

PREPARATION
IELTS
assistant

IELTS READING TIPS YOU WISH YOU
FOUND EARLIER



IELTS READING TIPS

VIRTUAL EDUCATION

2ND EDITION

Dear Student! Here is the information you should familiarise yourself with before you start doing IELTS reading tests. Read the information very carefully.

#1 IELTS READING QUESTION TYPES

To win the battle, you have to know your enemy well! Let's get acquainted with IELTS reading question types, examples and the strategies of dealing with these tasks.

When you do IELTS reading practice tests, you may think that there are countless question types. In fact, all IELTS reading questions can be divided into 5 distinct categories:

Nº1 COMPLETION TASKS

(you have to fill in a sentence or a part of it with some missing information)

- Complete the flow-chart.
- Complete the sentences.
- Complete the notes.
- Complete the table.
- Complete the summary using the list of words.
- Complete the summary.
- Label the diagram.

Nº2 ANSWERING QUESTIONS

(you have to give a short answer to a question)

- Answer the questions.

Nº3 MULTIPLE CHOICE

(you are given a question or statement and several options to choose from; you have to choose either the correct answer or some statements that describe something you are asked about)

- Choose the correct letter, A, B, C or D.
- Choose X number of statements that are true for something.

Nº4 TRUE\FALSE\NOT GIVEN (or, YES\NO\NOT GIVEN)

(here the task speaks for itself)

- Identify if the statements are true, false or not given.
- Identify if the statements agree with the claims of the writer: YES, NO, NOT GIVEN.

Nº5 MATCHING TASKS

(again, here the task speaks for itself)

- Match each statement with the correct person/date or something else.
- Match the person with the statement.
- Match each statement with the correct ending.
- Match each statement with the paragraph.
- Choose the correct heading for each paragraph from the list of headings.

#2

HOW TO SAVE TIME DOING IELTS READING TESTS

Is there any way to save time and get more correct answers? Yes, here's our secret method!

HOW CAN YOU SAVE YOUR PRECIOUS TIME?

You should always find and circle KEYWORD(s) in statements before you start reading the text. What are KEYWORDS? These are the words that fully reflect the meaning of the statement. The statement may be 20-word long but there may be 1 or 2 words that present the meaning of the whole statement. So you should find these words and circle them. Try to mark as few words as possible because if you circle every second word, all of them will dance before your eyes, and you won't be able to concentrate.

HOW WILL THIS STRATEGY HELP YOU?

If you don't have extraordinary talents, like all normal people, you will not remember the meaning of each statement. So while doing a reading test, you will have to read each statement several times. If you don't, how will you know what information to look for? This will definitely be a waste of time. There are 40 statements in each IELTS reading test. Can you imagine how much time it will take you if you need to read each of them 2 or 3 times? However, if you circle keywords in statements, you'll just need to have a look at those keywords, which will take a second, to recall what the statement was about.

IS THERE JUST ONE KEY WORD IN A STATEMENT?

You're lucky if you can circle just ONE KEYWORD, but usually this won't be enough. As I've said before, if there are too many words that are marked, you'll get lost. If you don't mark them, you'll miss some really important information. What is the solution to this problem? You should create your system of symbols which you will use to mark the words in a statement. Looking at a picture takes a few seconds, whereas reading a statement takes 10-15 seconds.

#3

TO READ, OR NOT TO READ: THAT IS THE QUESTION

We often come across articles that recommend reading the questions first. But we only partly agree with this recommendation. There are some tasks in which it is, indeed, better to read the questions first as this will save your time. However, there are several tasks in which it is better to read the text first, and only after that look at the questions. We've tried this method many times and it works well. Our advice is not just to read this post, but take IELTS reading tests, read the post slowly (analysing each step) and follow the instructions so that you could see what this advice is about.

THE FOLLOWING GROUP OF TASKS REQUIRES READING THE QUESTIONS FIRST.

1. Identify if the statements are true, false or not given.
2. Identify if the statements agree with the claims of the writer. YES, NO, NOT GIVEN.

Instructions:

- read the question first
- identify a keyword or keywords in the question
- read the passage and find the sentence containing these keywords or their synonyms
- compare this sentence with the statement in order to decide if it's true, false or not given

3. Complete the flow-chart.
4. Complete the sentences.
5. Complete the notes.
6. Complete the table.
7. Complete the summary using the list of words.
8. Complete the summary.
9. Label the diagram.

Instructions:

- read the question first
- identify a keyword or keywords in the question
- read the passage and find these key words or their synonyms
- these keywords or their synonyms are followed by the correct answer

10. Match each statement with the correct ending.

Instructions:

- read the beginning of a statement
- identify keywords in the beginning of a statement
- read the passage
- find the sentence containing the keywords from the statement or their synonyms

- read a few sentences before and after the sentences containing keywords or their synonyms
- try to figure out what the main idea is
- start reading endings one by one; each time circle a keyword and choose the ending which has the same idea as the sentence in the text, but which is written in other words

Remember: If you first read all the beginnings and endings and then start reading the passage, you will quickly forget all the information and, believe me, you'll think that all the answer choices are good.

11. Choose the correct letter, A, B, C or D.

Instructions:

- read the question, but DON'T read answer choices A, B, C, D
- identify keywords in the question
- read the passage
- find the sentence containing the same keywords as you circled in the question (or their synonyms)
- try to figure out what the main idea of the sentence is
- start reading answer choices (A, B, C, D) one by one; each time circle a keyword and choose the one which has the same idea as the sentence in the passage

12. Answer the questions.

Instructions:

- read the question
- identify keywords in the question
- read the passage
- find the sentence containing the same keywords as you circled in the question (or their synonyms)
- this sentence will contain the correct answer or will be followed by it

13. Choose X number of statements that are true for something.

Instructions:

- read the question
- identify keywords in the question
- find the part of the reading passage that describes some event or phenomenon connected with the keywords mentioned above
- identify some meaningful points of it
- start reading answer choices (A, B, C, D) one by one; each time circle a keyword and choose the one which has the same idea as the sentence in the reading passage

THE FOLLOWING GROUP OF TASKS REQUIRES READING THE PASSAGE FIRST.

1. Match each statement with the correct person or date.

Instructions:

- scan the text until you see the name (or date)
- check if this name is on the list of answer choices A, B, C, etc.; if no, continue scanning
- if yes, read the text to find out what this person says, try to understand the main idea of his or her message
- compare this idea with each statement 1, 2, 3, etc. and choose the one which has the same idea as the message in the text, but is written in other words
- put the letter which refers to this person (A, B, C, etc) next to this statement (1, 2, 3, etc)

2. Match the person (or date) with the statement.

Instructions:

- scan the text until you see the name (or date)
- check if this name is on the list of questions 1, 2, 3, etc.; if no, continue scanning
- if yes, read the text to find out what this person says, try to understand the main idea of his or her message
- compare this idea with each statement A, B, C, etc. and choose the one which has the same meaning as the message in the text, but is written in other words
- put the letter which refers to this statement (A, B, C, etc) next to this person (1, 2, 3, etc)

3. Match each statement with the paragraph.

Instructions:

- read the whole paragraph (if it's short) or part by part (if it's very long)
- identify some meaningful points of it
- read the statements one by one and compare the ideas from the paragraph and the ideas in statements
- choose the statement which has the same idea as the sentence in the reading passage, but is written in other words

4. Choose the correct heading for each paragraph from the list of headings.

Instructions:

- read the whole paragraph (if it's short) or part by part (if it's very long)
- identify some meaningful points or ideas
- read the headings one by one and each time compare the idea that this heading has with the main points of the paragraph
- choose the heading which has the same idea as some sentence (or rarely several sentences) in the reading passage, but is written in other words

#4

FOUR IELTS READING HACKS YOU NEED TO KNOW TO SURVIVE IELTS

Nº1 BE SURE TO CAREFULLY READ AND FOLLOW THE INSTRUCTIONS IN THE READING SECTION OF THE IELTS TEST.

- Pay attention to the number of words you can use in your answer. For example, you can use one word AND a number. And a similar version is one word AND/OR a number. This means several options are possible depending on the question:

1. one number (eg. 2)
2. one number and one word (eg. 2 films)
3. one word (eg. films)

Also, you may see you can use one word OR a number. In this case the number of options is limited:

1. one number (eg. 2)
2. one word (eg. films)

You can sometimes see '2 words', '3 words', even 'some numbers'.

- Make sure you didn't overlook the following phrase 'you may use any letter/paragraph etc. more than once'.

Sometimes candidates don't notice this phrase and waste a lot of time looking for the right answer as they see that they have already used some letter and think that the answer should be elsewhere.

Nº2 MANY IELTS CANDIDATES ARE SOMEWHAT PUZZLED WHEN THEY HAVE TO DEAL WITH HYPHENATED WORDS, FOR EXAMPLE, GOOD-LOOKING OR MOTHER-IN-LAW. They simply don't know whether these words count as a single word. I'm going to dispel these doubts once and for all. HYPHENATED WORDS COUNT AS ONE WORD.

Nº3 ALL ARTICLES AND PREPOSITIONS ARE COUNTED AS WORDS. FOR EXAMPLE, A LETTER (TWO WORDS), IN THE MORNING (THREE WORDS)

Nº4 A CONTRACTED TITLE AND A SURNAME COUNT AS ONE WORD. FOR EXAMPLE, DR.WHITE.

#5

CAN I WRITE LETTERS INSTEAD OF THE WORDS FOR TRUE\FALSE\NOT GIVEN QUESTIONS?

Yes, you can write the words (TRUE\FALSE\NOT GIVEN) or the letters (T\F\NG). Similarly, you can write the words (YES\NO\NOT GIVEN) or the letters (Y\N\NG)

Also, you will get a mark if you write 'Yes' when the answer is 'True' and if you write 'True' when the answer is 'Yes'. Similarly, you can write 'No' if the answer is 'False' and you can write 'False' when the answer is 'No'.

ATTENTION! Never write No Given because it is not clear whether you meant No or Not Given.

#6

TRUE/FALSE/NOT GIVEN QUESTIONS ALWAYS COME IN ORDER

One important thing that you should remember is that these questions always come in order ... If you found the answer to question 1, after that you were looking for the answer to question 2, but, instead, came across the answer to question 3, the information from statement 2 (question 2) is either not given or you were not attentive enough and didn't notice the answer. What should you do?

OPTION 1: If you are sure that you read very carefully or if you don't have time to read the reading passage again, write Not Given in the answer sheet and move further. However, you may return to this question later if you complete the test and have some more time left.

OPTION 2: If you have enough time left, read the passage between question 1 and question 3 again and make sure that the answer is not given.

#7

HOW TO DO TRUE/FALSE/NOT GIVEN QUESTIONS: STEP-BY-STEP INSTRUCTIONS

When you do True\False\Not Given questions, you should remember a few important things:

- These questions belong to a group of tasks that require reading the questions first.
- These questions always come in order.
- It is necessary to read a few questions at a time because if your question is the simplest example of 'not given' questions (when the information from the question is NOT mentioned in the passage AT ALL; this means that there's no misleading information that can make you think that it's true or false), you will read the whole passage and waste your time. If you keep several questions in mind, you will inevitably come across the evidence that supports, say, the next one, and you will understand that it's either not given or you didn't read carefully enough.

You should stick to the following plan:

1. read the question first
2. identify a keyword or keywords in the question
3. read the passage and find the sentence containing these keywords or their synonyms
4. compare this sentence with the statement in order to decide if it's true, false or not given

EXAMPLE 1:

TASK: Identify if the statements are true, false or not given.

Question 19: Arctic pollution can sometimes RESEMBLE US urban pollution.

Our explanation: The main idea of the statement is that arctic pollution RESEMBLES (is like) pollution in America. So we have to find the line in the reading passage which contains all these keywords or their synonyms. After that we can say if the statement is true, false or not given.

Reading passage: bla-bla-bla.... When the spring light arrives in the Arctic, there's a smog-like haze (*haze is pollution, but as the whole reading passage is about it, we may think that it's not what we need and continue reading*), which makes the region, at times, LOOK LIKE (WOW!!! 'Look like' is a synonym to 'resemble'. This is what we are looking for.) pollution over such cities as Los Angeles (WOW!!! Los Angeles is in the US. So I will read this sentence again to make sure that it's about pollution in Arctic and America. When I read again, I see that the reading passage compares smog-like haze, which is definitely pollution, with pollution in US).

So, the correct answer is TRUE

Synonyms here:

look like = resemble

urban = a city such as Los Angeles

smog-like haze = pollution

P.S. This IELTS reading question has been taken from *ieltshelpnow* (Academic Module, Test 2, reading passage 2). We highly recommend these practice tests.

EXAMPLE 2:

TASK: Identify if the statements agree with the information given in the text.

Question 6: Archaeologists realized that the boat had been damaged on purpose.

WHAT TO DO?

First, I would circle 'damaged' and 'on purpose' as these two words convey the sense of the statement. While reading the statement, I would start thinking about synonyms which I should look for in the reading passage in order to answer correctly. Remember that if a question is relatively easy, you will see exactly the same word. If a question is relatively difficult, you will need to find a synonym. But, of course, you'll never know if it's easy or difficult. So, in this case, I would expect to see either 'damaged' or 'broken' instead of 'damaged' and 'on purpose' or 'deliberately' instead of 'on purpose' in the reading passage.

Reading passage: bla-bla-bla.... The boat was not a wreck, but had been deliberately (WOW! 'deliberately' is the synonym of 'on purpose') discarded, dismantled and broken (WOW! 'broken' is the synonym of 'damaged'). This means that our statement is TRUE.

Synonyms here:

on purpose = deliberately

damaged = broken

Example: (taken from Official Cambridge Guide to IELTS)
Academic Module, Test 1, reading passage 1

#8

COMMON MISTAKES IN IELTS READING: TRUE/FALSE/NOT GIVEN QUESTIONS - TRAP #1

This IELTS reading task is the most difficult of all. This is because IELTS students just don't know about the traps that IELTS test makers have prepared for them. So, here is trap #1.

Statement: The trees from which quinine is derived grow only in South America.

Reading passage:.....At the time, quinine was the only viable medical treatment for malaria. The drug is derived from the bark of the cinchona tree, native to South America.

Let's start analyzing the task and looking for the answer.

STEP 1. I read the question. Question: The trees from which quinine is derived grow only in South America.

STEP 2: I understand that my keywords are tree (with quinine) + some location (I will be lucky if I find South America)

STEP 3: I start reading the passage from the sentence that follows the one in which I found the answer to the previous question. I read until I come across one of my keywords and make sure that all of them are available, not just some of them.

Reading passage:.....At the time, quinine was the only viable medical treatment for malaria. The drug is derived from the bark of the cinchona tree, native to South America.

- I read the passage and come across 'the cinchona tree'.
- Now I need to make sure that this is the tree that quinine is extracted from. The reading passage says that 'the drug is derived from the cinchona tree'. Ok. Now I need to prove that quinine is 'the drug'. If I prove it, so I find the tree with quinine. If I can't find the evidence in the text, I need to continue reading. But, luckily, I see in the previous sentence that 'quinine was the only treatment for malaria'. Malaria is a disease. And a treatment is a drug. I've found the first keyword. I've found out that the tree that quinine is derived from is the cinchona tree.
- Now I need to understand if this tree grows ONLY in South America. The passage says that the cinchona tree is NATIVE TO South America. If something or someone is 'native to some place', this means that something or someone was born or started to develop there. Now let's analyze the situation. Ask yourself. Is it possible that this tree was born in South America and grows only in that place? Sure, it is. Is it possible that some travellers brought this species of a tree to overseas countries, and now this tree grows in many places of the world? It is also possible. So the fact that the tree was BORN in South America doesn't give us any information to help us understand what happened next, and where the tree is now.

The correct answer is NOT GIVEN.

ATTENTION! The misleading word here is 'native to'. By adding this word, IELTS test makers wanted you to say that it's true, which is a common mistake.

#9

COMMON MISTAKES IN IELTS READING: TRUE/FALSE/NOT GIVEN QUESTIONS - TRAP #2

This IELTS reading task is the most difficult of all. This is because IELTS students just don't know about the traps that IELTS test makers have prepared for them. So, here is trap #2.

The reading passage gives you some comparison between 1 item and a group of similar items. See the example below.

Reading passage: Apples are sweeter than pears, plums and lemons.

Then there is some statement that you should analyse and say if it's true, false or not given. I mean your task.

The statement says: Plums are sweeter than pears.

So, the statement is NOT GIVEN in the reading passage because we just know that apples are sweeter than pears, apples are sweeter than plums, apples are sweeter than lemons. BUT this information doesn't help us understand how pears, plums and lemons are interrelated.

#10 COMMON MISTAKES IN IELTS READING: TRUE/FALSE/NOT GIVEN QUESTIONS - TRAP #3

This IELTS reading task is the most difficult of all. This is because IELTS students just don't know about the traps that IELTS test makers have prepared for them. So, here is trap #3.

There is some statement that you should analyze and say if it's true, false or not given. Statement: At first cheetahs did not adapt to life at the breeding centre.

We have to decide if the statement is true, false or not given, relying ONLY on the information given in the reading passage.

Reading passage: ... They nearly all arrived malnourished, dehydrated and highly stressed after long voyages stuffed into boxes, crates and suitcases.

Many students automatically decide that if they came highly stressed and dehydrated after voyages stuffed in suitcases they MUST have difficulty adapting to a new place of living. And answer: TRUE. But this conclusion is based on their life experience, not on the information in the reading passage.

So, the correct answer is NOT GIVEN because from the reading passage we just know that they came stressed and dehydrated. But it doesn't mean that it was difficult for them to adapt. Maybe it was. But the text doesn't say anything about what happens to the animals after they arrive.

#11 COMMON MISTAKES IN IELTS READING: TRUE/FALSE/NOT GIVEN QUESTIONS - TRAP #4

This IELTS reading task is the most difficult of all. This is because IELTS students just don't know about the traps that IELTS test makers have prepared for them. So, here is trap #4.

There is some statement that you should analyze and say if it's true, false or not given. Statement: John went to the cinema yesterday.

We have to decide if the statement is true, false or not given, relying ONLY on the information given in the reading passage.

Reading passage: ... John went to the restaurant yesterday.

Many students automatically decide that if John went to the restaurant, he didn't go to the cinema and answer: FALSE. But this conclusion is the product of their imagination.

The correct answer is NOT GIVEN because from the reading passage we know for sure that John went to the restaurant. But it doesn't mean that he didn't visit other places. Maybe he did. But the text doesn't say anything about it.

ATTENTION! This statement would be false if we had some words in the reading passage that would somehow indicate that John went to the restaurant, but didn't go anywhere else. For example, ONLY. **The only place that John visited was a restaurant.** So yes. He didn't go to the cinema.

#12 HOW TO CHOOSE HEADINGS: STEP-BY-STEP INSTRUCTIONS

TASK TYPE: Matching.

TASK: Choose the correct heading for each paragraph from the list of headings.

Why do so many students have difficulty doing this task? This is because everyone knows that a heading is a line that briefly explains the idea of some text or paragraph. Therefore IELTS students try to find the heading which reflects the main idea of a paragraph. In the IELTS test, to choose the correct heading means to find the heading which is a paraphrase of some sentence or even a part of a sentence in the paragraph in question. Let me show how it works.

STEP 1. Read paragraph A and underline all the key points of the paragraph.

Paragraph A: At first sight **it looked like a typical suburban road accident.** A Land Rover approached a Chevy Tahoe estate car that had stopped at a kerb; the Land Rover pulled out and tried to pass the Tahoe just as it started off again. There was a crack of fenders and the sound of paintwork being scraped, the kind of minor mishap that occurs on roads thousands of times every day. Normally drivers get out, gesticulate, exchange insurance details and then drive off. **But not on this occasion.** No one got out of the cars for the simple reason that they had no humans inside them; **the Tahoe and Land Rover were being controlled by computers** competing in November's DARPA (the U.S. Defence Advanced Research Projects Agency) Urban Challenge.

STEP 2. Silently make a summary of these key points using your own words. So, the situation looked like an ordinary road accident, but, in fact, it wasn't because the cars were controlled by computers. And there were no people inside.

STEP 3. Read the headings one by one. Each time ask yourself whether it describes one of the key points of the paragraph.

i Tackling the issue using a different approach. What does it mean? It means there's some problem, and someone is trying to solve it using some alternative solution. In our paragraph there weren't any problems described.

ii A significant improvement on last time. This means that something was bad, and now it's much better. Not our case.

iii How robots can save human lives. There was nothing about robots and saving people's lives.

iv Examples of robots at work. Well, there was some information that the cars were controlled by computers. Actually, computers aren't robots. So probably it's not what we are looking for, but if we don't find any better heading, we'll take this one.

v Not what it seemed to be. This means that it looked like something, but it wasn't what it looked like. Bingo! At first sight it looked like But not on this occasion = Not what it seemed to be

looked like = seemed

STEP 4. So, I think that I have found the best heading. Despite this, I will analyse all the remaining headings. Who knows? What if one of them is even better than number 5?

After that start reading paragraph B. This time you will find the correct heading a bit faster because analysis will take a bit less time as you've read all of them before.

P.S. This IELTS reading question has been taken from Official Cambridge Guide to IELTS (Academic Module, Test 2, reading passage 2). We highly recommend this book to everyone.

#13 HOW TO MATCH STATEMENTS WITH PEOPLE: STEP-BY-STEP INSTRUCTIONS

TASK TYPE: Matching.

TASK: Match the statements (28-35) with the people listed below.

STEP 1: Scan the text until you see the name (or date).

Reading passage: 'bla-bla-bla.... Consumers are rightly putting more and more pressure on the industry to change its reliance on chemical pesticides, but they still want a picture-perfect product, said Rick Hilton'

We've found the first name.

STEP 2: Check if this name is on the list of answer choices A, B, C, etc.; if no, continue scanning. Our explanation: It's on the list.

STEP 3: if yes, read the text to find out what this person says, try to understand the main idea of his or her message.

Our explanation: The main idea of what Rick Hilton says is that CONSUMERS somehow INFLUENCE the PRODUCTS. So we have to find the statement which reflects this idea and contains all these key words or their synonyms. After that we can find the author of this idea.

STEP 4: Compare this idea with each statement 28-35 and choose the one which has the same idea as the message in the text, but is written in other words

Question 29: Expectations (they still want a picture-perfect product) of end users (a synonym to CONSUMERS) of agricultural products affect the products (a synonym to 'rightly putting more and more pressure').

STEP 5: Put the letter which refers to Rick Hilton (A, B, C, etc) next to statement 29.

Synonyms here:

- END USERS = consumers
- AFFECT = are rightly putting more and more pressure
- EXPECTATIONS = want a picture-perfect product
- PRODUCTS = product
- AGRICULTURAL = here we don't have the synonym, but we understand that it's connected with agriculture as there's the word 'pesticides'

P.S. This IELTS reading question has been taken from *ieltshelpnow* (Academic Module, Test 1, reading passage 3). We highly recommend these practice tests.

#14 HOW TO ANSWER MULTIPLE CHOICE QUESTIONS: STEP-BY-STEP INSTRUCTIONS

TASK: Choose the correct letter, A-D

Question: The Canadian government didn't want to reduce cod catches pre 1992 because they were worried about...

- a) possible rising unemployment
- b) the ecological effects
- c) the marine ecosystem
- d) drastic measures

Our explanations: There are two key ideas: 1) cod catches weren't reduced 2) the reason was that the government worried about something. First, I would find several key words that convey the sense of these two ideas. So I would circle 'catches', cross 'reduced', these two words would convey the sense of the first idea. Then I would circle 'worried' as one of the key words. While reading the statement, I would start thinking about synonyms which I had to find in order to answer correctly. Your answer will be somewhere in the reading passage where you'll see either the same word or its synonym. Before reading the passage think of some possible synonyms for these key-words. 'Government' could be 'government', 'officials', or 'authorities' in the reading passage. 'Worried' is either the same word or something like 'concerned'.)

Reading passage: bla-bla-bla.... The Canadian government (*Attention! We've already found 'government'. Fortunately, there are no synonyms used here.*) ignored warnings that their fleets were employing destructive fishing practices and refused (*'refused' is 'didn't want'. We are getting closer to the answer*) to significantly reduce (*'reduce' is 'reduce'*) quotas citing the loss of jobs as too great a concern. (*WOW! 'too great a concern' is the synonym of 'worried'*). So, we should find WHAT 'too great a concern' is. Let's re-read the last part of the sentence. '...the loss of jobs as too great a concern'. This means they were worried about 'the loss of jobs'.

Synonyms here:

- government = government
- didn't want = refused
- worried = a concern (= concerned)

So, the correct answer is A.

#15 PRACTICE TESTS YOU'LL NEED TO PREPARE FOR IELTS READING

These materials will help you to achieve great results very fast. If you are ready to start working on your reading skills, get one of the books from the list below:

- 1) The Official Cambridge guide to IELTS
- 2) Official Materials
- 3) Official Materials - 2
- 4) Test Plus 1
- 5) Test Plus 2
- 6) Test Plus 3
- 7) IELTS Cambridge Practice Tests 6 –12
- 8) IELTSHELPNOW

These books are available on the Internet and in bookstores.

#16 ONE TERRIBLE MISTAKE THAT MOST IELTS STUDENTS MAKE

Many IELTS students say 'I have already done a lot of IELTS tests, but I can't see any progress. I feel so helpless'. Why is that so? Today we decided to shed light on this issue. Please read the following information very carefully before you start doing IELTS listening and reading practice tests.

The majority of students, and, probably, you are one of them, do IELTS tests in the following way. Let's take listening, for example. They play the recording, answer the questions, then take the an-

swer key and check their answers. Some answers are correct, and they have a feeling of accomplishment. Some answers are incorrect. So, they look at the correct answers and say 'Oh, yeah, I see' and take another test.

What's good? If you do like this, you will test yourself and know your band score in terms of the IELTS scale.

What's bad? This approach won't get you anywhere! This approach won't help you improve your skills. **Remember that you develop your listening and reading skills only when you challenge your brain.** Your brain starts working only when you don't know the correct answer. You get the best results when you work on questions that you answered incorrectly yourself. And the only thing you should know is that you answered incorrectly. But you mustn't know what the correct answer is. Do you see our point?

So, how should you do IELTS reading tests? RETURN TO YOUR STEP-BY-STEP PLAN AND TAKE STEP 14

IELTS READING TIPS YOU WISH YOU FOUND EARLIER



PREPARATION
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assistant



IELTS READING TIPS

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