# Reading Skills

Jeremy Taylor
Jon Wright



DELTA Publishing Quince Cottage Hoe Lane Peaslake Surrey GU5 9SW England

www.deltapublishing.co.uk

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First published 2012 Reprinted 2013

Edited by Catriona Watson-Brown
Designed by Caroline Johnston
Illustration on page 119 by Kathy Baxendale
Images by iStock (pages 7 (all), 19 (top left, centre, top right, bottom right), 31 (top, bottom left), 45, 81 (all), 93 (all), 117 (a, b, c));
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Cover design by Peter Bushell
Printed in China by RR Donnelley

ISBN Book 978-1-905085-63-7

#### Author acknowledgements

We would like to thank our friends and family for their support while we were writing this book, in particular to Jon Marks for his h 'o with the project. From Jon there's also a special thanks to Dawn for h r love and patience.

سرشناسه : تا ر، جرمي، ۱۹۶۲ - م. Taylc IELTS advantage reading skills/author Jeremy Taylor: Jon Yng. عنوان و نام بصداور مشخصات نشر مشخصات ظاهري وضعيت فهرست نوي بادداشت Kil : افست از روی چاپ: ۱ م Surrey, England : Delta Publishing, repr. 201 بادداشت : أيلتس ادونتج... آوانویسی عنوان : زبان انگلیسی -- کتابهای درسی برای خارجیان موضوع English language -- Textbooks for foreign speakers : موضوع : آزمون بين المللي زيان انگليسي موضوع International English Language Testing System: موضوع شناسه افزوده : رایت، جان Wright, Jon : شناسه افزوده PE117/09/9 1795 : رده بندی کنگره 471/ .. VF : ردة بندې ديويې **FATTFTA**: نماره کتابشنان

> IELTS Advantage Reading Skills : Jeremy Taylor; Jon Wright : انتشارات حنگل :

ناشر : انتشارات جناً نوبت، سال چاپ : اول، ۱۳۹۷ قطع تیان : محل ۵۰۰

عنوان كتاب

قطع، تیراژ : رحلی، ۵۰۰ قیمت : ۴۵،۰۰۰ تومان



Text acknowledgements

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# Introduction

### Who is this book for?

This book is for students who are planning to take the IELTS Academic Reading Test and who are aiming for a score of 6.5–7.0 or higher. Students who are taking the General IELTS Test can also benefit from the book, though it is aimed in particular at those taking the Academic Test. While the reading texts in this book, and those in the test, are broadly of an academic nature, they are not highly specialized. As with the test itself, you will not be expected to have specialist knowledge of the subjects discussed. This book contains many hours of work for the motivated student and offers intensive practice for everyone who wants to brush up their skills before taking the test.

## How is it organized?

The book is divided into ten units based on topics commonly found in the IELTS Reading Paper. Each unit is divided into different sections so that you can:

- get to know the many question types that may appear in the IELTS Reading Paper
- develop reading skills which will help you cope with the large amount of reading required in the test
- learn strategies which will help you make effective use of your to be when taking the exam
- broaden your vocabulary, with particular attention pend to paraphrases, synonyms and collocations, which are all essential for students with a want to get a good result in the IELTS test.

At the back of the book, you will find use the part of the lepson become more confident with some of the essential and you need to be successful at IELTS, such as suggested websites that will give you hour of useful reading practice, tips for effective vocabulary learning, problems to avoid men filling in the answer sheet and how to get the most from your dictionary

# How can it he an e get a better IELTS score?

Many students to he to well on the IELTS Reading Paper, not because their English is poor, but be the such they lack the strategies that will help them get a good result. This book will teach vot and ge of strategies for reading more effectively and for understanding the text mode easily and give you a lot of guidance about the best way of how to approach the various of estion forms. Some of the texts are slightly longer and harder than those you will in the test – stretching you a little so that there should be no nasty surprises when you come to the test itself.

In addition to reading and completing the exercises in the book, we recommend that you:

- add useful new vocabulary to a separate notebook. While you will not be expected to
  have any specialized vocabulary for the test, the broader your vocabulary in English,
  the easier the Reading Paper will be for you
- underline phrases and collocations throughout this book, as these are the building blocks of a text. Then decide if they are worth writing in your notebook and learning
- time yourself while you read some of the texts and compare your times with your colleagues. Being able to read quickly is a very useful asset in the IELTS Reading Paper
- make contact with other IELTS students online and support each other in your studies, especially if you do not have the benefit of studying with other students in a classroom
- read, read, read. The more you read, the easier and more enjoyable it becomes. In this
  book, we give recommendations for the kinds of material you may find useful. With the
  Internet, there are many opportunities for the well-motivated student to get extra
  reading practice.

# Can I use the book for self-study?

Yes, you can. The book works well for classroom use and also for self-study. In class, you have the benefit of discussing the questions with your classmates, while at home you have some peace and quiet to concentrate (we hope!); you also have the answer key and many comments to guide you through the answers. Discussion tasks are obviously easier when you are in a group. However, if you are studying on your own, we suggest you try this approach:

- 1 Make a list of your own ideas on the topic.
- 2 Put yourself in the position of someone who disagrees with you and make a list of the ideas they could have which are different from yours. To help you, imagine what these people would say:
  - a someone 30 years older than you
  - b someone who lives on the opposite side of the world to you
  - c someone whose religious and political beliefs are different from yours
  - d someone who has much more/less money than you do.
- 3 Imagine a dialogue between people with these different views: how would each person put forward and defend their arguments? How would they argue against opposing points?

# Useful information about the IELTS Pearling Paper

- You will take the Reading Paper after the Listening Paper and before the Writing Paper.
- Do not bring a mobile phone or any oth. com nur ication device into the examination room. Just bring some pencil, an eraser and your ID.
- You will be given a reading text bookle, and an answer sheet.
- The Reading Paper consists of area reading texts of approximately 900 words each, with the first text a little prior than the others.
- Each text is accompanied by 1 or 14 questions, with usually three or four different question types for each text. There are 40 questions in total, with 1 mark for each que to 2
- The test lasts for one of our; you do not have extra time to transfer your answers to the answers bet. Aim to spend 20 minutes on each text, including writing your answer