

THE IELTS STARTER GUIDE

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A practical guide for preparing for the IELTS exam. Includes a quiz, a checklist, tips and tricks to do well on the IELTS exam.

The IELTS Coach

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Letter From The Author

Thank you for being an active student and reading this IELTS Starter Guide. The information in this guide will help to understand more about the exam and what examiners expect to see from candidates.

This guide is not a complete how to guide for the IELTS but it is a good place to start. Some of the information here may be new to you and some things you may already know. If you do come across new information please take notes or highlight important sections so you can review it again later.

This guide is my free gift to you for being a member of the IELTS Coach community. Please don't give this guide away, instead share the link to the website so your friends, classmates or students can download a copy for themselves.

I hope you enjoy do the activities in this guide and please send me an email if you have any feedback about this guide or about the website.


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IELTS Knowledge Quiz

IELTS knowledge quizzes are designed to test your current knowledge about all sections of the IELTS exam. They are also used a way to introduce new information and as a method to review your IELTS knowledge.

Feel free to print and share this quiz with your friends or classmates, who is the most knowledgeable about the exam?

Quizzes are a great way to test yourself and your friends about how much you know and remember about the IELTS exam. 

Knowing a lot of information about the exam will not mean you will get a high score. However, knowing as much as possible about the exam requirements will help do the things that may improve your overall band score.

Some of these quiz questions are not just about the exam but they are about what you should do during the exam. Thinking about this information (and discussing it with classmates) will help you be more prepared in the real IELTS exam.

IELTS Quiz 1: Overview

1. What skills are tested in the IELTS exam?
2. How long does each part of the exam take?
3. What can candidates take into the test room?
4. Can IELTS candidates ask for help during the test?
5. How many reading texts are there?
6. How many parts are there in the speaking exam?
7. What is the minimum word requirement for writing task 1?
8. What documents must candidates take to the test centre?
9. When do candidates do the speaking exam?
10. Do candidates get a break between exams?
11. When should candidates arrive for the IELTS exam?
12. How much time is given to transfer reading test answers?
13. How much time should students spend writing a draft essay?

See answers on page 18.

IELTS Checklist

The following checklists are designed to be used as students complete practice IELTS tasks. The more you use checklists the more likely you are to do what is required when doing IELTS tasks. Checklists will help you avoid making silly errors when doing the real IELTS exam.

Checklists help students to stay on track and not forget the things they need to do during the exam ∞∞

The following checklist is one of many that I have created to help my students over the years. Use this checklist to remind yourself of what you need to be doing in order to be ready for the IELTS exam.

Are You Ready For The Exam?

Knowledge:

- ☐ I know what to expect on each part of the exam.
- ☐ I know what all of the time limits are.
- ☐ I know what the examiners are looking for.
- ☐ I know the range of question types that are in the test.

Strategy;

- ☐ I have developed useful skills for the test.
- ☐ I have a step by step plan for each IELTS skill.
- ☐ I know how to deal with difficult topics.
- ☐ I understand the structures I need to use to give strong answers in the IELTS exam.

Practice:

- ☐ I find time for IELTS practice every day.
- ☐ I spend a lot of time reviewing what I have learnt.
- ☐ I do practice tasks under test conditions.
- ☐ I can focus on IELTS tasks for without distractions for 3 hours at a time.

IELTS Tips & Tricks

These IELTS tips and tricks are designed as reminders for students. All of the information here is useful for performing well on the IELTS exam. It is important to note that there is no such thing as a single secret tip that guarantee a good score on the exam.

To score well on the exam candidates must show a wide range of skills and remember to do a lot of things that the examiner is looking for.



There is no single tip or trick that will help you get a good IELTS score. You need to apply all of the tips and info you learn during the IELTS exam.

It is always a good idea to review what you learn as you prepare for the exam. Make sure you look back at these tips regularly so you can apply them when you take the exam.

Tips & Tricks: Reading



- 1 *Don't read all of the article in detail, skim for 2 to 3 minutes only.*
- 2 *Spend less than 1 minute per question, then at the end go back and check difficult questions.*
- 3 *If you have unanswered questions with 2 minutes to go, make an educated guess.*
- 4 *Underline keywords in the question, not in the text.*

Tips & Tricks: Listening

- 1 *Practice following along with a text, keep up with the speaker.*
- 2 *Be aware of the time limits but don't panic, follow the instructions and stick to word limits.*
- 3 *Use all the time you are given & always spend the last few minutes checking for mistakes.*
- 4 *The work you do before and after you listen is just as important as listening well.*



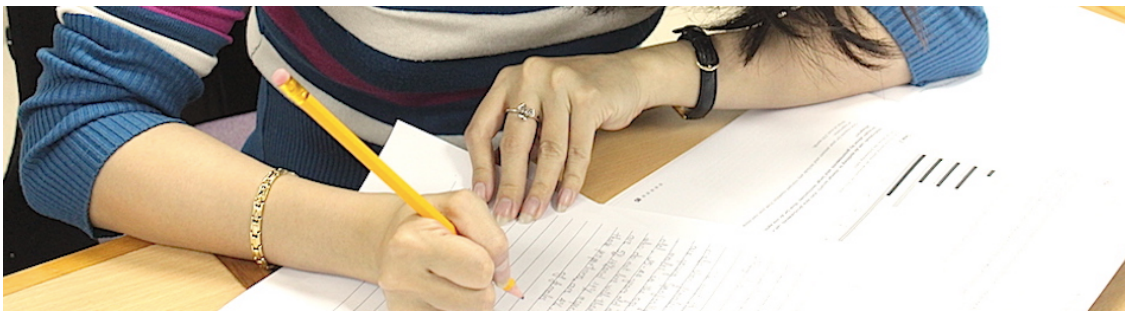
Tips & Tricks: Speaking



- 1 Smile and make eye contact with the examiner.
- 2 Don't just give an easy answer, try to show your best use of English.
- 3 Practice recording and listening to yourself answering speaking test questions.
- 4 It is OK to ask for clarity if you don't understand a question.

Tips & Tricks: Writing (T1)

- 1 Develop a step by step plan of what to do when the test begins.
- 2 Spend 2 to 3 minutes analysing, 14 to 15 minutes writing and 2 to 3 minutes checking.
- 3 You must write at least 150 words and try to write less than 200 words.
- 4 Use all the time you are given & always spend the last few minutes checking for mistakes.



Tips & Tricks: Writing (T2)

- 1 Develop a step by step plan of what to do when the test begins.
- 2 Spend 3 to 5 minutes analysing, 30 to 35 minutes writing and 5 minutes checking.
- 3 Write in paragraphs: an introduction, 2- 4 paragraphs for the body and a conclusion.
- 4 Use all the time you are given & always spend the last few minutes checking for mistakes.



IELTS Study Skills

Just knowing about the IELTS exam and doing lots of practice tasks will not help you get a good IELTS score. All successful IELTS candidates need to develop good study skills.

Study skills allow you to use your study time effectively to do practice activities that really do help improve your score. Check out these three study skills and start using them today!



Being a good student doesn't just mean studying a lot. Good student need to develop effective study skills in order to achieve their academic goals.

Study Skill #1 - Review

ESSENTIAL!

Reviewing what you learn so that you don't forget things is important. It may be boring to spend a lot of time reviewing, but this time will really help you remember and use what you learn. Make sure you spend some time (about 50% of your study time) on reviewing the things you study.

Study Skill #2 - Correction

IMPORTANT!

Learning to correct your mistakes and then learn from those mistakes is a very effective way to improve your IELTS score. After each practice activity, look at what you got wrong and figure out why you were wrong. It is not very easy or fun but it is necessary if you want to make less mistakes and improve quickly.

Study Skill #3 - Planning

Finding time to study and spending time on the right study tasks is essential for IELTS success. Good students don't make excuses about not having enough to study or do practice tasks. Excellent students plan their studies ahead of time so that they are focussed 100% on their studies during their planned study time.

A Study Routine

A good IELTS study plan can help you stay focussed and concentrate on tasks that actually help you improve your score. Follow a study routine so that you don't get distracted and stay on track to achieve the band score that you need.

Find 60 Minutes Every Day: Make no excuses, you should always be able to find 1 hour a day to prepare for the exam. It could be 6 blocks of ten minutes or 2 blocks of 30 minutes, it doesn't matter but you must study for at least 60 minutes per day.

Spend Half Your Time Reviewing: Don't try and learn everything you possibly can, you will forget most of it. Instead, focus on learning a few important skills, phrases or structures and then review those so you don't forget them on exam day.

Do A Little Of Everything: I sometimes see students focussing on one skill or question type because they think they are good at the other skills. This usually results in students performing badly at the skills they didn't practice doing. Don't ignore your strong skills, practice all skills during your IELTS preparation.

Your Study Routine

PRINT THIS!

Monday:

Tuesday:

Wednesday:

Thursday:

Friday:

Saturday:

IELTS Quiz 1: Answers

1. What skills are tested in the IELTS exam?

There are tests for reading, listening, writing and speaking.

2. How long does each part of the exam take?

Writing 60 minutes. Reading 60 minutes. Listening 45 minutes. Speaking 11 - 14 minutes.

3. What can candidates take into the test room?

Pens, pencils, erasers and sharpeners only.

4. Can IELTS candidates ask for help during the test?

Only in the speaking test.

5. How many reading texts are there?

There are texts of between 600 and 900 words each.

6. How many parts are there in the speaking exam?

Three parts.

7. What is the minimum word requirement for writing task 1?

150 words.

8. What documents must candidates take to the test centre?

Identification card and registration form.

9. When do candidates do the speaking exam?

Up to 7 days before or after the other tests or on the same day.

10. Do candidates get a break between exams?

No.

11. When should candidates arrive for the IELTS exam?

At least 30 minutes before the scheduled start time.

12. How much time is given to transfer reading test answers?

No extra time is given to transfer reading test answers.

13. How much time should students spend writing a draft essay?

Students should not write a draft, there is not enough time.

Useful Websites

Here are a few websites with plenty of IELTS practice materials for all sections and skills of the IELTS exam.

IELTS-exam.net

DCIELTS.com

IELTS-Simon.com

IELTSIELTS.com

GoodLuckIELTS.com

The IELTS Coach Website

Don't forget ...

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Check out The IELTS Coach on YouTube for video lessons, product reviews and links to other useful videos.

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Limited Time

Special Offer

As a reward for reading all the way through this IELTS Starter Guide I would like to make a special offer to you.



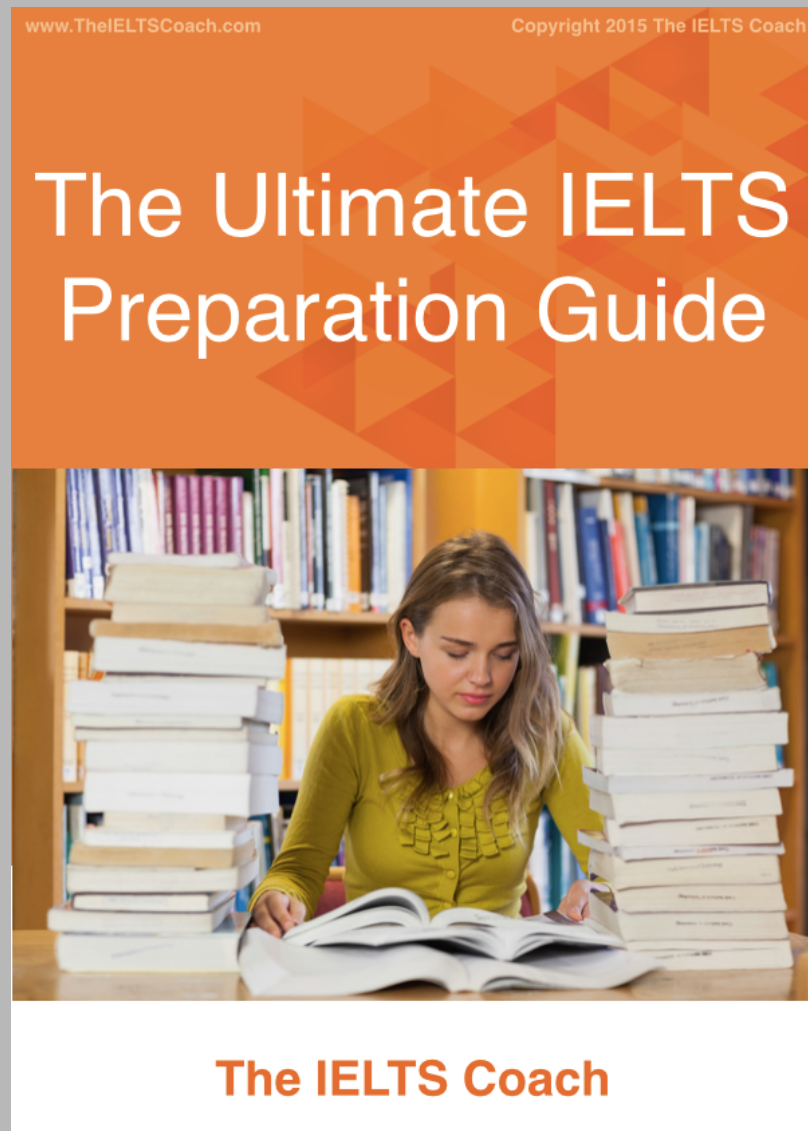
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