



# IIT Madras

## BSc Degree

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# HOW TO ACE IN LISTENING TESTS?

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KARTHIKA SATHYANATHAN

# FORMAT

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- 40 Questions split through for 4 sections.
- Same for general and academic tests.
- 30 questions should be answered correctly to score a band of 7 and 35 questions to score an 8.
- Main difficulty in IELTS listening is the lack of time.
- You are expected to listen, read and write at the same time. It is a test of your concentration and your ability to manage time in a very precise way.

# STRATEGIES

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- Read all the questions in a particular section before listening to the sample.
- When the recording starts, come back and read the questions and see what you are expecting.
- Listen to the recording while it is played. You get a few seconds to revise your answers. Use that time to read the next set of questions.
- Always keep an eye on two questions : the question and the next question.
- Sometimes you may find really short questions and several long answer options. So when you read them before the recording, pay attention to the keywords in the answer options. As soon as you realise that certain options are wrong, strike it off from the list of options.

# STRATEGIES

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Predict the answer. Fill in the blanks with one or more words – Read the sentence and think predict the answer. Would it be a noun, a verb or an adjective? What kind of information are you expecting? Is that a house number, street name or a colour?

Spelling matters. In fill in the blank type of questions, you might have to make a note of names and street names. They will be spelled out in the recording. Make a note of the spelling immediately. Quite often you may have to note down a telephone number. So be very attentive and make note of it immediately. It is common for native speakers to use the sound ‘o’ instead of the number zero. If you have two zeros (00) it is pronounced as ‘double o’. Three zeros (000) is pronounced as ‘triple o’.

# STRATEGIES

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Two type of tasks that require you to read a lot are : a) multiple choice/selection questions (with 4 to 6 long options) – one or more right option(s) must be selected. The key here is to read everything as much as possible before the recording starts. Also, highlight keywords, which is not possible in computer based exams. Listening tasks are easier in a paper based exam.

Activities based on maps and direction are frequently asked. Therefore, always remember the direction. Make sure that you find the starting point before the recording startsOnly then you can follow where you need to go.

At the end, you will be given two minutes to check the answer. Use this time to check the spelling of the words you have written down or typed. Check if the sentences written down are grammatically correct.