

Overview

Road to IELTS is organised around the four test papers: Reading, Listening, Speaking and Writing. Each paper has four sections, and there is a Resource Bank with preparation materials for the IELTS test as a whole.

1. Starting Out

A video and ebook introduce each skill area, explaining task types and providing hints not only on how to prepare, but also on what the examiner is looking for, and how to achieve the best marks on test day.

2. Advice and Tutorials

In a series of videos, British Council experts give advice, both specific (e.g. skimming the first sentence in each paragraph in the Reading test) and general (e.g. dealing with nerves in the Speaking test).

3. Practice Zone

With more than 300 focused activities, candidates practise tackling the whole range of task types and familiarise themselves with the format of the test. Activities are interactive and many have feedback.

4. Test Practice

Candidates simulate the test experience with nine full mock tests in each of the Reading, Writing, and Listening papers (with answer keys), and nine simulations of Part 2 of the Speaking test.

Resource Bank

Study Planner

This worksheet encourages candidates to reflect on their strengths and weaknesses and draw up intelligent plans for test preparation.

Candidate videos

In this series of British Council videos, successful candidates give advice on preparation strategies that worked for them.

Study Guides

The five downloadable Study Guides cover the most common FAQs for each paper and for test preparation and test day itself.



Reading

Starting Out

Format: PDF & video

Information about the IELTS Reading test, including explanations of question types

Advice and Tutorials

Format: Video

- *Title: IELTS Reading Advice*

Advice on how to improve performance in the IELTS Reading test

Test Practice

Format: Printable question papers

9 downloadable mock test papers of the IELTS Reading test, covering all question types; includes model answers

Format: Interactive activities with reading texts, organised into 12 individual sets

Set 1

- Short answer questions
- Table completion

Topic: Leisure and entertainment

Set 2

- Matching information to paragraphs
- Sentence completion

Topic: Language and communication

Set 3

- Matching headings to paragraphs
- Multiple choice

Topic: Travel, tourism and transport

Set 4

- Diagram completion
- True, False, Not given

Topic: Environment

Set 5

- Classification
- Yes, No, Not given

Topic: Art and culture

Set 6

- Multiple selection
- Summary completion

Topic: Mass media

Set 7

- Table completion
- Short answer questions
- Matching

Topic: Health and fitness

Set 8

- Multiple selection
- Classification
- Diagram completion

Topic: Work and business

Set 9

- Matching headings to sections
- True, False, Not given
- Yes, No, Not given
- Summary completion

Topic: Society and social issues

Set 10

- Short answer questions
- Sentence completion
- Multiple choice
- Matching information to paragraphs
- Matching
- Yes, No, Not given

Topic: Education

Set 11

- Matching
- Multiple selection
- Summary completion
- Diagram completion
- True, False, Not given

Topic: Developing world

Set 12

- Matching headings to paragraphs
- True, False, Not given
- Sentence completion
- Table completion
- Classification
- Summary completion

Topic: Science and technology

Listening

Overview



Format: PDF & video

Information about the IELTS Listening test, including explanations of question types

Listening Tutorials



Format: Video

- *Title: IELTS Listening Advice*

Advice on how to improve performance in the IELTS Listening test

Practice



Format: Printable question papers, audio recordings

9 downloadable mock test papers of the IELTS Listening test, with accompanying audio files and model answers

Format: Interactive activities, organised into 12 individual sets



Set 1

- Short answer questions
- Table completion

Set 2

- Sentence completion
- Matching

Topic: Language and communication

Set 3

- Multiple choice

Topic: Travel, tourism and transport

Set 4

- Form completion
- Labelling a diagram

Topic: Environment

Set 5

- Form completion
- Classification

Topic: Art and culture

Set 6

- Multiple selection
- Summary completion

Topic: Mass media

Set 7

- Table completion
- Short answer questions
- Labelling a diagram

Topic: Health and science

Set 8

- Form completion
- Multiple selection
- Multiple choice
- Sentence completion

Topic: Work and business

Set 9

- Form completion
- Multiple choice
- Classification
- Summary completion

Topic: Society and social issues

Set 10

- Table completion
- Form completion
- Short answer questions
- Sentence completion
- Classification
- Diagram completion

Topic: Education

Set 11

- Multiple choice
- Sentence completion
- Matching
- Labelling a diagram

Topic: Developing world

Set 12

- Form completion
- Multiple selection
- Short answer questions
- Sentence completion
- Classification

Topic: Science and technology

Speaking

Format: PDF & video

Information about the IELTS Speaking test, including explanations and tips on delivering the best possible performance

Test Practice

Format: Task cards, audio recordings

9 practice tests for IELTS Speaking Part 2

Practice Zone

Format: Interactive activities, organised into 12 individual sets

Set 1

Video clips and practice exercises for answering general questions about yourself in Phase 1 of the speaking test

Set 2

How to deal with questions about yourself in Phase 2; what to do when you do not have a ready answer; making notes on speaking topics

Set 3

Introduction and tips on Phase 3; video analysis of candidates' performance in Phase 3

Set 4

Review of tenses to use when answering questions about yourself; video analysis of a candidate's performance in Phase 1

Advice and Tutorials

Format: Video

- **Title: IELTS Speaking Advice**
Advice on how to improve performance in the IELTS Speaking test
- **Title: What the examiner is looking for**
IELTS experts provide insight into how examiners assess candidate performance in the speaking test
- **Title: Advice: What do I talk about?**
Advice and tips on how to deal effectively with subjects about which you have insufficient knowledge
- **Title: Advice: Coping with nerves**
IELTS experts provide insight into how examiners assess candidate performance in the speaking test
- **Title: Tutorial: Interview phase 2**
IELTS experts provide insight into how examiners assess candidate performance in phase 2
- **Title: Tutorial: Interview phase 3**
IELTS experts provide insight into how examiners assess candidate performance in phase 3

Set 5

Advice and strategies on speaking fluently and confidently; video analysis of what to say when you are asked about a topic you do not know much about

Set 6

How to deal with Phase 2 speaking topics; responding effectively to follow-up questions; analysis of ways of stating reasons

Set 7

Preparing effectively for the speaking test; review of how examiners assess candidates; video analysis of how to talk extensively on a topic

Set 8

Strategies on giving reasons during the individual long turn in Phase 2; video analyses on candidates talking about social problems in their countries; comparative forms

Set 9

Techniques for making comparisons; phrases for speculating; video analyses of two candidates making speculations

Set 10

Effective strategies for speaking fluently in each phase of the speaking test; possible problems and how to avoid them

Set 11

Techniques for expanding on a topic; video analyses of candidates talking extensively on topics

Set 12

Dos and don'ts in the speaking test; video analyses on two candidates talking about a technological innovation

Writing

Format: PDF & video

Information about the IELTS Writing test, including explanations of writing task types and strategies for the best possible performance

Format: Printable question paper, audio recordings

9 downloadable mock test papers of the IELTS Writing test; some include model answers

Format: Video

- **Title: Advice: Writing task 1**
Advice on how to improve performance in the IELTS Writing test
- **Title: Advice: What the examiner is looking for**
IELTS experts provide insight into how examiners assess candidate performance in the writing test
- **Title: Advice: Writing task 2**
Advice and strategies on tackling Task 2 of the Writing test
- **Title: Tutorial: Writing task 1**
An IELTS expert analyses how well a candidate has responded in Task 1 of the General Training Writing test, with marks given; PDF download available
- **Title: Tutorial: Writing task 2**
An IELTS expert analyses how well a candidate has responded in Task 2 of the Writing test, with marks and criteria given; PDF download available

Format: Interactive activities, organised into 12 individual sets

Set 1 task 1

Practice exercises for letters of introduction

Set 1 task 2

Introduction to for and against essays

Set 2 task 1

Practice exercises for letters giving advice

Set 2 task 2

Practice exercises for compositions discussing arguments for and against

Set 3 task 1

Practice exercises for letters asking for information

Set 3 task 2

Practice exercises for compositions giving an opinion

Set 4 task 1

Practice exercises for letters of complaint

Set 4 task 2

Practice exercises for compositions discussing the causes of a problem and suggesting solutions

Set 5 task 1

Practice exercises for letters giving information

Set 5 task 2

Practice exercises for compositions discussing advantages and disadvantages

Set 6 task 1

Practice exercises for thank-you letters

Set 6 task 2

Practice exercises for compositions discussing arguments for and against

Set 7 task 1

Practice exercises for letters of apology

Set 7 task 2

Practice exercises for compositions giving an opinion

Set 8 task 1

Practice exercises for letters of application

Set 8 task 2

Practice exercises for compositions discussing the causes of a problem and suggesting solutions

Set 9 task 1

Revision exercises for Writing Task 1

Writing

Set 9 task 2

Revision exercises for Writing Task 2

Set 10

Practice exercises for a letter asking for information, and for a composition discussing arguments for and against

Set 11

Practice exercises for a letter of advice, and for a composition giving and justifying your opinion

Set 12

Practice exercises for a letter of praise, and for a composition discussing the causes of a problem and suggesting solutions

Resource Bank

Candidate videos

Format: Video

In this series of British Council videos, successful candidates give advice on preparation strategies that worked for them.

Study Planner

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