Reddit PMP Posts and Comments

# My test experience and tips

I had initially planned to take my IELTS exam in September, but I wasn't prepared and felt hesitant due to the one-time attempt. Eventually, I decided to take it in the first week of October, but there were only a few days left to prepare.  
One key takeaway from my experience is that IELTS coaching and practice tests don't necessarily prepare you for the actual exam content. The most valuable aspect of preparation is time management and concentration. The IELTS exam primarily tests your ability to manage time effectively and stay focused.  
  
HERE'S A BREAKDOWN OF THE EXAM FORMAT:  
  
1. Listening: 30 minutes for listening, plus an extra 10 minutes to transfer your answers.  
2. Reading: 1 hour in total, but 50 minutes should be spent on the test itself, leaving 10 minutes to transfer answers.  
3. Writing: Task 1 (20 minutes) and Task 2 (40 minutes).  
The best approach is to download Cambridge IELTS practice books or obtain them from other sources. Set a timer for each test and practice different question types. After each test, review your timing and answers to identify where you're lacking. Focus on the areas where your performance is weakest (e.g., if you're good at fill in the blank questions but struggle with True/False/Not Given in the Reading section, focus on improving your weaker areas). This targeted practice will help you balance your skills and improve overall.   
  
PRACTICE TIPS:   
  
1.Listening:  
You can easily score an 8 or 9 band in listening if you focus on certain parts. Pay particular attention to Part 1 and Part 4, where the answers are easier to find, and you can score up to 20 marks. The middle sections (Parts 2 and 3) are trickier, but you can still score well if you concentrate.  
  
2. Reading:  
Avoid skimming the passages blindly, it can waste valuable time. Instead, read each paragraph of passages 1, 2, and 3 quickly, and identify key points or keywords. Write these keywords at the top of each paragraph. This strategy makes it much easier to locate relevant information when answering the questions. Time management is crucial in the reading section, so this method can help you save time. Make sure you understand why a True/False/Not given is used, when and where, why and for what. Most people lose their marks here and Reading is all about these questions. I had T/F/NG for 2 reading passages and a Y/N/NG for 1 reading passage. Overall, these are mandatory type. So try to make yourself more familiar with these.   
  
3. Writing:  
I didn’t spend much time practicing writing. What helped me most was understanding the format of each type of writing question, such as Advantage/Disadvantage, Agree/Disagree, Problem-Solution, etc. This way, I knew how to structure my answers. In the actual exam, the questions can be unpredictable, but knowing the format is key. The same approach worked for Task 1 as well, I focused on the structure for different types of questions, including introductions, body paragraphs, and conclusions.  
  
4. Speaking:  
I didn’t do any specific preparation for speaking. If you do want to prepare, focus on practicing conversation. There’s no need to use advanced English, just speak normally. The most important factors are fluency, grammar, and confidence, so concentrate on improving your fluency when speaking.   
  
  
MY IELTS EXAM EXPERIENCE:  
  
1. Speaking:  
The environment and the examiner were calm and relaxed, so there's no need to stress. Stay calm and be yourself. Avoid sounding like you're reciting memorized answers, it should feel like a casual conversation, as if you're talking to a friend. Make sure to maintain fluency and accuracy throughout. It's crucial to fully understand the question before responding.   
A key tip for Part 2 is to make sure you speak for at least 1:30 to 2 minutes. Keep talking continuously. I made the mistake of speaking too quickly, as I normally do, and while I answered everything, I didn’t meet the required speaking time. Everything else went smoothly, but time management is crucial in this section.  
  
2. Reading:  
I found the reading section to range from moderate to difficult. The first two passages were moderate, but Passage 3 was quite challenging with unexpected question types. You only have 50 minutes to complete the test, which adds pressure. You need to read, analyze, and answer quickly. Stick to the strategy of identifying keywords in each paragraph to save time.   
Another important tip: always carefully read the questions. Sometimes they ask for True/False/Not Given (T/F/NG), and other times Yes/No/Not Given (Y/N/NG). If you confuse the two and answer incorrectly, you’ll lose marks.  
  
3. Listening:  
As I mentioned earlier, Part 1 and Part 4 of the listening section are the easiest, and you can score up to 20 marks there. The middle sections can be tricky because some questions might seem to have two correct answers. Don’t second-guess yourself, just choose the answer based on exactly what you hear and what the question asks.   
Also, be mindful of specific instructions, like whether the answer should be one word, a number, or no more than two words. Following these instructions is key to scoring well.  
  
4. Writing:  
The focus here should be on mastering the formats for each type of question. Ideas come spontaneously during the exam, so there’s no need to over-practice content. Task 1 can be difficult to manage within 20 minutes, especially when comparing graphs. I struggled with time management here and wasn’t able to fully compare the graphs.   
Task 2 holds more weight, so prioritize it. Once you're familiar with the formats, Task 2 becomes easier. I faced an unusual question and couldn’t think of many ideas, but I managed to write 350+ words. Always complete the task, time management is crucial.   
  
Here I'm providing the details of each writing task 2 type questions, format, and how you can approach them:   
  
✨ Agree or Disagree Questions:  
- Introduction: Paraphrase the question and state your opinion (Agree or Disagree), then introduce a small idea related to your opinion.  
- Body Paragraph 1  
- Body Paragraph 2  
- Conclusion  
  
✨ To What Extent Do You Agree or Disagree?  
- Introduction: Paraphrase the question, state your opinion, and briefly mention your reasoning.  
- Body Paragraph 1  
- Body Paragraph 2  
- Conclusion  
  
✨ Advantages and Disadvantages:  
- Introduction: Paraphrase the question, state that the essay will explore both the advantages and disadvantages.  
- Body Paragraph 1: Discuss advantages.  
- Body Paragraph 2: Discuss disadvantages.  
- Conclusion  
  
Note: If you have several ideas for advantages or disadvantages, you can organize them into separate paragraphs. For instance, you could dedicate body paragraph 1 to the first advantage and body paragraph 2 to the second advantage. The same structure applies to disadvantages. Don’t get confused. Usually, you only need to mention one idea for each, but if you have multiple, you can follow this approach.  
  
✨ Do the Advantages Outweigh the Disadvantages?  
- Introduction: Paraphrase the question, and state that while there are both pros and cons, the advantages clearly outweigh the disadvantages.  
- Body Paragraph: Discuss advantages.  
- Body Paragraph: Discuss disadvantages.  
- Conclusion: Reiterate that despite some disadvantages, the advantages outweigh them.  
  
Note: The question itself suggests the answer, as it asks you to determine whether the advantages outweigh the disadvantages. This means you should address both the pros and cons, but place more emphasis on the advantages to support your argument. In conclusion, you can state that despite the presence of both advantages and disadvantages, the benefits clearly outweigh the drawbacks. The same goes if the question asks do the disadvantages outweigh the advantages.   
  
✨ Problem-Solution Questions:  
- Introduction: Paraphrase the question and briefly explain why the issue arises, mentioning that you will explore multiple reasons.  
- Body Paragraph 1: Discuss one reason.  
- Body Paragraph 2: Discuss another reason.  
- Solution Paragraph: Propose solutions.  
- Conclusion  
  
  
✨ Give Your Views and State Your Opinion:  
- Introduction: Paraphrase the question and mention that both viewpoints have merit and will be discussed.  
- Body Paragraph 1: Present the first viewpoint.  
- Body Paragraph 2: Present the second viewpoint.  
- Your Opinion: Share your perspective and suggest what should be done.  
- Conclusion.   
  
Final Tips:  
For both reading and listening, even if you're unsure of an answer, always attempt it. There’s no negative marking, so it's better to make an educated guess rather than leave it blank. I made the mistake of leaving two answers unfinished, thinking I would return to them later, but I forgot. Always answer immediately instead of leaving it for the end, you might run out of time.   
  
MY SCORE AND FINAL THOUGHTS:   
  
Initially, I doubted I would even score a 7 band, likely because I was overthinking. However, I ended up with the following scores: Listening - 8, Reading - 8, Speaking - 8 and Writing - 7. With an overall band of 8 which truly was an amazing score for me keeping in mind the level of hardness.   
  
So, my advice is not to stress or worry too much. Focus on practicing tests to get familiar with the actual exam format, work on your time management and concentration skills, and the rest will fall into place. If you happen to get an easier exam, you could even score an 8 band or higher. My test was quite difficult, and many students left sections incomplete due to time constraints. The exam was much harder than the practice tests, but despite that, I still managed a 8 band overall. I'm sharing this to motivate you, if I can achieve this in a tough exam, you definitely don't need to worry. You can achieve this band with a tough exam and maybe more.   
  
I hope this will be helpful. Good luck :)

## Comments

[Comment] You can find answers to [frequently asked questions here.](https://www.reddit.com/r/IELTS/comments/1b0s5rx/ielts\_writing\_and\_speaking\_resources\_and/)  
  
\*I am a bot, and this action was performed automatically. Please [contact the moderators of this subreddit](/message/compose/?to=/r/IELTS) if you have any questions or concerns.\*

[Comment] This post includes the poster’s advice, and not necessarily that of the moderators, on IELTS and test preparation. People have different views on IELTS preparation, so it is the reader’s responsibility to choose the advice they think will help.  
  
\*I am a bot, and this action was performed automatically. Please [contact the moderators of this subreddit](/message/compose/?to=/r/IELTS) if you have any questions or concerns.\*

[Comment] 1. Does the listening and reading test follow the same question structures of Cambridge practice tests?   
  
2. Can you please share the format of each type of writing questions for both tasks? Or tell me where did you get from?

[Comment] Hi I have problem, when I practice listening tests using the British Council site I always get 6.5🥲, I tried a listening test from the Cambridge IELTS book and I got an 8! Which of the difficulty level is more similar to the actual test? Please help.

[Comment] I gave the ielts academic on computer 4 days ago, I was not given any extra time in the listening section to transfer my answers. The section was for 25 minutes, the audio ran for 23.20 and the rest was just given to check answers which was even less than 2 minutes. This was at an IDP centre in India

[Comment] I scored 5.5   
L 5  
R 5.5  
W 6  
S 6   
  
  
Please I need advice to level up my score to band 7   
Any help would be appreciated

[Comment] Can you give me detail experience about the listening test? I mean how about the fill in the blanks question? is it only one word and number or up to three word and number? because I practice from Cambridge IELTS Book (18,19) all questions comes to only one word. Thank you

[Comment] Hey! Yes, for listening and reading they follow the same question structures.   
  
Listening:  
- Part 1: A conversation between two people, focusing on form-filling.  
- Parts 2 and 3: These can involve various question types like multiple choice, maps, matching, etc., so be familiar with all types of questions.  
- Part 4: Focuses on notes completion.   
  
Reading:  
- Be very familiar with True/False/Not Given (T/F/NG) and Yes/No/Not Given (Y/N/NG) question types as they are guaranteed to appear in all three passages.  
- Focus on mastering fill-in-the-blanks, multiple choice questions, and other common types.  
  
Writing Tasks:  
  
Task 1 Types:  
- Diagram/Process  
- Bar Chart  
- Pie Chart  
- Line Graph  
- Maps  
- Table  
  
Task 2 Types:  
  
✨ Agree or Disagree Questions:  
- Introduction: Paraphrase the question and state your opinion (Agree or Disagree), then introduce a small idea related to your opinion.  
- Body Paragraph 1  
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Note: If you have several ideas for advantages or disadvantages, you can organize them into separate paragraphs. For instance, you could dedicate body paragraph 1 to the first advantage and body paragraph 2 to the second advantage. The same structure applies to disadvantages. Don’t get confused. Usually, you only need to mention one idea for each, but if you have multiple, you can follow this approach.  
  
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- Your Opinion: Share your perspective and suggest what should be done.  
- Conclusion.  
  
I hope this will be helpful ☺️

[Comment] I also want to find the same.

[Comment] Follow the Cambridge IELTS for preparation and take the IDP IELTS test. I'm not sure about the British one but I'm assuming they may have a different exam format. I've practiced with Cambridge IELTS books and taken the IDP exam. My advice is to focus solely on Cambridge tests and then take the IDP IELTS, without mixing both.   
  
I used to score a band 8 or 9 in all of the Cambridge listening tests. The exam was 100% similar to these tests.   
  
Overall, the Cambridge tests are the ones similar to the real exam! Stick to it.

[Comment] I took the pen and paper one.   
  
The computer-based and paper-based formats are different. In the pen-and-paper version, candidates first receive a question booklet to answer the questions and later transfer their answers to a separate answer sheet. This does not apply to the reading section, where candidates must write their answers within the given time. For both the listening and reading sections, there is an answer sheet (front and back) where only the final answers are recorded.  
  
In contrast, with the computer-based test, candidates input their answers directly on the screen, and these are evaluated. For the pen-and-paper version, only the answers written on the answer sheet are assessed.

[Comment] Thank you so much for answering!

[Comment] Please where did you get the Cambridge IELTS practice tests. I have searched the internet but I am not sure of the correct one.

[Comment] My pleasure!

[Comment] I bought them from a consultancy that compiles the Cambridge tests from versions 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, and so on for each module into a single book. You can purchase these books from Amazon, or check if any local bookstores in your area or city carry them.  
  
To help you find the correct ones, I'll share a screenshot of what they look like.

[Comment] Thank you so much. I really appreciate

# My IELTS experience. End me.

I thought it would be beneficial to share my IELTS experience (academic, computer-based) to decompress and de-traumatise myself haha.  
  
I'm not a native English speaker, but I've lived in an English-speaking country for around 13 years now. I speak English daily and hardly ever use my first language (I hate it; it's so ugly). I need at least a score of 7 in every category for registration purposes. Basically, if I can't deliver, I cannot pursue a certain career.   
I breathe English, I think in English, I basically AM English. IELTS, pffff, should be a piece of cake, right?   
Oh boy, was I wrong.  
  
I forced myself to do a little one-week IELTS bootcamp before my actual test, you know, just to be prepared and not waste money as this dumb test costs a fortune. I used the official practice tests. Listening? No worries, easily got an 8.5/9 every time. Reading? MHM. In my first reading test, I had 24 correct answers out of 40... The stupid YES / NO / NOT GIVEN questions were wonderful for someone who overthinks A LOT. I looked up some strategies and then got 8.5/9 every time for reading. EASY. Writing? I literally just looked at the structures needed and memorised a couple of fancy words. EAZZZYYYYY. Speaking? Well, I'm awkward as hell and introverted, but hey, I can speak if needed. All good. Also, there’s not really much to prepare for.  
  
Fast forward to the testing day. I used a new shampoo the evening before (voluminous & shiny hair) and went to bed with wet hair. When I woke up, my hair had so much freaking volume, it exploded so much that it now basically filled my entire room. It was intimidating. No time to do anything about it - I put a cap on, and this somehow tamed it.  
  
You should be there 30 minutes before your test starts. Traffic was a nightmare; I was there 20 minutes before the test and had no idea there was an introduction. I walked into a room full of people, listening to someone explaining stuff. Everyone stared at me. My nervous self became even more nervous, and my face probably mutated into a tomato. "Sorry," I mumbled and sat down somewhere in the darkest corner. We were then informed that 1. we are not allowed to take food with us. It really stung because I had this new tiny delicious protein bar with me as a treat, carefully chosen the day before. 2. We weren't allowed to wear watches and mobiles needed to be turned off. 3. The introduction lady stared right into my soul: "NO headwear is allowed." I had to remove my cap, guys. It was so messed up. My hair was everywhere, and I felt like a miserable mop. You then basically get married to your passport. DO NOT FORGET TO BRING IT. One girl got disqualified because she didn't have hers. Hold on to yours; you need it for EVERYTHING. The number of times they checked mine, before, during, and after, was insane. The whole test building was a mess, by the way. It was old, it smelled, it was damaged, and there was NO light. I felt depressed the second I entered that damn building. We then got herded into a tiny room with really old computers. Guess what? Passports got checked again. We were around 10 people, and they had just checked them before sending us into the room. Anyway, the test started. Listening was great, except apparently I don't know how to write "volcano" correctly. I went to the bathroom before the test, but I could already feel my bladder getting annoying during that part. When I started the reading section, my whole body was shaking. It was insanely cold in that room; I was wearing a hoodie. The reading part was so much harder in comparison to the practice tests. This also may have had something to do with the articles I got. They didn't interest me in the slightest and my nervousness was making it really hard to focus. I wiggled my way through it but had around 8-9 questions I wasn't sure of. Fun fact: they had 2 sections of these stupid NOT GIVEN, TRUE / FALSE questions. Just to celebrate my existence. I panicked a little during that section and ran out of time in the end. The reading part takes around 1 hour, and by then I felt tired, HUNGRY, exhausted... and I was almost peeing myself. They don't stop the time for you, so what kind of idiot goes to the toilet during an IELTS exam? Yes. I was that idiot. I lost 5 minutes of time for my writing exam. I honestly should have worn a diaper. I really needed those 5 minutes. Long story short: after task 1, my thoughts were "That's pretty meh, I'll come back and sparkle it up later." I ran out of time for task 2. I had 7 minutes left when I was working on my second paragraph. I didn't have a conclusion yet; I didn't proofread. Task 1 was simultaneously breathing down my neck. Guys, it was an absolute shit show. I also started freaking out, which probably didn't help much. I spewed out a conclusion, 3 sentences which did not make ANY sense. I tried to finish my second paragraph, which also now does not make ANY SENSE. And I wasn't able to proofread any of it. Did I mention the computers were ancient? You had to basically spank the keyboard for it to work. I'm sure there are lots of missing letters. Fark mi life.  
  
Once I slumped out of that dark testing room, I honestly could have cried. I felt fragile, exhausted, HUNGRY, and just massively disappointed with myself. I just wanted to roll home and die in bed. But wait, I totally forgot - there was one more part to tackle. SPEAKING. Yay. A fun thing to do when you feel absolutely broken.  
  
I had to loiter around for an hour, cap proudly back on my head, stuffed my face with the protein bar (which turned out to taste like an old sock), gulped down some water and an energy drink. I hadn't had caffeine for over 3 years, so drinking an energy drink might not have been the best option. I FELT SO ALIVE AND EVERYTHING PASSED IN THE SPEED OF LIGHT. YEEEEW HAAAAH. I galloped back into the testing center, peed my insides out in the bathroom (I've learned), stared into the mirror, took off my cap for one millisecond, and decided it was best to keep wearing it, for humanity. I sprinted out of the bathroom, wasn't even surprised that my passport got checked again, and, did I mention? They also love your fingerprints. They got taken around 5 times while I was there. "NO HEADWEAR." I had to take that damn cap off again and could feel my hair fluffing up. HOW CAN ANYONE TAKE ME SERIOUSLY WITH THAT HAIR? I now had to engage in an actual conversation with an actual human. First impression was out the window, bet. I had to sit around for 20 minutes, not being able to use my phone or anything. I could not sit still. I watched people leave other rooms, crying. Finally, the door opened, and I was let in for my speaking test. The tester was literally a machine in human form. He mechanically read questions to me. I didn't feel strongly about ANY question he asked me. They were all so boring, and I literally had nothing to say. One of them, for example, was "Does your family have an old belonging? What is it? And what do you know about it?" My family are minimalists; they don't keep stuff. There I was, having to give some sort of stupid presentation in one minute, and I literally had NOTHING to talk about. Guys, don't let this dishearten you though; just make stuff up. I ended up word vomiting on him. He had to stop me multiple times. I felt annoyed with how much I was talking, but hey, at least I said something. He knew I could yap and speak English. We were all good. After that, I had heart palpitations and am still high on caffeine while writing this.  
  
If you have any questions regarding the test, I can attempt to help you. If you messed up your writing and potentially reading test, I feel you. I will very likely have to spend between $199-300 to resit it. I absolutely hate the IELTS and hope to tick it off... soon.  
  
  
  
EDIT: PART 2  
  
Today (one day after the exam), I got my results back.   
For everyone asking -> they are: L:8.5 // R: 7.5 // W: 6.5 UGH // S: 8.5 (word vomit, guys, word vomit, that's the magic).  
  
I'm happy that I "passed" most of it, but unfortunately, that means I have to re-do the stupid writing part. 0.5 more and I would have dissolved in happiness. Can't wait to enter the building of total darkness and despair, once again. <3 #chefskiss  
  
FORTUNATELY, this might give YOU a bit of hope. My task 1 was SO BAD. I didn't really finish task 2 and what I had written DID NOT MAKE SENSE whatsoever. I honestly expected a 5 or lower for writing. This is so beatable, GO YOU. ALSO, this is how I gonna do it: I will start with task 2 this time because it apparently counts DOUBLE. So it's much better if you have a slayin' task 2 and then there is.. its special brother, task 1.. just casually existing. Better this way than vice versa. Another bonus, no diaper needed, it's just an hour, baby.  
  
  
  
EDIT: PART 3 - FINALE  
  
This was an absolute rollercoaster, guys. I ended up double-checking the language requirements for my career path, and they stated that I was NOT allowed to retake only one section of the test. So, if I don't have a 7 in every section, I need to retake the WHOLE test. I'm also not allowed to have anything below 6.5; otherwise, I'd be out straight away, not even allowed to retake it. Honestly, the pressure, I could have cried. I was pretty damn happy with my other outcomes. Heck, an 8.5 for speaking for someone super introverted with social & performance anxiety - that's more than alright, I'd say.  
  
Anyhow, after discovering this, it took me almost a day to get back in balance. The test is so damn expensive and then having to put myself into the same miserable 3h+ situation again... with no diaper (decided against it; weird crinkle sound while moving, everyone will know... everyone... \\*whispers). My deadline for the career thing is mid-June. I was not able to find ANY available tests in my area until mid-July. SERIOUSLY?! At this point, I honestly thought about just giving up. There have been so many roadblocks; maybe the universe or whatever (we're all thinking about the Flying Spaghetti Monster, aren't we?) was telling me that I shouldn't pursue this particular career path. Decided to swim up one last time for air.  
  
I found one test available in a different city, very far away from me. I almost booked it. Almost. So close. Then I had a heart attack and died. Jokes. Just checking if you're still with me. High 5.   
I literally was breaking my brain: is there another possible way to get these extra 0.5 points in my writing task?   
Remark. There is an option to get a second opinion on your task(s). I researched a bit, and it's more the norm that they don't change your mark at all. However, if you are insanely lucky, most likely they'll only increase it by 0.5. Zero. Point. Five.   
The magic number.  
  
Requesting a remark costs a lot of money (nobody is surprised, surprise.) and a lot of time. It can take up to 23 days to process it. Additionally, what I read online was not very encouraging; a lot of people just ended up wasting their money and then wasting more by having to retake the damn test anyway. I was desperate, and in my head, at that point, it made sense to gamble. I ended up requesting a remark. One second after, I regretted it. What if it takes 23 days? That would be too long; my deadline would not be met. Also, the other test might book out while I was waiting for the result. I was getting close again to that heart attack but then decided to just wait a day or two and, if needed, book that test again.   
  
I was watching a really cool show, and suddenly, it was super strange - my screen began to flicker like cray cray. I've never had that before; clearly, it must have been all your positive energy. It wouldn't stop, so I actually had to close the window and then saw an email that my remark request had been completed. SIX HOURS after I sent it off. My heart dropped once again. If that was done so quickly, surely they just brushed it off with a good old f u smile & big middle finger. BUT. BUUUUT. You know it already. THE MAGIC NUMBER sparkled all over my screen. The impossible has been made possible. I have NO IDEA how and why, but if you are the IELTS person who scored my writing part and gave me an extra 0.5 - I love you with all my heart. Thank you for putting me out of my misery.   
  
  
  
To everyone out there - I wish you all the very best with your test. Please don't let my lil IELTS novel dishearten you. It's rough but with a bit of practice you can definitely make it work. Even if you need to go for round 2.   
  
  
\\*I think to up your chances, the remark should only be requested if you have higher marks in your other sections and if you only need an extra 0.5 in writing or speaking. Even then you have to be very lucky so please really think about it, I don't want you to waste unnecessary money on this. I think I was just really, really, reaaaally lucky. All the best!

## Comments

[Comment] Hi! It looks like you are looking for advice on EOR or retaking the test. Please take a look at [our FAQ number 19.](https://www.reddit.com/r/IELTS/comments/11ohjrj/frequently\_asked\_questions\_about\_ielts/)  
  
  
\*I am a bot, and this action was performed automatically. Please [contact the moderators of this subreddit](/message/compose/?to=/r/IELTS) if you have any questions or concerns.\*

[Comment] if you just decided to scroll right to the comment sections -> don't read it if u have an exam soon, u'll feel depressed   
in short, OP just got extremely unlucky

[Comment] Please tell us how much you get once the results are out :)

[Comment] Using a diaper during the IELTS is a bad idea. The discomfort of wearing it could have a negative impact on your score. I think you did the right thing.

[Comment] Got your scores, yet? Please update us on it.

[Comment] Mannnn I wrote my exam on may4th I chose the pen and paper and I think I took the right choice because I would have messed up really bad if I attended the computer based. I suck at English I don’t speak it or write it on daily basis but all of my lectures are in English and the text are also in English. I didn’t prepare for this exam because I was just testing out what an ielts exam is. So when I tried the practice tests I scored 8.5/9 in all listening and reading parts so I was not worried about it but I knew I’m f ed up for the writing and speaking part. My speaking test was 2 days before the LRW test and I got a chill interviewer luckily he didn’t ask me any hard questions so I knew I would get a 6 for my bad english since he asked me pretty basic questions which I was able to answer and for the LRW test the listening and reading part were easier than the practice tests so i was sure I would get 8.5 for both but man I f ed up the writing part 2 the task 1 was a line graph so I was able to attend but the task 2 question was something I had 0 knowledge about I read the question 5-10 times and answered what my brain thought it is and hehe I got 6.5 for both speaking and writing and 8.5 for listening and 8 for reading I think I messed up the match the paragraphs. I was happy but the course and the country im goin for doesn’t require ielts. But I had a great time in the exam hall, the staffs were pretty chill and helpful but the main examiner was a b

[Comment] Nice narration though ❤️ wish u luck anyway

[Comment] Damn, what a nice story haha, and your writing makes it even more interesting. I have 2 months left before my exam, and I am really frustrated with the listening, writing, and speaking. I have a full-time job, which leaves me with so little time for the day, and having a small child at home doesn’t help either. Not only am I not a native English speaker, but there just isn’t enough chance for me to improve both my writing and speaking skills. All I am now focusing on is reading and listening; hopefully it can carry my other two skills, which I lack.

[Comment] Ngl, reading this was a hoot lol. Your writing is very creative fwiw. Sorry, about your bad experience I hope you get a good enough score. Hang tight   
  
Also TIL one can switch between WT1 and WT2. Also I didn't think in CBE, there'd be an actual person for the speaking part, I thought it'd just be headphones and mic.

[Comment] I’ve read all, that’s quit something, sorry to hear that you had a bad experience. Will get a better shot next time. Thx for sharing and wish you get what you’re looking for.

[Comment] My examiner for the speaking part was a fucking old lady that has heavy British accent and speaks very fast . Like bro we are not at competition

[Comment] very impression experience

[Comment] Hi! It looks like you are looking for tips, guides, or resources for your IELTS preparation. For more information, please take a look at [this thread.](https://www.reddit.com/r/IELTS\_Guide/comments/ubekzu/ielts\_preparation\_resources\_and\_advice/)  
  
  
\*I am a bot, and this action was performed automatically. Please [contact the moderators of this subreddit](/message/compose/?to=/r/IELTS) if you have any questions or concerns.\*

[Comment] How was the score though?

[Comment] Awww I'm so sorry for your experience, but damn, you are a gifted writer! Hopefully that will come through in your writing and speaking tests. In this sub, we've seen time and time again that people end up scoring higher than they expected, so maybe this is you. :) Please update us when you get your scores!

[Comment] whats your first language btw?

[Comment] From where you practice and channel names from where you get strategies to score best??

[Comment] I didi the exam yesterday. I was disappointed to be honest with the listening part. It’s not like I haven’t prepared well, in fact, the listening part was the MOST part I prepared for. I did tons of practice tests and got at least 7.5 in all of them. When I entered the exam and wore the headphones, the sound was soo low, I thought that everyone had this level of sound on their headphones and it was regular; but it turns out that it isn’t! I missed a couple of questions and unfortunately I think I had at least 5 mistakes but not more that 11. Next, I did well on my Reading part, I think i’ll get at least 7.5. Writing was good, i did Task 2 perfectly, it took me about 45 minutes to write a perfect essay and included all requirements. Then, I had about 15 minutes for Task 1, I paraphrased the question in the introduction paragraph, then I wrote a good overall paragraph, but I didn’t include specifics on the 2 details paragraphs due to the shortage of time. I really hope I could get a band 7 on writing, do you think that’s possible? (Keeping in mind that I messed up including details in Task 1)

[Comment] You can have feedback that the computers are old. I guess it is okay because people are paying for ielts exam and they should have decent computers, lightning etc.

[Comment] I got unlucky and had a horrible examiner too who kept commenting on my responses. I actually think the examiner was the reason why I didn’t get the score I wanted. 😕

[Comment] Yeah, Fuck IELTS

[Comment] yes, please don't get disheartened, everyone. You can do it! .. make sure to use the toilet beforehand though. x

[Comment] just added the results to my post :) see above

[Comment] Thanks for your reinforcement. Also, imagine the attractive "crinkle" sound while moving, the other participants would have stoned me right there.

[Comment] [removed]

[Comment] just added the results to my post :) see above

[Comment] Man, that also sounds like a full on experience! Your testing centre sounds a lot better than mine, glad you had nice staff and a chill interviewer. Minus that b hahaha. That's what we need. I have noooo idea how you did all of that on paper, the writing part especially. I am such a slow writer, I probably would have only finished task 1 haha.. not even. Good on you. 6.5 is amazing even though you had no idea what to answer for task 2. I would have died haha. That was one of my fears, not understanding the graph or similar. Imagine you have the English skills but your brain is just "Nah, not today. I don't get it". Congrats on your results, you did so well! Hope you celebrated it!

[Comment] Thanks, you're a gem! Keep sending that good luck a little longer, I'll have to re-do the writing part.

[Comment] Haha I'm glad you enjoyed reading it :)   
Gah! Work + a small child at home... that's a lot going on and makes it hard to prepare, I feel ya. Kudos though, you're still trying to prepare a little :) There are heaps of good practice tests online for reading + listening, send me a DM if you need resources. Writing, a big part is how you structure it. I'd recommend to just memorise one universal structure and you should be good to go.

[Comment] Haha thankkkks!!!!! That struggle, man haha.   
  
YES! You can switch between the two which is amazing. I'd recommend to start with the second writing task as it weights double. And yes, you have to actually do the whole speaking part with a real person... it's creepy... hehe. Wish you all the best if you have to take the test at some point!

[Comment] That was a long novel to get through haha, thanks for reading :) It def was quite an experience, it all turned out legendary in the end, I added a part 3. All the best for you if you need to sit the test!

[Comment] HAHAHA oh no. You should have just said "calm your titties, old gal." would have been a 9 straight up. Hope all went well despite her being extra.

[Comment] just added the results to my post :) see above

[Comment] Thanks for the compliment :) Scores have been added to my post! Gotta drag my butt back in there, hallelujah. :')

[Comment] my first language is very very ugly.

[Comment] feel free to send me a DM!

[Comment] Ah man, I'm so sorry to hear that. Pun not intended. Do you have your results back yet? If you are not happy with your listening skills, I would get in contact with IELTS and let them know what happened. It's not okay if their equipment is faulty. Maybe you can retake it for free. Let me know how that went.   
Re writing task - if you're super confident in your task 2, that's great. It counts double. Let's say you got an 8 in task 2 and only a 5 in task 1... that's an overall 7 (2\\*8 + 5 / 3). Crossing my toes in finger for ya!

[Comment] Ah man that sucks!! Sorry to hear, sounds like a horrendous experience. Commenting on your responses feels so condescending, someone was enjoying their power trip for sure. Maybe you should try and report the examiner so that other people don't have to deal with the same experience. They got everything on tape! Either way, we should egg their house.

[Comment] ROAR.

[Comment] I didn’t find it :(  
So what was your score ?

[Comment] You have violated Rule 7 -Spam: Simply don’t Spam! We are trying to create a safe and valuable space here, and spam will not be tolerated. Please see rules for more information. NOTE: A second violation will get you banned (although if your first violation is offensive enough, you will be automaticaly banned).

[Comment] Btw any tips for the reading part . I think u must be pro in it ha😁🗣️

[Comment] Omg your edit has me lol'ing for real. Special brother, yes! 😅😅😅 I don't think you need help with the writing section (other than maybe time management), but let me know if there's anything I can do. Good luck!! 🤗

[Comment] like kazakh?

[Comment] Tysm man🙏🤍, I really appreciate it. I haven’t gotten my results back yet but I’m confident that I’ll get a good score.

[Comment] Thank you! Good idea, might egg their car too while I’m at it lol

[Comment] Quick update: you inspired me to get a remark and it worked YAYYYY!

[Comment] All good :)  
  
My score was: L:8.5 // R: 7.5 // W: 6.5 UGH // S: 8.5 ... and I was able to get W up to 7 by requesting a remark.

[Comment] Haha I'm surely not a pro but I'll drop you a DM now. I do have a couple of tips! Maybe they'll be helpful. :)

[Comment] Thanks! I think your "good luck" saved my butt. I don't have to retake it, see part 3. Whee. Thanks for offering your help, I appreciate it :)

[Comment] I'll DM it to you, it's too embarrassing :')

[Comment] No worries! I think you nailed it. Let me know what you ended up getting if you like :) Sending you good vibes!

[Comment] OH. MY. GAWD. You must be feeling insanely good right now!! I am beyond happy for you. Your situation sounded so unfair!!! I'm soooo glad it worked out for you! YEWWWW

# IELTS Preparation Resources and Advice

You'll find the answers to these questions in this post:  
  
1. What are the best books to improve my proficiency level and IELTS band score?  
2. Are there any online official resources that I can use to practice?  
3. Where can I find some practice tests? What are the best books?  
4. What websites or YouTube channels can I use in my preparation?  
  
Before I get started, I should tell you that you don't have to go through all the following books and resources. Depending on your needs, you might need to use some of them in [\*\*your preparation\*\*](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5LVjD2psg2w&t=5s).  
  
\*\*Books for grammar, vocabulary, and language skills\*\*  
  
Grammar  
  
1. Cambridge Grammar for IELTS with answers by Paulin Cullen  
2. Cambridge Common Mistakes at IELTS Intermediate and Advanced by Julie Moore and Paulin Cullen  
  
Vocabulary  
  
1. Cambridge Vocabulary for IELTS Intermediate  
2. Cambridge Vocabulary for IELTS Advanced  
3. Cambridge Collocations in Use Intermediate  
4. Cambridge Collocations in Use Advanced  
5. Oxford Word Skills (idioms and phrasal verbs) Intermediate  
6. Oxford Word Skills (idioms and phrasal verbs) Advanced  
7. [Vocabulary for IELTS Academic Writing Task 1 by ESL Fluency](https://www.eslfluency.com/ielts-academic-writing-task-1-vocabulary-and-examples/)  
  
Reading and academic vocabulary  
  
\* Longman Focus on Vocabulary 1  
\* Longman Focus on Vocabulary 2  
  
These are not IELTS books, but you'll kill two birds with one stone going through these books. You'll improve your reading skills and learn the academic words in context.  
  
Listening skills  
  
\* Open Forum 1  
\* Open Forum 2  
\* Open Forum 3  
  
Again, these are not IELTS books, but if you want to improve your listening skills before doing the actual IELTS tests, you should start with these.  
  
Writing skills  
  
I would suggest Macmillan's "Improve Your Skills, Writing for IELTS series," but you also need personalized feedback on your work. This is where an expert should come in. If you receive bad advice from an inexperienced person, all your hard work will waste away.  
  
By the way, something I always tell every test taker is that they need to start reading non-IELTS materials like well-known website articles and magazines like [Scientific American](https://www.scientificamerican.com/) if they are aiming for band 8+.  
  
\*\*Links from the official sources\*\*  
  
Many students have been asking for free official online practice materials. You can find them here:  
  
IELTS on computer familiarization tests:  
  
[https://takeielts.britishcouncil.org/take-ielts/prepare/computer-delivered-ielts](https://takeielts.britishcouncil.org/take-ielts/prepare/computer-delivered-ielts)  
  
and  
  
[https://ielts.idp.com/canada/prepare/article-get-familiar-ielts-on-computer](https://ielts.idp.com/canada/prepare/article-get-familiar-ielts-on-computer)  
  
IELTS on computer - how it works  
  
[IELTS on computer - how it works | Take IELTS (britishcouncil.org)](https://takeielts.britishcouncil.org/take-ielts/prepare/ielts-on-computer/how-it-works)  
  
Free online IELTS Writing practice tests:  
  
[Free online IELTS Writing practice tests | Take IELTS (britishcouncil.org)](https://takeielts.britishcouncil.org/take-ielts/prepare/free-ielts-practice-tests/writing)  
  
The British Council's free weekly IELTS webinars:  
  
[https://takeielts.britishcouncil.org/take-ielts/prepare/free-webinars](https://takeielts.britishcouncil.org/take-ielts/prepare/free-webinars)  
  
IELTS test preparation materials paper and CD:  
  
[IELTS Test Preparation Materials - IDP](https://ielts.idp.com/prepare/ielts-test-preparation-material)  
  
Free IELTS sample test questions:  
  
[https://ielts.org/take-a-test/preparation-resources/sample-test-questions](https://ielts.org/take-a-test/preparation-resources/sample-test-questions)  
  
Free IELTS Preparation App (The British Council):  
  
[https://takeielts.britishcouncil.org/take-ielts/prepare/free-apps](https://takeielts.britishcouncil.org/take-ielts/prepare/free-apps)  
  
IELTS Preparation App (IDP):  
  
[https://ielts.idp.com/lp/ielts-by-idp-app](https://ielts.idp.com/lp/ielts-by-idp-app)  
  
IELTS Ready by The British Council:  
  
[https://takeielts.britishcouncil.org/take-ielts/prepare/ielts-ready](https://takeielts.britishcouncil.org/take-ielts/prepare/ielts-ready)  
  
The official resources mentioned above are great for online practice, but the level of personalized expert feedback you'll receive from them might not be enough.  
  
\*\*Books with practice tests\*\*  
  
1. Cambridge IELTS books starting from number 12  
2. Cambridge IELTS Trainer  
3. Collins Practice Tests for IELTS  
  
\*\*Websites or YouTube channels full of practical guides\*\*  
  
[\*\*eslfluency.com\*\*](https://www.eslfluency.com/)  
  
This website belongs to one of the moderators of this subreddit. You can find many detailed guides, articles, and [\*\*YouTube videos\*\*](https://www.youtube.com/c/eslfluency) on it.  
  
[\*\*IELTS Advantage YouTube channel\*\*](https://www.youtube.com/@Ieltsadvantage)  
  
Detailed and accurate are the two words you can use for this channel. This is one of the oldest and most reliable YouTube channels to follow for your IELTS preparation.  
  
[\*\*IELTS Simon\*\*](https://www.youtube.com/@IeltsSimon9)  
  
Simon Corcoran is an ex-examiner known for his reliable advice. You will definitely benefit from his amazing videos.  
  
[\*\*YouTube Speaking Simulators\*\*](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLwKcPOoWwawyayaq8w8TVZ1oprCRonnCO)  
  
Sometimes students don't have anyone to speak English with, so they don't spend enough time on this skill. Anfisa's speaking videos are designed to help you simulate your IELTS speaking session. She's a CELTA-certified teacher.  
  
Finally, I should also mention that [eslfluency.com](http://eslfluency.com) is an independent website run by an independent Cambridge-certified EFL teacher. It is not affiliated with any other websites or channels, nor does it represent any of the above-mentioned organizations.

## Comments

# What are the best sources for preparing IELTS exam?

## Comments

[Comment] I would rank them in the same order  
1. Cambridge Books  
2. Complete test success (YouTube and Website)  
3. Ielts Lilie (Youtube and Website)  
4. Ielts Liz (Youtube and Website)  
5. Ielts Advantage (Youtube and Website)

[Comment] Cambridge books

[Comment] [removed]

[Comment] Take a look at [this thread](https://www.reddit.com/r/IELTS\_Guide/comments/ubekzu/ielts\_preparation\_resources\_and\_advice/).

[Comment] IELTS Advantage

[Comment] Cambridge IELTS Books- Goldmine. They offer real past exam papers with detailed answers which will help you get a feel for the actual test.  
   
  
   
IELTS Liz- Check out Liz's YouTube channel and website. She offers excellent video lessons, tips, and practice exercises.  
   
  
   
Magoosh IELTS Blog- Magoosh is famous for test prep, and their blog covers IELTS topics extensively. You'll find helpful strategies and sample questions.  
   
  
   
British Council and IDP- They both offer free practice tests on their websites. These are as close to the real thing as it gets.  
   
  
   
IELTS Simon's Blog- Simon's blog is like a hidden gem. He shares his IELTS experiences and gives insights into the exam format.  
   
  
   
IELTS Practice Apps- There are several free and paid apps available for IELTS practice. Apps like "IELTS Prep" and "IELTS Skills" can be handy on the go.  
   
  
   
IELTS Books- Besides Cambridge, there are other good books like Barron's IELTS and Kaplan IELTS. They provide additional practice material.

[Comment] Thank you!

[Comment] Thanks

[Comment] Thank you!

[Comment] Thanks.

[Comment] Thank you. I appreciate that!

# How To Fully Prepare For The IELTS TEST

\*\*I have met many students who were about to take the IELTS test but were nowhere near ready for it.\*\*  
  
My first advice would be this – make sure your \*\*General English\*\* is at a good level.  
  
Without a good level of \*\*General English\*\*, you have no chance of passing the \*\*IELTS speaking test\*\*.   
  
I have seen students enter the \*\*IELTS test\*\* who can barely speak a few sentences of English. They seemed to think that if they were lucky and the examiner asked them the right questions, then they would get 6.5 in the \*\*IELTS test\*\* and their life would be amazing.  
  
\*\*\*Do not rely on luck! Rely only on yourself and your English skills!\*\*\*  
  
So first things first…  
  
&#x200B;  
  
\*\*Improve your General English\*\*  
  
\*\*\*How to do this?\*\*\*  
  
Attend a \*\*General English\*\* class. Study \*\*ALL\*\* the English skills – \*\*\*reading, speaking, writing, listening.\*\*\*  
  
And all the time try to expand your English vocabulary. The more English vocabulary you have at your disposal, the more you can express yourself in English in the \*\*IELTS test\*\*.   
  
Let me go through all the English skills and give you some ideas about what to do…   
  
&#x200B;  
  
\*\*READING\*\*  
  
Read everything. Read every day and read books, articles, the news, social media, blogs, magazines, cooking recipes, advertising – \*\*\*EVERYTHING\*\*\*.  
  
All reading will help you and all reading will give your vocabulary a \*\*MASSIVE\*\* boost.  
  
Make sure you have notebooks for vocabulary. You can fill these notebooks with any unfamiliar words you find when reading.  
  
In your notebook, write the following:  
  
\* \*\*the new word\*\*  
\* \*\*the meaning of the new word (look in your dictionary)\*\*  
\* \*\*a sentence of your own using the new word\*\*  
  
\*\*\*Keep doing this and I promise you that your vocabulary will grow and grow every day.\*\*\*  
  
This is what you need.  
  
You need lots of English words for the speaking test.  
  
Not only that but the more you read, the more opinions you will have about the world and many other subjects.   
  
The examiner wants to hear you express different views of the world. He loves it when students do this so don't disappoint him!   
  
That’s the first thing you do – \*\*\*READ, READ AND READ\*\*\*.  
  
&#x200B;  
  
\*\*LISTENING\*\*  
  
Now listen to everything you can.  
  
You can listen to:  
  
\* \*\*the news\*\*  
\* \*\*podcasts\*\*  
\* \*\*radio shows\*\*  
\* \*\*TV shows\*\*  
\* \*\*movies\*\*  
\* \*\*talk shows\*\*  
\* \*\*reality TV shows\*\*  
\* \*\*audiobooks – fiction and non-fiction!\*\*   
\* \*\*songs\*\*  
  
You are very lucky. We live in an internet age and you can find so much listening material everywhere.  
  
Just as I said to read everything now you need to listen to everything.   
  
This will make your brain and ears like lasers. You will need this in the IELTS speaking test.  
  
Every time the examiner asks you a question in English, you will understand every word he says. This is a big problem for many people taking the IELTS speaking test – they don’t understand the questions.  
  
\*\*\*So if you practice listening a lot, you will not have this problem.\*\*\*  
  
Not only that but listening to all these things will help your English speaking too.  
  
By practicing English listening, you can work on:  
  
\* \*\*pronunciation\*\*  
\* \*\*grammar\*\*  
\* \*\*English vocabulary\*\*  
\* \*\*sentence structure\*\*  
\* \*\*phrases\*\*  
\* \*\*phrasal verbs\*\*  
\* \*\*idioms\*\*  
  
And the more you listen to different listening material such as podcasts, the news and talk shows, the more opinions you will have about life, the world and everything.  
  
&#x200B;  
  
\*\*WRITING\*\*  
  
Writing can also help your English speaking.  
  
The more you write, the more you are putting to use all the English vocabulary you have learned.  
  
By writing, you will force your brain to remember all the useful vocabulary and phrases you have learned.  
  
You can write:  
  
\* \*\*a journal\*\*  
\* \*\*short stories\*\*  
\* \*\*the news\*\*  
\* \*\*daily events\*\*  
\* \*\*about your friends, family and teachers\*\*  
  
All of this will help you in the IELTS speaking test.  
  
If you write a daily journal about your life, this will definitely help you in the IELTS speaking test.  
  
Many of the questions are about your life and the people in your life. If you have spent a long time writing a journal about your life and your friends and family, then speaking about these things will be very easy for you.   
  
All you need to do is write a daily journal for \*\*15 minutes a day\*\* and I promise – \*\*\*I GUARANTEE\*\*\* – that this will make a big improvement in your English speaking skills.   
  
&#x200B;  
  
\*\*SPEAKING\*\*  
  
Now we come to speaking.  
  
You can practice English speaking by doing the following:  
  
\* \*\*read English reading material out loud\*\*  
\* \*\*read your English writing out loud\*\*   
\* \*\*copy what people say in English podcasts\*\*  
\* \*\*practice English songs\*\*  
\* \*\*watch English movies and TV shows – copy what the actors say\*\*  
\* \*\*start an English Speaking Group and only speak English\*\*  
\* \*\*find a native English speaker and do language exchange\*\*  
  
There are so many things you can do to practice English speaking. And most of them are free.  
  
But at some point, you will want to work on your English speaking skills and know that you are saying the right things.   
  
\*\*\*You could join an English speaking class.\*\*\*  
  
If you are a beginner or lower intermediate, then this could be a good choice.  
  
Join the class – but in the class, you must speak out when you have the chance.   
  
\*\*\*This is not the time to be shy!\*\*\*  
  
If you spend money on an English speaking class, then take advantage of it and speak English.  
  
But if you are more advanced – say intermediate or above – then you could hire a private tutor.  
  
Tell the tutor what you are preparing for – \*\*the\*\* \*\*IELTS speaking test\*\*.  
  
Then just practice talking about as many different topics as you can.  
  
Talk about everything – \*\*\*not just your life\*\*\*.  
  
You could talk about things you find in your reading material or listening to podcasts.  
  
In an English speaking class or with a private tutor, they need to tell you what you are doing wrong when speaking.  
  
\*\*\*Do not be disheartened by this.\*\*\*   
  
Acknowledge that you are making mistakes, learn from them, then move forward.  
  
&#x200B;  
  
\*\*The IELTS Format\*\*  
  
You need to be aware of what the speaking test is about.  
  
You need to know exactly what you need to do.  
  
So check out the IELTS format for the entire test.  
  
You can find it online – just Google: \*\*IELTS speaking test format\*\*.  
  
Now you know the format, practice going over the test with your teacher. You should do lots of \*\*MOCK TESTS\*\* now.  
  
Keep taking mock tests every week. Your teacher should point out what your strengths are and what your weaknesses are.  
  
Then work on the weaknesses to improve.  
  
&#x200B;  
  
\*\*THINGS NOT TO DO IN THE IELTS SPEAKING TEST\*\*  
  
\*\*Memorize Answers\*\*  
  
Do not memorize any answers and then reel them off in front of the examiner. The examiner HATES it when students do this with a passion. So don’t do it.  
  
\*\*Don’t Use Big Words\*\*  
  
Don’t start using big, fancy words in an attempt to impress the examiner. If you know the meaning of these words 100%, then fine, use them.  
  
But if you are unsure – do not use them.  
  
Speak naturally and be yourself.  
  
\*\*Don’t Try To Say The Right Thing\*\*  
  
What I mean by this is don’t worry about what the examiner thinks about your answer.  
  
Give your opinion and stick to it.  
  
If the examiner asks: What do you think of flowers?  
  
If you hate flowers, say so!  
  
Be clear and be honest – be yourself.  
  
The examiner is testing your English, not your opinions.  
  
\*\*Don’t Say Nothing\*\*  
  
It is a speaking test and you must speak.  
  
The examiner might ask you a question about something you know very little about, but you still have to speak.  
  
This is why I say \*\*READ\*\* and \*\*LISTEN\*\* to everything. This can help you form opinions on many different subjects.  
  
But you cannot stay silent.  
  
And you cannot say: \*\*\*I don’t know\*\*\*.  
  
&#x200B;  
  
\*\*IELTS Speaking Classes\*\*  
  
If your teacher says that your English is good enough for the test, then you could consider doing an \*\*IELTS speaking class\*\*.  
  
In this class, you will go through all the test format.  
  
You will practice parts one, two and three of the test.  
  
You will do mock tests several times.  
  
This is a good idea – \*\*\*but only if your English level is good enough.\*\*\*  
  
To be honest, all you need to practice for the \*\*IELTS speaking test\*\* is to talk about as many different topics in English as you can.   
  
There is no such thing as \*\*‘IELTS TOPICS’\*\*. They are all just topics and subjects that you can talk about in English.  
  
Talking about as many different topics in English can help you.  
  
\*\*\*Good luck – and keep practicing!\*\*\*

## Comments

[Comment] I went to test without any preparation whatsoever. my English is fine, it is not that great.   
  
  
my score was 9 in reading, 8.5 Listening, 7 Writing & 6 in speaking Lol

[Comment] Omg thank you so much!!!!!!!!!!!!

[Comment] Good advices. Thank you.

[Comment] I probably will do the same 😆. I forgot everything I had prepared for speaking. My speech is usually good but i speak very quickly and ran out of things to say on part 2 almost immediately and had to jump from topic to topic. Thankfully I mostly got stuck on content rather than English maybe they’ll take that into account

[Comment] That's fantastic! Not everyone needs so much time to prepare. Some do.  
  
Great score by the way...

[Comment] You're welcome!

[Comment] Thanks for reading. You are welcome!

[Comment] They will. They are not here to test your ideas. just want to see how fluent you speak

[Comment] Thanks. How can I improve my speaking in General ?

# IELTS Resources, Strategies and Suggestions

Comprehensive post on my score, resources I used (and are considered the best), and strategies/suggestions. I gave my computer-based IELTS academic test on 4th April and got the results on 7th April.   
  
Preparation time: 2 weeks, 1st attempt.  
  
&#x200B;  
  
>Scores: Overall: 7.5 \[ L: 8.5, R: 8, W: 6.5, S: 7 \]  
  
I got the required scores, so I am satisfied.   
  
&#x200B;  
  
>Resources:   
  
\*\*Links/Videos:\*\*  
  
1. YouTube "IELTS Lizz" – for Reading (true/false) and writing.  
2. YouTube "IELTS Advantage": 11 hr video – super helpful!!! (I watched it on 1.5x speed).  
3. 100 band 7+ essays are available on IELTS advantage website which are mentioned in the video above.  
  
\*\*Books/practice tests I used:\*\*  
  
1. Cambridge IELTS books (including vocabulary book, official guide and test books)  
2. British council IELTS Premium mock tests.  
3. Barrons’ IELTS (DONT use - its useless). Use it \*only\* if you are very weak in R, L and require some confidence boost to start preparation.  
  
P.s: I did not buy any book, I issued everything from a local library for free so I had no option to choose which version I wanted to use. I tried using latest book versions available.  
  
&#x200B;  
  
>\*\*Strategy - Reading:\*\*  
  
I knew from the start that reading might be my weak point so I concentrated there more and it shows, I went from band 6 to 8 in practice sets!   
  
Practicing a lot won't help - don't mindlessly practice (as I did initially) thinking practice will make you perfect. Identify your weaknesses and work on them!! Solve a test, see which type of questions are you getting wrong, learn about those question and how to quickly and correctly answer them.  
  
Learn to scan, skim and read. Start un-timed and then start timing yourself. Pro-tip: solve 3 passages in 60 mins, instead of 1 passage in 20 mins and repeating it 3 times. Reason: You can use remaining time from passage 1 in passage 2 and so on. (I wasn't doing this earlier and timed tests were reducing my scores).  
  
Initially, I took some tests from Barron's IELTS books and got great scores in reading. But when I shifted to Cambridge (more accurate), my reading scores dropped to 6 and 6.5. Then i shifted to youtube and online resources (including Reddit) for help.  
  
If you are a habitual reader (novels, books, articles etc) then it would be comparatively easier for you. I am a frequent reader for my research purposes only and do not read as a hobby, so I required more work. Key strategies I used and found effective for myself are:  
  
\* Solve \*\*headings\*\* or paragraph matching questions at the end - since they consume more time and by doing so, by the time you answer other questions you have an idea where the content is. (IELTS advantage said otherwise, however this strategy suited me best).  
\* For headings, you have to read properly to match.  
\* \*\*True/False:\*\* If the statement says EXACTLY what the passage says, then its TRUE/YES. If OPPOSITE, then FALSE/NO and if not much info is provided: NG. For false/no, it HAS to be the opposite!!!  
\* For True/False kind of questions, skim through passage to find required info (might be paraphrased)  
\* \*\*Multiple choice\*\*: I used elimination method more naturally.  
  
&#x200B;  
  
>\*\*Strategy - Listening:\*\*  
  
Honestly, I didn't spend much time on listening practice since my first practice test attempt on Cambridge book gave me 8 and second attempt on British Council Premium gave me 8.5 (one week apart, with no focus on listening). It is fairly easy to get good bands here. If possible, practice on maps questions on listening since I got such a question in exam and I think I messed up in that.  
  
&#x200B;  
  
>\*\*Strategy - Writing:\*\*  
  
I was expecting a much higher band for writing since I responded to task 2 very well and task 1 was answered appropriately too. However, I am not sure what went wrong. Still, got the required minimum score so I am happy.   
  
For writing, consult a good writer friend or experts in IELTS writing (usually paid) if you need serious help. Had I known my band would be low, I would have gotten some help.   
  
P.s: There are no quick online resources to check your writing. A person evaluates your essays in IELTS tests, so getting a real person to work with would be great. AI is not very accurate and different websites give you different results. ChatGPT consistently gave me 7 or 7.5. So, don't rely on any AI app.  
  
&#x200B;  
  
>\*\*Strategy - Speaking:\*\*  
  
Again, I expected much more from speaking. I spoke well and a lot, and I am a frequent English speaker too. The only problem was I had a bit too many ideas and was excited to talk so probably I jumped between ideas. Sometimes it got messy but I tried to reiterate and talk.   
  
I was asked about what I do, why I chose what I do, if I like shopping, why do I like shopping (which was a weird question lol), do I prefer shopping alone or with someone, then part 2 included if I helped someone, who was it, how it felt etc..., part 3 was discussion if mobile phones will be used a lot in the future and what impact does govt have in helping people.  
  
>\*\*Test experience:\*\*  
  
It was good. However, I was called 1.5 hr earlier and when i arrived no-one was there (including the staff), I was questioned why I came so early lol. My test was at 8:30pm but it started at 9pm. All personal belongings, except for passport, were asked to keep in the lockers right before the tests (10 mins before max) and till then we were seated in a waiting area where registration started. The software is updated as compared to what is available on British Council guides with some minor changes, its much easier in the actual test.  
  
&#x200B;  
  
Hope it helps!  
  
&#x200B;

## Comments

[Comment] thank you a lot! my exam is in 8 days and I need to score 8, and I'll take advantage of all you've written above  
ty

[Comment] Remember that everyone is different and will need more or less time to prepare to get the score they need. We recommend that you read this advice, ask questions, and develop your own personal study plan.  
  
\*I am a bot, and this action was performed automatically. Please [contact the moderators of this subreddit](/message/compose/?to=/r/IELTS) if you have any questions or concerns.\*

[Comment] What do you suggest, IDP or British?

[Comment] I'm so glad you got what you needed, congrats!! And thank you for posting such useful advice, too! 😄

[Comment] so chatgpt was scoring you higher?

[Comment] Grateful for your commitment in writing this

[Comment] Which book should I use for my preparation The official Cambridge guide to IELTS or IELTS academic 18 by Cambridge.  
I am going to appear for IELTS UKV1 academic

[Comment] I am glad it helped, good luck !! 💫

[Comment] I don't know much about IDP to compare, unfortunately :(

[Comment] Thank you! I am glad if this could help anyone :)

[Comment] Yes! I would suggest still using it to evaluate your essays but DON'T rely on the band. It gave me good suggestions to make certain sentences less weird and told me about my grammatical errors etc. It even told me my strong points when i asked. So use it strategically to improve writing overall. But the score it gives isn't accurate so don't rely on it :)

[Comment] My pleasure, hope it helps :)

[Comment] I think you should go for both! All cambridge books are pretty good for prep, so the more you solve them, the better it is. I used some of their basic books (vocab etc) just for practice tests as well.

[Comment] 😎

[Comment] that might mean that its scoring me lower😭

[Comment] Thanks man

[Comment] or... higher, we never know lol. I would strongly suggest use ChatGPT's suggestion to strengthen your writing and compare them writings to higher band's submissions (in the resource description). You can always go for paid reviews, if your pocket permits. I unfortunately couldn't do that.

# How did you guys prepare for ielts exam with free/ cheap resources

My\_qualifications - graduate 12 months work ex   
  
I’m planning to take ielts in February mid. And trying to figure out a studying strategy. My English is decent, however I feel my aptitude can be much better. I can manage 4-6 hrs daily.   
  
Would love to know the study strategies that you all have used thus far and what are your resources. How’s leap scholar if anyone has used it?

## Comments

[Comment] "Hello u/Gatarmasti\_, Thanks for posting. [click here, if you are asking a question.](https://www.reddit.com/r/Indians\_StudyAbroad/wiki/prior\_reserch\_before\_posting\_a\_question)   
  
 \* 1] Have you done thorough [prior research](https://www.reddit.com/r/Indians\_StudyAbroad/wiki/prior\_reserch\_before\_posting\_a\_question)?  
   
 \* 2] Are your qualifications are mentioned in \*\*Post Title\*\*? (e.g. 10th/12th student, Mechanical BE student, working professional, etc.) Currently your post title is \*\*" How did you guys prepare for ielts exam with free/ cheap resources "\*\*  
  
 backup of your post content:   
  
 My\_qualifications - graduate 12 months work ex   
  
I’m planning to take ielts in February mid. And trying to figure out a studying strategy. My English is decent, however I feel my aptitude can be much better. I can manage 4-6 hrs daily.   
  
Would love to know the study strategies that you all have used thus far and what are your resources. How’s leap scholar if anyone has used it?  
  
 "  
  
  
\*I am a bot, and this action was performed automatically. Please [contact the moderators of this subreddit](/message/compose/?to=/r/Indians\_StudyAbroad) if you have any questions or concerns.\*

[Comment] Check out r/IELTS wiki for some free resources  
  
  
You will get a practice workbook by post from IDP when you book a slot  
  
  
There are lots of Youtube channels, but IELTS Liz is the best imo. I wasted a lot of time going through many channels, and I wish I had stuck to Liz only.  
  
  
Understand the exam pattern and the types of questions in each module. Take a couple of practice tests online and see what you find difficult and focus on getting better at it. Do a lot of speaking and writing practice.

[Comment] When you register for IELTS through IDP, you'll receive a book with all explanations. Plus check your email for credentials to a free online course on IELTS by Macquarie university. Just these got me 8.0/C1.

[Comment] I used to do mock test on ieltsonlinetest.com and I really helped. Especially for listening and reading, not so much for speaking and writing.

[Comment] I have this website where you can get 114-115 free recourse (from makkar to liz) for IELTS if you want I can give you the link

[Comment] IELTS is just English, there's no aptitude.   
  
IELTSLiz and E2 IELTS on YouTube, that's all you need.

[Comment] Ieltsweb acc to me is the best . It has cambridge tests. For essays refer ti Ielts Liz

[Comment] IDP websites or YouTube channels are the best  
Clear modules one after the other and make sure you have enough time for practice  
And practice talking to yourself on a day to day topic if possible in case you are not sure how to improve speaking  
I think you can avoid paid courses if you have sufficient English knowledge. IELTS will send practice workbook after you have booked your exam date. The book is actually awesome for revision.   
  
Incase you want to learn from scratch, you can go to paid courses ( I don't think I'm a good one to answer coz I have never taken one)   
  
For reading and listening I actually took a short test just to determine where I stand and where I actually needed to work on. U can try it too (only if you wish)

[Comment] I scored 8.5 in reading at both attempts of my ielts in 2017 and 2018. Studied only via watching YouTube. I still have my watch history for this preparation and can share if anyone is interested.  I think I prepared for a few weeks at the time. Can send dm to oaadegbola5997@gmail.com Cheers.

[Comment] Speaking and writing I would suggest teachers

[Comment] Used the official IELTS book. Found scanned copies of multiple official IELTS tests. Was already subscribed to gregmat for GRE, he had some content for IELTS on his site.

[Comment] Using yt and official Cambridge books

[Comment] I prepared from the website called [KeenIELTS.com](http://KeenIELTS.com) it is a nice free website, that provided me with scores and feedback. They have all 4 modules for free, I am not paying any money to any website for preparing IELTS.   
  
Leapscholar is only interested in taking my money, which is not helpful.  
  
   
I got 7.5 bands overall.

[Comment] I got coaching from an institute called Beyond Borders Learning. Scored L- 8.5, R- 8.5, W- 7.5, S-7.0, overall- 8.0

[Comment] [removed]

[Comment] i usd ieltswise, their reading compre is very close to the real exam and i got 8.5

[Comment] Hi everyone!  
  
I’ve built a tool called IELTS Productive that helps with IELTS Writing preparation, it might be useful for you!  
  
\*\*Try it here:\*\* [IELTS Productive](https://ielts-productive-bpddcngpd9fnagaw.centralus-01.azurewebsites.net/auth/register)  
  
As a teacher with 15+ years of IELTS experience, I know how hard it is to get good quality feedback on writing. This tool gives instant, detailed feedback on Writing Task 1 & 2, with multiple improved versions and specific examples to enhance your language.  
  
# Key Features:  
  
\* Real IELTS writing tasks (letters, reports, essays)  
\* Detailed mistake explanations   
\* Alternative ways to express ideas   
\* Vocabulary & grammar suggestions   
\* Band score estimation & progress tracking  
  
How It’s Different: Instant feedback, unlimited practice, and consistent, IELTS-specific guidance.  
  
I’m new to web development, so I’d really appreciate any thoughts or suggestions, especially any thought on how it could be improved. Hope this helps, and best of luck with your IELTS prep! 😊  
  
\*\*Try it out here:\*\* [IELTS Productive](https://ielts-productive-bpddcngpd9fnagaw.centralus-01.azurewebsites.net/auth/register)

[Comment] Hi OP, which resource did you use to prepare for IELTS? I'm planning to take IELTS in, like, 3-4 months time and I am curious as to what you used?

[Comment] This helps thanks!

[Comment] How much time did you take to prep?

[Comment] I think Ielts liz have changed the way contents use to be on her website. Before it use to be latest questions with their answers. Like It used to be the whole question paper of 40 questions. Now everything seems to be torn apart and uploaded as practice samples only. One paragraph at a time. When I do my mock test I like to stick with a whole of the test of 40 quetions at a time or practice the questions in order they were set in exam.   
  
Can you please clarify.

[Comment] Thank u so much😁

[Comment] Thanks!

[Comment] Thanks!

[Comment] Yes please send it to me as well

[Comment] please send me the link, test in less than a week

[Comment] Plz send the link to me as well.

[Comment] can you give the watch history here?

[Comment] Hey can you DM me the watch list please.

[Comment] Hey can you share your watchlist

[Comment] can you share your watchlist? Tks

[Comment] can u share me the watchlis pls

[Comment] How accurate is the KeenIELTS exams to the real exam? I’ve been practicing for a while on it now and I’m getting decent scores so I’m wondering if it will translate easily!   
  
Thank you

[Comment] I have been using this website for the past few months. However, given that one of my post was removed due to the fact that the website is deemed as problematic, I don't know if using it is sufficient.  
  
   
Moreover, I have been stuck on 6.5 for writing for a while now.

[Comment] "As far as possible, please add your response/answer to OP in the subreddit comment section itself. It will help many people if DMs are avoided and all discussion is in open. Thank you!"  
  
\*I am a bot, and this action was performed automatically. Please [contact the moderators of this subreddit](/message/compose/?to=/r/Indians\_StudyAbroad) if you have any questions or concerns.\*

[Comment] Hi, did u find any source ..?

[Comment] About 1.5 months. I got 8.

[Comment] While you can access all the books here even the cambridge module ,I would recommend going to telegram for that because you can get audios as well which this website doesn't provide.

[Comment] Hey can you send me the site link he was talking about?

[Comment] It is pretty accurate and useful. They have Cambridge books and a bunch of other books. Cambridge books are similar to real exams. I have a few friends who practiced on KeenIELTS, and they received +/- 0.5-1 bands.

[Comment] Hey, thanks! which telegram group are you referring to? And pls share the website link as well

[Comment] Is the link below not working?? It's from that website only and https://t.me/IELTS\_CAMBRIDGE1 telegram

[Comment] Hey can you send me the site link he was talking about?

[Comment] Please send me the link as well

# My IELTS experience & tips (paper based)

The Reddit community has helped me a lot to understand the test without attending a coaching institute, so it's my turn to contribute back. I am mostly highlighting the differences from the previous exams & tips I thought would work if I knew it earlier.  
  
\* Speaking date: In the paper-based test speaking test will be +7/-7 days to your reading, listening & writing test. It is very rare to have all 4 modules on the same day for the paper-based test.  
\* Speaking Digital: Yes it was recently introduced and it was digital for me. I was on a video call with the Examiner and the Centre authorities made sure there were no internal/ external issues.  
\* LRW order: It is in the order printed in your venue confirmation. Mine was WLR, which means writing first & reading last.  
\* Bathroom breaks: Take before & after the test is completed. I reported around 11:15 am for 1 pm test and by the time everything was finished it was around 5 pm.  
\* Clothing: It does not matter at all. Wear something warm and comfortable as you are sitting in AC halls centrally controlled for more than 3.5 hrs.  
\* Water/ Watches: Water was provided in the test hall when requested before the test. Watches are not allowed.  
\* Passport: It is the only mandatory thing required to be brought by the candidate.  
  
\*\*\*Writing:\*\*\* \*Be prepared to spend time wisely. Do task 2 first & then task 1. I had no proper time management & was below the word count for task 1. Only practice makes the Writing part easier.\*  
  
\*\*\*Listening:\*\*\* \*Identify how you listen. I am one who easily zones even in my mother tongue which makes me miss a lot of information. Try to speak what you hear in a low voice, so the words register in your head. Plan your strategy ahead for maps/ directions. I was totally confused in the Maps section.\*  
  
\*\*\*Reading\*\*\*\\*: I usually read a lot so I thought I was doing well as I saved around 7 min for the first two passages. Unfortunately, 3rd passage takes a lot of time, as it requires plenty of re-reading to exactly pin-point the answers.\\*  
  
\*\*\*Speaking\*\*\*\\*: It was actually pretty cool, I finished way earlier than 15 mins. I tried to be honest and continue speaking until the Examiner interrupted. One important thing to note was the phrases I byhearted in the last 2-3 days were not at all useful but certain words helped. Again, practice is the key.\\*  
  
PS: I wrote the test on 22nd February and is yet to receive my results. Got the result today, a band 7 score for 1 week of preparation in the first attempt and no external courses, I'm so happy. Kindly prepare for atleast a month for better results and to be stress-free while waiting for results.

## Comments

[Comment] hey since it was ok 22 feb did you write the answers by pencil or pen and also did the pen was provided by them

[Comment] Hi! It looks like you are looking for advice or practice resources for your IELTS preparation. You can take a look at [this post.](https://www.reddit.com/r/IELTS\_Guide/comments/1csszkv/practice\_resources\_for\_ielts/) and also read [this thread.](https://www.reddit.com/r/IELTS\_Guide/comments/ubekzu/ielts\_preparation\_resources\_and\_advice/) For frequently asked questions about IELTS, see [this one.](https://www.reddit.com/r/IELTS/comments/11ohjrj/frequently\_asked\_questions\_about\_ielts/)  
  
  
\*I am a bot, and this action was performed automatically. Please [contact the moderators of this subreddit](/message/compose/?to=/r/IELTS) if you have any questions or concerns.\*

[Comment] Remember, everyone is different—some need more preparation time than others, depending on their English level. We recommend reading OP's advice, asking questions, and creating your own study plan. Please avoid promoting unofficial AI tools, as they are often unreliable and made by app developers, not language or IELTS experts, which can do more harm than good for many test takers. That said, discussion about them is allowed without linking.  
  
\*I am a bot, and this action was performed automatically. Please [contact the moderators of this subreddit](/message/compose/?to=/r/IELTS) if you have any questions or concerns.\*

[Comment] Hei mine also february 22 but still dudnt got result .i did in canada

[Comment] bro as per new rules from 22 paper base d test should be written in black ball pen got mandatory

[Comment] I believe you should always write with pencil.

[Comment] A black dot pen was provided before the test, pencil was not allowed (as I specifically asked about it).  
  
Also no need to bring any stationery items.

[Comment] [https://ielts.idp.com/results/check-your-result](https://ielts.idp.com/results/check-your-result)  
  
I got the provisional results in this link but my test country is different.

# My full experience taking the Academic IELTS for the first time

I was super stressed out prior to taking the exam lol I feel my English skills are decent, having travelled to the US and UK with no problems whatsoever, but I've never been put to the test like this before. Because of that, had no idea of where my skill level is truly at. Thankfully it all went well.  
  
  
The fact that I never had any formal education in English also made me extra insecure, but all the organic exposure to the language I had throughout the past 10+ years of my life apparently made up for that lol  
  
Anyway, I just wanted to go on a not so quick rant about some of the sections and the structure of the test in general. I took the computer based test, and the first thing that irritated me was that you MUST use the full time for each section. You can't take the other parts until the timer ends. I finished the reading part with 30 minutes left and had to spend all this time staring at the screen trying not to fall asleep.  
  
On the topic of the reading part, my only real complaint about it is about that Yes/No/Not given question. At some point it becomes a logic question, not an English question. I feel sometimes the text will only partially contradict the statement. Some things are only implied, so I'm not sure what my answer should be.  
  
Listening is the easiest and also where I think practicing yields the most rewards. That task where you have to label where each building is is trivial if you familiarize yourself with the vocabulary. Lakes, ponds, trees, bends, gates, they will always use those. Everything that is in the map is relevant. If there is a named road, rest assured they WILL use that for something. The only tricky one is the last task where you are usually have to listen to an academic lecture, if you are not familiar with some of the jargon, it might give you a hard time.  
  
Writing section is the worst imo, 40 minutes is not enough, had I had the chance to use those extra 30 minutes to review and further develop my ideas, certainly I would have achieved a higher band. Also, I think the first task is kinda dumb. On the other hand, the mini essay for the second task was particularly fun because it was a topic I had lots to talk about and this ultimately ended up being my demise. 15 minutes left on the clock, had 400+ words written with more to go. I used the remaining time to shorten it a bit and I probably messed up somewhere while reorganizing my ideas. Didn't have time to review the first task.  
  
Speaking is fine as long as you are not given a super random topic you have no repertoire on. Personally, I was asked to describe a natural place I've been to. Listen, this might seem crazy, but I've never been to any. Luckily, since I had one minute to prepare, I made some shit up on the go about a park in Japan that I've never been to but knew more or less how it was like lmao. Then the other questions were mostly related to nature and environmental concerns, to which my answers were the most generic possible since I know nothing about the topic. "Just take the bus when you can and don't throw trash out in the streets" type of thing. The very last question was if I thought the damages made to the environment were reversible. I had no clue, but in order to not let the conversation full silent, I spoke my thoughts out loud. "hmmm... I'm not quite sure... Let me see if I can think of an example..." and then I recalled about the ozone layer and how the damages made to it are slowly being reversed and used this to justify that I believed some, but maybe not all damages can be reversible.  
  
End of the rant. Happy that I got >7.5 overall which was what I needed to apply to the master's program of my choice. Thanks for reading and I wish you the very best.

## Comments

[Comment] You can find answers to [frequently asked questions here.](https://www.reddit.com/r/IELTS/comments/1b0s5rx/ielts\_writing\_and\_speaking\_resources\_and/)  
  
\*I am a bot, and this action was performed automatically. Please [contact the moderators of this subreddit](/message/compose/?to=/r/IELTS) if you have any questions or concerns.\*

[Comment] Remember that everyone is different and will need more or less time to prepare to get the score they need. We recommend that you read this advice, ask questions, and develop your own personal study plan.  
  
\*I am a bot, and this action was performed automatically. Please [contact the moderators of this subreddit](/message/compose/?to=/r/IELTS) if you have any questions or concerns.\*

[Comment] [removed]

[Comment] What do you think someone should do to improve their writing skills? In the IELTS I got a 7 in the writing part and I want to improve to get 8.5. Also, in the last part you said you wanted >7.5 to apply for master’s program are there programs that require at least 7.5?! I thought 7 was sufficient to apply to every program

[Comment] did you do the exam computer based or paper based?

[Comment] Seems like academic is easier than general

[Comment] Thank you! Sure thing

[Comment] You have violated Rule 7 -Spam: Simply don’t Spam! We are trying to create a safe and valuable space here, and spam will not be tolerated. Please see rules for more information. NOTE: A second violation will get you banned (although if your first violation is offensive enough, you will be automaticaly banned).

[Comment] Honestly I don't have any real tips for writing 😅 not exactly sure what it is to be expected from a band 9 answer. As far as I could tell, my grammar was on point and the vocab was diversified enough, so I'm betting it has something to do with being able to cohesively organize your ideas, but don't quote me on that.  
  
   
As for the minimum score, I think it really depends on the school... My school of choice is Georgia Tech, and it's their requirement that is particularly high. UT Austin and UIUC ask 6.5 minimum and UC Berkeley requires 7.

[Comment] Computer based! Speaking was face to face though, I was expecting it to be a zoom call or something like that

[Comment] It does have a lot of shared components with the general IELTS. The only real difference is you get some more academic-y texts and audios in the reading and listening sections. For that alone I believe the academic is strictly harder than the general, but not by a very large margin.

[Comment] Ow okay! Also for the reading what was your strategy?  
Were you reading texts in full or just checking questions then spotting key words? Cuz I got same score as yours however I finished only with 5 minutes left so kinda want to improve in this area

[Comment] I always go for the questions first and then scan each paragraph to look for the answer! That has always been my strategy for pretty much every exam that involves reading lmao

[Comment] So I guess that’s the only way you can finish way ahead of time because if someone goes for reading in full it takes so much time

# Strategies, Tips and stuff that I learnt from my preparation [ACADEMIC]

I see most of the people just come here and consume this sub but not providing some advice. when compared to helps/doubts in this sub, the answers/tips and advice is really low. So, I thought of providing some insights on my journey for IELTS preparation.  
  
Hello guys, I started preparing for the test after booking the slot. Yeah ! it might sound weird but I'm so lazy and procrastinate a lot. So I thought by booking the slot earlier, I will wake up to reality and concentrate more on the preparation.  
  
I will breakdown each module on how I prepared.  
  
I took 20 days more or less for preparation, and the last 7-10 days with more intense ¯⁠\\⁠\\_⁠(⁠ツ⁠)⁠\\_⁠/⁠¯ \*\[ I did ACADEMIC \]\*  
  
[Reddit](https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/b/b4/Reddit\_logo.svg/2560px-Reddit\_logo.svg.png) gave me a heads up with everything in the beginning !  
  
First let me start with \*WRITING\* since I find it real \*\*hard\*\*,  
  
\\*\\*WRITING :\\*\\*TASK 1 : So, task 1 consist of 4-5 types (\*Most popular - BAR GRAPH - PIE CHART ,\* life cycle, maps ,line graph, plans)  
  
First, Go through some of the Youtube videos to understand and familiarize yourself with the format.  
  
I mainly suggest Lillie IELTS and [IELTS liz](https://www.youtube.com/@ieltsliz)'s website for task 1, also some other Youtube channels like [bestMytest](https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PL1VV\_9yqK5ayrtm\_Atd2lZV-SFjRApn3B) , Fastrack IELTS and E2 IELTS .  
  
\*\*TAKE A NOTE AND WRITE DOWN EVERYTHING.\*\*  
  
Understand the words, Take notes of the uncommon popular [vocabulary](https://youtu.be/FIyFV-t6rB0), use linking words and words like however, although etc.  
  
Don't give your opinion in task 1 just write facts, structure your task 1 starting with intro, overall, para 1 and para 2.  
  
OVERALL is the most important of all in task 1, so make sure to give a precise and concise overall.  
  
\*\*\*For checking the essay, I posted in reddit and you may get some review (most of the time you don't :/ )but I mostly used CHATGPT to Evaluate (you don't need to give the question) just ask for the mistakes you did (grammatical errors, Subject verb-agreement, poor sentence structure, Capitalization, PUNCTUATION and vocabulary) and try to rectify them.\*\*\*  
  
Unless and until you get down there and get your hands dirty, don't expect you can do better in Writing. If you are someone like me who's worried about the writing, you need to put more effort in writing. You can only improve in writing if you do it yourself.  
  
Don't worry about the timer in the beginning, just try to do a well-written summary and then gradually after 5-10 try you can start timing yourself for 15-20 minutes.  
  
\*\*TASK 2\*\* : Now this is something which is so important as task 2 outweighs task 1, SO definitely you need to put more time and effort for the task 2.  
  
Task 2 has 4-5 types of question - (Both views with opinion/without opinion, Double Question, agree vs disagree ,advantages disadvantages)  
  
Go with Youtube videos , understand the format and upload the structure of the essay in your brain.  
  
I suggest E2 IELTS (click [this](https://www.youtube.com/live/Md6qCsl3Yds?feature=share) and watch all the 1 hour videos for each question type) apart from this check [IELTS Advantage](https://youtu.be/EAIShbqX09Q) channel for some general idea. Watch as many videos you can, understand what they are trying to convey in the video. It's not about the Youtube channel, it's about how well you are extracting their data and manipulating it yourself for your use.  
  
same for task 2, Don't worry about the timer (max 1 hr ) in the beginning, first know your position and how good you are, then improve that , after that start your timing(max 40 mins).  
  
Check this [comment](https://www.reddit.com/r/IELTS/comments/14yf329/comment/jrs4rd0/?utm\_source=share&utm\_medium=web2x&context=3) if you have any problems with spelling.  
  
So, in task 2 you can take 40 minutes, and in the first 5 minutes after reading the question, write down your some question related vocabulary in the paper, and write your main idea for para 1 and main idea for task 2. (you need to concentrate more on pre-planning so that you can do your writing well) and 30 minutes for writing ,last 5 minutes for proofreading. (I was so anxious and rushed in the exam and didn't do proof read, but I used to read the sentence once I complete it, so I guess it helped :)  
  
Don't be afraid, use the time productively, even if your heart is racing be calm and write it down, don't use too much time for thinking the new words. You can't get a band 9 with only NEW words so don't stuff a lot of new words in your brain, you need to concentrate more on your grammar, essay structure, punctuation and capitalization.  
  
So, for practicing mock tests, I used an app named as "IELTS DAILY" you can do mock tests and you will get free evaluation and also a band score ! use that app for checking how good your writing is. It has 2 free evaluation.(Pro tip : use various emails and different accounts to get more than 2 free evaluation ┏⁠(⁠＾⁠0⁠＾⁠)⁠┛  
  
AND, try to read sample essays for the question that you did, check [this website](https://writing9.com/) for human written essays and read band 8-9 essays and compare them.  
  
ON TEST DAY - (Mistakes that I did and you need to avoid ) You will be given a paper for rough work (I took CDT), so you can use that for making notes. As soon as you get the paper, write down the words that you remember (basically your vocabulary for task 1 )in the paper and start writing your task 1. Start with task 2 because it holds more weightage complete it within 40 minutes and go for task 1(I took 49 minutes for task 2 and rushed away everything for task 1 in 11 minute, don't do that and split time!)  
  
I would like to thank the moderator of this sub u/Hestia9285 ,She helped me with checking my essay, she also gave detailed explanation on what mistakes I did and what I need to improve.  
  
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\*\*LISTENING :\*\*  
  
For me, This is the easiest part .Watch movies without subtitles, listen to songs and try to understand the lyrics and listen podcasts if you are only interested. Don't just play the podcast and do some other work like me because it will be a waste of time -\\_-  
  
after doing that try to take mock tests from Cambridge test, that's enough imo.  
  
Pro tip : Try listening to audio with 1.5x speed if you think you are getting more than 30 in listening and you need to improve more.  
  
You need to have different strategy for different question types,  
  
For example :  
  
In multiple choice question you need to LOOK for the IDEA not a particular word and in Fill in the blanks (part 1 and part 4 most ) you need to LOOK for the SPECIFIC word.  
  
Watch some videos like [this](https://youtu.be/cm4DQkuQHiM) to understand and comprehend on how to do listening..  
  
One thing which you need to consider in listening is your CONCENTRATION. I see everyone zoning out and missing the answer, just concentrate and get the answers right.  
  
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\*\*READING :\*\*  
  
I find reading a bit hard and irritating in the beginning but after some practice it was okay. Some people like me might find it hard to sit in one place and find it hard to read the passage , for those people, I'd suggest reading any \*\*book\*\* with your interest, it will definitely help you with concentration and focus.  
  
No other go for this, you need to sit and practice for reading.  
  
I watched some video from [Lillie IELTS](https://youtu.be/2KyxTcL-0ZM) and [Fastrack IELTS](https://youtu.be/ojvgT62XtpY) .  
  
The official Cambridge tests are more than enough to do practice tests. Get the book pdf from [here](https://www.luckyielts.com/ielts-pdf-download/) and you can practice it.  
  
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\*\*SPEAKING :\*\*  
  
I'd say I struggled for this module since I was not speaking English a lot.  
  
You can only improve Speaking by Speaking. Try to find a Speaking partner who is also preparing for the test.  
  
Try to speak in front of a mirror, look at your face while you speak, also record your audios and listen it later to evaluate yourself.  
  
And Especially this [Youtube channel](https://www.youtube.com/@IELTS\_with\_Anfisa) of u/chuvashi , her videos helped me a lot to get accustomed to the speaking module, give it a try.  
  
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Since I find it real hard to get a speaking partner, I will try to help out others, Dm me if you need a speaking partner ONLY IF you are SERIOUS about the exam. I will try to help out as much as I can.  
  
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And as of Resources, THE OFFICIAL CAMBRIDGE TEST are more than enough. Get those pdf books from the link that I've mentioned in the above texts.  
  
IN the last week of my test, I TRIED to Live only with English. I stopped talking a lot with my parents in my native language, I stopped watching tv, basically I shut down everything that my brain have access to my native language. I spoke a lot with different people only in English, No matter what you talk but just speak English. As someone who is not that good in English I wanted to do a lot for the IELTS, and preparing for the test improved me not only for my exam but also It improved my overall Linguistic challenges That I face.  
  
While preparing for the test I found him u/real\_pkb and we were practicing speaking together, even after completing his test 10 days before me, he helped me a lot with my writing and reading. So A Big thank you for him !! apart from this I too spoke with other people from other subs to improve my speaking, they were so kind too , thanks to them a lot !  
  
So, that's it I guess.. IF you have any doubts regarding IELTS, please let me know I will try to help!  
  
I'm not doing this for promoting something, I wanted to help people like me who used to look at every post in this sub to clear their doubts, so I thought of Cramming all the details in a single post. I might have missed something, Reply me and I will add this in the post.  
  
Please keep in mind that this test is just to check your English proficiency and a key to your future BUT NOT YOUR FUTURE. I'm completely satisfied with my mark since the minimum requirement is 6 in most of the universities. Don't worry if You can get your desired marks, never give up !  
  
Edit : thank you for replying 'thank-you' , glad I could be of help !! Practice well !! Break a leg :)  
  
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## Comments

[Comment] Thanks for posting, this is really helpful advice for all testtakers. ♥

[Comment] Thank you 😊

[Comment] Thank you OP for being so helpful. These are ~~great~~ \*\*unexcelled\*\* tips :D

[Comment] Thank you. I bookmarked your post to read later

[Comment] [removed]

[Comment] Wow. You're so kind enough to share this! Thank youu

[Comment] Super helpful! Thank you for your wonderful post :D

[Comment] Great post. Thankyou!

[Comment] Bro’s a Chad for posting this 🗿

[Comment] Thanks OP!  
  
I will be giving my exam in a couple of weeks, this post will help me a lot.

[Comment] Please make this a separate post, or comment in one of the other posts looking for speaking partners. Thank you!