

IELTS READING SKILL Pro Tips

To do well in the IELTS reading test, you should to be able to do the following:

- ✓ Grasp the big picture as well as the minor points.
- ✓ distinguish facts from opinions and attitudes
- ✓ identify the overall purpose of the passage
- ✓ follow the main arguments in a written text
- ✓ locate specific details and relevant information
- ✓ summarize the key points
- ✓ represent written information in graphic form
- ✓ infer meaning
- ✓ use accurate spelling and correct grammar

Specifically, three key reading skills will help you do the above most effectively:

- Skimming
- Scanning
- Reading for detail

The first two strategies, skimming and scanning, involve reading very quickly.

Skimming means reading quickly to get the main idea of a text. Scanning means reading quickly to look for a specific piece of info or specific words. You will need to use all three techniques at different stages.

- For example, you may start by skimming through the entire text to get a general idea of the passage.

- Next, you may look at the questions to see what kind of information is required.

- Then, you may scan the text for a specific piece of information or read a particular section in greater detail to discover the information you need to answer the question correctly.

If you are weak in these areas or read slowly, follow general ESL and specific IELTS reading books

READING – TIME DISTRIBUTION (Most Important !!):

Remember that you have three reading passages and forty questions to answer. Also, the three passages become increasingly more difficult. Divide your time into three 20 minute segments-

17 minutes on section 1

20 minutes on section 2

23 minutes on section 3

If you're having difficulty with a particular question, mark it for your attention, move on to the next question and come back later. If you finish early, use the time to review.

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IELTS LISTENING SKILL Pro Tips

Preparation Tips

1. Familiarize Yourself with the Test Format:

Understand the four sections of the listening test, the types of questions (e.g., multiple-choice, fill-in-the-blank, matching), and how the audio progresses in complexity.

2. **Practice with Diverse Accents:**
The IELTS includes British, American, Australian, and other accents. Practice listening to different accents through podcasts, news, or mock tests.
3. **Expand Your Vocabulary:**
Learn synonyms, paraphrased expressions, and collocations, as the answers may not always be direct repetitions of the words you hear.
4. **Practice Listening and Writing Simultaneously:**
Train yourself to write notes or answers while listening, as there's no pause during the audio for thinking.

During the Test

5. **Preview Questions Before Listening:**
Use the time given to read instructions and skim the questions. Underline keywords and predict possible answers (e.g., names, dates, types of information).
6. **Pay Attention to Word Limits:**
For fill-in-the-blank questions, note if it says "no more than two words." Stick to the word count.
7. **Listen for Synonyms and Paraphrases:**
The wording in the audio often differs from the questions. Train your brain to identify related phrases (e.g., "big" = "large," "expensive" = "costly").
8. **Stay Focused Throughout:**
The audio is played only once. If you miss an answer, move on and stay attentive to catch the next one.
9. **Watch Out for Distractors:**
Speakers may correct themselves or provide extra information.

Listen for final answers rather than assuming the first statement is correct.

10. Use Spelling and Grammar Correctly:

Spelling mistakes or grammatical errors can cost you marks, even if the answer is correct. Double-check your answers during the review time.

After Listening

11. Transfer Answers Carefully:

During the 10-minute transfer time (on paper-based tests), ensure you transfer answers clearly and follow instructions (e.g., capitalizing proper nouns).

12. Check for Errors:

Look out for common mistakes like misplaced decimal points, incorrect plural forms, or misheard words.

Extra Practice Strategies

13. Listen Actively Daily:

Use real-life materials like TED Talks, audiobooks, or online courses to improve general listening skills.

14. Shadow Listening:

Pause after short segments of audio and repeat what you heard. This helps improve focus and listening retention.

15. Take Timed Practice Tests:

Simulate exam conditions to build stamina and familiarity with the pacing of the test.

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IELTS SPEAKING SKILL Pro Tips

General Preparation Tips

1. Understand the Test Format:

Familiarize yourself with the three parts:

- Part 1: Introduction and general questions about yourself.
- Part 2: Long turn (speaking for 1–2 minutes on a given topic).
- Part 3: Two-way discussion on more abstract or complex topics related to Part 2.

2. Expand Your Vocabulary:

Learn topic-specific vocabulary for common themes like education, technology, environment, health, and hobbies.

3. Practice Fluency and Coherence:

Speak without long pauses or hesitation. Use connectors like *however, therefore, as a result, firstly, in addition* to link ideas smoothly.

4. Improve Pronunciation:

Focus on clear enunciation, stress, rhythm, and intonation. Mimic native speakers by listening to podcasts, audiobooks, or YouTube videos.

5. Work on Grammar and Accuracy:

Practice using complex sentence structures, such as conditional sentences (*If I had more time, I would...*) or relative clauses (*which is why I believe...*).

During the Speaking Test

Part 1: Introduction and Interview

6. Give Full Answers:

Avoid one-word or overly short answers.

- Instead of: *"Yes, I like sports."*
- Say: *"Yes, I enjoy sports, especially football, because it keeps me active and allows me to spend time with friends."*

7. Be Friendly and Confident:

Smile, maintain eye contact, and speak naturally to build rapport with the examiner.

Part 2: Long Turn

8. Organize Your Ideas:

Use the 1-minute preparation time to jot down key points or ideas using the W-H approach: *What, Where, When, Who, Why, and How.*

9. Stay Within the Time Limit:

Aim to speak for the full 1–2 minutes. If you run out of ideas, elaborate by giving examples or personal anecdotes.

10. Use Descriptive Language:

Paint a vivid picture for the examiner. For example:

- Instead of: *"I went to a park."*
- Say: *"I visited a serene park with lush greenery, vibrant flowers, and a tranquil lake in the center."*

Part 3: Discussion

11. Expand Your Answers:

Provide reasons, examples, and comparisons.

- Question: *"How has technology changed communication?"*
- Answer: *"Technology has revolutionized communication by making it faster and more accessible. For instance, video calls allow people to connect face-to-face regardless of distance, which wasn't possible a decade ago."*

12. Show a Range of Ideas:

If asked for your opinion, mention both sides of an argument before concluding.

Additional Tips

13. Avoid Memorized Answers:

Examiners can tell if you're using rehearsed responses. Be natural and adapt to the question.

14. Ask for Clarification if Needed:

If you don't understand a question, it's fine to say:

- *"Could you please repeat the question?"*
- *"Could you explain what you mean by...?"*

15. Record Yourself:

Practice speaking on various topics and listen to your recordings to identify areas for improvement.

16. Use Fillers Wisely:

Avoid excessive use of fillers like *"umm," "you know."* Instead, use phrases like *"Let me think," "That's an interesting question."*