

8 Help yourself

Using the Internet reference

Useful websites for IELTS students

Search engines

Using English-language search engines instead of ones in your mother tongue will give you access to a range of different websites. Try making one of these your homepage. The links below are to the USA parent sites, but you can find links to British, Australian, New Zealand, or South African alternatives.

www.google.com The popular Internet search engine.

www.yahoo.com Another popular search engine with associated webmail.

www.msn.com Search engine provided by Microsoft, with access to Hotmail webmail.

Groups

Groups can be set for friends or people with similar interests to easily communicate on the Internet. For example, you could set up a group for your class to exchange emails, photographs, and so on. Alternatively, search for a group on a subject that interests you and join it.

www.groups.google.com Groups based with Google.

www.groups.yahoo.com Groups based with Yahoo!

News

English-language news websites are an excellent way to gather information about the topics you may be asked about in IELTS. Search for key words, browse the headlines, or download audio files from these sites.

www.bbc.co.uk The BBC website, the UK's public broadcasting organization, with various pages including news and sport. You can also download BBC radio and TV from this site.

www.guardianunlimited.co.uk The home of *The Guardian*, *Observer* and *Guardian Weekly* newspapers. *The Guardian* also now offers audio podcasts.

www.nytimes.com The online edition of the *New York Times*, with access to recent content.

www.smh.com.au The online edition of the *Sydney Morning Herald*, with news from Australia and abroad.

www.nzherald.co.nz The *New Zealand Herald*, news and opinion coverage from the country's largest newspaper.

Reference

Some websites allow you to access encyclopedias or dictionaries online.

www.askoxford.com This site run by Oxford University Press allows you to search the Compact Oxford English Dictionary online, play English-language games, and find out about global English.

www.wikipedia.org Wikipedia, the free online encyclopedia, is compiled from entries donated by the public.

University-related

These sites might help you make decisions and plan an application to an English-speaking university.

www.ucas.ac.uk UCAS, the central organization that processes applications for undergraduate courses taught at UK universities and colleges.

www.studiesinaustralia.com Offering information on study at a wide variety of institutions and at a range of levels.

www.uac.edu.au The University Admissions Centre processes applications for institutions in New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory, and provides links to organizations in other states.

English study

These sites provide useful practice material and information which could help in your studies.

www.oup.com/elt/students Oxford University Press student's website, with links to a wide range of study material.

www.ielts.org IELTS official website, with information about the test and how to take it, and downloadable specimen material.

Professional organizations

Students taking IELTS in order to enter a professional association in an English-speaking country will find information on the following websites.

www.bma.org.uk Website of British Medical Association, the UK's professional association for doctors. It includes careers guidance.

www.ama.com.au The Australian Medical Association, Australia's representative body for doctors and medical students.

www.nzma.org.nz The New Zealand Medical Association, New Zealand's representative body for doctors.

www.lawsociety.org.uk The regulatory and representative body for solicitors in the UK. **www.royalsoc.ac.uk** The Royal Society, the independent scientific academy in the UK.