**The IELTS Listening Test is divided into four parts, and the level of difficulty of each question increases from one part to the next.**

[**Part 1 or Section 1**](https://englishproficiency.com/ielts/listening/section-1/)

The first part of the IELTS Listening Test is a 2 to 3 minute conversation between two people in a social context. It is *‘transactional,’* which means that one of the participants in the discussion wants something. It could be that they wish to join a club, inquire about a product or service, or it could be anything related to their university studies.

[**Part 2 or Section 2**](https://englishproficiency.com/ielts/listening/section-2/)

The second part of the IELTS Listening Test is a 4 to 5 minute speech or talk with just one person in a social context. It could be a tourist information officer discussing a tour, a museum guide explaining where different museum areas are located, a person describing the advantages of joining an organization such as a fitness club, a radio advice show promoting a product, or an event are all examples.

[**Part 3 or Section 3**](https://englishproficiency.com/ielts/listening/section-3/)

The third part of the IELTS Listening Test is a conversation between two to four people in an educational and training context. You will hear a 3-4-minute *‘campus discussion’* recording in which people talk about their university classes. Sometimes the group is made up entirely of students who are discussing a significant project or task. Other times, you might hear students on the recording asking a lecturer or instructor for help.

[**Part 4 or Section 4**](https://englishproficiency.com/ielts/listening/section-4/)

The last and fourth part of the IELTS Listening test isa speech or talk with just one person on an academic subject. It is a brief academic lecture of about five minutes. It is the most challenging part of the test, and there is no break in the middle, unlike the other parts. Although, about halfway through the recording, the speaker takes a slight pause

**In the IELTS Listening Test Parts 1 to 4, you will be assessed in terms of your ability to:**

* spell words correctly
* use appropriate [**punctuation marks**](https://englishproficiency.com/blog/what-are-punctuation-marks/)
* understand the conventions on how to write English correctly. For example, we write *‘4th/fourth floor’*, not *‘4/four floor.’*

**What are the Types Of IELTS Listening Questions?**

While preparing for the IELTS ListeningTest, it is recommended that you get yourself familiar with the different question types that will appear in the test. This way, you will be more confident and concentrate fully on the audio recordings while not missing the important details.

Here are the different question types that will appear in the IELTS Listening Test.

**Multiple Choice Questions**

You will be presented with a *‘stem.’* The stem can either be in the form of an incomplete sentence or a question. There are two types of multiple-choice questions, one is with only one answer *(example 1),*and the other one has two or more answers *(example 2).*

**Example 1:**

***Select the correct letter, A, B, C, or D.***

1. *Which of the following factors affected how much each consortium member would contribute to the construction costs?*

**A.** *How much land each company-owned*

**B.***How long has each business possessed oil-field land*

**C.** *How many employees does each company have*

**D.** *How many oil wells on the company’s property were*

**Example 2:**

***Which THREE items are you allowed to bring to the spa?***

1. *towel*
2. *ticket*
3. *watch*
4. *money*
5. *slippers*
6. *make up*
7. *\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*
8. *\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*
9. *\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*

**Short Answer Questions**

You will be presented with questions that you need to answer. This type of question, like the sentence completion task, usually requires answers in no more than three words, but double-check the instructions to be sure.

**Example 1:**

**Answer the questions below.**

*Your answer for each should be****no more than three words/numbers****.*

1. *Where are the tourists going?*
2. *What time is the tour going to end?*
3. *How will the group go back to the hotel?*

**Example 2:**

**Answer the questions below.**

*Your answer for each should be****no more than three words/numbers****.*

1. *Who arrived late for the tour?*

*\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*

*\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*

1. *Name two things that tourists can bring inside the viewing deck.*

*\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*

*\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*

**Sentence Completion**

You will be presented with incomplete statements, and you need to complete them using the information from the audio recording. Usually, you have to complete the statements in not more than three words but to be sure, double-check this with the given instructions.

**Example:**

**Complete the sentences below.**

*Your answer for each should be****no more than three words****.*

1. *The express train leaves at \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.*
2. *The tourists are advised to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ before leaving.*
3. *The \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ is the city’s central park.*

**Note, Summary, Form, or Table Completion**

You will be presented with either an incomplete note, summary, form, or table based on the audio recording or parts. You need to complete them using the information from the audio recording.

**Example 1:**

**Complete the note below.**

*Your answer for each should be****no more than three words/numbers.***

**Source:**[**IELTS IDP Official Website**](https://assets.ctfassets.net/unrdeg6se4ke/2YouRBbyWb9y7GcKAIo3NQ/9735f2769ea339dfef8ca94fc31e6f7d/Free_practice_test_-_Listening_-_Notes_completion_-_Sample_task___Answer_key_-_Global.pdf)

**Example 2:**

**Complete the table below.**

*Your answer for each should be****no more than three words/numbers.***

**Source:**[**British Council Official Website**](https://takeielts.britishcouncil.org/take-ielts/prepare/free-ielts-practice-tests/listening-2/section-2)

**Labelling a Map, Plan, Flowchart, or a Diagram**

You will be presented with a map, plan, or diagram, and you need to label them. You might be given options, or you will have to choose the answers from the audio recording itself.

**Example 1:**

**Complete the flowchart below.**

*Your answer for each should be****no more than three words/numbers.***

**Source:**[**IELTS IDP Official Website**](https://ielts.idp.com/indonesia/prepare/ielts-test-preparation-material/listening-and-ielts-practice-tests)

**Example 2:**

**Complete the diagram below.**

*Your answer for each should be****no more than three words/numbers.***

**Source:**[**IELTS IDP Official Website**](https://assets.ctfassets.net/unrdeg6se4ke/6of8iyAD77JHoF4B8O4rNc/13e5a3a678ccf9fc8eeb006701b73e67/Free_practice_test_-_Listening_-_Diagram_label_completion_-_Sample_task___Answer_key_-_Global.pdf)

**Matching**

You will be presented with a list of details from the audio recording, and you need to match them to a given set of options.

**Example:**

*Which counselor should you see?*

*Select the correct answer A, B, C, or D.*

1. *Martha Lee*
2. *Luke Smith*
3. *Amanda Wills*
4. *Rebecca Jones*
5. *If your concern is about academics*
6. *If you plan to discuss an urgent matter*
7. *If you are only available on weekends*

**Classification**

You will be given a list of information. You need to classify them according to the given options.

**Example:**

*How should the tourists enter the following attractions?*

*Write the correct answer A, B, or C.*

1. *individually*
2. *in pairs*
3. *in groups*
4. *the library            \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*
5. *the museum        \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*
6. *the art exhibit      \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*

**How to Improve Your Listening During the IELTS Test?**

Some candidates who have taken the IELTS Listening Test say that this part of the test is more challenging than it seems. Though the topics covered aren’t that complex and focus mainly on day-to-day activities, the pressure to listen to the audio recordings just once is too tough to handle.

We strongly recommend that you employ all techniques and strategies to ace this part of the test. Here are some helpful and proven tips to help you get the band score you are aiming for in the IELTS Listening Test.

* **Learn how to do**[**signposting**](https://www.qub.ac.uk/graduate-school/Filestore/Filetoupload%2C597684%2Cen.pdf)**:**The process of using phrases and words to direct the reader through the gist of a text or a recording. In the case of the IELTS Listening Test, it is an audio recording. With these words and phrases, you can expect what is next and eventually figure out the answer.

**Example:**

**Purpose**

*Introduction to the lecture*

**Sign Posting Language**

*The subject of my lecture is…*

*This lecture will focus on…*

**Purpose**

*Structure of the lesson/lecture*

**Sign Posting Language**

*This lecture is divided into \_\_\_\_\_ parts…*

*First, we will have…Then we will go to…*

**Purpose**

*Introduction of the first part*

**Sign Posting Language**

*To start with…*

*Let’s start by…*

**Purpose**

*Start of an idea*

**Sign Posting Language**

*Now let’s have…*

*This time I’d like to talk about…*

**Purpose**

*Summing up*

**Sign Posting Language**

*To summarize…*

*From what I have discussed, it is evident that…*

* **Practice pronouncing letters and numbers:**A speaker frequently spells out words in the test, and numbers are read out, so make sure you understand how different letters sound in various accents, not just words. The different accents employed in the IELTS Listening Test are Australian, Canadian, British, New Zealand, and American.
* **Enhance your *‘listening’* skills:** This is one of the most crucial IELTS Listening strategies. Practice with IELTS listening tests, but you should also get as much English exposure as possible. It should be aimed at your present level.  Bear in mind, however, that it is pointless to listen to BBC World if you do not comprehend anything. Find online materials that are appropriate for your skill level and gradually increase the difficulty. Do not worry if they are not tests or intended for IELTS; any type of listening is beneficial. As you obtain experience, you can progress to increasingly challenging tasks.
* **Practice writing while listening at the same time**: Listening and writing skills are not difficult, but if you do them simultaneously, there is a chance that one of the two will be compromised. That is why you should put this into practice before taking the IELTS Listening Test. Practice tests are one way to do this, but you may also try listening to audio while taking notes simultaneously. This will help you enhance your ability to do both tasks simultaneously.

**How to Ace the IELTS Listening Test?**

The IELTS Listening Test takes only 30 minutes, and it could be the shortest half an hour experience of your life. Make it a point that you manage your time well, as this can mean the difference between a high and low band score.

**Below are proven and practical tips and tricks on how to ace the IELTS Listening Test with ease.**

* **Watch out for paraphrased sentences:**Remember that what you hear will almost certainly differ from what is printed on the test paper because that would be too simple. Synonyms are used in the question and the stems, so you must pay attention to these.
* **Ignore unfamiliar words:** In the IELTS Listening Test, chances are you will hear words that you do not know. Do not panic if this happens. These words may be and if there are questions about these words, make an educated guess.
* **Highlight important ideas:**To help you *‘hear’* the answer, underline significant words in the question stems when you first look through the questions. These words may be names, locations, and dates. Keep in mind, however, that synonyms are commonly used, as previously stated.
* **Be mindful of spelling and grammar:**Remember that if your answer is [**misspelled**](https://englishproficiency.com/blog/commonly-misspelled-words/) or the grammar is not correct, it will be marked wrong. Double-check these when you transfer your answers on the answer sheet. The sentences on the test paper might assist you with grammar – does it make grammatical sense? Is it a verb, a noun, or an [**adjective**](https://englishproficiency.com/blog/what-are-adjectives/)?
* **Take a look at two questions at the same time:** Some questions may contain answers close together in one line, so if you only look at one question at a time, you may miss one. Another reason why you should do this is you can miss an answer if you are only looking at one question.
* **Be careful of writing your answers right away:**During the IELTS Listening Test, speakers will frequently provide an answer and then correct themselves after. As a result, the first response that appears correct may be incorrect. Be careful, as a lot of candidates have fallen into this *‘trap.’*
* **Be cautious when transferring your answers to the answer sheet:**It will be marked wrong if you put correct answers in the wrong portion on the answer sheet. Therefore, make sure you put the answer in the right place. This is easy to do if you do not leave a question unanswered, so do not leave a question blank.