

# IELTS 8.5 ACTION PLAN

by Ulugbek Umidjonov (Two-time 8.5 holder)


## ✓ A - READING!


Make sure that you spend at least 1 hour a day on the following (don't forget to record vocab, underline useful collocations, copy them into your vocab book... if you have one):

## ✓ B - WATCHING


Don't watch your content passively with the video/radio etc. playing in the background. You need to listen attentively since you'll need to do the same in the exam. Train your ear at an early stage and make life easier for yourself down the line. Oh, and if watching something.... subtitles OFF! 1 hour a day, too.


## MONDAY

 [National Geographic](#): select THEMES and randomly read an article whether science, travel, adventure, animals etc.


 Documentary: think about what you might have read and type the theme into YouTube


## TUESDAY

 [Time Magazine](#): click the box top left next to TIME and randomly read an article whether politics, business, tech, health etc.


 [YouTube Videos](#): I have put together a number of YouTube channels I enjoy in a post.


## WEDNESDAY

 [The Guardian](#): Randomly select different themes and select an article at random to read


 BBC World service is a good one. Loads of different themes for background listening: [https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/live:bbc\\_world\\_serv..](https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/live:bbc_world_serv..)


## **THURSDAY**

 [Scientific American](#): randomly select a news article to read.

 Documentary: Curiosity Stream is a good one, but it's a paid website.

## **FRIDAY (Entertainment)**


 Continue reading a book of your choice PROVIDING it's not a classic (continue with that after your course)


 Watch a film of your choice but still have pen and paper ready! Subtitles off!!!


## **SATURDAYS AND SUNDAYS**

Focus on doing your grammar and vocab exercises, practice tests as well as go over the vocab and things you have recorded during the week. Use the weekend to write your essays.

### **My guidelines:**

 It doesn't matter if you're interested in the themes or not. In the exam you don't have a choice. So stop being selective. Move beyond Friends and The Big Bang Theory.

 Record "chunks of language". Once you've done the article or video, summarize it out loud recycling that language you have just jotted down. Maybe even write a small summary.

 Less is more! Do one article or video a day. That's enough. Better do one, learn and recycle the language rather than watch/read too many and remember nothing.

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