

Hello again. I hope you enjoyed the first lesson. Please make sure you fully understand that lesson before you watch this video. Welcome to lesson number two in this course about the “3 Keys To IELTS Success”.

In this second lesson we will look at the first key to IELTS success. This may be something that you know a little bit about or you may be new to IELTS and know nothing about this key idea.

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The first key to IELTS success is knowledge. More specifically, IELTS knowledge. If you can understand this video then you already have quite a bit of English language knowledge. Knowing as much as possible in the IELTS exam is a very important part of being able to do well and get the band score you want.

IELTS knowledge can range from simple knowledge such as how long each exam takes and how many words you need to write to more complex information such as specific vocabulary or grammar that examiners look for when marking your writing or speaking exams.

The more knowledge you have about what you will see in the exam, the more effectively you can prepare. If you did not know that you are not given time to transfer your answers after the reading test, you may not include that in your preparation and would probably run out of time during the real test.

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This is just an introductory lesson about the importance of knowing as much as possible about the exam before you take it. How much do you already know about the exam? I will list a few key pieces of exam information, take notes as these ideas will be on the final quiz.

- The writing, reading and listening exams are always done at the same time and in that order, there is no break between exams.
  - The speaking exam is usually done on the same day as the other exams but can be done up to 7 days before or after the other exams.
  - Exam security requires that all students submit their fingerprints and photo identification on the day of the exam.
  - IELTS Speaking examiners follow a set script and can't be friendly or encouraging with candidates.
  - The speaking exam is the only exam where students are allowed to ask the examiner for clarification if they don't understand the question.
  - The exam is designed to test your use and understanding of English, your opinions are not assessed but how well you express your opinion is important.
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Obviously there is a lot more information about the exam that is very useful for IELTS candidates. A word of warning. A lot of information is available online but not all of it is accurate. Be careful which websites and blogs you use to gain IELTS knowledge.

I have years of experience helping students prepare for IELTS. I have also spoken to many candidates who have taken the exam as well as other IELTS teachers and examiners. The knowledge that I provide throughout this site is accurate and up to date at the time of writing.

I also provide a list of other websites that I consider to be useful as they provide accurate information and authentic practice tasks.

Now that you know the importance of having IELTS knowledge, it is time to move on to the second key to IELTS success. This is something that students often skip or ignore but it is vital if you are going to be successful on exam day.

It is quite common for IELTS candidates to learn about the IELTS exam and work on their English skills. Unfortunately most students then start to do practice tests. Practicing and preparing for the exam without using the second key is setting yourself up for failure.

To prepare effectively for the exam you must understand “The Vital Link” between knowledge and practice.

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