

PREPARATION
IELTS
assistant

**IELTS LISTENING TIPS AND SECRETS
YOU WISH YOU FOUND EARLIER**



IELTS LISTENING TIPS

VIRTUAL EDUCATION

DEAR STUDENT!

Here is the information you should familiarise yourself with before you start doing IELTS listening practice tests. Read the information very carefully.

#1 IELTS LISTENING QUESTION TYPES

To win the battle, you have to know your enemy well! Let's get acquainted with IELTS listening question types, examples and the strategies of dealing with these tasks. All IELTS listening tasks can be divided into 4 distinct categories:

COMPLETION TASKS

1. Complete the flow-chart.
2. Complete the flow-chart using the answers from the list.
3. Complete the sentences.
4. Complete the notes.
5. Complete the table.
6. Complete the form.
7. Complete the summary.

MULTIPLE CHOICE TASKS

1. Choose the correct letter, A, B, or C to answer the question.
2. Choose X number of letters to answer the question.

ANSWERING QUESTIONS

1. Answer the questions.

MATCHING TASKS

1. Choose X number of answers from the box and write the correct letter, for example, A-E, next to questions, for example, 1-3.
2. Label the plan. Write the correct letter, for example, A-I, next to questions, for example, 1-5.
3. Label the map. Write the correct letter, for example, A-I, next to questions, for example, 1-5.

#2 HOW TO DO IELTS LISTENING: STEP-BY-STEP INSTRUCTIONS

Want to get a 9 in IELTS listening? Follow this advice!

OUR METHOD

- 1) Identify a keyword (or words) in the question
- 2) Think how to paraphrase the keyword or words (the list of synonyms below will really help you do it)
- 3) Listen and catch a paraphrase to the keywords that you see in the question. This paraphrase will lead you to the correct answer!

ATTENTION: You're lucky if you can circle just ONE KEYWORD, but usually this won't be enough. As we've written 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.

EXAMPLE

For example, you see the following statement in the question booklet and the task is to complete it:

A strict _____ ensures high quality of our products.

You hear: A stringent quality assurance program guarantees that our customers get a picture-perfect product.

So, my task was to catch some word or phrase that follows a paraphrase of STRICT. And that is QUALITY ASSURANCE PROGRAM.

Open the '**Essential vocabulary for IELTS reading and listening**' e-book and learn commonly used synonyms in IELTS listening. After you are done, return to this e-book and continue reading.



#3 UNEXPECTED TURN: HOW NOT TO FALL INTO TRAPS

Almost everyone knows what '**UNEXPECTED TURN**' is. I'll give a short explanation, just in case. You might hear a speaker saying one thing and then, suddenly, correcting themselves and saying a completely different thing. The good bit is that there are some phrases which can help you identify these turns. They are:

- 1) No, wait.
- 2) Oh, sorry.
- 3) Oh, no.

ATTENTION! There can be a TRICKY moment. Read slowly in order to grasp the idea. Sometimes you can hear something like '**My phone number is seven erm... (pause) double seven ... bla-bla-bla**'. Most people think that there's a pause because a person said 'seven' then understood that they made a mistake and said '**double seven**'. As a result, many candidates write down '77' in their answer sheets and lose marks. Be careful! This is a trap. If they wanted to make an unexpected turn, they would definitely say something like '**My phone number is 7 ... oh no... double seven bla-bla-bla**'. This means that if you don't hear any phrases which indicate an unexpected turn, write down everything you hear even if a speaker makes a short pause before continuing to speak. So the correct answer would be '**7 7 7**'.



#4 FOUR IELTS LISTENING HACKS YOU NEED TO KNOW TO SURVIVE IELTS

Nº1 Be sure to carefully read and follow the instructions in the listening 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' more than once'.

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)

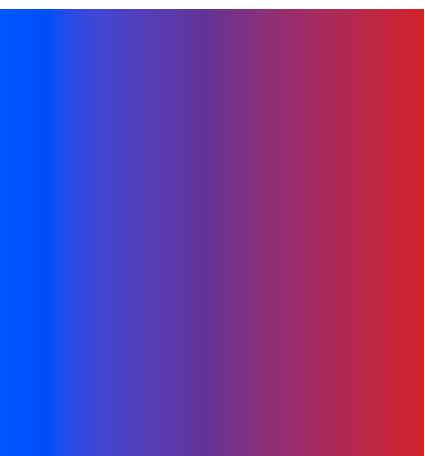
Nº4 A contracted title and a surname count as one word. For example, Dr.White.



#5 WHAT'S INTERESTING ABOUT NAMES, ADDRESSES AND POSTCODES IN IELTS LISTENING?

We don't doubt that you've noticed that in Section 1 of the IELTS listening test (less frequently in Section 2) you may be asked to write down names, postcodes, addresses. We mean something that contains both letters and numbers. But have you noticed that some letters appear more often than the others?

Our team has analyzed all IELTS practice tests that are available to us and we have noticed that letters A/R, E/I, C/S, G/J, H/8, M/N and different combinations with W are used very very frequently (VV vs WV, for example)! And numbers such as 13/30, 14/40 etc. So next time you do the IELTS listening test, pay attention to this tricky thing!



#6 ONE GRAMMAR TRICK YOU HAVEN'T PAID ATTENTION TO BEFORE

In some IELTS tests you may come across one interesting trick. In the test booklet you see a statement which you have to complete. Let's analyze an example.

Word limit: You may use NO MORE THAN TWO WORDS AND A NUMBER

Statement in the booklet: Something dates back

You hear: Something started 100 years ago.

Many IELTS candidates hear this sentence and complete the statement like this: Something dates back 100 YEARS AGO. This is because everyone knows they have to write down everything they hear. But this is a mistake. 'AGO' is one of the time expressions used with the past simple. So 'Something started 100 years ago' is correct because it is the past simple tense. However, 'Something dates back ...' is the present simple, so we cannot use 'ago' in this sentence. The correct answer is 'Something dates back 100 YEARS.'

Correct answer: 100 years



#7 0 IN IELTS LISTENING

It is not a secret for almost all IELTS candidates that 0 in telephone numbers is pronounced as '**Oh**'. So, when they hear '**Oh**', they write 0. BUT there are few IELTS candidates who know that in one particular case 0 is pronounced as '**not**'. As a result, they don't know what answer to write down in the IELTS booklet when they hear something like '**not point seven**'.

Some years ago our students started heated debates after the exam because none of them could understand what 3(!!!) out of 40 questions meant. They had to catch the thickness of 3 wood planks, so all of them told us that they wrote in the answer sheet exactly what they had heard, i.e. not point seven etc. BUT they had to write 0.7 because 0 in decimals is '**naught**' and this word is pronounced as '**not**'.

INCORRECT ANSWER: not point seven

CORRECT ANSWER: 0.7



#8 COMMON MISTAKES IN IELTS LISTENING: DATES

One very basic mistake that makes students lose marks. Now I'm speaking about the way you write dates in English. Look at the picture in the comments. Many of you hear '**bla-bla-bla on the 13th of August**' and write '**13th OF August**'... What happens? Right. You lose 1 point in the IELTS listening test. So remember that it's either 13th August or August, 13th!

INCORRECT ANSWER: 13th OF August

CORRECT ANSWER: 13th August or August, 13th



#9 TUESDAY OR THURSDAY?

Make sure you remember how to say and spell Tuesday and Thursday. These two words are used as answers in every second IELTS listening test!!! We've found a good video lesson on YouTube in which this difference is explained very well. This piece of information will help you take one more step to band 9 in IELTS listening! I'm not joking!

Click on the link to watch the video <https://youtu.be/eULXMjzfZ6U>

#10 COMMON MISTAKES IN IELTS LISTENING: UNNECESSARY WORDS

There's one more very basic mistake that makes students lose marks. Over the last several years we've checked thousands of mock tests. And we've noticed one very basic mistake that a lot of students make.

ATTENTION: If part of the answer is already given in the test booklet, for example, ... km, \$..., £...,%, don't repeat it in your answer.

EXAMPLE:

Cost of accommodation (per day): \$ ____

INCORRECT ANSWER: \$5

CORRECT ANSWER: 5

#11 MATERIALS YOU'LL NEED TO PREPARE FOR IELTS LISTENING

These materials will help you to achieve great results very fast:

- 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) Cambridge IELTS Practice Tests 6-12
- 8) IELTSHELPNOW

ATTENTION! Contact us to request wordlists to any book from the list above.

#12 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 answer 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 listening tests? **RETURN TO YOUR STEP-BY-STEP PLAN AND TAKE STEP 12**



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