

Dear IELTS Candidate,

This list is to assist you to improve your IELTS performance, we do not guarantee that by going through the tips you will definitely pass the test, and therefore these tips are for information purposes only to IELTS candidates.

LISTENING

- ⌚ Read instructions carefully, don't just glance at them. They are not always the same as in practice or previous tests.
- ⌚ Try to anticipate what the speaker will say. This requires concentration, which is easy in your own language, but more difficult in English.
- ⌚ Remember if you want a high score you should aim to answer all questions in parts one and two correct. Don't make any careless mistakes in the easier sections.
- ⌚ Small errors can lead to low scores so be careful with your spelling at all times.
- ⌚ Don't panic if you think the topic is too difficult or the speaker is too fast. Relax and tune in.
- ⌚ Read, write and listen at the same time. Tricky, but practice well.
- ⌚ Don't leave blank spaces try to answer all questions.

READING

- ⌚ Leave a question if you can't answer it. Avoid spending too much time on one answer. Go back later if you have time.
- ⌚ Don't panic if you don't know anything about the subject matter covered in the passage. All the answers are in the passage and you don't need any specialist knowledge.
- ⌚ Remember you have no extra time to transfer your answers many candidates think because they have extra time in the listening section they are able to do this in the reading too.
- ⌚ Before the exam, read as widely as possible (e.g. newspapers, magazines, journals). Don't limit yourself to one type of text read articles with an academic style if possible.
- ⌚ Look at the ways paragraphs are organised.
- ⌚ Don't concentrate on words you don't know. It wastes valuable time.
- ⌚ Careless mistakes cost many marks. Copy the answer correctly if it is in the passage.
- ⌚ Check spelling.
- ⌚ Only give one answer if that's all that is needed.
- ⌚ Be careful with singular/plural.

WRITING

- ⌚ Highlight/circle key words on the question paper.
- ⌚ Clearly separate paragraphs.
- ⌚ Don't repeat ideas in a different way.

- ⌚ Stick to the topic.
- ⌚ Be careful with timing - don't rush Task Two, it's longer and is worth more points.
- ⌚ Create simple paragraphs, with one idea in each paragraph.
- ⌚ Avoid informal language.
- ⌚ Learn to recognise how long 150 words look in your handwriting. You don't really have time to count.
- ⌚ Get used to always spending several minutes re-reading and correcting your essays.
- ⌚ Don't memorise model answers, they won't fit the question and you will make more careless mistakes.

SPEAKING

- ⌚ The speaking part tests your ability to communicate effectively, not just your grammatical accuracy.
- ⌚ Don't learn scripts of prepared answers. The examiner is trained to spot this and will change the question.
- ⌚ Develop your answers as much as possible.
- ⌚ Speak more than the examiner.
- ⌚ Ask for clarification if necessary.
- ⌚ Remember it is not a test of knowledge and there is no single answer, but ensure that you give your opinion. Don't worry if you feel it is not sophisticated enough.
- ⌚ The areas covered are fairly predictable practise fluency by inventing topics.

For more information visit www.ielts.org and select the candidates tab
http://www.ielts.org/candidates/find_out_more.aspx

Should you need any further information please do not hesitate to contact us.

Thank you.

Customer Service Centre | British Council | South Africa & Namibia
 T + 27 11 560 9300 | F + 27 11 560 9301

Creating opportunity for people worldwide
www.britishcouncil.org/africa

This year marks 75 years of the British Council's work in Cultural Relations

www.britishcouncil.org/new/about-us/75th-Anniversary