



IELTS: Tips & Tricks + Resources

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Tips & Tricks

Listening Test

- **You have the opportunity to read the questions before listening to the recording.**

Take advantage of this!

- **The questions can help you determine what type of answer you're looking for.**

For example, if you have the following question:

- “He would like to meet in _____.”
- The preposition “in” clues you into the type of answer you should be looking for.
- **The answer, in this case, has to be either a period of time (2 days), a month (April), a year (2018), or a season (Winter).**

Tips & Tricks

Listening Test

- **Attempt all questions** – there are no penalties for incorrect answers. Be careful to not waste time on a question that you don't know though – guess and move on.
- **Watch out for plurals in answers.** If the question requires a plural answer, a singular answer is incorrect.
- **Answers appear in the order they are heard in the audio.** They come quickly or with large gaps between them.
- When asked to complete a sentence using **no more than two words**, and the correct answer is “leather coat,” then “a coat made of leather” is incorrect. Same goes for numbers.

Tips & Tricks

Listening Test

- **Prepare to hear a potential answer that is not the actual answer.** This is common when two people are making plans. They first agree on meeting at a certain time, but then one remembers that they cannot so they decide on a new time.
- **Take care when you transfer your answers** and pay attention to the word limit for your answers on your answer sheet!
- **Multiple-choice answers will ask for a letter (a, b, c, d).** Write the letter and not the corresponding answer.
- **Hyphenated words** (like “part-time”) are considered as one word.

Tips & Tricks

Listening Test

- **A date (1990) is considered one number.**
- **Focus on what the speaker is saying not how they say it.**
- **Don't take notes in complete sentences** – jot down the key points and abbreviate.
You only need to write down enough to help your memory later.
- **Get the habit of distinguishing between essential and non-essential information.**
If two people are talking about making plans for a dinner date, the important information is the date/time they finally agree upon.
- **Try to guess what the speaker is going to say.** Listen to the audio while reading the audio script.

Tips & Tricks

Reading Test

- **Skimming** - reading for gist and to understand the main idea
- **Scanning** - reading quickly to locate a specific piece of information
- **Reading for detail** – reading to understand a logical argument, opinions, attitudes, and writer's purpose.

Tips & Tricks

Reading Test

- The answer is always paraphrased in the text provided
- Focus on the ideas, not the words
- Test different exam strategies, then choose a winner
- Find proof in the text, underline and number
- Don't panic over unknown words. Use context
- Don't leave any questions unanswered
- Improve your reading speed
- Try our favourite reading tools
- Organise your reading time to improve your focus
- Improving reading comprehension
- Active Reading

Tips & Tricks

Writing Test – Part 1

- **Understand how the test is marked:** Being aware of the mark scheme will allow you to give the examiner exactly what they need.
- **Paraphrase the question:** It is best to paraphrase the question in the first sentence. You can do this by using synonyms.
- **Write the overview:** To write your overview sentence, pick 3 or 4 of the main features and write about them generally, without referencing any data (in other words, don't use numbers yet).
- **Support the main features:** In a new paragraph, support the key trends with the data in the information given to you.
- **Check your work:** Check your report for spelling and grammar mistakes. Make sure that the data you mentioned is accurate!

Tips & Tricks

Writing Test – Part 2

- When you write your answers, remember the examiners are grading you on your expression. There are no ‘exact’ wrong or right answers in terms of agreeing or disagreeing, or a preferred set of reasons and outcomes.
- Examine the questions properly and see that you respond to all parts of the question.
- Remember to stick to the word limit. If you happen to write less than 250 in Task 2, you will lose marks.

Tips & Tricks

Writing Test – Part 2

- Do not concentrate on writing long and complicated answers. Write well, coherent and organise your thoughts well. Ensure your grammar is accurate.
- Task 2 of the Academic Writing test is an essay. Always plan the structure of your essay beforehand. Place a clear introduction stating a position (saying what you will do in the essay), then body paragraphs with topic sentences, supporting ideas and real-life examples, followed by a conclusion in which you reference your body paragraph topic sentences.
- You are given 40 minutes to complete your essay for Task 2. Always take five minutes to first plan your answer before you start writing, and five minutes at the end to check for any mistakes. Standard American, British and Australian spellings are all acceptable in IELTS.

Tips & Tricks

Writing Test

- Always write the answers using paraphrasing, or at least referencing. If you use the words from the question exactly, you will not be given marks for this part of your answer.
- Do not use bullet points in your answers, always write sentences in full. Arrange your basic ideas into different paragraphs with a clear topic sentence and supporting arguments. This shows the examiner how well you can organise your points.

Tips & Tricks

Speaking Test – Part 1

- In pairs or groups, take topics, including the work/study/live one. Prepare and answer at least 4 questions on each.
- Take turns as examiner/candidate
- Record yourselves. Note the exact times.
- Together note positive strengths and weaknesses in vocabulary, grammar and pronunciation

Tips & Tricks

Speaking Test – Part 1

- Always remember in Part 1 to make it personal. Give explanations and examples
- Write out your answers to cue cards and sample task questions, and use a Google doc to catch grammar errors.
- Apart from practising speaking, also read widely, listen to Podcasts and watch news broadcasts and documentaries.
- Work on your grammar and vocabulary, and make meaningful lists of expressions, and linking words.

Tips & Tricks

Speaking Test – Part 2

- Get your idea quickly
- Get a structure ready
- Write down your key points briefly
- Have your first sentence ready

Tips & Tricks

Speaking Test – Part 3

- Don't try to finish quickly
- Know that the examiner is trying to stretch you
- Don't be afraid to ask questions
- Always give an answer
- Think about what structure the examiner is testing
- Smiling helps pronunciation
- Don't speak in a monotone
- Pause to think
- Don't worry about your accent
- Avoid using fillers

➤ Don't

memorise

answers

Online Resources

Mock Test Websites

1. <https://mini-ielts.com/reading>
2. <https://ieltsonline-tests.com/reading-test-collection>
3. <https://practicepteonline.com/>
4. <https://ieltsliz.com/ielts-listening/#>
5. <https://www.edx.org/course/ielts-academic-test-preparation>

Mock Test Channels

1. <https://learningenglish.voanews.com/a/lets-learn-english-lesson-one/3111026.html>
2. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/learningenglish/english/>

Online Resources

YouTube Channels

- Asad Yaqub 2.82 million subscribers (Speaking)
- E2 IELTS (Reading and Listening)
- IELTS Liz (Reading, Writing and Listening)

ChatGPT for Writing

<https://chat.openai.com/>

DARAZ.Pk (Books)

1. <https://www.daraz.pk/products/ielts-11-16-qr-i398221866-s1926666976.html?spm=a2a0e.searchlist.sku.4.26403bd5qmFT88&search=1>
2. <https://www.daraz.pk/products/ielts-11-17-qr-i379849374-s1984959541.html?spm=a2a0e.searchlist.sku.6.26403bd57VytBQ&search=1>



THANK YOU