**I. Listening**

1. Read the questions first if you have time.
2. Answers can come quickly so keep your eye on the next question and don’t try to write the whole word if it is to complicated. For example, you can wrie ‘uni’ for ‘universe’ and ‘bksp’ for ‘bookshop’.
3. Make notes(such as answers the you guess) when you are not sure your answers are not right because you can only hear the recording once. Don’t leave a blank.
4. There could be a big gap between two answers so don’t be panic when you are not hearing the answers of the question.
5. Common traps:

Answers are changed;

Using similar words rather than paraphrases.

1. Pay attention to plurals.
2. You should listen the introduction carefully. Don’t skip it. It will tell you who will be talking and what they will talk about.
3. Repeat listening and try to completely understand every sentence in the audio. Don’t listen to the audio one by one quickly.
4. Note that the adjectives before numbers, don’t’ forget to write it down. For example, in “approximately 2000” it is wrong only to write “2000”.
5. The words you fill in the blanks must be grammatical correct when joining the sentence.

For example, the place to meet is at the hostipal. Therefore ‘the hostipal’ and ‘hostipal’ are not correct answers.

1. Don’t try to understand everything. Just focus on the answers you are looking for.
2. Consentrate!!

**II. Speaking**

1. Greeting examiners.
   1. Don’t address examiners first name preceded by Miss/Mr.. That’s not correct in English.
2. Suggestions
3. Don’t ask the examiner questions in the speaking part 1. Don’t give extended answers when the examiner only ask about your ID, your name. For example:   
   Could you show me your ID?  
   Sure, here it is.   
   What’s your name, please?  
   My name’s Xiao Ming. (Use the extreated “name’s” instead of “name is” to show that your speaking is in a high level).  
   Where do you come from?  
   I come from Handan ( which is in the north of China). (Don’t talk about how beautiful you hometown is or something else.)
4. Don’t pause and don’t repeat yourself. Use synonyms of the words you said.
5. Don’t answer the questions with only one word. If you did it, how could the examiner know your English speaking.
6. You should try to use some idioms or slang when you are answering questions so that the examiner can know that you have a wide range of vocabulary and don’t quote words from books because they are not appropriate for speaking.
7. Using phrasal verbs to impress the IELTS examiner.
8. Recording your speaking English and listening it. Pay attention to the errors and correct them when you speak next time. That may help you improve your speaking English.
9. Make eye contact with the examiner to show repect and confident. That is necessary in western countries when talking to people.
10. How to improve your pronunciation?
11. Speak slowly. Speaking too quickly negatively impact pronunciation.
12. Focus on enunciation.
13. Listen and mimic. Listen to BBC and repeat(Download transcripts).
14. Practice connected speech. Don’t jump to connected speech. You should enunciate every word and then you will connect these words naturally.
15. Intonation is crucial in part 3 of speaking section. It can improve you score.

In speaking section, question 2 and 3 are always linked to each other.

|  |
| --- |
| For part 3, you should have 3 things in your answer:  • Give your opinion  • Give an example of your opinion  • Give a concluding sentence  When you prepare for the test, you should write out your answers ahead of time. Later, when you get comfortable with that you can stop writing them out and get better at responding quickly.  Remember, planning ahead and preparing is the key to getting more confidence.  Final tip-check out the NY Times and look at the newspaper sections- those are typical IELTS Speaking topics. |

1. Stay tune to the latest news(NY Times, BBC). Some topics may appear in the IELTS exam.
2. Correcting pronunciation. Listen, mimic, record your speaking English and review it.
3. It is not necessary to speak British English, accent is accepted when you pronounce correctly and express yourself clearly.
4. Incooperate chunking into your speaking English. Chunking is how we group our words together.
5. Use elision such as “I’m, don’t, couldn’t” and so forth.
6. How to develop your speaking at home for free?

Speaking Task 1

1. List the common topics for speaking task 1 and try to answer them.
2. It is vital to record your speaking and check it later. Don’t write your answers but record them because you think more about grammar,.. and you probably make less mistakes.
3. Don’t speak with hesitations such as “er…” or “emmm”.
4. Try to use wide range of vocabulary such as using “boiling, scorching, sweltering” instead of “hot”.
5. Never use basic terms such as “nice”, “be” when you are in a speaking test. For example,   
   - “It’s a nice building” could be replaced by   
   “The building has beautiful artichitecture”,   
   - “We have nice friends” should be replaced by   
   “We have friends who are always there for us.”  
   - “I love mathematics because it is a nice school subject” is replaced by  
   “My most favourite school subject is geography.”

* “I was in an interview yesterday.”

“I participated an interview yesterday.”

**III. Reading**

1. Read the questions first.
2. In true or false questions answers come in order in the passage. (Important)
3. “True” means that the anwer share the same points as the statement in the passage. “False” means opposite/controdict so it neither close nor near but far from it. As in the following example, “about” means a little bit more or less, so it is true.



**IV. Writing**

1. Don’t use repeat words. Look for repeated words and circle them.

Use synonyms as more as possible.   
For example, university = tertiary education / college

1. Use linking words and transitional words. Do you use linking words between every sentence? Examiners look for the linking words. Don’t forget them. Linking words are not linked adverbs but are meaningful ones. a->b, b->c…
2. Suggestions from [all ear English](https://www.allearsenglish.com/ie-8-how-can-you-correct-your-own-writing-for-the-ielts-writing-section)
3. Do your ideas make sense?
4. Grammar: Write sentences with various structures. Write complex sentences as many as you can.
5. Mistakes: Make a list of common errors. Look at verb tenses, circle the different sentences. Make sure that you use them correctly.
6. If you made mistakes on complex grammar, that’s OK, but if made mistakes about pass simple, you can’t achieve a high score.
7. You should know what is a table, a graph or anything else.
8. You should spend 4 or 5 minutes planning before writing and spend the same time checking after writing. You practice that again and again every time you write essays, it will be natural when you are writing something.
9. To prepare for task 1 in writing section, you can read the business section in a newspaper to learn how to describe increasing and decreasing.
10. For writing task 1, don’t try to describe every category in detail; fous on the most significant ones.
11. Review model answers and examiner’s comments on that, you will know how to get a high score in writing tasks.
12. Task 1 top tip – remember it’s always *‘the number of’* for countable nouns and *‘the amount of’* for uncountable.

For example: The number of people increased. The amount of rice increased.

1. Try answering the question without using a dictionary.
2. Write solid examples to support the point in each paragraph.
3. In writing task 2, incorporating conditionals and hypothetical proposition can help you get a high score. Don’t use them in writing task 1.
4. Write at least 150 words but no more than 165 words in writing task 1, the examiner will stop at the 165 words.
5. For task 1, organise your thought before start, this is critically important.
6. You’d better not use words in the question but you can use their synonyms instead.
7. It’s a big mistake to only write one sentence in the overview paragraph.

**How to describe a map for academic task 1?**

1. If both maps have an area that is unchanged between the time dates, this can be written as:  
   *Over fifty years period both maps have maintained a distinct recreational area despite the extensive construction in the surrounding areas.*
2. “*north-east*” and its relative words are nouns, adjectives, and adverbs.
3. The map shows/demonstrates/illutrates…

**V. General**

1. Do some authentic examination papers but not only do them but also keep on reading, writing, listening and speaking English.

2. You should use a mix of sentences structures in speaking and writing English if you want to get a score of 7 or more. Namely, you need simple and compound sentences. Be sure not to make a lot of mistakes, a few mistakes are allowed up to a band score of 8. Don’t try using rare grammar tenses like past perfect.

3. Aiming at band 8 or above then you may get band 7.5. It is said that if you aim at stars you might reach the moon. Because you don’t have to take IELTS for many times so that you can save money.

4. Take at least one full test at home before sitting a real IELTS test. You had better set a alarm and finish all the three tests except for speaking within 2 hours and 40 minutes.

**VI. Topics**  
Speaking or writing topics.

1. **Living in Cities**

Complex sentences.

People choose to live in cities because they appreciate the accessibility of amenities, the cultural diversity and the range of employment opportunities available.

Cities offer a plethora of experiences, from a vibrant nightlife and a diverse range of cuisines, but they also pose challenges like nosy pollution and overcrowding, which can significantly impact the quality of life.

Even though the city life, with its convenience and diversity, holds it’s a great appeal for many, the longing for a slower pace of life and a close-knit community is leading some to reconsider and move to countryside.

**Note**: (“*even though*” is the symbol of transition so that it can’t be followed by only one sentence.)

Cities are becoming smarter with the integration of advanced technology into public services and infrastructure, which is improve the quality of life, even as they contend with issues like data privacy and cybersecurity.

VII. Others Notes

1. Some sentences structure.
2. The numbers increased dramatically in 2008.
3. Tips on four sections of IELTS.







1. Preparing for writing task 1 could also help you on writing task 2, so don’t think the former is not as important as the later.
2. Read the official Band desriptors from IELTS.