

IELTS Study Guide

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A comprehensive guide to help you prepare for all sections of the IELTS exam.

About This Guide

This guide is designed to help you understand the structure of the IELTS exam and provide practical strategies for each section. It covers both Academic and General Training versions.

IELTS Overview

- **Listening:** 30 minutes – 4 sections, 40 questions
- **Reading:** 60 minutes – 3 sections, 40 questions
- **Writing:** 60 minutes – 2 tasks
- **Speaking:** 11–14 minutes – 3 parts

Top Tips for Each Section

Listening

- Read the questions before the audio starts
- Listen for signpost words (however, therefore, in addition)
- Check your spelling – it counts!

Reading

- Skim for the main idea, then scan for details
- Learn to identify paraphrasing
- Don't spend too long on one question

Writing

- Task 1: Describe data or a process (Academic) / Write a letter (General)
- Task 2: Write a discursive essay
- Structure: Introduction → Body (2-3 paragraphs) → Conclusion

Speaking

- Part 1: Personal questions (family, work, hobbies)
- Part 2: 2-minute monologue on a given topic
- Part 3: Discussion with the examiner

 **Key Tip:** Practice with a timer! IELTS is as much about time management as it is about language ability.



Band Score Guide

- **Band 9:** Expert user – fully operational command
- **Band 7:** Good user – operational command with occasional inaccuracies
- **Band 6:** Competent user – generally effective command
- **Band 5:** Modest user – partial command, frequent mistakes



Suggested Study Plan

- **Weeks 1-2:** Understand the exam format and your target band
- **Weeks 3-4:** Focus on your weaker skills (listening, writing, etc.)
- **Weeks 5-6:** Full practice tests under timed conditions
- **Week 7:** Review mistakes and refine your strategies