

# IELTS Listening Fill the Blank Questions

Technique is Everything!!

# Test Overview

## TEST OVERVIEW

Section	Context	Number of Speakers
1	Social Needs	Conversation between two speakers
2	Social Needs	Speech by one speaker
3	Educational or Training	Conversation between up to four speakers
4	Academic Subject	Speech by one speaker

# Section 1 and 2 Overview

- **Section One**
- In the first section there is a conversation between two speakers. For example - a conversation about travel arrangements, booking accommodation, or decisions on a night out.
- **Section Two**
- The second section is a monologue (a speech by one person). It will be set in an everyday social context. For example - a speech about student services on a University campus or arrangements for meals during a conference.

# Section 3 and 4 Overview

- **Section Three**
- Section three is a conversation between up to four people. For example - a conversation between a tutor and a student about an assignment or between three students planning a research project.
- **Section Four**
- The final part is another monologue. It is a lecture or talk of general academic interest such as a university lecture.

# Fill The Blank Strategy

- 1. Read the instructions carefully and Skim the questions quickly before the recording starts and during the 30 seconds given.**
- 2. As you do this, underline the key words before and after the blank line.**
- 3. During the listening they will use synonyms for these keywords and connect the answer to these keywords that come before and after the blank line.**

**4. If you are in Section 1, try to work out what you are going to hear. Decide what you need to listen out for and look out for question words like 'where' and 'who' which indicate you should listen for specific things like places and people.**

**5. Listen to the introduction given carefully.**

**6. Answer the questions as you listen. The answers will be given in the same order as the questions although they may be expressed differently.**

# Fill the Blank Question Type

## Room and cost

- the **1** ..... Room – seats 100
- Cost of Main Hall for Saturday evening: **2** £ .....  
+ £250 deposit (**3** ..... payment is required)
- Cost includes use of tables and chairs and also **4** .....
- Additional charge for use of the kitchen: £25

## Before the event

- Will need a **5** ..... licence
- Need to contact caretaker (Mr Evans) in advance to arrange  
**6** .....

# Fill the Blank Question Type

*Advice about visiting the farm*

*Visitors should*

- take care not to harm any **11** .....
- not touch any **12** .....
- wear **13** .....
- not bring **14** ..... into the farm, with certain exceptions



# Fill the Blank Question Type

Write **ONE WORD ONLY** for each answer.

Subject of drawing	Change to be made
A <b>21</b> ..... surrounded by trees	Add Malcolm and a <b>22</b> ..... noticing him
People who are <b>23</b> ..... outside the forest	Add Malcolm sitting on a tree trunk and <b>24</b> .....
Ice-skaters on <b>25</b> ..... covered with ice	Add a <b>26</b> ..... for each person

# Fill the Blank

- *Type 2*
- *Questions 6 -8*
- *Complete the notes below.*
- *Write **NO MORE THAN THREE WORDS or A NUMBER** for*
- *each answer.*
- **SOUTH DOWNS DOG SHOW**
- Date: **(6)** .....
- Time: **(7)** .....**to** .....
- Place: **(8)** .....

# 8 Standard TRAPS

1. Sentence Re-Ordering
2. Synonym Language
3. Self – Correction
4. Delayed Response
5. Exact Language
6. Multiple Options
7. Positive Negative
8. Provide All Possible Answers

# Trap Information

- A. For fill the blank questions the main trap you have to watch for is the use of synonym language for the words before and after the blank line. Often in the listening, they will use synonyms these words to disguise when the answer is being said.
- B. The second most popular trap is when they do a word re-order. During the listening they will often move the answer to the beginning of the sentence, switch the subject and object, or move around the words before and after the blank line.

# Section 1 and 2 Specific Traps

In section 1 they love to use the following traps:

1. Self-Correction:
2. Say a possible answer, then they other person rejects it and follows up with the correct answer.
3. Used To: very often they will say “the price used to be \$5”. Whatever follows a “used to” or other similar language is the wrong answer.
4. Multiple Options: whenever you have a number as a possible answer, they will say 2 or 3 numbers to make you think the answer is something else. You must listen for the number connected to the key words in the question.

# Key Strategies

1. Recognizing Key Words in a Question
2. Underline the Key Words
3. Recognizing Synonym Language
4. Listen for Targeted Information: Phone Numbers, Dates, numbers, money, weight
5. Recognize Directional Language
6. Separate Weak Points
7. Prediction Prediction Prediction: recognize the words that can change, predict the synonyms. Also recognize on gap filling where the blank line is in the sentence to predict answer placement. Recognize when listening for a NOUN, VERB, ADJECTIVE

# IELTS Tricks to Fool You!!

- 1. Writing words which have silent letters
- 2. Compound nouns which must be spelt as two words with a gap
- 3. Compound nouns which must be spelt as two words with a hyphen
- 4. Asking them to write irregular plurals and/ or verbs
- 5. Asking them to write words which even native speakers find it difficult to spell, e.g.
  - “definitely”
- **Grammar**
- 6. Gaps which are grammatically different from the words in the listening text
- **Spotting the correct information**
- 7. Needing to select the right answer from several things that are all mentioned
- 8. A long time before the answer to the first question

# More tricks by IELTS

- **Spotting the correct information**
- 7. Needing to select the right answer from several things that are all mentioned
- 8. A long time before the answer to the first question
- **Numbers**
- 9. Asking them to write times and/ or dates
- 10. Testing comprehension of numbers which are pronounced in more difficult ways in the text, e.g. “half a million”, “ten to two” and “nought point five”
- **Fitting in the gap**
- 11. Answers which are antonyms (= words with the opposite meaning) of the words in the text
- 12. Gaps where it is difficult to choose the right length of answer
- 13. Questions where the correct determiner (e.g. “some”, “three”, “a”, “the”) must be included
- **Pronunciation**
- 14. Grammatical endings which are difficult to hear, e.g. “ed” when it sounds like “t” and “s”
- in “ts”
- **Misc**
- 15. Both a number and a word or words needed in one gap



# Even More IELTS Tricks

- 1. Asking them to write words with consonant combinations whose spelling and pronunciation are difficult to guess and remember, e.g. “photo” and “chorus”
- 2. Words with double letters, e.g. –ed forms and –er forms
- 3. Compound nouns which must be spelt as one word
- 4. Asking them to write numbers or words which are said with “double”
- 5. Asking them to write words which need capital letters
- **Grammar**
- 6. Questions where the preposition must be correct to get a point

# Tricks Tricks Tricks

- **Spotting the correct information**
- 7. Gapped sentences that use different words from the text (even though the word or
- words in the gap are the same as the text)
- 8. Needing to spot that someone changes their mind
- 9. Varied amounts of time between the answers to the questions, e.g. two answers quite
- close together and then a long time before the next answer
- **Numbers**
- 10. Asking them to write amounts of money
- 11. Asking them to write large numbers

# Tricks

- **Fitting in the gap**
- 12. Answers which would be longer than the maximum number of words if they didn't use
- note form (= cut out some of the grammatical words)
- 13. Questions in which they need to write the plural for their answer to be correct
- **Pronunciation**
- 14. Questions where unstressed words must be written
- **Misc**
- 15. Changing task during a single listening text

# Spelling Information

- **Spelling**
- 1. Answers which have different British and American spelling. (Easier because British and American are both okay in the exam.)
- 2. Questions in which both a symbol and a word (e.g. “\$” and “dollars”) are okay in the answer
- 3. Collocations made of words which students are likely to be familiar with even if they’ve never heard that combination before