

Section	Reading texts
1	two or three short texts or several shorter ones (e.g. advertisements)
2	two texts related to the workplace (e.g. information for staff)
3	one long discursive text

The General Training Reading paper has a total of 40 questions.

Section 1 has 14 items. Sections 2 and 3 each have 13.

Task type	What do I have to do?
1 multiple choice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Choose one answer from alternatives A-D. Choose two answers from alternatives A-E. Choose three answers from alternatives A-G.
2 identifying information (T/F/NG)	Say whether a statement is True/False or Not Given in the text.
3 identifying the writer's views/claims (Y/N/NG)	Say whether a statement agrees with claims or views in a text (Yes), disagrees with the views/claims in the text (No) or whether there is no information on this in the text (Not Given).
4 matching information	Match the information in the question to the correct paragraph in the text.
5 matching headings	Match a heading from a list of possible answers to the correct paragraph or section of the text.
6 matching features	Match a list of statements to a list of possible answers in a box (e.g. specific people or theories or dates).
7 matching sentence endings	Complete a sentence by choosing a suitable ending from a box of possible answers.
8 sentence completion	Complete a sentence with a suitable word or words from the text within the word limit given.
9 notes/summary/table/flow-chart completion	Complete notes/a summary/table/flow-chart with a suitable word (or words) from the text within the word limit given.
10 labelling a diagram	Label a diagram with a suitable word (or words) from the text or by choosing from a box of possible answers.
11 short-answer questions	Answer questions using words from the text in the word limit given.
12 multiple matching	Match the information in the question to the correct short text or advertisement.

Assessment: each question is worth one mark.

General Training Writing

Time: one hour

This test consists of two separate writing tasks. You must answer both tasks.

Task	Timing	Length	What do I need to do?
Writing Task 1	20 minutes	150 words	Write a letter in response to a given situation.
Writing Task 2	40 minutes	250 words	You need to write a discursive essay. You will be given an opinion, problem or issue that you need to discuss. You may be asked to provide a solution, evaluate a problem, compare and contrast different ideas or opinions, or challenge an argument or idea.

You will be assessed on the following criteria:

- Task Response
- Coherence and Cohesion
- Lexical Resource
- Grammatical Range and Accuracy

N.B. Writing Task 2 is worth twice as many marks as Writing Task 1.

IELTS Listening

How long is the Listening paper?

The Listening paper is the same in both the Academic and the General Training modules of the IELTS test. It lasts approximately 30 minutes and you are given an extra 10 minutes to write your answers onto a separate answer sheet.

What type of information will I hear?

The Listening paper has four separate sections. Each section is a little more difficult than the one before. They feature speakers from a variety of English-speaking countries. Each section has a different focus.

- In **Section 1**, you will hear a conversation between two people (e.g. finding out information about travel).
- In **Section 2**, you will hear a monologue on a general topic (e.g. a radio broadcast).
- In **Section 3**, you will hear a conversation between two or three people in an academic context (e.g. discussing an assignment).
- In **Section 4**, you will hear a monologue in an academic context (e.g. a lecture).

Will I hear the recording more than once?

It is important to remember that you will hear the recording **only once**. To help you prepare, you will be given some extra time at the start of each section. During this time, you should read the questions carefully.

How is the Listening paper assessed?

You will be asked a total of 40 questions. In order to assess how much of the recording you understand, the questions will usually paraphrase (use different words with a similar meaning) the words that are in the text.

What types of question will I need to answer?

There are 10 questions in each section, and there is a variety of question types. For some types, you need to write words or numbers that you hear.

- forms/notes/table/flow-chart/summary completion
- short-answer questions
- sentence completion

For other tasks, you need to choose an option from a list and write a letter on your answer sheet.

- labelling a diagram/plan/map
- matching
- multiple choice

How do I answer the questions?

The instructions and the questions will tell you what type of information you need to listen for, and the type of answer you need to give. Listen carefully to any instructions you hear on the recording. Follow the instructions on the question paper carefully. In this unit, you will be able to practise all of these question types.

How can I improve my Listening paper score?

You can improve your score by following the instructions carefully, and remembering the Test Tips in this unit. This unit will also tell you the skills you need in order to achieve your highest score. Before the test, try to listen to accents from a variety of English-speaking countries.

Studying all aspects of English (including vocabulary and grammar) will also help improve your IELTS score. If you make any mistakes in the practice exercises, make sure that you listen to the recording again and check your answers carefully in the Answer Key.

Listening skills

1 Getting ready to listen

In this unit you will practise:

- understanding the context
- using correct spelling
- listening for specific details
- understanding numbers

1 Understanding the context

In the introduction to the Listening section, you will be told who the people are, what they are talking about and why. This information is called the context. It helps you understand the topic. It is not written on the question paper.

After the introduction, you will be given a short time to look at the questions. Studying the questions before you listen can help you predict what the speakers will talk about.

1.1  You are going to hear the introductions of four IELTS Listening sections. Before you listen, try to predict the context by reading the questions in the table below. Choose FOUR answers from the box and write the correct letter, A–F, in the table.

Section	Listening test questions	context
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Total number of guests: _____• Susie will organise invitations and _____	C
2	What type of gift does the speaker recommend for a child's birthday?	
3	The students chose this topic because A they have a lot of information about it. B they would like to learn more about it. C they think they will get a higher mark.	
4	Aim: To assess the impact of loss of habitat on native animals Methods: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Calculate the current numbers of native animal species• Study their movements by attaching	

Contexts

- | | |
|----------------------------|----------------------------------|
| A shopping for food | D describing a research project |
| B discussing an assignment | E buying presents |
| C organising a party | F explaining how something works |

1.2 Listen again. Decide how many speakers you will hear in each of these sections. Try to write down who the speakers will be.



Test Tip Before you do each section, you will be given 30–45 seconds to look at the questions. Use this time to study the questions and try to predict what you might hear.

2 Using the correct spelling

In Listening Section 1, you may need to listen for the name of a person or a place. Often, the names will be spelt out for you. You need to recognise the letters of the English alphabet well, so that you can write the letters you hear quickly. You will only hear the spelling once.

Any spellings that you hear will be in the context of a normal conversation, so you need to be able to hear the difference between letters and words.

2.1 Listen and write the letters you hear.

1

4

2

5

3

2.2 There are several ways to help you spell a word. Listen to five short conversations and complete notes 1–5 with **NO MORE THAN ONE WORD AND/OR A NUMBER**.

- 1 Name: Mr Andrew _____
2 Address: 63 _____ Road, Birmingham
3 Website address: www._____ .com
4 Meet at the _____ Hotel
5 Registration number: _____

2.3 Listen again and complete extracts a–f from the conversations.

Conversation 1

- a Is that _____ colour?
b Yes, but _____.

Conversation 2

- c Sorry, _____ N or M?

Conversation 3

- d That's right, _____ lower case.

Conversation 4

- e Oh, it's the Rose Hotel, _____.

Conversation 5

- f It's just _____.
It's HLP 528.

 **Test Tip** Always check your spelling. If you make a spelling mistake in the IELTS Listening paper, your answer will be marked wrong.

 **Test Tip** Listen carefully, as there are several ways of helping people to spell a word without simply spelling it out. If you need to write something that is not a name (e.g. the registration number of a car), you may hear a combination of numbers and letters.



Study Tip Practise saying the letters of the English alphabet.

For example, spell words out for a friend to write down.

3 Writing numbers

In Section 1 of the Listening paper, you need to listen for specific details.

3.1 Listen and circle the number you hear in each pair (a–j).

- | | |
|---------------------|---------------|
| a 1st / 3rd | f 15 / 50 |
| b \$10.50 / \$10.15 | g 52 / 62 |
| c 6th / 5th | h £110 / £810 |
| d 17 / 70 | i 31st / 33rd |
| e 19 / 90 | j 22nd / 27th |

3.2 Listen again and practise saying the numbers.

3.3 Listen and complete the information below.

- 1 How much does the woman pay for her room? £ _____
- 2 New students need to bring \$ _____
- 3 Garage width: m height: m
- 4 How much does the woman pay for the bus tickets?
A \$25 B \$55 C \$75
- 5 Party date:

3.4 Listen again and write the other numbers you hear and the reason they are incorrect.

- 1 £80 *this is the amount she paid last time*

3.5 Listen to extracts from four different talks and choose the correct answer (A, B or C).

- 1 The survey found that the majority of students drink
A water. B coffee. C tea.
- 2 What point does the speaker make about skiing?
A A small percentage of the US is suitable for skiing.
B A surprisingly large number of Americans like skiing.
C A relatively small proportion of Americans have tried skiing.
- 3 The number of wild elephants in Africa is estimated to be at least
A 53,000. B 470,000. C 690,000.
- 4 According to the speaker, which two can weigh the same?
A the tongue of a blue whale and an elephant
B an elephant and a blue whale
C a bus and an elephant

2 Following a conversation

In this unit you will practise:

- identifying the speakers
- identifying function
- understanding categories
- matching items
- completing notes
- completing a table

1 Identifying the speakers

For Sections 1 and 3, each speaker will have a different voice to help you tell them apart (e.g. male/female; younger/older). Both speakers will talk equally, and you will hear answers from **both** speakers.

For Section 1, there is normally one person who has to find out information from the other.

1.1 [▶ 8] You will hear three short extracts from Listening Section 1. Listen and identify what makes each speaker different, and what information they want to find out.

 **Test Tip** In the IELTS Listening paper, Sections 1 and 3 are conversations between two or three people. Sections 2 and 4 are monologues with only one main speaker. Sometimes, you may hear another speaker introducing the talk or asking questions.

	people	description	information wanted
1	travel agent	older female	The customer would like information about ...
	customer		
2	hotel receptionist		The receptionist needs to find out the guest's ...
	guest		
3	interviewer		The applicant would like to know about ...
	job applicant		



Study Tip You will hear native speaker accents from several English-speaking countries in the test. These may include British, American, Canadian, Australian and New Zealand accents. Search online for **non-commercial national radio stations** in these countries, and try to listen to a variety of them. National stations often have talk or current affairs programmes that can help you practise for IELTS.

- 1.2**  **9** You need to listen to both speakers carefully. Listen to the rest of the conversations from 11 and answer the questions below. Ignore the final column for now.

1	NOTES: • No need to book the 1 _____ from the airport	travel agent customer
	• the customer wants me to organise 2 _____	travel agent customer
2	1 How many nights will the man stay? A one night B two nights C three nights	hotel receptionist guest
	2 Which of the following is on the 10th floor? A the gym B the business centre C the restaurant	hotel receptionist guest
3	1 Which country has the applicant worked in most?	interviewer job applicant
	2 What department would the applicant like to work in?	interviewer job applicant

- 1.3** Listen again and look at the final column in the table. Circle the person who provided the answer. Sometimes both are possible.

2 Identifying function

Each speaker has a specific purpose in mind when they talk. We say their language has a function. We use different language for different functions.

- 2.1**  **10** Listen to seven short extracts from different conversations. Complete extracts 1-7.

- 1 _____ getting her a new bike?
- 2 _____ . We arrive on 22nd July.
- 3 That sounds great.
- 4 _____ I'd enjoy that one.
- 5 You said you'd prefer to have the party outside, _____ ?
- 6 _____ , it's just gone up to \$250.
- 7 _____ accommodation?
Where would you like to stay?

2.2 What is the function of the phrases you wrote in 2.1? Match extracts 1–7 to the correct function (A–H). There is one extra letter that you do not need to use.

Functions

- | | |
|----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| A agreeing | E confirming |
| B correcting | F moving to a new topic |
| C rejecting an idea | G checking information |
| D suggesting | H showing anger |

2.3  Listen to extracts from two conversations: one from Section 1 and one from Section 3. Choose the correct answers (A, B or C).

Listening Section 1

1 What food do the speakers decide to prepare for the party?

- A** pizza
- B** sandwiches
- C** hot dogs

2 What will they do next?

- A** go shopping
- B** decide on the music
- C** sort out the invitations

Listening Section 3

3 What aspect of pollution do the students decide to concentrate on?

- A** water pollution
- B** air pollution
- C** industrial pollution

4 What do the students decide to do next?

- A** contact their tutor for more help
- B** visit the library to find more resources
- C** check which topic other students have chosen

2.4 Look at the phrases below. Listen again and decide whether the phrases are in Extract 1 or Extract 2.

- | | |
|---|--|
| a That's a good idea. | i You're right ... |
| b Actually, I think we're better off looking online. | j That's right. |
| c Why don't we ... ? | k So we could just do that? |
| d We could look at ... | l We'd better not. |
| e What about a ... ? | m We'd better start ... |
| f Let's ask them. | n Now, we also need to ... |
| g Pizzas it is, then! | o So, what else do we need to do? |
| h Shall we go to ... ? | p But we always do that. |