

IELTS LISTENING TEST

BASIC INFORMATION

Time: 30 minutes for test, 10 minutes to transfer answers to answer sheet

Total questions: 40

Four sections: 10 questions each section

Four sections

First section: A conversation between two people in a normal everyday situation

(e.g., a conversation about: a job advertisement, getting an apartment, a survey, travel plans, etc.)

Second section: One person talking in an everyday situation

(e.g., a person giving information about: a park, a new store, a work policy, an upcoming event, etc.)

Third section: Conversation between two to four people with an educational or training focus

(e.g., a conversation about: a class, an assignment, homework, a class project, etc.)

Fourth section: One person talking about an academic topic (usually an academic lecture)

(e.g., a lecture on: a species of animal, a new scientific finding, behavior of an animal or animals, environmental issues, etc.)

Process for the sections

- Listen to audio introducing the context of the listening.
- Then you are given time to read the questions.
- Next you will listen to the section audio clip one time and answer the questions as you listen.
- In the first three sections you are given a break in the middle of the audio to read the remaining questions.
- After the audio finishes, you are given thirty seconds to check your answers (use this time to read ahead to the next section. Check your answers in the extra 10 minutes given to you at the end of section four).
- Finally, move on to the next section.
- At the end of section four you will be given 10 minutes to transfer your answers from the question booklet to your answer sheet.

Types of Questions

- Multiple choice
- Labeling a map, plan, or diagram
- Filling in a form, notes, or a summary
- Filling in a table or flow chart
- Classification
- Short answer
- Sentence completion

Notes about the IELTS listening test

You will hear each audio passage only once.

Each section usually has at least two types of questions.

If you can't hear the audio well, let your examiner know immediately.

All questions can be answered using only the audio and are based on general interest topics. You won't need any specialized knowledge although you will be expected to know general vocabulary and synonyms.

A wide range of accents and dialects will be used; most often British, but also Australian, New Zealand, Canadian, and American. In addition, accents from English students from around the world might be used for small parts of the audio. No heavy dialects or accents will be used.

Almost all questions are asking about specific details.

Read the instructions for each section carefully and follow them **EXACTLY** (there is usually a limit on the amount of words you can use to answer a question).

LISTENING TEST TIPS

The listening portion of the IELTS test can be very challenging, especially if you get distracted. I hope these 36 tips will help you get through the listening test with a high score.

1. Follow instructions exactly. The instructions may be different from other practice tests (especially with completion, short answer, or fill in the blank – often you can only write a certain number of words).

If they say you can only use two words to answer, you can only use two words to answer. Three words will be wrong even though the answer is right.

Be familiar with the wording of the instructions (e.g., Write **NO MORE THAN TWO WORDS AND / OR A NUMBER** for each answer.)

2. Always attempt to answer a question even if you don't know the answer.

3. Write your answers on the question sheet. Don't worry about transferring your answers to the answer sheet until the very end. You'll have an extra ten minutes to transfer your answers from the question sheet to the answer sheet.

4. Be careful when transferring your answers to your answer sheet. Make sure you have transferred your answers correctly. The answer to number 9 goes with number 9. It's an easy mistake to make and easy to avoid.

If the instructions say mark the answer as A, B, C, or D on your answer sheet mark just the letter, not the answer that goes with the letter.

Make sure all of your grammar, capitalization, and spelling are correct during the 10 minutes you are given to transfer your answers. Small mistakes will kill

your score. Check spelling, subject verb agreement, and plural or singular. Do this while you are transferring your answers. Learn capitalization rules and spelling rules.

If you don't know if something should be capitalized or not, use all capitalized letters on your answer sheet. You won't lose points for putting an answer all in caps.

5. For completion questions, do not rewrite words.

This morning I will _____.

Answer: I will go to work (**wrong**)

Answer: go to work (**correct**)

6. Don't panic if the speaker is too fast or there is too much you don't understand. Just concentrate and follow along as best as you can.

If you don't understand a word or part of the listening section don't focus on it. Just skip it and keep listening.

7. The answers to the questions will almost always be in order in the audio.

The answer to the first question is near the beginning of the audio, and then you'll hear the answer to the second question, etc.

8. If you miss an answer to a question or even a section of questions and notice the listening has moved on to the next question or section, just skip the question and section and move on to the next section.