

- **Free Materials - IELTS Essentials**

http://www.ieltsessentials.com/prepare/how_to_prepare.aspx

Improve your English

Use your English every day. Read, speak, listen and write in English as often as you can. This is a proven way to improve your English and therefore your IELTS score.

- > Speak English with your friends and family
- > Listen to English language radio, television and film. Try to listen to a variety of English accents including American, Australian, British, Canadian and New Zealand.
- > Read English publications wherever possible.
- > Write letters, emails or notes in English to practise your written skills.

Understand the test format and rules

[Familiarise yourself with the test format](#) – Remember that there are two versions of IELTS – IELTS Academic and IELTS General Training. The Listening and the Speaking components are the same for both tests but the Reading and the Writing components are different.

- > Read the [Information for candidates booklet](#) which provides essential information about how to respond correctly to each part of the test. You can also collect a copy of this from your test centre.
- > Read the [Notice to candidates](#).
- > Get to know what each level on the [IELTS band score table](#) means.
- > Understand what the examiners are looking for in the Speaking and Writing tests by reading the [assessment criteria](#).
- > Get the facts. Don't believe [myths and rumours](#) about the test. They will only distract you.

Practice sample questions

Download and practise taking sample IELTS exam questions. As IELTS is timed, it is critical that you practice as many sample exam questions as possible and work to build up your speed.

- > Practise the test using these free IELTS [test sample](#) questions.
- > Use the **Official IELTS Practice Materials** (two books available) which you can purchase [online](#) or from your local test centre
- > There is a wide range of IELTS materials available you can purchase from a variety of publishers. For a list of popular titles, [click here](#).

In addition to practising sample questions you may also wish to consider taking an **IELTS preparation course**. A preparation course will help you:

- > practise the type of tasks included in an IELTS test (e.g. a short essay/letter for the Writing test)
- > get feedback on your answers to practice questions
- > become more confident in your test-taking skills
- > help you decide if you are ready to take your IELTS test

Ask your local IELTS [test centre](#) for more information about preparation courses near you.

Try to feel relaxed on the day before your test

On the day before your test, take the time to refresh your memory of the test rules, test format and location so that you feel as relaxed as possible.

- > Read the [Information for candidates booklet](#) again - this contains essential information to help you do your best.
- > Make sure you know the test rules – read the [Notice to Candidates](#)
- > Get plenty of rest the night before your test.
Plan your journey – ensure you are familiar with the location of the test venue and know how you are going to get there so that you arrive on time.

Free Practice Tests (Listening, Reading, Writing and Speaking)

- http://www.ieltsessentials.com/prepare/free_ielts_practice_tests.aspx#Practice
- http://www.ielts.org/test_takers_information/test_sample.aspx

Test Taking Tips

Listening

1. At the beginning of each section read the questions for that section carefully, before the recording starts. This will help you to follow the recording and identify the answers.
2. Listen carefully for clues as to which stage of the recording you are listening to, e.g. words such as 'firstly', 'my next point', 'to sum up'. These words will help you identify which question you have reached.

Reading

1. To improve your performance in the Reading test you need to practise reading a variety of English texts. This will help you develop the ability to read quickly as is required under test conditions.
2. The texts included in the Reading test *always* contain the information you need to answer the question. You won't have to use your own knowledge of a topic.

Writing

1. Be careful to use your own words because the examiner will not include words copied from the question in the word count.
2. Make your position or point of view as clear as possible in your essay for Academic Writing Task 2. Your last paragraph should be a conclusion which is consistent with the arguments you have included in your essay.

Speaking

1. In the lead up to the Speaking test, make sure you take the time to practise speaking English – with friends, at work and on the phone. You should also consider recording yourself, so that you are confident speaking English during your test.
2. There are no right or wrong answers in the Speaking test. The examiner will assess you on how well you can express your ideas and opinions in good English.

• Renison University College IELTS Preparation Courses

• Blended course:

<https://uwaterloo.ca/english-language-institute/university-pathway-programs/english-academic-success-efas/ielts-preparation-course>

- 50 hours of face-to-face classroom instruction and 50 hours of online preparation materials for a total of 100 hours
- Practice in all four language skill areas (Reading, Writing, Listening and Speaking) with detailed instructor feedback
- Preparation for the Academic IELTS exam

• Online course packages:

<http://ieltsstore.com/pages/vitalenglish-renison-university-college>

- Online IELTS Preparation course packages available for both Academic and General Training IELTS exams, covering Listening, Reading, Writing and Speaking
- The only official online IELTS preparation course approved by Cambridge English
- Flexible option for self-study, practicing at your own pace
- 14, 30, and 90-day options available

• Free IELTS Preparation Workshops - with Mohawk College

- Mohawk College offers free IELTS Preparation Workshops with two focuses:
 - Focus on Listening/ Reading
 - Focus on Speaking/Writing
- Candidates register for their free ticket online at the Mohawk college website:
<http://www.mohawkcollege.ca/international/ielts-hamilton-english-language-testing-system-centre/preparation.html>
-Look for "Free IELTS Presentation Workshops"
- Dates will be updated regularly on the website as new workshops are available