



5-week IELTS Study planner

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IELTS Study Planner is brought to you by the British Council, the world's English teaching experts. It is a recommended study plan that we hope you follow in the next month to make sure you are ready to take IELTS. Our plan will guide you to a range of free IELTS study materials and resources, as well as suggest activities you can do to improve your English skills. It is our hope that the planner will get you acquainted with the test format and also improve your confidence when writing, speaking, reading and listening in English.

Please note, the IELTS Study Planner is intended to be used as a guideline only. Many of you will have different needs and priorities, based on factors such as general English language ability and time available to study. Feel free to adapt the planner to best suit your needs, for example, by spending more time focusing on the skills that you are weaker in, or practising a different skill each day.

And remember, for most of you, your IELTS preparation began a long time ago when you first started to learn English!

We hope you enjoy using the Study Planner.



IELTS on paper or computer?

You can take an IELTS test on paper or on a computer at one of our official test centres in Vietnam. Either way, you will be taking exactly the same IELTS test, with the same test content and structure. The only difference is that you can choose to type your answers or write them on paper – whichever suits you best.

	IELTS on Paper	IELTS on Computer
Delivery	Listening Reading Writing	Listening Reading Writing
	Speaking Face-to-face or video call with a certified IELTS Examiner	
Modules	Academic & General training	
Results available	13 days	3–5 days
Test availability	Up to 48 days/year (Thursdays & Saturdays)	Up to 7 days/week
Length of the test	Listening (30 minutes + 10 minutes to transfer answer) Reading (60 minutes) Writing (60 minutes) Speaking (11–14 minutes)	Listening (30 minutes + 2 minutes to review answer) Reading (60 minutes) Writing (60 minutes) Speaking (11–14 minutes)
What remains the same?	Whether you take IELTS on paper or computer, you can be confident that you are taking the same leading high-stakes test of the world. No change to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Price ✓ Question types ✓ Level of difficulty ✓ Scoring from 1 (non-user) to 9 (expert user) ✓ Face-to-face Speaking test - conducted and assessed by a certified IELTS examiner ✓ Recognition by over 11,000 organisations in over 140 countries worldwide 	

Information about venues for taking IELTS on paper and computer, please go to [IELTS test dates, fees and locations](#).

Your test day journey



1. Arrival

Arrive at the test day area



2. Check information

Check candidate number,
test room



3. Bag drop

Leave your belongings at the designated area.
Remember to use the toilets before checking-in



4. Check in

Check in using your
Passport/ID document



5. Security check

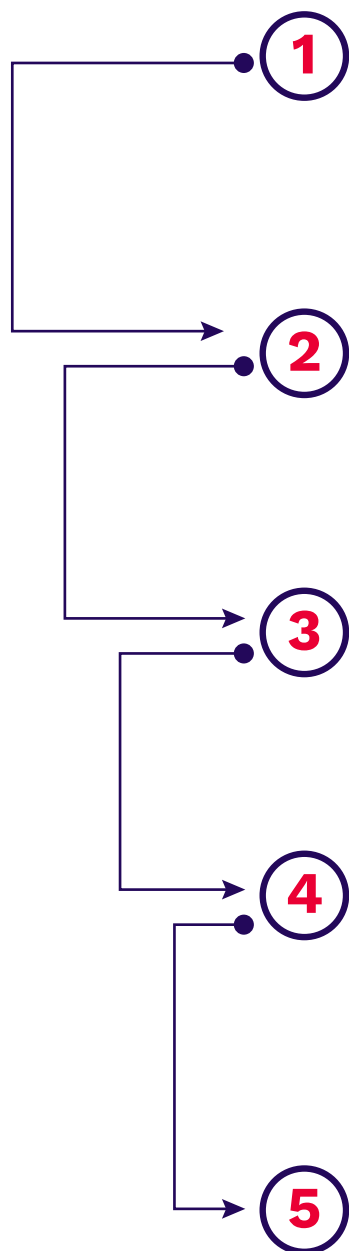
Have your photo taken



6. Test

Enter the test room





Take a practise IELTS test to better understand your current English level. You can find practise papers via:

- [Sample test questions](#)
- [Free practise tests](#)

You can now take the IELTS test on a computer! Go to [ChinaIELTS](#) for more information. Take the familiarization test at [GELIELTS](#).

Download the IELTS Prep App onto your phone to give you instant access to free practise tests and sample questions for the listening, reading, writing and speaking sections.

To give you an approximate indication of your English level, go to [LearnEnglish](#) and take our free online English test.

Consider purchasing additional IELTS practise materials. For more information, please go to:

- [ChinaIELTS](#) (for text books and past papers)
- [Road to IELTS](#) (for a comprehensive online preparation program)

Week 1: Listening

Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5	Day 6	Day 7
Listening in a nutshell	Listening strategy	Part 1	Part 2	Part 3	Part 4	Sample test

Week 2: Reading

Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5	Day 6	Day 7
Reading in a nutshell	Reading strategy	Completion 1	Completion 2	T/F/NG Matching headings	Matching endings Multiple choices	Sample test

Week 3: Writing – Task 1

Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5	Day 6	Day 7
Writing Task 1 in a nutshell	Writing Task 1 strategy	Overview Line graph, bar/pie chart	Process	Mix charts	Practise 1	Practise 2

Week 4: Writing – Task 2

Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5	Day 6	Day 7
Writing Task 2 in a nutshell	Writing Task 2 strategy	Coherence and Cohesion Grammar Range and Accuracy	Practise 1	Lexical Resource	Practise 2	Practise 3

Week 5: Speaking

Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5	Day 6	Day 7
Speaking in a nutshell & strategy	Part 1	Part 1 (2)	Part 2	Part 3	Practise 1	Practise 2

Week 1: Listening

Day	Activity	Self-check
1	Go to IELTS.org and learn everything you can about the listening section (format, timing, task types, how it's marked).	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Go to IELTS.org and look at some of the listening sample questions.	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Go to Dialang and find out your English proficiency level in listening.	<input type="checkbox"/>
2	What are the key listening skills being tested in IELTS? Go to Voices Magazine and read 'Five essential listening skills for English learners'.	<input type="checkbox"/>
	What should you do before, during and after you hear the test recording? Have a read of some helpful advice for Listening exams on LearnEnglishTeens .	<input type="checkbox"/>
3	<i>Part 1 of the Listening Test is a conversation between two people. They will talk about everyday things such as travel, accommodation, finding a job etc. The information you need to answer these questions (1–10) is often key information such as names, times, dates, prices.</i>	
	For practise go to Listening practise and choose your level. If you do not know your CEFR level (A1, A2, B1, B2, C1, C2), do the level test HERE .	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Download the IELTS Prep app and do Part 1 of Practise Tests 2 and 3.	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Download the answers and do the test again, listening very carefully for those answers you got wrong. Think about what made that particular point difficult to hear or understand. Make a note of interesting and useful new vocabulary.	<input type="checkbox"/>
4	<i>Part 2 of the Listening Test is a monologue. You will hear a recorded message. As in Part 1 the subjects will be everyday things such as cultural events, festivals, sporting events. The information you need to answer these questions (11–20) is often key information but do think about how words in the questions might be expressed differently in the listening text.</i>	
	Go to a news site such as BBC and listen to the 5-minute news bulletin. Practise listening by writing down the topics of each bulletin, writing down all the numbers you hear, and what they refer to. Listen again to check. You can listen to as many bulletins as you have time for.	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Go to IELTS Prep app and do Part 2 of Practise Tests 2 and 3.	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Download the answers and do the test again, listening very carefully for those answers you got wrong. Think about what made that particular point difficult to hear or understand. Make a note of interesting and useful new vocabulary.	<input type="checkbox"/>

Week 1: Listening

Day	Activity	Self-check
5	<i>Part 3 of the Listening Test is a conversation between 2 or 3 people in an academic context. You could hear, for example, two students discussing a project, or a tutor and a student having a discussion. The information you need to answer the questions (21–30) might be key details, opinions and support for that position, attitude of the speaker, main ideas etc.</i>	
	To practise listening to several speakers use THIS material.	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Go to IELTS Prep app and do Part 3 of Practise Tests 2 and 3.	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Download the answers and do the test again, listening very carefully for those answers you got wrong. Think about what made that particular point difficult to hear or understand. Make a note of interesting and useful new vocabulary.	<input type="checkbox"/>
6	<i>Part 4 of the Listening Test is a monologue in an academic context. You will hear, for example, a lecture. The information you need to answer the questions (31–40) might be key details, opinions and support for that position, attitude of the speaker, main ideas etc.</i>	
	Listen to TED Talks . The audio scripts are available so you can listen + read, then listen again. There are plenty of topics to choose from so choose something you are interested in. Here is a playlist: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Go HERE to practise academic lectures and talks • Go to IELTS Prep app and do Part 4 of Practise Tests 2 and 3. 	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Download the answers and do the test again, listening very carefully for those answers you got wrong. Think about what made that particular point difficult to hear or understand. Make a note of interesting and useful new vocabulary.	<input type="checkbox"/>
7	Go to Take IELTS and test yourself with some of the listening samples on paper!	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Compare your responses to the correct answers. Where did you earn most marks? Where did you have misunderstandings?	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Listen again to the listening samples. Can you hear the correct answer now?	<input type="checkbox"/>
	You can also the IELTS on computer Listening test with the six different types of example questions HERE .	<input type="checkbox"/>



Week 2: Reading

Day	Activity	Self-check
1	Go to IELTS.org and learn everything you can about the reading section (format, timing, task types, how it's marked).	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Go to IELTS.org and look at some of the reading sample questions.	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Go to FutureLearn and sign up to 'Understanding IELTS: Reading course' (open Mar 16th).	<input type="checkbox"/>
2	Do you have problems with your reading speed? Go to Voices Magazine and read 'How to help English learners read more quickly'.	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Go to Dialang and find out your English proficiency level in reading.	<input type="checkbox"/>
	What should you do before, during and after you start reading in a test? Have a look at some helpful advice in the 'Exams' section of LearnEnglishTeens .	<input type="checkbox"/>
3	<i>In the Academic Reading test there are 3 sections, each with a long text. These passages are academic in nature and are taken from journals, newspapers, books etc. Each passage has between 11 and 15 questions adding up to a total of 40. Do a little reading every day.</i>	
	Go to One Stop English and choose a topic that interests you. These articles have vocabulary and grammar development questions. Make a note of any new, interesting and useful vocabulary.	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Practise Table completion questions on IELTS Reading Preparation resource , page 6.	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Practise Flow Chart Completion questions on IELTS Reading Preparation resource , page 9.	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Go to Road to IELTS to practise short answer and table completion questions.	<input type="checkbox"/>
4	Do some more general readings on One Stop English . Make a note of any new, interesting and useful vocabulary.	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Practise Note Completion questions on IELTS Reading Preparation resource , page 30.	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Practise Sentence Completion questions on IELTS Reading Preparation resource , page 34.	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Practise Summary Completion questions on IELTS Reading Preparation resource , page 38 and 41.	<input type="checkbox"/>



Day	Activity	Self-check
5	Go back to One Stop English , choose another article and do some general reading. Make a note of any new, interesting and useful vocabulary.	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Practise True/ False/ Not Given questions on IELTS Reading Preparation resource , page 12.	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Practise Matching Headings questions on IELTS Reading Preparation resource , page 15.	<input type="checkbox"/>
6	Go back to One Stop English , choose another article and do some general reading. Make a note of any new, interesting and useful vocabulary.	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Practise Matching Sentence Endings questions on IELTS Reading Preparation resource , page 19.	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Practise Multiple-Choice questions on IELTS Reading Preparation resource , page 24 and 27.	<input type="checkbox"/>
7	Do a timed practise test. Download the free IELTS Prep app .	<input type="checkbox"/>
	For further IELTS Academic Reading practise tests on paper, please refer to Take IELTS .	<input type="checkbox"/>
	When you have finished a test, read the text around those answers you got wrong very carefully. Think about what made that particular point difficult to understand. Make a note of any new, interesting and useful vocabulary.	<input type="checkbox"/>
	You can also the IELTS on computer Listening test with the six different types of example questions HERE .	<input type="checkbox"/>

Week 3: Writing task 1

Day	Activity	Self-check
1	Go to IELTS.org and learn everything you can about the writing section (format, timing, task types).	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Go to IELTS.org and look at some of the writing sample questions.	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Go to Dialang and find out your English proficiency level in writing.	<input type="checkbox"/>
2	Go to ChinaIELTS and download the writing assessment criteria. Pay attention to the descriptors ONE LEVEL above your current level. If you are not sure what each of the four assessment criteria means, watch the short videos at ChinaIELTS in the 'band descriptors' section.	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Read a news story online (e.g. the Mirror), and make use of the comments section where you can write your opinions about the story.	<input type="checkbox"/>
	What are some things you should do before, during and after you start writing in a test? Read tips for Writing exams .	<input type="checkbox"/>
3	<p><i>Writing Task 1 consists of writing a description of data. This data can come in the form of line graphs, bar charts, pie charts, tables, flow and process diagrams, and maps/plans.</i></p> <p>It is recommended that you spend 20 minutes on this task, and you should write a minimum of 150 words in order to do this task satisfactorily. Write a clear introduction that rephrases what the diagram is and the overview.</p> <p>It is very important that you write a clear overview in your introduction, that is, you say what the most important trend(s) or change(s) are, or for a process diagram the number of steps/stages in the process.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Go to Road to IELTS and work through this series of exercises that will help you with dealing with charts, numbers, choosing the correct tense. There is a practise activity at the end. Write this report in 20 minutes. Then look at the sample answer. Did you:	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • have the same overview? • describe the data in the same order? • describe the same data? 	<input type="checkbox"/>
	You are usually asked to make comparisons in this task. Go to the IELTS Prep App and do some exercises. Make notes of the different ways to make comparisons.	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Find out your CEFR level (A1, A2, B1, B2, C1, C2) by doing an online test , then do the appropriate grammar practise below: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Further practise of comparisons for B1-B2: HERE • Practise of adjectives and prepositions for A1-A2: HERE 	<input type="checkbox"/>

Week 3: Writing task 1

Day	Activity	Self-check
3	Do a practise test of a line graph on Writing resource , page 4.	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Compare your answer with 2 sample answers at Band 6 (page 11) and 7 (page 12). Read the examiner's comments to help you improve next time.	<input type="checkbox"/>
4	<i>Sometimes you may be asked to describe a process, for example how something is made or manufactured. To do this task well, you will need to use the passive voice.</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Go to the IELTS Prep App , click on <Writing> and then <More prep>. Select <Grammar> then < Passive voice >. Practise with some exercises.	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Go HERE for further practise.	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Try writing a description of a process on IELTS Academic Writing resource , page 5. Remember to write the overview (the number of steps/stages) in your introductory paragraph.	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Compare your answer with 2 sample answers at Band 5 (page 13), Band 7 (page 14) and Band 8.5 (page 16). Read the examiner's comments to help you improve next time.	<input type="checkbox"/>
5	<i>Sometimes you may be asked to describe a map or compare 2 maps. Sometimes you are asked to compare a place in the past and now, or now and in the future.</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	So, you will need to use different verb forms, for example, the past simple, the present simple, the present perfect, and describe the future.	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Go to the IELTS Prep App , click on <Writing> and then <More prep>. Select <Grammar> then < Past simple >. Practise with some exercises.	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Go to the IELTS Prep App , click on <Writing> and then <More prep>. Select <Grammar> then < Present Perfect >. Practise with some exercises.	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Go to the IELTS Prep App , click on <Writing> and then <More prep>. Select <Grammar> then < Predicting the Future >. Practise with some exercises.	<input type="checkbox"/>
6	Now, try different practise tests. Go to the IELTS Prep App , click on <Writing> and then <Practise tests> and do Test 1 to practise describing a line graph.	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Go to the IELTS Prep App , click on <Writing> and then <Practise tests> and do Test 2 to practise describing a bar chart.	<input type="checkbox"/>



Day	Activity	Self-check
6	After each practise test, complete the following checklist: ✓ Did I write the description in 20 minutes? ✓ Did I write at least 150 words? ✓ Did I write an introduction with a clear overview? ✓ Did I use the simple past in Tests 1 and 2?	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Now, use the English spellchecker to highlight any spelling mistakes. Make a note of the correct spelling of the words you misspelt.	<input type="checkbox"/>
7	Now, try other practise tests and follow similar steps as Day 6. Go to the IELTS Prep App , click on <Writing> and then <Practise tests> and do Test 3 to practise describing a process diagram.	<input type="checkbox"/>

Week 4: Writing task 2

Day	Activity	Self-check
1	Make sure you know exactly what the Writing Task 2 is like. Go to Take IELTS and read this information carefully too. Then do the practise task. Type your answer to this question on your computer. Put the English spellchecker on and make a note of those words you have spelt wrongly.	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Download the sample answer and compare it with your own. Answer these questions about the sample answer: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How many paragraphs are there? • Does the writer put their position in the introductory paragraph? • What is the main topic of the first body paragraph? • What is the main topic of the second body paragraph? • What is the purpose of the final paragraph? • What phrase is used to introduce the final paragraph? 	<input type="checkbox"/>
2	<i>Writing Task 2 consists of writing an essay. You may be asked to give your opinion on a topic, to discuss an issue from both sides, or to describe the causes of a problem and the solutions. It is recommended that you spend 40 minutes on this task, and you should write a minimum of 250 words in order to do this task satisfactorily. Write a clear introduction that rephrases what the topic of the essay is and say what your position is. It is very important that you write a clear position in your introduction.</i>	
	Visit Writing Task 2 band descriptors and download the public descriptors for task 2. These give you a good idea of what the examiner is looking for at each Band level for <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Task Response (how well you answer the question) • Coherence and Cohesion (how well you organise your essay and how well you link your ideas) • Lexical Resource (your vocabulary) • Grammatical Range and Accuracy (how well you can use grammar to communicate clearly). 	<input type="checkbox"/>
	If you are not sure what each of the four assessment criteria means, watch the short videos at ChinaIELTS in the 'band descriptors' section.	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Read a news story online (e.g. the Mirror), and make use of the comments section where you can write your opinions about the story.	<input type="checkbox"/>
	What are some things you should do before, during and after you start writing in a test? Read tips for Writing exams .	<input type="checkbox"/>

Week 4: Writing task 2

Day	Activity	Self-check
3	<p>It is important for Coherence and Cohesion that you link your ideas and arguments well.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To practise using conjunctions, go to the IELTS Prep App, click on <Writing> and then <More prep>. Select <Grammar> then <Conjunctions>. To practise using words like 'despite' and 'although', go HERE <p>To improve your Grammar Range and Accuracy you should try and use a range of sentence structures.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To practise using relative clauses, go to the IELTS Prep App, click on <Writing> and then <More prep>. Select <Grammar> then <relative clauses>. For further practise of defining relative clauses and non-defining relative clauses To practise using conditional sentences, go to Conditionals 1 and Conditionals 2 	<input type="checkbox"/>
4	<p>Practise a Task 2 essay HERE</p> <p>Remember to write an introduction that includes your position or opinion. Write at least 2 body paragraphs and a concluding paragraph. Try to use some of the grammar and vocabulary you have been practising. Write at least 250 words.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Download the answers and compare your essay with the model answer given. Put the English spellchecker on and make a note of those words you have spelt wrongly	<input type="checkbox"/>
5	<p>Word formation is assessed as part of the descriptors for Lexical Resource.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Practise changing the form and function of words, for example, from a noun to a verb. Go to Random Idea English Download the Academic Word List Sublist 1 which contains the most-used words. Use a dictionary to find the noun, verb, adjective and adverb forms (where they exist) of the words on this list. 	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<p>Referencing is assessed in Coherence and Cohesion. This means using pronouns rather than repeating nouns or noun phrases to link your ideas. For example, too many people use single-use plastics and then throw them away. This causes enormous problems.</p> <p>To practise using pronouns, go to the IELTS Prep App, click on <Writing> and then <More prep>. Select <Grammar> then <pronouns>.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	How the essay is organised is assessed in Coherence and Cohesion. Brainstorming and planning can help you improve the organisation of your essay. Look at these Task 2 questions. Spend 5 minutes on each title to think of ideas/arguments.	<input type="checkbox"/>

Week 4: Writing task 2

Day	Activity	Self-check
5	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Tourism hugely benefits the places that people visit. To what extent to you agree or disagree? 2. Motorised vehicles are the primary cause of air pollution in cities and should be banned. To what extent do you agree or disagree. <p>Many young people spend much of their time looking at screens on digital devices rather than socialising face to face. What are the problems of too much screen time and how can young people be persuaded to take part in other activities?</p>	
6	<p>Now do a practise test. Go to IELTS Academic Writing resource, page 6.</p>	
	<p>Complete the following checklist:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Did you write the essay in 40 minutes? • Did you write at least 250 words? • Did you write an introduction, (at least) 2 body paragraphs, and a conclusion? • Did you rephrase the essay title and clearly state your opinion/position in the introduction? • Did you introduce your conclusion with a concluding phrase (e.g. To conclude, In conclusion)? • Did you use <ul style="list-style-type: none"> conditional sentences? relative clauses? linking words and phrases? pronouns to refer to nouns or noun phrases? <p>Use the English spellchecker and make a note of the correct spelling of any words you misspelt.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<p>Compare your essay with the model answer of Band 4 (page 18), Band 6.5 (page 19) and Band 8.5 (page 21). Read the examiner's comments to help you improve next time</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7	<p>Take another practise test Go to IELTS Academic Writing resource, page 7</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<p>Complete the following checklist:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Did you write the essay in 40 minutes? • Did you write at least 250 words? • Did you write an introduction, (at least) 2 body paragraphs, and a conclusion? 	<input type="checkbox"/>



Day	Activity	Self-check
5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Did you rephrase the essay title and clearly state your opinion/position in the introduction? • Did you introduce your conclusion with a concluding phrase (e.g. To conclude, In conclusion)? • Did you use <ul style="list-style-type: none"> conditional sentences? relative clauses? linking words and phrases? pronouns to refer to nouns or noun phrases? <p>Use the English spellchecker and make a note of the correct spelling of any words you misspelt.</p>	
	<p>Compare your essay with the model answer of Band 5.5 (page 23) and Band 7.5 (page 25). Read the examiner's comments to help you improve next time.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Week 5: Speaking

Day	Activity	Self-check
1	Go to IELTS.org and learn everything you can about the speaking section (format, timing, task types).	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Go to IELTS.org and look at some of the speaking sample questions.	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Download the public descriptor . These give you a good idea of what the examiner is looking for at each Band level For more information about these marking criteria, go to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fluency and coherence • Lexical resource • Grammatical range & accuracy • Pronunciation 	<input type="checkbox"/>
	What communication strategies can you use in the test? Have a look at some in the 'Exams' section of Speaking exams .	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Download the IELTS Word Power app to help with your vocabulary when speaking.	<input type="checkbox"/>
2	<i>The Speaking Test consists of 3 parts. In Part 1 the examiner will ask you about ordinary, everyday things such as how you spend your free time, your holidays and travel, food and restaurants etc. Part 1 always begins with questions about either your work/studies or your home/hometown. Part 1 lasts from 4 to 5 minutes.</i>	
	It is important that you have the vocabulary to discuss everyday topics. List 5 key words or expressions for each of these 'typical' Part 1 topics. Check in a dictionary how to pronounce them correctly. Mark the word stress. Example your home flat/quiet neighbourhood/ small balcony/ sunny living room/ friendly neighbours	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<div> 1. Your home 2. Your hometown 3. Your studies or your job 4. Shopping 5. The things you do with friends </div> <div> 6. The food you like 7. The music you like 8. What you do on your holidays 9. The sports or exercise you do 10. How you communicate with people </div> <p>You should try and answer these Part 1 questions with 2 or 3 sentences. Think about giving a reason for why you like or dislike something, give an example. Now go to Take IELTS and practise answering these questions again. Record your answers on your phone. Listen to your recording.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Week 5: Speaking

Day	Activity	Self-check
2	Ask yourself: ✓ did I have to think about some words that I needed? ✓ did I give reasons for things? ✓ did I give examples?	
3	Watch a candidate do Part 1 of the test. What did he do well or less well? What topics was he asked about? Look at the examiner's comments.	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Now practise a Part 1. Read the questions and record your answers. Let's talk about what you do. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are you a student or do you work? • What do you like about your work/studies? • Is there anything you don't like? Why? • What do you plan to do in the future? • Now let's talk about shopping. • Do you prefer to shop online or go to real shops? Why? • Do you like shopping alone or with friends? • What sort of things do you most enjoy buying? • Do you find it difficult to buy presents for friends and family? 	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Let's turn to sport. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do you do any sport? Why? • What do you enjoy most about this activity? • What are the good things about doing a sport with other people? • Are there any sporting activities you would like to try in the future? 	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Look at the timer on your phone. Did answering the questions take between 4 and 5 minutes? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If yes, well done. • If no, how could you have said more? Did you give reasons and examples where appropriate? Answer the questions again, giving more information. 	<input type="checkbox"/>
4	<i>In Part 2 you are given a card with a topic on it. You will have to talk about that topic for 2 minutes. You will have one minute to prepare your talk. Use this time to make brief notes – one or two words – to help you while you are speaking.</i>	
	Look at this topic card. Time yourself and make notes for one minute, then talk for 2 minutes.	

Week 5: Speaking

Day	Activity	Self-check
4	Describe a person who you like or admire. You should say <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • who the person is • what they have done in their life • why you like or admire them And say how they have affected you. 	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Go to Take IELTS and practise a Part 2 topic. Follow the instructions and when you have finished speaking, listen to the audio recording. Did you <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ speak for 2 minutes? ✓ hesitate trying to think of words you needed? ✓ correct grammar mistakes as you were talking? ✓ repeat yourself? ✓ connect your talk and ideas with linking words? 	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Notes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If you can't think of the exact word(s) you need, try to paraphrase, that is, think of another way of saying the same thing. • Don't over-correct if you hear yourself making grammar mistakes because this will interfere with the fluency of your talk. 	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Watch a candidate do Part 2 of the test. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What did she do well or less well? • What topic was she asked to talk about? • Look at the examiner's comments 	<input type="checkbox"/>
5	<i>In part 3 you will discuss issues connected with the topic you spoke about in Part 2 of the test. In this part of the test, you need to generalise more rather than talk about personal experiences, express opinions and support them, speculate about the future and make comparisons. This part lasts between 4 and 5 minutes.</i>	
	In Part 2 you spoke about something that was important to you, something you valued. Go to Take IELTS and practise answering the Part 3 questions that follow on from this topic. As before, record your answers. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Did you answer the questions about people in general rather than about yourself? 	

Week 5: Speaking

Day	Activity	Self-check
5	<p>In Part 2 you spoke about something that was important to you, something you valued. Go to Take IELTS and practise answering the Part 3 questions that follow on from this topic. As before, record your answers.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Did you answer the questions about people in general rather than about yourself? ✓ Did you use different tenses to talk about status in your parents' time (past simple/used to/would), how that has changed (present perfect) and how things are now (present simple)? ✓ Did you use comparatives to compare things in the past with now? ✓ Then listen to the recording of a test taker. How do you answers compare with him/her? <p>To get a better Band Score for Grammatical Range and Accuracy, try to vary the tenses and verb forms you use. There are different ways to talk about the past. As well as using past tenses, you can use 'would' and 'used to do'. Practise with some exercises HERE.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6	<p>Watch a candidate do Part 3 of the test.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Watch and listen to a Band 6 test taker • What did he do well or less well? • What general topics was he asked questions about? 	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<p>Look at the examiner's comments.</p> <p>Watch and listen to a Band 7 test taker</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What did she do well or less well? • What general topics was she asked questions about? <p>Look at the examiner's comments.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<p>Watch and listen to a Band 8 test taker</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What did he do well or less well? • What general topics was he asked questions about? <p>Look at the examiner's comments.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7	<p>Take a full IELTS Speaking practise test HERE and record yourself</p> <p>For Part 1, ask yourself:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ did I have to think about some words that I needed? ✓ did I give reasons for things? ✓ did I give examples? 	



Day	Activity	Self-check
7	<p>For Part 2, did you</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ speak for 2 minutes? ✓ hesitate trying to think of words you needed? ✓ correct grammar mistakes as you were talking? ✓ repeat yourself? ✓ connect your talk and ideas with linking words? <p>In Part 3,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Did you answer the questions about people in general rather than about yourself? ✓ Did you use different tenses to talk about status in your parents' time (past simple/used to/would), how that has changed (present perfect) and how things are now (present simple)? ✓ Did you use comparatives to compare things in the past with now? ✓ Then listen to the recording of a test taker. How do you answers compare with him/her? 	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<p>Compare your answers with the samples and make a note of any new, interesting and useful vocabulary.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Listening Tips



- 1** Set a realistic goal for yourself and do not aim for shortcuts.
- 2** Create a listening routine and stick to it.
- 3** Focus on the overall message and do not get frustrated about detail.
- 4** Take notes while you're listening and go back to discover what expressions or clues in the audio helped you understand the message.
- 5** Don't worry too much about unfamiliar words.
- 6** Call a friend and discuss issues in English for a set time period.
- 7** Try to guess questions you haven't answered.
- 8** Before each section you are given time to read the questions.
- 9** Be sure to answer with the correct number of words.
- 10** Write clearly.
- 11** During the transferring time first make sure you have transferred all the questions you have answered legibly (easy to read) and in the correct space.

Reading Tips



- 1** Choose a variety of texts and combine reading for studying with reading for pleasure.
- 2** Spend 20–30 minutes every day reading different texts: newspaper articles, blogs, books, textbook activities.
- 3** Improve your vocabulary by looking up common words in the dictionary.
- 4** Try different techniques while reading: skim and scan the text quickly, answer questions in detail, summarise the main idea(s).
- 5** Choose topics of interest but also try to read texts on various topics as IELTS chooses subjects from many fields.
- 6** Discuss some interesting texts with your friends and exchange ideas in English.
- 7** Read for speed. Set a timer and try to read a text within the time limit.
- 8** Read aloud with your friends or even by yourself.
- 9** Familiarise yourself with the style of the exam and how long each part takes.

Refer to [Preparation videos](#) for more useful advices.

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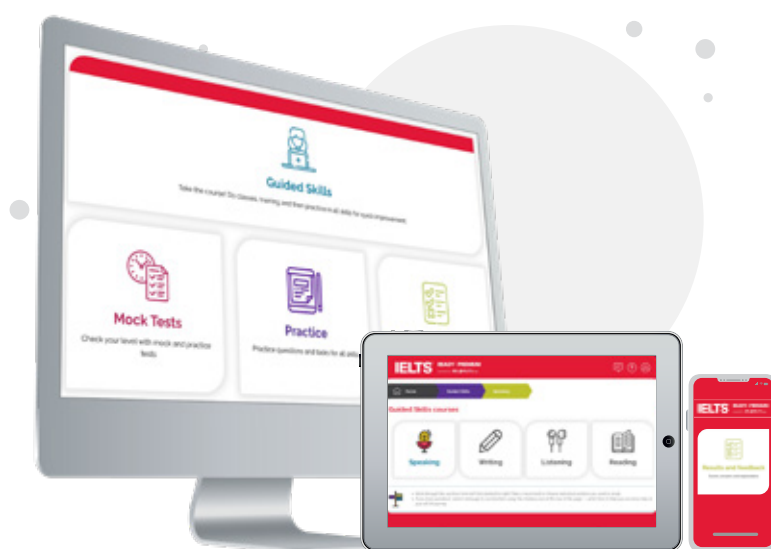
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- Listening and Speaking practise tests
- Exercises to explain common grammar rules
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- Useful tips for the day of the IELTS test
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