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BSc Degree

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English – 1 (Basic English)
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How to ace in listening tests

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FORMAT

- 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.



Hi, welcome. In this session, let us discuss the question how to ace in listening tests. So, before getting into the strategies and tips, let us quickly discuss the format of listening test. Usually, I am speaking with regard to the IELTS exam. So generally, you get 40 questions, split through four sections. And for the listening test, you have the same set of questions for IELTS academic and IELTS general exam.

Now, 30 questions should be answered correctly to score a band of 7 and 35 questions to score a band of 8. And the main difficulty in IELTS listening is the lack of time. Personally speaking, listening test has been the toughest for me. Because in the Listening section, you are expected to listen, read and write at the same time. And therefore, I would say it is actually a test of your concentration and ability to manage time in a very precise way.

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STRATEGIES

- 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.



So, these are the strategies that, you know, I would like to share with you from whatever little experience I have with preparing for international English tests, like IELTS, and TOEFL and GRE. Now, it is important that you read all the questions in a particular section before listening to the sample. This is a first thing I want you to do. Read all the questions in the paper. Or if you are, opted for the computer test, please go through the questions before listening to the sample, and then the recording starts, come back and read the questions and see what you are expected to answer or see if there is anything that you are expecting. In the listening sample.

Now, listen to the recording while it is played. So, you get a few seconds to revise your answers and use that time to read the next set of questions. Very important here. Listen to the recording while it is played, you get a few seconds to revise your answers and use that time very well to read the next set of questions. Now, always keep an eye on two questions, that is the one you have and the next one.

So, the question and the next question, I would say. So 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 realize that certain options are wrong, strike it off from the list of options.

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STRATEGIES

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'.



Now, in other strategy that you should employ is predicting the answer. For example, let us say fill in the blank type of questions with one or more words. So, you are expected to read the question. So, read the sentence and predict your answer, ask yourself, would it be a noun, would it be a verb, or an adjective that is going to fit the blank? Or what kind of information are they expecting? Is it a house number, is it a street name, is it a colour, therefore prediction of answers is very important strategy I would say in the listening test.

Now, the next important thing that I want to share with you is that spelling matters. In the 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 and this usually happens, two times I have attended IELTS exam and both times I had to note down the telephone number.

So, be very attentive when you listen to the telephone numbers being read out. And it is quite common for native speakers to use the sound O instead of the number 0. If you have two zeros, then it would be pronounced as double O and if you have three zeros, then it would be pronounced as triple O.

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STRATEGIES

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 starts. Only 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.



Now, two type of tasks that require you to read a lot, are one, the multiple choice or multiple select questions? Well, it has 4 to 6 long options. And in multiple select questions again you have one or more right options to be selected. So, the key here is to read everything as much as possible before the recording starts again, very important point before the recording starts, please go through the questions very carefully. Also highlight key words. But then this is not possible for computer-based exam. Listening tasks, therefore are easier in a paper-based exam.

Now, activities based on maps and directions are frequently asked and therefore it is important that you always remember the direction, make sure that you find the starting point before the recording starts, very important. Make sure that you find the starting point before the recording starts. Only then you can follow where you need to go.

Now at the end, you will be given 2 minutes to check the answers. Use this time very effectively to check the spelling of the words you have written down or type, check if the answers written down are grammatically correct, because if they spot spelling errors or if they find the sentences written to be grammatically incorrect, then you are going to lose marks. Therefore, at the end, please check your answers. With that we are coming to the end of the small session on how to ace in listening test. I hope this session is useful to you. I will meet you with a different topic on a different day. Until then stay safe take care, bye.