

# IELTS Study Planner

## Get started

| Day | Activity   | Self-check               |
|-----|--|--------------------------|
| 1   | <p>Test takers who understand the format of IELTS are at an advantage. Become familiar with IELTS by looking at:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="https://takeielts.britishcouncil.org/take-ielts/prepare/test-format">https://takeielts.britishcouncil.org/take-ielts/prepare/test-format</a></li> <li>• <a href="https://www.ielts.org/about-the-test/test-format">https://www.ielts.org/about-the-test/test-format</a></li> </ul>  | <input type="checkbox"/> |
|     | <p>Take a practice IELTS test to better understand your current English level. You can find practice papers at:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="https://www.ielts.org/about-the-test/sample-test-questions">https://www.ielts.org/about-the-test/sample-test-questions</a></li> <li>• <a href="https://takeielts.britishcouncil.org/take-ielts/prepare/free-ielts-practice-tests">https://takeielts.britishcouncil.org/take-ielts/prepare/free-ielts-practice-tests</a></li> </ul> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
|     | <p>You can now take the IELTS test on a computer! Take the familiarization test at <b>GELIELTS</b>.</p>  | <input type="checkbox"/> |
|     | <p>Download the <b>IELTS Prep App</b> onto your phone to give you instant access to free practice tests and sample questions for the listening, reading, writing and speaking sections.</p>  | <input type="checkbox"/> |
|     | <p>To give you an approximate indication of your English level, go to <b>LearnEnglish</b> and take our free online English test.</p>   | <input type="checkbox"/> |
|     | <p>Consider purchasing additional IELTS practice materials. For more information, please go to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Road to IELTS</b> (for a comprehensive online preparation program)</li> </ul>  | <input type="checkbox"/> |

# Week 1 (Focus: Listening)

| Day | Activity  | Self-check               |
|-----|---|--------------------------|
| 2   | Go to <b>IELTS.org</b> and learn everything you can about the listening section (format, timing, task types, how it's marked).  | <input type="checkbox"/> |
|     | Go to <b>IELTS.org</b> and look at some of the listening sample questions.  | <input type="checkbox"/> |
|     | Go to <b>Dialang</b> and find out your English proficiency level in listening.  | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3   | What are the key listening skills being tested in IELTS? Go to <b>Voices Magazine</b> and read 'Five essential listening skills for English learners'.  | <input type="checkbox"/> |
|     | Download the <b>LearnEnglish Audio and Video</b> app and practice listening to different podcasts & videos on a wide range of topics.   | <input type="checkbox"/> |
|     | Watch an English-language movie/TV show from an English-speaking country that isn't the U.K. or U.S.A. Can you full understand the accent?  | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4   | What should you do before you hear the test recording? Have a read of some helpful advice in the 'Exams' section of <b>LearnEnglishTeens</b> .  | <input type="checkbox"/> |
|     | Watch an English language movies/TV show with subtitles in English. Remove the subtitles once you start feeling confident.  | <input type="checkbox"/> |
|     | Try to do some listening where there are no visual clues, as this mirrors the listening in the IELTS test.  | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 5   | What should you do during the test recording? Have a read of some helpful advice in the 'Exams' section of <b>LearnEnglishTeens</b> .   | <input type="checkbox"/> |
|     | Watch/listen to a sports match (that you are familiar with) with English commentary.  | <input type="checkbox"/> |
|     | Listen to some English songs and try to write down the lyrics that you hear. Use the internet to see if you were correct.   | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 6   | What should you do after you hear the test recording? Have a read of some helpful advice in the 'Exams' section of <b>LearnEnglishTeens</b> .   | <input type="checkbox"/> |
|     | Watch a <b>TED talk</b> online, and choose a topic that may appear in IELTS, i.e. environment, education, health, etc. Try and identify how stress, intonation, pauses, and repetition are used for emphasis in the talk. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 7   | Go to the 'Skills' section of <b>LearnEnglishTeens</b> , and attempt some of the free listening activities at your level.   | <input type="checkbox"/> |
|     | Go online (e.g. download the <b>British Museum Guide</b> app) and listen to a virtual tour of a famous museum or landmark in English.   | <input type="checkbox"/> |
|     | Watch another <b>TED talk</b> online. When you are listening to the talk, pause the recording and try to predict what will come next.   | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 8   | Go to <b>IELTS.org</b> and test yourself with some of the listening samples!  | <input type="checkbox"/> |
|     | Compare your responses to the correct answers. Where did you earn most marks? Where did you have misunderstandings?   | <input type="checkbox"/> |
|     | Listen again to the listening samples. Can you hear the correct answer now?   | <input type="checkbox"/> |

# Week 2 (Focus: Writing)

| Day | Activity  | Self-check               |
|-----|---|--------------------------|
| 9   | Go to <b>IELTS.org</b> and learn everything you can about the writing section (format, timing, task types).   | <input type="checkbox"/> |
|     | Go to <b>IELTS.org</b> and look at some of the writing sample questions.  | <input type="checkbox"/> |
|     | Go to <b>Dialang</b> and find out your English proficiency level in writing.  | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 10  | Go to <b>IELTS.org</b> and download the writing assessment criteria. Pay attention to the descriptors ONE LEVEL above your current level.                                 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
|     | If you are not sure what each of the four assessment criteria means, watch the short videos at <b>Take IELTS</b> in the 'Teach IELTS videos' section.                     | <input type="checkbox"/> |
|     | Read a news story online (e.g. the <b>Mirror</b> ), and make use of the comments section where you can write your opinions about the story.                               | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 11  | What are some things you should do before you start writing in a test? Read about planning time in the 'Exams' section of <b>LearnEnglishTeens</b> .                      | <input type="checkbox"/> |
|     | Start writing a blog. You can write about your interests, ideas, wishes, humour and anything else you think about... in English!  | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 12  | What do you need to consider when you're writing in a test? Read about writing time in the 'Exams' section of <b>LearnEnglishTeens</b> .                                  | <input type="checkbox"/> |
|     | Download the <b>LearnEnglish Grammar</b> app to help with your grammatical ability for academic writing.  | <input type="checkbox"/> |
|     | Find a Website containing statistical data (e.g. <b>Statista</b> ), choose a table, graph or pie chart and write a short description of it.                               | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 13  | What should you do after you've finished writing in a test? Read about reviewing time in the 'Exams' section of <b>LearnEnglishTeens</b> .                                | <input type="checkbox"/> |
|     | Choose an article in a newspaper and write a persuasive essay about the topic, using some ideas and content from the original article.                                    | <input type="checkbox"/> |
|     | Look back at your old written work. Circle any words/grammatical structures that are simple/repetitive, and replace with stronger ones.                                   | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 14  | Go to the 'Skills' section of <b>LearnEnglishTeens</b> and attempt some of the writing activities at your level.  | <input type="checkbox"/> |
|     | Practice free writing: write about any topic for 5 mins. Do not stop to read what you are writing, and you'll notice that your writing will become more fluent over time. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
|     | Send phone messages in English to friends who are learning English.   | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 15  | Go to <b>IELTS.org</b> and test yourself with some of the writing samples!  | <input type="checkbox"/> |
|     | Self-assessment: Look at the band descriptors and check if you have included everything you need to at your desired level.  | <input type="checkbox"/> |
|     | Peer-assessment: Ask a friend to evaluate your task answers, using the band descriptors OR a specific language area you'd like to focus on.                               | <input type="checkbox"/> |

# Week 3 (Focus: Speaking)

| Day | Activity   | Self-check               |
|-----|--|--------------------------|
| 16  | Go to <b>IELTS.org</b> and learn everything you can about the speaking section (format, timing, task types).   | <input type="checkbox"/> |
|     | Go to <b>IELTS.org</b> and look at some of the speaking sample questions.  | <input type="checkbox"/> |
|     | Go to <b>FutureLearn</b> and sign up to 'Understanding IELTS: Speaking course' (open Mar 16th).  | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 17  | Go to <b>IELTS.org</b> and download the speaking assessment criteria. Pay attention to the descriptors ONE LEVEL above your current level.               | <input type="checkbox"/> |
|     | If you are not sure what each of the four assessment criteria means, watch the short videos at <b>Take IELTS</b> in the 'Teaching IELTS videos' section. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 18  | What communication strategies can you use in the test? Have a look at some in the 'Exams' section of <b>LearnEnglishTeens</b> .                          | <input type="checkbox"/> |
|     | Start an audio journal: practice speaking on a certain topic for 2 mins each day and record it with your phone. Listen and evaluate yourself.            | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 19  | How can you become more accurate and fluent when speaking English? Read some advice in the 'Exams' section of <b>LearnEnglishTeens</b> .                 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
|     | With a friend who is also learning English, choose a topic that interests you and send each other voice messages in English about it.                    | <input type="checkbox"/> |
|     | Find an international language partner on an established language-exchange Website like <b>italki</b> to help you practice English.                      | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 20  | Need some tips on how to answer common tasks in a typical speaking test? Go to 'Exams' section of <b>LearnEnglishTeens</b> and find out.                 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
|     | Create your own vlog (on a topic that interests you) and share with your friends; encourage them to give feedback on your language.                      | <input type="checkbox"/> |
|     | Watch a recent movie and note down any idiomatic language that you hear; try and include this language in your everyday spoken English.                  | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 21  | Go to the 'Skills' section of <b>LearnEnglishTeens</b> and attempt some of the free speaking activities at your level.                                   | <input type="checkbox"/> |
|     | If you cannot find an (online) conversation club/English corner to join in your university/city, create one yourself today!                              | <input type="checkbox"/> |
|     | Choose a scene from a movie you like and try to copy the actor's speech. Pay close attention to their pronunciation and try to copy it.                  | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 22  | Go to <b>IELTS.org</b> and record your answers to some speaking samples!   | <input type="checkbox"/> |
|     | Self-assessment: Look at the band descriptors and check if your recorded answers include everything you need to at your target level.                    | <input type="checkbox"/> |
|     | Peer-assessment: Ask a friend to evaluate your task answers, using the band descriptors OR a specific language area you'd like to focus on.              | <input type="checkbox"/> |

# Week 4 (Focus: Reading)

| Day | Activity   | Self-check               |
|-----|--|--------------------------|
| 23  | Go to <b>IELTS.org</b> and learn everything you can about the reading section (format, timing, task types, how it's marked).                   | <input type="checkbox"/> |
|     | Go to <b>IELTS.org</b> and look at some of the reading sample questions.   | <input type="checkbox"/> |
|     | Go to <b>FutureLearn</b> and sign up to 'Understanding IELTS: Reading course' (open Mar 16th).   | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 24  | Do you have problems with your reading speed? Go to <b>Voices Magazine</b> and read 'How to help English learners read more quickly'.          | <input type="checkbox"/> |
|     | Go to <b>Dialang</b> and find out your English proficiency level in reading.   | <input type="checkbox"/> |
|     | Read graded readers (texts which are graded to your level) Visit your local bookstore to find English stories at different reading levels.     | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 25  | What should you do before you start reading in a test? Have a look at some helpful advice in the 'Exams' section of <b>LearnEnglishTeens</b> . | <input type="checkbox"/> |
|     | Change your social media, computer settings, phone settings, email settings to English.  | <input type="checkbox"/> |
|     | Cook a meal with an English language recipe. You can find some recipes at <b>GoodFood</b> .  | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 26  | What should you do while you are reading in a test? Have a look at some helpful advice in the 'Exams' section of <b>LearnEnglishTeens</b> .    | <input type="checkbox"/> |
|     | Go online and find an English language magazine, blog, or newspaper that interests you (but you have never read before) and start reading it.  | <input type="checkbox"/> |
|     | Read an article from a newspaper (e.g. <b>Arirang News</b> ), and try to write a short summary of it by identifying the key points.            | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 27  | Need some tips on how to answer common task types in a reading test? Go to 'Exams' section of <b>LearnEnglishTeens</b> and find out.           | <input type="checkbox"/> |
|     | When reading a text, start choosing words/phrases that you think are important and which you want to learn, and store them in a notebook.      | <input type="checkbox"/> |
|     | Choose one article from a newspaper, and note down the words and expressions that are used to link the paragraphs/or ideas in the article.     | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 28  | Go to the 'Skills' section of <b>LearnEnglishTeens</b> and attempt some of the free reading activities at your level.                          | <input type="checkbox"/> |
|     | Start reading a book in English which you have already read in your native language or has been made into a film which you have seen.          | <input type="checkbox"/> |
|     | Set up a reading club with friends. One member chooses something for everyone to read and it's discussed in the next meeting.                  | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 29  | Go to <b>IELTS.org</b> and test yourself with some of the reading samples!   | <input type="checkbox"/> |
|     | Compare your responses to the correct answers. Where did you earn most marks? Where did you have misunderstandings?                            | <input type="checkbox"/> |
|     | Read the sample text again. Can you find all the correct answers now?  | <input type="checkbox"/> |

# Week 5

| Day | Activity   | Self-check               |
|-----|--|--------------------------|
| 30  | Take a practice IELTS test under timed conditions. You'll also find sample questions for Listening, Reading, Writing and Speaking, as well as vocabulary practice in the <b>Word Prep App</b>  | <input type="checkbox"/> |
|     | Compare your responses to the correct answers. Where did you earn most marks? Where did you have misunderstandings? For speaking & writing, ask a teacher from your school to evaluate your responses based on the band descriptors. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
|     | Look back at your answers/responses. What would you do differently if you took the test again? Write a short summary.  | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 31  | For some last minute test advice, go to <b>CambridgeEnglish</b> , download the IELTS FAQs, and read them carefully.  | <input type="checkbox"/> |
|     | Review some of the more useful resources in this study planner.  | <input type="checkbox"/> |
|     | Put the study books down, have a nice meal and get a good night's rest. Good luck on your test!  | <input type="checkbox"/> |

## Websites:

### Book your IELTS test

[www.britishcouncil.vn/en/exam/ielts/book-test](http://www.britishcouncil.vn/en/exam/ielts/book-test)

### IELTS official websites

<https://www.ielts.org>

<https://takeielts.britishcouncil.org>

### IELTS familiarisation test at GELIELTS

[www.ieltsasia.org/vn/en/prepare/familiarisation-test](http://www.ieltsasia.org/vn/en/prepare/familiarisation-test)

### FutureLearn courses

#### • “Understanding IELTS: Speaking”

[www.futurelearn.com/courses/understanding-ielts-speaking](http://www.futurelearn.com/courses/understanding-ielts-speaking)



#### • “Understanding IELTS: Reading”

[www.futurelearn.com/courses/understanding-ielts-reading](http://www.futurelearn.com/courses/understanding-ielts-reading)



### British Council English learning resources

<https://learnenglish.britishcouncil.org>

<https://learnenglishteens.britishcouncil.org>

<https://www.britishcouncil.org/voices-magazine>

### Other English learning resources

<https://dialangweb.lancaster.ac.uk>

<https://www.cambridgeenglish.org/exams-and-tests/ielts>

<https://www.ted.com/talks>

<https://www.italki.com>


<https://www.bbcgoodfood.com/recipes>


<https://www.mirror.co.uk>

<https://www.statista.com/chartoftheday>

<http://www.arirang.com/news>

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