

Golden Tips
for

IELTS

Success

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«حق چاپ برای ناشر محفوظ است»

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What this guide is about

This guide is here to teach you the IELTS test, not the English language. Why? Because even if English is your main language – forget about getting a good score in IELTS, unless you are prepared for it. Two main problems will get in your way: *time, tricks and logical traps*.

When it comes to IELTS, **time is your worst enemy**. You need to do things fast. Of course you would get all the answers right if you had the time. But the reality is that there are a lot of questions to be answered, a lot of writing to be done, and a very little time to do it.

This guide teaches you **HOW TO**:

- Listen, hear the right answers and write them down **FAST**
- Scan through the text and deal with all kinds of questions **FAST**
- Get your essay written **FAST**
- Build a speech in your head on any topic **FAST**
- Know and avoid the traps when you see them

This guide might not give you the perfect English, but it sure will help you to get in shape and **ACE** the IELTS!

Attitude tips

In my opinion (which was validated by IELTS scores of the people I trained) you don't need more than 4 weeks of daily training. Set aside 3 hours that you devote to practice for IELTS – and it will get you the desired result.

I believe that if you can read and understand this guide, your English is good enough. Just stick to the guidelines of this book and they will help you get the best IELTS score you can with your current level of English. You can even give yourself a *day off* once a week, and still be able to **ACE** the IELTS!

How to use this guide

The way this manual is built makes it possible for you to read main chapters (Listening, Reading, Writing or Speaking tips) in **any** order you like, there is no dependency between them. You don't have to follow the order in which the book is written.

If you don't have much time, I suggest reading this guide and doing only the exercises that are included in it, no extra work. This is not the ideal way, though.

In case you do have the time, I highly recommend that you read and pay attention to all the tips in this manual and then try to use them in practice on real IELTS tests.

In the end of the book there are Pocket tips – short summary of most important hints for all the chapters - Listening, Reading, Writing or Speaking. Read them every time before you start practicing – they will refresh your memory and focus you on what's really important.

Enjoy!

The IELTS Routine

The IELTS test consists of four parts in the following order:

Listening, Reading, Writing and Speaking.

Listening takes about 30 minutes - 20 minutes to listen to a tape and to answer questions on what you hear, and 10 minutes to transfer your answers to Answer Sheet.

Reading takes 1 hour and your task is to read passages of text and answer questions according to what you have read. There are also other types of assignments which I will cover later on.

Writing takes also 1 hour and is divided into 2 sub-parts: 20 minutes to write a letter and 40 minutes to write an essay.

Speaking takes up to 15 minutes and consists of 3 parts: Personal Interview, Little Speech and a Discussion.

All the parts continue one after another, and only before Speaking you get a little break.

Listening at a glance

Listening consists of 4 sections. There are about 38-40 questions in total. You need to answer all the questions as you listen to the tape. Tape is not paused at any time and you hear it only once. The questions get more difficult as you progress through the test.

Are you scared yet? Don't be! There is a technique to get you through it. A huge relief is that spelling is not important in Listening, except for the words they spell for you on the tape. Just make sure that your answers are readable and understandable, when you copy them to the Answering Sheet. You may write in pencil **only**.

Reading at a glance

Reading consists of 4 text passages and about 40 questions in total. Your job is to read the passages and either answer questions, label diagrams, complete sentences or fill gaps. For every type of task there are instructions and example. Passages are taken from books, newspapers, magazines and the topics are very diverse, from scuba diving to space exploration. Passages progress in difficulty, with first being the easiest and fourth the hardest.

Good news is that you don't really have to read the whole passage, thanks to technique I will refer to later. Not so good news is that there is no additional time to copy your answers to Answering Sheet and you need to squeeze it in the 60 minutes that you have. Please, don't forget to do it – I witnessed someone who did, and it was not a pretty sight. Poor guy was crying, he received score 0 for the **whole** Reading test. Here too you may write in pencil only, no pens are allowed.

Writing at a glance

Writing has 2 sub-tasks. First one is to write a letter according to scenario you receive, using about 150 words. The second task is to write an Essay on given topic, present and justify opinion or give solution to a problem, using not less than 250 words.

Nothing to worry here! Once you'll start using a certain structure which I'll explain later on for the letter and the essay in addition to your imagination, it is a piece of cake. This task requires a bit of training, but after you write a few essays and letters you will be well-prepared for it and you will feel **confident**.

Speaking at a glance

This is the fun part of the test, for many reasons. You get to rest before it, you are a little tired from previous 3 parts and therefore more relaxed. The examiners are trained to smile no matter what, so you feel as if you were speaking to your best friend.

First sub-part of Speaking test is an interview, which means that the examiner asks you questions about yourself, your work, studies, parents, brothers/sisters, pets, etc This is an easy task to prepare for.

In the second sub-part of Speaking test you receive a card with 3-4 questions. After one minute, that you have to think about something to say, you should give a little speech for one to two minutes, which answers those questions. In the end the examiner might ask you a couple of additional questions.

In the third sub-part of the test you have a discussion with examiner. The topic is somehow related to the one from section two, but it is about more abstract ideas. You have to express and justify an opinion.

The examiner will record your session on tape. Don't worry about it; the tape is to test the examiner and not you.