spell incorrectly.
 - stress words and sentences correctly.
 - use correct intonations
 - try to be easily understood by the examiner

4. **Grammatical Range and Accuracy** = how good is your grammar.

- To increase score for Grammatical Range and Accuracy.
- avoid grammatical mistakes.
- try to use more advanced grammatical structures (passive voice, direct speech, different tenses and conditional sentences e.t.c.)

How your IELTS Speaking score is calculated

Each of the above criteria receives a score from 0 to 9 points. After that, an arithmetic mean is calculated to determine the section's total score.

For example, if your marks are: FC - 7, P - 8, LR - 7 and GRA - 6, your total score will be $(7+8+7+6)/4 = 7$

For example, if your marks are:

- Fluency and Cohesion: 7.5,
- Pronunciation: 7.0,
- Lexical Resource: 7.0,
- Grammatical Range and Accuracy - 7.5.

Then your total score for IELTS Speaking is $(7.5+7.0+7.0+7.5)/4 = 7.25$, which will be rounded to 7.5.

A BRIEF LOOK AT SPEAKING PART 1

SPEAKING - PART 1

In part 1 of the Speaking test the examiner will introduce him or herself and ask general questions on familiar topics.

The examiner will ask you to confirm your identity. He or she will then ask general questions on familiar topics such as home, family, work, studies and interests.

Part 1 of the test will last 4-5 minutes.

Practice Question

You have 5mins to speak, send in your voice note in the next 6 minutes.

SPEAKING PART 1 (Exercise)

1. Do you work or study?
2. What is your job?

3. Why did you choose that job?
4. Do you enjoy your job?
5. Do you get on well with your co-workers?
6. What was your first day at work like?
7. What responsibilities do you have at work?

You have 5mins to speak. You can use your voice note to record your response. Mark yourself using the grading criteria below.

Fluency and Coherence -

Lexical Resource -

Pronunciation -

Grammatical Range and Accuracy -

Total score -

Assignment

Research on linking words and signposts. Give 10 examples of each.

Write 5 sentences and use both linking words and signposts.

Speaking - part 2

In the IELTS speaking part 2 test you will be given a task card on a particular topic, and this will include key points that you should talk about.

This section of the Speaking test gives you the opportunity to speak for a long time on a topic. You will be given one minute to prepare to talk about the topic on the task card. A pencil and paper will be provided for you to make notes.

You will have to talk for 1-2 minutes, and then the examiner will ask you one or two questions on the same topic. Part 2 takes 3-4 minutes in total.

Tip on how to practise

Ask a friend/ or any of the other students in this class to listen while you speak about the task card topic (you can do this over skype). You should talk for 1-2 minutes. Your friend/study partner should then ask you one or two questions on the same topic using the rounding off questions. Record yourself to monitor your progress.

Practice Speaking test part 2:

Candidate task card:

Describe something you own which is very important to you. You should say:

- 1. where you got it from*
- 2. How long you have had it*
- 3. What you use it for;*

and explain why it is important to you.

You will have to talk about the topic for 1 to 2 minutes. You have one minute to think about what you're going to say. You can make some notes to help you if you wish. You should use 1minute 30 seconds to talk

Rounding off questions

Tell me

Is it valuable in terms of money?

Would it be easy to replace?

Speaking - part 3

In part 3 of the Speaking test the examiner will ask further questions which are connected to the topics discussed in part 2. This part of the test is designed to give you the opportunity to talk about more abstract issues and ideas.

It is a two-way discussion with the examiner, and will last 4-5 minutes.

Practice Part 3.

Respond to the following questions in a voice note.

1. Let's consider first of all how people's values have changed.

2. What kind of things give status to people in your country?

3. Have things changed since your parents' time?

Finally, let's talk about the role of advertising.

4. Do you think advertising influences what people buy?

We have practiced Speaking Part 1 – 3, we have also seen that you need improvement to increase your band score. I will be sharing with us more tricks and tips to apply in order to increase our speaking score. You can increase your speaking score by following these tricks and applying these tips.

MORE TIPS FOR SPEAKING

1. Be fluent

Speak fluently and spontaneously. You will gain more points. Don't worry too much about using clever vocabulary, it's more important to be fluent. But also don't speak too quickly and be conscious of your grammar.

Try to find a "healthy balance" between speaking too quickly and making long pauses. You are not going to score high, if you say "Uuuuuuhh" or "what"? or "eh"? These are very rude in English, so practice these polite expressions above to use with the examiner. The key to improving your speaking fluency is to keep speaking even if you are embarrassed.

2. Ask for clarification.

Ask the question again if you need to. Don't be shy, if you want to clarify something. You will not lose points for asking the examiner to repeat the question again. This will help you avoid speaking out of point.

Sometimes, you can get stuck in the speaking test because you don't understand a particular word and then the whole question doesn't make sense. It can be quite frightening if this happens to you. Here are some handy expressions to help you ask for clarification.

- Could you repeat the question please?
- I don't understand, could you say it again. Please?

- What does “market” (insert any word you are not conversant with) mean?
- Could you rephrase the word “advertising” (insert any word you are not conversant with)
- Could you say that in another way please?

NOTE: “pardon” is for when you have a problem hearing, rather than a problem understanding a certain word or the sentence. So if you use “pardon”, the examiner will repeat the question.

3. Use Idioms appropriately

It's important to remember and use idioms correctly. A weak IELTS student knows a lot of idioms and tries to use them in a sentence, but they don't quite fit and sounds strange to the examiner.

A better student, on the other hand will use the same idioms but in a natural way which fits the situation perfectly. Don't spent hours memorizing idioms, rather find a sentence which uses the idioms and make a note of how it's used,

Also, remember that context is as important as the idiom itself. Don't force an idiom into a sentence where it doesn't fit, wait for the right opportunity to use it.

4. Practise answering sample questions.

Typically, you will be asked about everyday topics, such as work, studies, sport, family, societal norms and challenges, etc. So you should try answering IELTS Speaking questions before the exam. You will be surprised how simple your test questions will be once you have become used to answering questions about everyday topics.

You just need to learn appropriate vocabulary and understand what answers you will give.

5. Speak with emotion

Speak with emotions. Nothing separates the experienced speaker from beginners as tone of the speech. Express your feelings like you would do using your native language. Avoid sounding flat.

6. Extend your speech

Try to speak at least more than the examiner. If you are asked a question using one sentence, respond with two or more sentences, and never give short, uncommunicative replies:

Look at these examples below.

Examiner: Do you do any sport?

You: No, I don't like sports... [Don't stop there!] I'm not a very active person and I've never liked P.E. in school. But I like playing intellectual games instead. For example, I find chess very interesting.

Examiner: Do you eat fast food?

You: Although, I like Fast Food, I try not to eat it because junk food is unhealthy. Moreover, I want to lose weight, that's why I took up swimming last month!

All in all, it's important to be in good shape, so I try to avoid fast food.

Part 1

1. Do you stay in a house or an apartment?
2. What's your favourite room?
3. What do you like most about living there?
4. How important do you think it is to take breaks during work?
5. Do you think breaks should be taken in short form or it should be long breaks?
6. Have you visited a museum recently?
7. Have you ever visited a museum to see historical documents? Why?
8. How often do you read books, magazines to get historical information?

Part 2.

TASK CARD (CUE CARD) Describe a story about space (real or fictitious) that you have read about or seen in a film or on TV.

You should say:

✓ when you read about or saw the story what happened in the story

✓ whether the story has any significance today

and explain how you felt about this story.

Follow-up Questions

✓ **Examiner:** Let's talk about attitudes towards space travel. What do you think fascinates humans about outer space?

✓ **Examiner:** Do you think that's why some stories about space travel have been so 'imaginative'?

✓ **Examiner:** How do you think people's attitudes towards space exploration have changed since the first Moon Landings?

✓ **Examiner:** To what extent do you think governments will continue to fund projects in search of life on other planets?

Part 3.

1. When last did you solve a challenge with the internet?
2. What is the impact of the internet on the society on reading
3. Should there be government regulations on the internet?
4. Which type of people are respected most in your society?
5. Do you agree with this situation?
6. What happens when young people lack good role models?
7. What standards of behaviour should teachers set?
8. Do you agree that you should never meet your heroes?



Listening Skills

TIPS FOR LISTENING

INTRODUCTION TO IELTS LISTENING SKILLS

The IELTS listening exam causes many students problems. If you've taken the IELTS exam, or completed some IELTS Listening practice questions already and you've struggled, this is very normal. The test is challenging for a variety of reasons:

1. You only hear each recording only one time.
2. The Listening passages get more difficult as you progress through the exam.
3. There are a variety of questions types with which you must be familiar.
4. You must stay very focused in order to answer questions well.
5. You must also develop your skills at predicting answers by analyzing the questions.
6. There are a range of English accents represented on the exam.

This our Tips book on IELTS Listening will address all of these issues and provide you with the key strategies you need to improve your Listening scores. It should go without saying that the more English you know, and the better you understand native English speakers, the easier IELTS Listening will be for you. However, most people who take the IELTS need strategies to earn the extra points that will boost their Band scores. Each extra point can really make a difference. Keep reading to learn about the basics of IELTS Listening, the question types on the test, and the IELTS Listening practice that can help you to achieve your IELTS goals.

IELTS Listening Tips

1. Predict the topic:

It helps you to listen if you know what kind of conversation is taking place so you can picture it in your head. So look through each section in the time you are given and make sure you have an idea of who is speaking to who and what the context is.

2. Predict the questions:

You should also try and have an idea of what kind of information you are listening out for. For example, in section one you often have to listen for names, numbers and addresses. Have a look at the questions in the time you are given and work out what needs to go in the space. A name? Number? An address? You are more likely to catch it then when the answer arises

3. Use a minute to look through each section:

You are given 30 seconds at the end of each section to check your answers. You are then told to turn over and look at the next section for 30 seconds. Although some IELTS listening tips will tell you to check what you have written, there is little you can check for the previous section as you can't hear the listening again. So instead, turn straight to the next section. You will then have one minute (instead of 30 seconds) to look through the next section. This is time better spent

4. Careful with question order:

Often you have a table to complete, and sometimes a diagram or chart. The questions will not necessarily go from left to right, so check the progression carefully otherwise you will get lost and confused.

5. Look at two questions at once:

There are two reasons for doing this. Firstly, some questions may have the answers close together in one sentence so you could miss one if you only look at one question at a time. Also, it is possible that you will miss an answer – if you are just looking at one, you may not know that you missed it. If you are also looking at the next, you'll see that it has moved on.

6. Move on if you miss an answer:

If you do realise you have missed an answer, quickly forget about it and concentrate on the next ones. There is nothing you can do, and you can also guess when you transfer your answers to the answer sheet at the end. The same applies if you realise you missed two or three answers. Don't panic and just move on as there is nothing you can do. A few questions missed may not necessarily affect your band score.

7. Look out for paraphrasing:

Remember that what you hear will most likely not be exactly the same as is written on the exam paper as that would be too easy. The question and the question stems use such things as synonyms so you must listen carefully for these.

8. Ignore words you don't know:

Don't worry or panic if you hear a word that you do not know. It may not be necessary to know it anyway, or you can take a guess.

9. Underline key words:

When you look through the questions first, particularly in the more difficult parts 3 and 4, underline key words (such as names, places and dates) in the question stems to help you hear the answer. Remember though, as explained above, synonyms are often used.

10. Take care with spelling and grammar:

Your answer will be marked wrong if it is spelt incorrectly or the grammar does not fit. So when you transfer your answers at the end, double check these. The sentence on the exam paper may help you with the grammar – does it fit grammatically? Should it be a verb, noun, adjective?

11. Use British or American spelling:

This is what is said on the official IELTS website: "IELTS recognises both British and American English in terms of spelling, grammar and choice of words". So you can use either in your answers.

12. Read the instructions:

An IELTS listening tip that is an important tip for any part of the test is to always read the instructions carefully. They will tell you how many words to use. If it asks for no more than two words and you use three, it will be wrong. And you must only put in the words asked for. For example, if there is a gap of "at pm" and you write "at 5pm" on the answer sheet, it will be wrong. You should only write what is missing i.e. "5".

13. Use upper or lower case letters:

A question often asked is whether you can use upper case letters. This is what it says on the official British Council Website: "You may write your answers in lower case or capital letters". So you can write all your answers in capital letters if you like. This statement from the British Council suggests,

therefore, that you will not be penalised if you write 'paris' for example, instead of 'Paris' because it says you can use lower case letters. However, it is recommended that you try and use capitalisation correctly to be on the safe side. If you are not sure if the first letter needs capitalisation, then capitalise the whole word.

14. Get used to the British accent:

A good IELTS listening tip is to be prepared to hear all accents as you may hear Australian, American, Canadian, New Zealand and a mix of European countries. However, although there are a mix of accents in the test, the majority tend to be British (unlike TOEFL which tends to be American). So make sure you are used to the British accent.

15. Careful with what you write down:

Speakers in the test will often give an answer but then correct themselves. So the first answer that looks right may actually be wrong.

16. Don't leave answers blank:

You will not get penalised for writing the wrong answer (as opposed to nothing if you are not sure what it is) so guess if that is possible.

17. Transfer your answers to the answer sheet carefully:

If you put correct answers in the wrong place on the answer sheet it will be wrong, so make sure you put the answer in the correct place. It is easy to do this if you leave an answer blank on the exam sheet. You may then fill that one in with the wrong answer when you transfer them across. So put in a guess for any you do not know and leave no blanks.

18. Check your answers:

Make sure you recheck your spelling and grammar too when you transfer your answers at the end.

19. Listen very carefully:

Listen very very carefully throughout the test. Zone in and focus. Don't be distracted by anything around you, and don't panic if you think you have missed any answers or that you are getting them wrong. All this will do is distract you from listening.

TAKE NOTE:

DISTRACTION: It is a very common situation on IELTS Listening when a speaker gives some wrong information, then corrects himself and gives right information. This little trick is called distraction.

You can get distracted by the information you hear the first time, thinking that it is correct. And that's where a lot of IELTS candidates get caught! The speaker will then correct what he/she said, and give new information, which will be the right answer.

NOTE: There are some things you need to do before the exam, and some things you need to pay attention to on the exam. By following these tips, you can considerably improve your score and even get a band 9!

During the test, "Plug in" the situation:

Try to get an idea of the situation. Before each part you will be given a short introduction: 'Now, you will hear a dialogue between...' or 'you will hear a lecture on...' This information is not written on the question paper, so be attentive. Note: who are the speakers, why are they speaking and where are they. This will make understanding the rest of the recording much easier.

Don't lose attention:

Remember, you will only hear the audio once. So if you didn't hear some words and passed over some questions, don't worry! Leave them blank and focus on the actual part. Review those questions at the end of the section, otherwise, you will only miss more questions and tangle in the recording. You will need to read, write and listen all at the same time.

Watch out words-indicators:

Listen for words-indicators, such as **however, but, then, finally**. They help you to anticipate what the speaker will say.

Don't write answers too quickly:

A lot of students fall into this trap: as soon as they hear the needed information, they take it for the correct answer. But sometimes this information is repeated or corrected further in the section.

Example:

Sam: Thank you! I've received your email. So it is loren-hanson@gmail.com.

Loren: No-no! You have mistaken, it is loren-hamson@gmail.com, spelled with M.

Sam: Oh, I'm sorry...

Check for silly mistakes

After each section you have 30 seconds to check your answers. It is important to check spelling, plurals and word forms. Remember that only correctly written answers will gain points.

Transfer answers accurately:

At the end of the listening test you will have 10 minutes for transferring your answers into the answer sheet. And quite often students get confused in the numeration! As you write down your answers, check that they fit into the correct numbered space. In other words, make sure that answer for question 7 goes into space number 7

Don't leave any blank answers!

You won't lose marks for incorrect answers, so even if you don't know the answer it is better to write something in the answers box. Read the question again and make a guess!

For in depth Training of your Attention on Listening Sign up for our Next Paid Class.

Training attention

To succeed in IELTS Listening, you should be very attentive. In our Paid Class, we'll train you on how to read IELTS Listening questions carefully and avoid simple mistakes caused by lack of attention. Although this may sound too simple for you, in fact it's very important to learn to read the questions carefully. Quite often test-takers lose marks because they have read the question inattentively.

Types of Questions in Listening

There are several different types of questions and each requires a different strategy so you should familiarize yourself with all of them. They include:

1. Form/note/table completion
2. Labeling a diagram or map
3. Sentence Completion
4. Short Answers
5. Selection
6. Multiple Choice
7. Matching

IELTS Listening Lesson: multiple choice

Multiple choice questions commonly occur in parts 2, 3 and 4 of IELTS Listening test. In such questions you are given three (rarely four) answer choices, only one of which is correct.

In this lesson you will learn useful strategies and advice to answer multiple choice questions in the IELTS Listening test most effectively. You will also practice gained skills by answering tricky exercises with multiple choice questions.

First, let's learn some basic answering strategies with examples.

Strategy 1: don't immediately pick up the first answer choice you hear.

You will often hear all of the answer choices in the audio. And only one of them is correct, the other two are meant to confuse you! So don't straightaway choose the answer you hear the first as it may be incorrect. So listen carefully and wait until the speaker finishes giving information about the current question

Let's try to use this strategy in the first example.

Only rescue birds that are

- A- all alone
- B- sitting on the ground
- C- obviously injured

Conversation Transcript:

1st man: Right, okay. I think we should start by talking about how to rescue a bird. Probably, first we should help people understand which birds need rescuing.

2nd man: Yeah, that's really important! Because a lot of times people see a baby bird that's all alone or they find a bird sitting on a ground and they think it needs to be rescued.

NOTE:

As you can hear, all three answer choices were mentioned. However, the first two of them ("all alone" and "sitting on the ground") are clearly incorrect, because the speakers say that people often think that if a bird is all alone or sitting on the ground it needs to be rescued, but it's just learning to fly. The last sentence the speaker says gives us the correct answer: "So we should emphasize that people should only attempt to rescue a bird that's clearly injured". So the correct answer is C.

Strategy 2:

Know that answers may come in a different order in IELTS Listening.

Unlike other questions types in IELTS Listening, multiple choice questions don't necessarily have their answer choices coming in the same order as you hear them in the audio. So don't worry if you first hear the third answer choice - it doesn't mean you've missed the previous two, as answers often come in a different order.

Strategy 3:

Mind that answers are often paraphrased.

You shouldn't be waiting for a 100% match - the answer choice can differ from what you hear as it can be paraphrased. To approach multiple choice questions effectively, look through the answer choices while listening to the question being discussed. Do it to get a general idea of answer choices.

Now let's use strategies 2 and 3 in the second example

A - following hygiene rules

B- using antibiotics

C- visiting doctor regularly

Conversation Transcript:

We all know that some bacteria can be dangerous and cause diseases. But how can we protect ourselves from harmful bacteria? Well, a lot of people would answer that using antibiotics will kill the pathogenic microbes. However, antibiotic abuse can be dangerous to people's health as well! In fact, the best way of protection is preventing the disease by keeping yourself clean and washing hands before you eat.

NOTE:

You have probably noticed that answer choices come in a different order than they are mentioned by the speaker. This often happens in IELTS Listening multiple choice questions, so read all answer choices for the question at once.

Moreover, the synonyms are used! The speaker gives the correct answer when she says, "In fact, the best way of protection is preventing the disease by keeping yourself clean and washing hands before you eat". But instead of keeping yourself clean or washing hands we have a paraphrased answer choice - following hygiene rules. So, the right answer is A. Beware that paraphrase is often used in such questions, so you shouldn't always look for an exact match.

Tips for answering MCQ (Listening)

1-Don't check your answers from the previous section when you have a break. It is important that you read the multiple choice questions and try to understand them.

2-Highlight keywords. The keyword in the question will help you answer the question correctly. The keywords in the different options are those that differentiate meaning between the choices.

3-Don't write the first answer you hear. Remember that they will try and trick you.

4- Don't spend too much time on one question. If you didn't get the answer or you are unsure, make an educated guess and move on.

5- Be careful if you hear words like 'but' or 'however'. This often means that the speaker is going to qualify a previous statement.

6-Practice makes perfect.

7- Your answer will often be a letter and not a word. Read the instructions to make sure and be careful when transferring your answers at the end.

Practice with these tips and you will enjoy MCQs.

There are three different formats for these multiple choice questions.

- The first is a short answer multiple choice question. You will be given a statement and a number of different options to choose from.
- The second type of multiple choice questions are sentence completion questions. You will be given a sentence stem and you will have to complete it with one of a number of options.
- The last kind is when you are given a sentence and you have to match this to one of a number of pictures.

Some multiple choice questions require you to choose more than one answer from a variety of options. You may be asked to choose two answers from five options or four answers from seven options. Approach these in the same way you would a single answer question.

More Tips for Listening

1. You will have to practice listening to both one person speaking (a monologue) and more than one person speaking at the same time. Listening to monologues is challenging because the person doesn't often stop speaking for very long so students can feel like they are being overwhelmed.

Listening to more than one person can be difficult because there may be different accents or styles of speaking and it is tricky to 'tune-in' to what is being said.

2. Be careful with your spelling. Lots of easy marks are thrown away because of poor spelling. My advice is to keep a notebook of words you find difficult to spell. Even native speakers have a hard time with some English words, so the only way is to record and learn. Both US and UK spelling are allowed in the listening test.

3. You will be given a short break (normally around 30-40 seconds) before each section and in the middle of sections 1, 2 and 3. You should NOT use this time to check your answers from the previous section. You should look at the questions in the next section and try to understand the questions and predict the answers coming next. When you predict, try to think about the context of the question. Can you guess the answer? For example, if there is a '\$' in front of the answer, you will probably be listening for an amount of money. Also, establish what type of word (adjective, noun, verb etc.) the answer will be.

4. At the end, you will be given 10 minutes to transfer your answers to the answer sheet. When you are doing this make sure you are very careful with spelling and make sure your answers are correct grammatically. For example, if the question was 'The man wanted to ___ a ___ car.' the answers are

likely to be a verb and then an Adjective (Eg, buy, used) . If your answers are not grammatically correct or spelled incorrectly, then they will be marked as wrong.

5. Be careful with capital letters. If your word is someone's name or a place, then it must have a capital letter to be correct. Best is to write all your answers in capital letters so practice on paper with capital letters.

6. Make sure you follow the instructions carefully especially when it comes to word limit. If the question states 'No more than three words' you can't write any more than this. If your answer is four words for this answer it will be incorrect.

Watch out for traps that say write no more than two words.

Eg, 10 girls ❌. Because the instruction did not say write no more than two words and or a number

Ten girls ✓

You really have to be careful so you don't throw away marks

7. A range of accents are used to reflect the international nature of English. These could be from anywhere in the English-speaking world, including the US, Canada, South Africa, New Zealand, Ireland or Australia. You could also hear one of many regional accents from the UK. You should, therefore, try to get used to all of these different accents. Instead of just listening to the BBC News, you could try listening to the news, or anything else for that matter, from a range of different countries. A quick search on Google is all you need to find these.

8. It is important to familiarise yourself with the different types of test questions and practice IELTS past papers. When you practice these tests it should be under exam conditions, but then it is important to find out why you got certain questions wrong. Focusing on your mistakes is very important. You should listen again and again until you find out why you got the question wrong, don't just look at the answers and forget about them. If you do this you will not improve very quickly. You can also look at the transcripts and find out where you went wrong by reading.

9. Focus on getting the easy questions correct first before worrying about the more difficult questions. Anyone hoping to do well on the IELTS listening test should be getting 10 out of 10 on the first part of the test. Make sure you can do this consistently in the first part before worrying about the other parts, especially part four.

10. Make sure you don't get tricked. IELTS listening tests will often try to fool you by giving you something that seems like the correct answer first and then changing this to something else later in the recording. For example, your questions might be 'The man would like a ___ car.' At the start of the recording the person might say they want a 'big family car', but then change their minds and say they want a 'small sports car'. If you wrote down the first option you would be wrong.

11. You have to get used to listening to things only once. Lots of teachers allow their students to listen to a recording three or four times. You can, of course, listen again and again when analysing your mistakes, but when practicing the exam you should do it under exam conditions and that means listening just once.

12. Write your answers on the question paper as you do the test. I know lots of students who don't do this and try to remember all of the answers and then use their memory to fill out the answer sheet. You are under enough pressure without making it a memory test on top of everything else. Keep it simple and note down the answers as you go.

13. Concentration is key in the listening test. It is totally normal to lose concentration and most people find it difficult to concentrate for the complete 30 minutes. To improve your concentration you need to practice active listening. Active listening involves setting yourself small tasks when you are practicing and actually doing something when you are listening e. g. Listening, reading and writing at the same time, just like you will be doing in the IELTS listening exam.

14. Don't leave any blank spaces in your question paper because you are under duress so when transferring your answers to the answer sheet you will not copy answers to the wrong no. You are not penalized for wrong answers so you should always have a guess.

I hope you find these IELTS listening tips and techniques useful and if you have any question as time goes on please let me know. This is all for now.

**WISHING YOU ALL THE BEST IN
YOUR EXAM**