

**LearnEnglish – British Council**

Published by Neil McLaren · March 14 at 2:35pm ·

Hi everyone and welcome to our Understanding IELTS Clinic. The educators are here for the next hour to answer all your questions, so post them in the comments below and we'll start!

Neil

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104 Comments



Write a comment...



LearnEnglish – British Council Hi everyone, it's times for us to stop now! Thanks for all your great questions and don't worry if we haven't answered yours yet, we'll check back a little later and answer any we've missed. Please don't ask any more now though! Check through the questions and answers we've already done - you may find someone else has already asked your question! See you back on the course, and bye for now!

Neil

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · 19 · Commented on by Neil McLaren · March 14 at 3:32pm**Jamaluddin Kabir** thanks so much[Unlike](#) · [Reply](#) · [Message](#) · 2 · March 14 at 3:34pm**Somaye Ahmadi** Thanks[Unlike](#) · [Reply](#) · [Message](#) · 2 · March 14 at 3:40pm**Godwill Sibanda Ndukwana** Thank you appreciated.[Unlike](#) · [Reply](#) · [Message](#) · 1 · March 14 at 4:20pm

Write a reply...



Vaso Chronopoulou I need to work on my speaking issues but neither my friends nor my family can help me on that. I believe I speak English well enough to be understood but I'm not always thinking in English. Sometimes and especially when I'm nervous I'm thinking in Greek and I try to translate my thoughts in English afterwards. In a few months I'm moving to the UK and I will be working as a nurse (probably in Taunton). That means I need to speak almost as fluently as a native. What can or must I do to improve my speaking? Thank you all in advance!

[Unlike](#) · [Reply](#) · [Message](#) · 3 · March 14 at 3:52pm · Edited

LearnEnglish – British Council Hi Vaso, the only way to improve your speaking is through practice - lots of practice! Listening really helps, so make sure you visit our websites and try the activities there. If you can't join a class, try to make a study group with friends and practise with our materials. Here are some ideas to help you:

Speaking Skills Practice-

<https://learnenglishteens.britishcouncil.org/.../speaking...>

ESOL Nexus activities Build your speaking skills -

<http://esol.britishcouncil.org/.../lear.../skills/speaking-0>

Pronunciation activities -

<http://esol.britishcouncil.org/.../skills/pronunciation>Fluency tips - <http://learnenglishteens.britishcouncil.org/.../fluency>

Exam Speaking videos -

<http://learnenglishteens.britishcouncil.org/.../typical...>

Pronunciation activities -

<http://esol.britishcouncil.org/.../skills/pronunciation>Practice tips - <http://britishenglishcoach.com/33-ways-to-speak-better...>

Neil

**Speaking skills practice |
LearnEnglish Teens**

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[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [Remove Preview](#) · 1 · Commented on by Neil McLaren · 10 hrs**Vaso Chronopoulou** Thank you very much! I will do so![Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [Message](#) · 3 hrs

Write a reply...



Hamzeh Muhyadin I have got a Grammer question please , using using Does and have or has in a sentence, which of these questions are grammatically correct " Does he has a car? OR Does he have a car? " ?
Thanks

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Unlike · Reply · Message · 2 · March 14 at 3:25pm



LearnEnglish – British Council Hi Hamzeh Muhyadin, Aurora is correct!
<http://learnenglish.britishcouncil.org/.../question-forms...>
<http://learnenglish.britishcouncil.org/.../verbs...>
 Neil



Question forms & subject/object questions

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Write a reply...



Ratanak Pong I have problems in doing reading tests which means I can not finish it with a time i was given because when I start doing it I always read through all the paragraph , Is it good to do like that in reading, Could you recommend me some skill to do better in reading?

Unlike · Reply · Message · 4 · March 14 at 3:07pm · Edited



LearnEnglish – British Council Hi Ratanak, not really! We talk about this week in the course so make sure you complete all the steps. You need practise skimming - reading over a text quickly to get the general idea and main points, and scanning - finding specific information in a text without having to read through every word. We discuss lots of techniques to help you, so give them a try!
 Neil

Like · Reply · 5 · Commented on by Neil McLaren · March 14 at 3:15pm



Ratanak Pong Oh thanks

Unlike · Reply · Message · 2 · March 14 at 3:16pm



Write a reply...



Karine Mendes I apologise for the classes I missed, só I would like to know if still have a chance to do the course?

Unlike · Reply · Message · 2 · March 14 at 2:38pm



Karen LearnEnglish Hi Karine, you can still join the course 😊 It's not too late at all.

Unlike · Reply · Message · 1 · March 14 at 2:39pm



Karine Mendes Thank you

Unlike · Reply · Message · 1 · March 14 at 2:57pm



Karine Mendes Thank you

Like · Reply · Message · March 14 at 2:57pm



Karine Mendes So what should I do now?!

Like · Reply · Message · 1 · March 14 at 2:57pm



Neeraj Edu Hi Karine, just jump into the online course at week 1 of understanding IELTS. You'll see that many people are still joining up now like you. The course will still be open after the educators finish.

Unlike · Reply · Message · 1 · March 14 at 3:06pm



Karine Mendes Alright, do you know which level this course will give us?

Unlike · Reply · Message · 1 · March 14 at 3:08pm



Karine Mendes Im asking because I need CIPD in HRM and they told me I will need minimum level 6

Unlike · Reply · Message · 1 · March 14 at 3:09pm



LearnEnglish – British Council Hi Karine, it's not that simple! The course does not give you a level, it gives you the tools and knowledge to practise and improve your skills to work towards a higher level. Which level you reach will depend on where you start and how much practice you put in!
 Neil

Like · Reply · Commented on by Neil McLaren · 10 hrs



Write a reply...



Abdusamad Musoev Hey there could you please tell me how much helps watching movies and news channel like CNN but most of time I can't understand and should I continue to watch them thank u

Unlike · Reply · Message · 2 · March 14 at 3:27pm



Abdusamad Musoev ?

Unlike · Reply · Message · 1 · March 14 at 4:01pm



Abdusamad Musoev I can't see your comment 😞

Unlike · Reply · Message · 1 · March 14 at 4:04pm



LearnEnglish – British Council Hi **Abdusamad**, yes it will help, but to start with you should maybe try something else until you build your skills a little more. It's important to choose things are difficult but not

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easier listening practice from our websites:

<https://learnenglishteens.britishcouncil.org/.../listenin...>

<http://learnenglish.britishcouncil.org/en/listen-and-watch>

Then when you feel more confident you can try TV shows - things like sitcoms are good because they use everyday situations and are quite short. Also YouTube videos etc. Full -length films are harder work, and I'd try that maybe with films you've already seen in your language and use subtitles when you get stuck

Neil



Listening skills practice | LearnEnglish Teens

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Write a reply...



Angela Forero Hi, thanks for creating these kind of activities! Sometimes when practicing listening, I notice that my answers are wrong because I make very small mistakes like for example, the correct answer is: library, and I write 'the library' or the answer is 22 october and I write 22 of october, and so forth. How can I avoid this? Will I lose points for these mistakes? I would also like to know what your recommendations Pareto improve time management for reading and writing? Thanks a lot!!

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [Message](#) · 1 · March 14 at 3:05pm



LearnEnglish – British Council Hi Angela, I'm afraid you will lose points for errors in spelling, having too many words or having any grammar errors in your answer. In your first example. you might lose points or you might not - it depends on what the question was. For example if it said 'write one word' then yes you would be wrong if you wrote two. But if it said two words/two words and a number/three words etc. then you'd be fine. With dates you can write in any standard format, e.g 22 October/October 22/22nd (of) October/October (the) 22nd etc. But your example is incorrect because if we use 'of' we have to use the ordinal number. Really it's all about practice - try to identify where you are going wrong, then pay special attention to questions of that type in your next practice. In time you'll find it easier!

Neil

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Write a reply...



Adeline Ong Hi there, I need to know how to learn more vocabularies other than reading? I tends to forget after learn new vocabulary and not all new words learnNed can use and practice in daily life. What should I do? Thanks!

[Unlike](#) · [Reply](#) · [Message](#) · 3 · March 14 at 2:54pm · Edited



Sally British Hi Adeline. You could try these vocabulary exercises on the British Council LearnEnglish Teens website
<http://learnenglishteens.britishcouncil.org/.../vocabular...>



Vocabulary exercises | LearnEnglish Teens

LEARNENGLISHTEENS.BRITISHCOUNCIL.ORG

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Adeline Ong Learned*

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LearnEnglish – British Council Hi Adeline, really reading and listening are the best ways to find useful new vocabulary. Although, as you say, not all new vocabulary is immediately useful in everyday life, you still need to practise using it if you want to remember it, so you should find ways to do that, whether through writing about different things or doing vocabulary practice exercises to help you. Check out these links for some useful tips and tools:

Learning new words - <http://bit.ly/LearnNewWords>

Improve your vocabulary - <http://bit.ly/IELTSSpeakingVideo>

Using word cards: <http://bit.ly/LETeensWordCards>

Using mind maps: <http://bit.ly/LETeensMindMaps>

Using tables: <http://bit.ly/LETeensTables>

Quizlet: <https://quizlet.com/>

Lingro: <http://lingro.com>

You can find the meaning and pronunciation of new words in these dictionaries and see real examples of how to use words, phrases and collocations in Fraise.it:

<http://www.macmillandictionary.com>

<http://www.oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com/>

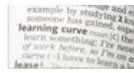
<http://fraise.it>

Neil

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advice and ideas on how you can learn new...
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Caroline Safwat regarding "not given " or false question is there any advice or tips to answer them correctly in the exam as there will be no enough time to read properly every word in the text.

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Caroline Safwat Kindly note that I answered correctly in the same of this type of question given in the wk 5 of the course because there is enough time to read and understand and hence to decide correctly if not given or false.

Like · Reply · Message · 1 · March 14 at 3:27pm



LearnEnglish – British Council Hi Caroline, there's no doubt that 'not given' answers are the ones that cause most problems. Really this is about close reading and there are no shortcuts. If the answer is yes/true then there will be a statement in the text which says the same thing using different words. There are many ways to do this for example, it could say in the text 'a small number of people are allergic to peanuts' and the question could say 'most people are not allergic to peanuts' so in this case the answer is true. If the answer is false then the information will say something that says the opposite. If the text says 'many people are allergic to peanuts' then the fact is you don't know how many it means - fewer than half? Half? More than half? Here you'd choose not given. The only way to improve at these is to keep practising as many as you can - it's a case of getting used to the way they work.

Neil

Like · Reply · Commented on by Neil McLaren · 1 hr



Write a reply...



Rezwana Islam Can you arrange something for teachers who intends to teach IELTS?

Unlike · Reply · Message · 3 · March 14 at 3:05pm



Neeraj Edu Hi Rezwana here are some great resources for teachers <http://takeielts.britishcouncil.org/teachielts>



Resources and information for teachers of IELTS | Take IELTS

TAKEIELTS.BRITISHCOUNCIL.ORG

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Rezwana Islam Thanks a lot. The link shows dates for workshops. Are these available online?

Like · Reply · Message · March 14 at 3:20pm



LearnEnglish – British Council Hi Rezwana, great news! We're actually developing a new online course now on Teaching IELTS and it should be available on FutureLearn later this year. I'm afraid the workshops you mention are not available online.

Neil

Like · Reply · Commented on by Neil McLaren · 1 hr



Write a reply...



Farjana Sharmin I have always problem i true false question! I know i must be sounded weird but it is true. i don't know why the question of true false always seem to me confusing. Another things is, i have been good in fill in the blanks and most the time i got the full scores until i did some small mistakes like didn't give extra "s" or "the". and last things is, in listening when I missed some points which i supposed get the answer, i became so panic and couldn't get attention rest of it. i always get wrong in phone number or name spelling in listening. what should i do?

Unlike · Reply · Message · 1 · March 14 at 4:45pm



LearnEnglish – British Council Hi Farjana, really the best advice for both of those problems is to carefully follow the advice we give on the course, where we look at both these things in detail. The more you practise the things we suggest, the less you will have these problems.

Neil

Like · Reply · Commented on by Neil McLaren · 3 hrs



Boulhafer Aziz Hi is the actual IELTS exam easier or harder than Cambridge's practice tests series?

Unlike · Reply · Message · 1 · March 14 at 3:26pm



LearnEnglish – British Council Hi Boulhafer Aziz, the Cambridge series will give you a very accurate idea of what to expect.

Neil

Like · Reply · Commented on by Neil McLaren · 45 mins

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [Message](#) · 1 · March 14 at 3:41pm · Edited

LearnEnglish – British Council Hi [Anamul](#), I'm afraid I don't know what you mean. To begin with, in IELTS you never have to write a story. In the General test you have to write a letter and an essay discussing a topic, and in the Academic test you have to write a report on some data and an essay discussing a topic. There is no 'title' as such, there are clear questions that tell you exactly what you have to do.

Neil

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[Write a reply...](#)



Imran Provat For studying in abroad like Australia, Germany, UK how much CGPA is needed?? My CGPA is not up to the mark. Does CGPA matter a lot? I am an undergraduate student of Veterinary medicine at a university of Bangladesh. I love to learn English. I hope for appearing at IELTS. But I am confused as to whether my CGPA will help me or not eventually even though I can be able to get handsome score on IELTS

[Unlike](#) · [Reply](#) · [Message](#) · 1 · March 14 at 3:33pm

LearnEnglish – British Council Hi [Imran](#), your CGPA and IELTS score are not connected - if CGPA is one of the criteria used by the institution these will be two separate requirements and you will need to work on achieving the required level in both. IELTS only relates to your English language skills, not your academic performance. As always, the important thing is to read the entry requirements very carefully for each institution and clearly identify what is needed.

Neil

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Imran Provat Thanks a lot for your constructive instructions.....

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [Message](#) · 1 hr

[Write a reply...](#)



Dilafruz Fayziyeva Can we write in academic writing task 2 about our personal experiences or we must to be more general?

[Unlike](#) · [Reply](#) · [Message](#) · 2 · March 14 at 3:22pm

LearnEnglish – British Council Hi [Dilafruz](#), good question! In fact in every Academic IELTS Task 2 question specifically ask you to 'include any relevant examples from your own knowledge or experience' so NOT doing this would actually have a negative effect on your score.

Neil

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[Write a reply...](#)



Hamidullah Adil Zazai Hi dear respectable have live stream for watching I would like to watch this course could you give me live stream

[Unlike](#) · [Reply](#) · [Message](#) · 2 · March 14 at 2:48pm

LearnEnglish – British Council Hi [Hamidullah](#), this week is not a live stream we're answering questions here in the comments. It means we can answer lots more in the time available.

Neil

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Adeline Ong **LearnEnglish – British Council** no wonder I can't get to see any live. Thanks!

[Unlike](#) · [Reply](#) · [Message](#) · 2 · March 14 at 3:09pm

[Write a reply...](#)



Mohammed Saif Ullah Khan Hello respected sirs, How can I master in content writings and email writings?

[Unlike](#) · [Reply](#) · [Message](#) · 2 · March 14 at 2:55pm

LearnEnglish – British Council Hi Mohammed, check out our Writing Skills and Email writing sections here:

<http://bit.ly/WritingSkillsPractice>

<http://bit.ly/EnglishForEmails>

Neil



Writing skills practice | **LearnEnglish Teens**

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Shahid Alizada Hi. Sir/Madam I am going to ask you about zero conditional clause and make some examples about it. Thanks

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<https://learnenglish.britishcouncil.org/.../conditionals-1>
<https://learnenglishteens.britishcouncil.org/.../conditio...>
 Neil



Conditionals 1

Conditionals are sentences with two clauses – an 'if' clause and a main clause – that are closely...
 LEARNENGLISH.BRITISHCOUNCIL.ORG

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Shahid Alizada Thanks

Unlike · Reply · Message · 1 · March 14 at 3:13pm



Write a reply...



Mani Yadanar Oo In the writing exam, if I don't know the meaning of the word in the essay topic, how should I solve this problem?

Unlike · Reply · Message · 3 · March 14 at 2:48pm



Alister Widdowson That's a difficult one Mani. You can't ask anyone and if you really don't understand you have no choice but to guess what it means. The questions should not contain language which is too difficult but it's a good idea to study some example questions to see what kinds of vocabulary are often there. Apart from that, my normal advice is to work on your vocabulary as a priority

Like · Reply · Message · 2 · March 14 at 3:03pm



Mani Yadanar Oo Thank for your suggestion.

Like · Reply · Message · March 14 at 3:04pm



LearnEnglish - British Council Hi Mani, it's quite unlikely that you won't understand words in the essay question. they are on common subjects that I think almost everyone has some knowledge, experience or opinion about. Has it ever happened in the past in your practice that you didn't understand an essay question? If so, what was the word that caused you problems?

Neil

Like · Reply · 3 · Commented on by Neil McLaren · March 14 at 3:05pm



Write a reply...



Linus Edem Hello neil. please is it correct to say " at the ONSET of the rain... or at the OUTSET of the rain...

Unlike · Reply · Message · 1 · March 14 at 2:52pm · Edited



LearnEnglish - British Council Hi Linus, we'd use 'onset' there:

<http://www.macmillandictionary.com/dictionary/british/onset>

Neil



onset (noun) definition and synonyms
 | Macmillan Dictionary

MACMILLANDICTIONARY.COM

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Linus Edem My dictionary says onset denotes the beginning of an attack or something unpleasant.

Unlike · Reply · Message · 2 · March 14 at 2:57pm



Neeraj Edu I wouldn't say it is very usual to use onset when you mean start to rain. It sounds a bit too formal or more appropriate in a literary context.

Like · Reply · Message · March 14 at 3:05pm



LearnEnglish - British Council Hi Linus, yes this would not be a common way to speak at all, and as Neeraj says, you would only use it for effect, perhaps in a literary style. To be honest I'm not sure why you don't simply want to use 'the start' which would certainly be the most common choice. But in answer to your first question, in terms of meaning you would not use 'outset'.

Neil

Like · Reply · Commented on by Neil McLaren · 10 hrs



Write a reply...



Uswatun Hasanah Is IELTS score accepted by any universities in the USA??

Unlike · Reply · Message · 2 · March 14 at 3:05pm · Edited



LearnEnglish - British Council Hi Uswatun, yes it is - by more than 3000 institutions! You can find out more here:

<https://www.ielts.org/usa/ielts-in-the-usa>

Neil

IELTS - IELTS in the USA



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Uswatun Hasanah Thank you. 😊

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [Message](#) · March 14 at 8:16pm



Write a reply...



Somaye Ahmadi How should I control the cohesion and coherence while I am speaking and answering the questions? I mean I do not want to answer off the topic so what are the best solutions in speaking to stick to topic?

[Unlike](#) · [Reply](#) · [Message](#) · 5 · March 14 at 2:44pm



LearnEnglish – British Council Hi **Somaye**, really it's all about practice. Focus on the questions and make sure you deal with all parts of them. In part two for example, the task will help you organise your information and give a clear answer. In part three, the questions will lead to discussions, and you just need to present your opinions and ideas clearly and logically. Try recording yourself and listening back to how well you do that, and for any areas you need to improve.

Neil

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Somaye Ahmadi Again many thanks to your reply Neil.

[Unlike](#) · [Reply](#) · [Message](#) · 1 · March 14 at 2:53pm



Alister Widdowson For part one, your answers will be quite short so it is not so difficult to stay on topic. Part two you have the advantage of preparation time which allows you to work on your coherence even before you speak, like planning an essay. Part three is a bit more difficult as you have to answer more challenging questions on more abstract topics. The key is to give yourself a couple of seconds thinking time before speaking. A brief pause is ok but in real conversation we might say something like 'that's a good question' or you could repeat the question while you think of what to say

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [Message](#) · 4 · March 14 at 2:54pm



Somaye Ahmadi Thank you so much for your reply. Thanks

[Unlike](#) · [Reply](#) · [Message](#) · 1 · March 14 at 2:57pm



Young Sisqo Mekpagbe Hi, I would like to know how we can do an introduction for essay.

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [Message](#) · March 14 at 3:09pm



Write a reply...



Somaye Ahmadi during the speaking I am not aware of the duration and time so if I expand my answers and the examiner stops me to ask next question, does it mean I lose my score?

[Unlike](#) · [Reply](#) · [Message](#) · 4 · March 14 at 2:39pm



LearnEnglish – British Council Hi **Somaye Ahmadi**, not at all. The examiner will manage the time, and if you are still talking when it comes to the end of the time for that section they will politely stop you and move on - it's not a bad thing at all! Try to make sure you answer all the parts of the question though!

Neil

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · 1 · Commented on by Neil McLaren · March 14 at 2:46pm



Somaye Ahmadi Thank you Neil

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Write a reply...



Somaye Ahmadi Hi everyone. In Reading and listening, should I paraphrase the answers and use the synonyms on answer sheet?

[Unlike](#) · [Reply](#) · [Message](#) · 2 · March 14 at 2:38pm



LearnEnglish – British Council Hi **Somaye Ahmadi**, no - you just need to write the answer as you hear or read it. If you do use an exact synonym it won't be a problem in some sections, but in general you have enough to worry about in finding the right answer without trying to paraphrase it!

Neil

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · 1 · Commented on by Neil McLaren · March 14 at 3:03pm



Somaye Ahmadi Thanks 1000000 times Neil

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [Message](#) · March 14 at 3:10pm



Write a reply...



Somaye Ahmadi In speaking test, if I were asked a question that I have had any idea, so what should I do? (a question about going to ocean and I have never been there) Can I imagine something and make a story from movies? just I do not wanna be silent! what is the best solution?

funny

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [Message](#) · March 18 at 7:55am

LearnEnglish – British Council Hi [Somaye](#), that is very unlikely. The questions are designed to be as universal as possible and would never include anything as specific as 'going to the ocean'. It could ask about a holiday or journey that you went on, but never something like that. In general it's best to tell the truth as you will have more to say if you are talking about a real memory or your own genuine feelings, but of course if you want to add in some imaginary details to make your description better, that would not be a problem. The examiner is looking at how well you express yourself - not checking for facts!

Neil

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Somaye Ahmadi Could you do me a favor , would you please tell me how can I improve my writing task 2 (essay writing- academic module)? I have major problems esp. in coherence and cohesion.

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [Message](#) · 1 · March 14 at 3:13pm

LearnEnglish – British Council Hi [Somaye Ahmadi](#), we look at this in detail in Weeks 4 and 6 so make sure you complete all the activities next week and it will help you a lot.

Neil

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Somaye Ahmadi In listening , I should answer maximum 3 words , for instance, and does it mean I have to write 3 words only? if I write 3 words and one of them is wrong does it mean I lose this question ? lose score? even if 1 word is correct out of the answers does it mean I lose score?

[Unlike](#) · [Reply](#) · [Message](#) · 2 · March 14 at 3:06pm

LearnEnglish – British Council Hi [Somaye Ahmadi](#), a maximum of three words means that the answer could be one, two or three words. It does not mean that you have to write three words for each answer. In fact that would be very unusual and even where it says maximum three words you will find that many of the questions can be answered with only one or two. You need to be careful as yes if you have a wrong word you will lose the point.

Neil

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Tünde Lagler I would ask a question for an expression to get invited what it means and where it is using (I mean in America or in Britain?) Thank you in advance.

[Unlike](#) · [Reply](#) · [Message](#) · 3 · March 14 at 3:14pm

Lena Ann <http://sociableintrovert.com/how-to-get-invited-to-a-...>

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [Message](#) · 1 · March 14 at 9:14pm

Lena Ann Tünde, have you deleted your answer?

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [Message](#) · 1 · March 14 at 9:20pm**Tünde Lagler**[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [Message](#) · March 15 at 11:08am

LearnEnglish – British Council Hi [Tünde](#), 'get' used like this is an informal passive form. So for example 'I got invited to a party' = 'Someone invited me to a party'. It's used in all forms of English - don't worry!

Neil

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · Commented on by Neil McLaren · 1 hr

Tünde Lagler **LearnEnglish – British Council** However, since my last post I find an explication that said that no matter be invited (it's a state) so then I was originally considered as a participant, or get invited when we must do something to receive that invitation, because at the first expression to be invited gets a positive tone thought the second, the get invited has a bit negative. Is it right and if so, this negative tone is always had or depends on the context? And an other request, what tone the get form expression is? I mean get married is a bit a ironic tone to the be married or it just depends on the context?

Thank you, Neil, in advance.

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [Message](#) · 10 mins

LearnEnglish – British Council Hi [Tünde](#), no that's not correct. Really the only difference is the 'get' is more informal than 'be' in those examples. There is nothing at all ironic about 'get married' and it's much more commonly used than 'be' when talking about the event. 'I

 Write a reply...



Rasolohery Hasiniavo hello.. is it possible to have a video conference with an educator? to learn and get more information about the exam.. I'll have exam on 13th of May..

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [Message](#) · 3 · March 14 at 2:43pm



LearnEnglish – British Council Hi **Rasolohery**, I'm afraid we can't offer one-to-one support, sorry!

Neil

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · 1 · Commented on by Neil McLaren · 1 hr



Rasolohery Hasiniavo okay.. thanks anyway

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [Message](#) · 1 hr



Write a reply...



Fleur Rose What is the correct form: 'who did you invite to your birthday' or 'who have you invited to your birthday'?

Please is this sentence correct: i have been living in this town for 10 years

[Unlike](#) · [Reply](#) · [Message](#) · 1 · March 14 at 3:28pm



LearnEnglish – British Council Hi Fleur, both are possible! And yes your other sentence is absolutely fine.

Neil

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · Commented on by Neil McLaren · 1 hr



Shamsuddin Roshan Don't run away just face the problem that has been created by you.

Is it correct?

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [Message](#) · 1 · March 14 at 3:03pm



Karen LearnEnglish Yes it is 😊

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [Message](#) · March 14 at 3:06pm



Shamsuddin Roshan Check your inbox karen..

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [Message](#) · March 14 at 4:53pm



LearnEnglish – British Council Hi **Shamsuddin Roshan**, it's almost correct. You need a comma or full stop between 'away' and 'just'.

Neil

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · Commented on by Neil McLaren · 56 mins



Write a reply...



Asad Khan What is transitive verbs?

[Unlike](#) · [Reply](#) · [Message](#) · 2 · March 14 at 2:38pm



LearnEnglish – British Council Hi Asad, a transitive verb is a verb that needs an object. For example 'buy' - you can't just say 'I bought' you have to say 'I bought a car / a coffee / a new house' etc.

Neil

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · 6 · Commented on by Neil McLaren · March 14 at 2:45pm



Asad Khan I got it, Thanks.

[Unlike](#) · [Reply](#) · [Message](#) · 1 · March 14 at 2:45pm



Write a reply...



Godwill Sibanda Ndukwana Hi educators, what is a prefix.

[Unlike](#) · [Reply](#) · [Message](#) · 3 · March 14 at 2:54pm



Neeraj Edu Hi Godwill, prefixes are parts of words that we add to the beginnings of words to modify their meaning or even make new words. For example, important - unimportant. (UN is the prefix)

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [Message](#) · 2 · March 14 at 2:57pm



Godwill Sibanda Ndukwana Thank you so much

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [Message](#) · March 14 at 2:59pm



LearnEnglish – British Council Hi Godwill, a prefix is a group of letters that go before a word to change its meaning. For example, 'un-' makes words negative, so 'tidy' becomes 'untidy'. There are others like in-, il-, ir-, dis- etc. You can check in dictionaries to find the opposites.

Neil

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · 2 · Commented on by Neil McLaren · March 14 at 3:01pm



Write a reply...



Zehar Zehraan Bhat wt z de way to develop fluency

[Unlike](#) · [Reply](#) · [Message](#) · 1 · March 14 at 2:36pm



LearnEnglish – British Council Hi Zehar, check out some of these tips: <http://learnenglishteens.britishcouncil.org/.../accuracy...>

The more you practise, the easier it will become so take every



Accuracy and Fluency

 If you speak English with a high level of accuracy it means you speak correctly,...
LEARNENGLISHTEENS.BRITISHCOUNCIL.ORG

Like · Reply · Remove Preview · 2 · Commented on by Neil McLaren · March 14 at 2:53pm



Zehar Zehraan Bhat i have a question dtcz wt z dramatic monolog,,no bddy z gsiving de answer

Like · Reply · Message · March 14 at 2:54pm



Elizabeth Taylor Zehar Zehraan Bhat Please try again using full English words. 😊

Unlike · Reply · Message · 3 · March 14 at 3:53pm



LearnEnglish – British Council Hi Zehar, as Elizabeth says, that's probably because no-one can understand your questions! 😊 It's really not a good idea to use textspeak like that in actual writing, like asking questions.

Neil

Like · Reply · Commented on by Neil McLaren · 10 hrs



Zehar Zehraan Bhat I want to know what is dramatic monolog ...

Unlike · Reply · Message · 1 · 4 hrs



LearnEnglish – British Council <https://www.cliffsnotes.com/.../what-is-a-dramatic-monologue>
<https://www.poetryfoundation.org/.../dramatic-monologue>

What is a dramatic monologue?

Dramatic monologue refers to a type of poetry. These poems are dramatic in the sense that they have a theatrical quality; that is, the poem is meant to be read

CLIFFSNOTES.COM

Like · Reply · Remove Preview · Commented on by Neil McLaren · Just now



Write a reply...



Somaye Ahmadi I do appreciate a lot. Our educators and my friends , thank you.

Unlike · Reply · Message · 1 · March 14 at 3:31pm



Sally British Hi everyone. I'm Sally and I'm one of the educators on the course.

Unlike · Reply · Message · 13 · March 14 at 2:39pm



Somaye Ahmadi Is our IELTS Clinic finished?

Unlike · Reply · Message · 2 · March 14 at 3:25pm



Karen LearnEnglish I'm afraid it's coming to the end. Hope you enjoyed it 😊

Like · Reply · Message · 1 · March 14 at 3:35pm



Somaye Ahmadi Thanks Karen. It was great. Thank you 100000 times

Like · Reply · Message · March 14 at 3:36pm



Write a reply...



Nunik Cendrakasih Hi, I'd like to ask in the speaking part, does the volume of our voice affect to our band score? For example, we are speaking with good grammar and fluency but because of low voice the examiner ask for repetition many times. Will it affect to our performance score? Thanks

Like · Reply · Message · 1 · March 14 at 3:04pm



Neeraj Edu Hi Nunik, you should speak normally, but also clearly. For some people that means that they will need to practise speaking a little louder than usual. But, this will not be penalised in the IELTS exam, and if you speak too quietly the examiner will ask you to speak more loudly because the whole interview will be recorded.

Unlike · Reply · Message · 2 · March 14 at 3:11pm



Nunik Cendrakasih Thank you, Neeraj.

Like · Reply · Message · March 14 at 5:04pm



Write a reply...



Melelo Mariam Mele Hello there, I want to know more about guessing vocabulary meaning by their contextual arrangement or meaning within the text.

Like · Reply · Message · March 14 at 5:02pm · Edited



Ani Hoveyan Hi, I would like to know the reason that there is no explanation and comment after IELTS exam. How can we at least find the tests for reading and listening parts? Thank you.

Like · Reply · Message · 3 · March 14 at 2:48pm

performance after the test, this is to maintain a fair and professional test for everybody. If you would like some sample tests click here
<http://takeielts.britishcouncil.org/.../free-practice-tests>



IELTS Free Practice tests to develop your exam technique

TAKEIELTS.BRITISHCOUNCIL.ORG

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [Message](#) · [Remove Preview](#) · 2 · March 14 at 2:53pm



Ani Hoveyan Thank you Neeraj. But, in my opinion, It would be better that the examiners wrote comments, so we could enhance our performance for resitting.

[Unlike](#) · [Reply](#) · [Message](#) · 1 · March 14 at 2:58pm



Write a reply...



Tina Pole Hi Everyone - I'm one of your educators on the course and it's lovely to see so many of you here. I hope you have been enjoying the course for the last 5 weeks 😊

Tina

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [Message](#) · 4 · March 14 at 3:08pm · Edited



Alister Widdowson Hi Tina!

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [Message](#) · 1 · March 14 at 2:55pm



Write a reply...



Karen LearnEnglish Hi everyone, Karen here, one of the educators on the course. Looking forward to answering your questions 😊

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [Message](#) · 7 · March 14 at 2:38pm



Neeraj Edu Hi everybody, welcome to the clinic! Looking forward to answering your questions 😊

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [Message](#) · 9 · March 14 at 2:38pm



Rasolohery Hasiniavo Hello Neeraj. as we say practice is the best way to improve faster.. would you like to meet with some of us, even me to be talking on videoconference

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [Message](#) · March 14 at 2:52pm



Write a reply...



Taleh Mehreliyev Hi,I would like to know that how I can improve my speaking skill.

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [Message](#) · 2 · March 14 at 2:50pm



Tina Pole Hi @Taleh Mehreliyev 😊 The only way to improve your speaking is through practice! Listening really helps, so make sure you visit our websites and try the activities there. If you can't join a class, try to make a study group with friends and practise with our materials. Try these ...

Speaking Skills Practice-

<https://learnenglishteens.britishcouncil.org/.../speaking...>

ESOL Nexus activities Build your speaking skills -

<http://esol.britishcouncil.org/.../lear.../skills/speaking-0>

Tina



Speaking skills practice | LearnEnglish Teens

LEARNENGLISHTEENS.BRITISHCOUNCIL.ORG

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [Message](#) · [Remove Preview](#) · 1 · March 14 at 2:57pm



Taleh Mehreliyev Tina Pole Thanks for answer 😊

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [Message](#) · March 14 at 3:06pm



Write a reply...



Емилија Ангелевска Hello.How many text there are for the reading part? 2 or 3? Thank you

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [Message](#) · 1 · March 14 at 2:41pm



Karen LearnEnglish Hi Emilia, have a look here:

<http://takeielts.britishcouncil.org/.../unde.../reading-test>

IELTS reading test preparation stage 2 of 4

Prepare for your IELTS reading test by reading over information on timing, purpose and general information including the scoring of your IELTS reading test.

TAKEIELTS.BRITISHCOUNCIL.ORG

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [Message](#) · [Remove Preview](#) · 1 · March 14 at 2:43pm



Емилија Ангелевска Thank you 😊

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [Message](#) · March 14 at 2:47pm · Edited

 **Aurora Tuberose** How to improve speaking? I mean as a non- native speaker, it takes time to make a sentence inside my head and then speak. How to do it faster? Thank you.

Like · Reply · Message · 2 · March 14 at 2:40pm

 **Karen LearnEnglish** Hi Aurora, practice makes it easier but there are other things you can do to help. Have a look at the end of week video on the course for some tips:

<https://www.futurelearn.com/.../understand.../6/steps/157652>



Page from Understanding IELTS - British Council

FUTURELEARN.COM

Like · Reply · Message · Remove Preview · March 14 at 2:45pm

 **Sally British** I think the answer to this is - practise, practise, practise. You can practise talking to yourself if necessary or record yourself then listen, correct yourself and repeat.

Unlike · Reply · Message · 1 · March 14 at 2:46pm

 **Aurora Tuberose** Thank you 😊

Unlike · Reply · Message · 1 · March 14 at 2:48pm

 **Andreea Clayton** And think in English, if possible 😊 Don't make a sentence in your mother tongue and just translate it....that's my tip

Unlike · Reply · Message · 3 · March 14 at 2:54pm

 **Aurora Tuberose** I do it.. I can write down what I'm thinking in English faster than speaking..when I try to speak, I need to concentrate on pronunciation too..so it becomes a lil bit difficult

Unlike · Reply · Message · 1 · March 14 at 2:59pm

 **Ahmad Abukaff** You have a lot of channels broadcasting in English on your TV, don't you?

Watch your favorite programs (news, documentaries, movies, cartoons ... etc) on them. Repeat and practise as much as you can.

Unlike · Reply · Message · 1 · March 14 at 3:15pm

 **Aurora Tuberose** Yeah, I do watch them..hopefully I'll be better by time..thanks by the way

Unlike · Reply · Message · 1 · March 14 at 3:20pm

 Write a reply...

 **Anamul Haque Emon** what is main difference between american english and british english???

Like · Reply · Message · 1 · March 14 at 2:51pm

 **Saleem HM** Some vocabulary ,, and the accent is a bit diffirent that's all

Like · Reply · Message · March 14 at 2:58pm

 **Anamul Haque Emon** there is any problem if we use both style at the same time??

Like · Reply · Message · 1 · March 14 at 3:06pm · Edited

 **Anamul Haque Emon** answer please

Like · Reply · Message · March 14 at 3:19pm

 **Alistar Widdowson** It's best not to mix them if you can avoid it but don't spend too much time trying to separate them out of your speech! Young people today mix quite a few American words and phrases into their English so it really isn't as important s it used to be.

Unlike · Reply · Message · 3 · March 14 at 3:25pm

 Write a reply...

 **Anamul Haque Emon** is it necessary to follow all the grammatical rules when we speaking???

Like · Reply · Message · 4 · March 14 at 2:38pm

 **Hanan Telli** good question 😊

Like · Reply · Message · March 14 at 2:40pm

 **Neeraj Edu** Hi Anamul, that's a good question. And the answer could get quite complex. Speaking actually has its own grammar, which is a little bit different to writing. There is more flexibility with structures, and it is usually a little more informal too. However, for this exam I recommend you try to speak in a natural way using language that you know is correct.

Like · Reply · Message · 3 · March 14 at 2:42pm

 **Sally British** Hi Anamul. When you're speaking it's difficult to think about grammar rules at the same time. You need to try to be accurate so that the listener can understand you, but the focus is more on communication.

Like · Reply · Message · March 14 at 2:43pm



Write a reply...



Gloria Velarde Hi, i'm Learning English. How can i learn it in a fun way. what's the best way to learn?

Like · Reply · Message · 1 · March 14 at 2:56pm · Edited



Sally British Try our British Council websites:
<http://learnenglishteens.britishcouncil.org/> and
<http://learnenglish.britishcouncil.org> You could also practise speaking with a friend - maybe you could learn a new joke in English every week to tell each other :)



LearnEnglish Teens - British Council

Learn English Teens provides information, tips and resources to help teenagers learn English.

LEARNENGLISHTEENS.BRITISHCOUNCIL.ORG

Like · Reply · Message · Remove Preview · 1 · March 14 at 2:59pm



Gloria Velarde

Unlike · Reply · Message · 1 · March 14 at 3:00pm

[View more replies](#)



Write a reply...



Rasha Abdulkader hello . i would like to know how can i be more confident of myself while i am speaking in English to a native speakers ? thank you

Like · Reply · Message · 1 · March 14 at 2:51pm



Alister Widdowson Hi Rasha, that's a tricky one. I know that some people find it harder to talk to native speakers than learners, they are worried that they will speak too fast or judge them while they speak. Turn it into a positive experience! See what you can learn from their speech and make sure that you are strong and assertive. If they say something you don't understand then it is actually bad communication from them! it means that they aren't thinking about the person they are speaking to. Make sure you ask them to speak more slowly or repeat / explain when you don't understand.

Like · Reply · Message · 2 · March 14 at 2:59pm



Write a reply...



EIMukhtar Mohd British and American English, which is more widely spoken in the world? Why the British n Americans have different accent?

Like · Reply · Message · 1 · March 14 at 3:11pm



Alister Widdowson What an interesting question. I think it is pretty even as to which variety is more widely spoken. South America is more American while I think Asia and Africa are mixed with British more common in some countries. The thing is that they are equally useful (as are Australian, Irish and any other variety) and if you learn to speak the standard variety, you will always be understood. There are different accents because of the time that the first English people who moved to those places spoke, where they came from and people from which other countries also went to live there. They say that the North American accent is similar to the way people spoke in Norfolk and Cornwall (in England) When the people first went there.

Like · Reply · Message · 2 · March 14 at 3:16pm



Write a reply...



Sarah Pertiwi Endang My friend told me that i should pay more attention in writing section. What should i be aware of in writing part?

Like · Reply · Message · 1 · March 14 at 2:40pm



Neeraj Edu Hi Sarah, there's a lot to consider for the writing part of the IELTS exam and it would be difficult to tell you everything here. I recommend going back over the materials in week 4 in the course and look out for next week (week 6) where we will discuss the writing test in the Academic exam.

Like · Reply · Message · 1 · March 14 at 2:44pm · Edited



Sarah Pertiwi Endang Sounds like i missed a lot 😊

Like · Reply · Message · March 14 at 2:45pm



Neeraj Edu Don't worry, you have plenty of time to look again at all the materials.

Like · Reply · Message · 1 · March 14 at 2:54pm



Write a reply...



Lity N Joice Mathew How to identify the topic sentence and is the IELTS tests paragraphs for reading always written with topic sentences?

of the paragraphs. Sometimes however, it will be the second one. You will know it is the topic sentence when you see the central idea of the paragraph being introduced.

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [Message](#) · 1 · March 14 at 2:49pm



Write a reply...



Jamaluddin Kabir Hi this is [Jamaluddin Kabir](#) from Afghanistan. I really follow your website but i did not find [#BritishCouncilAfghanistan](#). Can we download notes from your website????

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [Message](#) · 2 · March 14 at 3:10pm · Edited



Karen LearnEnglish Yes you can 😊

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [Message](#) · March 14 at 3:33pm



Write a reply...



Rezwana Islam Common question I get from my students...Which is more of value-the genral lets or the academic one?

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [Message](#) · 1 · March 14 at 2:56pm



Neeraj Edu Hi Rezwana, that's a good question. It really depends on your student's objectives in their near future. If their objective is continue their studies at university then Academic is the one. If they want to emigrate and work then they might need to take the general version. However, they will need to be sure of their plans before they apply for the test.

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [Message](#) · 1 · March 14 at 3:02pm



Write a reply...



Tefvik Demiral How can we be sure that all speaking examiners are fairly the same?

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [Message](#) · 2 · March 14 at 2:45pm



Alister Widdowson That's an excellent question Tefvik. The examiners are all very carefully and rigorously selected and trained. Only if you have high qualifications and experience can you be accepted and then with a full two day training program. Also, interviews are recorded and about 33% are second marked for fairness and accuracy.

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [Message](#) · 2 · March 14 at 2:50pm



Write a reply...



Marcelino Franca Hello there, is anyway we can watch the live streaming??

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [Message](#) · 1 · March 14 at 2:39pm



Alister Widdowson Hi there, we aren't doing live streaming today I'm afraid. you an type here and ask anything you like

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [Message](#) · 2 · March 14 at 2:45pm



Marcelino Franca Ok thanks!

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [Message](#) · March 14 at 2:49pm



Write a reply...



Van Anh Nguyen Sometimes i do not know enough words to express my idea in both writing and speaking, what's the best way to learn vocabulary? Thank you so much!

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [Message](#) · 1 · March 14 at 2:43pm



Sally British Reading in English will help you improve your vocabulary. LearnEnglish Teens Magazine has lots of short, interesting articles on general topics:

<http://learnenglishteens.britishcouncil.org/magazine> I recommend that don't try to understand every word when you read. Note about 5 new words from a page and then use a dictionary to look up the words. You can write new words in a notebook with translations or example sentences. Take your note book on the bus, train, etc to review new words when you have 5 minutes to spare.



Magazine | LearnEnglish Teens

Read about a wide range of topics in blog posts written by young people from the UK.

LEARNENGLISHTEENS.BRITISHCOUNCIL.ORG

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [Message](#) · [Remove Preview](#) · 1 · March 14 at 2:51pm



Saleem HM Ty Sally British , I've known the best way

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [Message](#) · March 14 at 3:00pm



Write a reply...



Van Anh Nguyen Can you recommend some tips to master IELTS Reading? They are really long and i'm impatient. Thank you!

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [Message](#) · 1 · March 14 at 2:39pm



Alister Widdowson To master it is a challenging ambition I'm afraid! You can certainly improve your reading skills, I would suggest the best strategy is to focus on vocabulary development and extensive reading.





Hanaa Zakaria Really my big problem is reading . How can i improve my self in reading?

Like · Reply · Message · 1 · March 14 at 3:07pm



Neeraj Edu Hi Hanaa, the key to improving reading is practise. You have to do lots of reading, and with time you will improve your speed and vocabulary. Here are some links to articles which could use to read <http://learnenglishteens.britishcouncil.org/.../graded...>

Graded reading | LearnEnglish Teens | British Council

Read stories and articles for your level of English.

LEARNENGLISHTEENS.BRITISHCOUNCIL.ORG

Like · Reply · Message · Remove Preview · 1 · March 14 at 3:18pm



Hanaa Zakaria Thanks too much

Like · Reply · Message · March 14 at 5:42pm





Somaye Ahmadi In writing on IELTS exam, do I get just one white paper to answer task 2 ?can I write on its back side?

Like · Reply · Message · 1 · March 14 at 2:44pm



Neeraj Edu Hi Somaye, in the writing test you will get 2 answer sheets. One is white and is for task 1 and the other is orange it is for task 2. You can write on both sides of the paper and if you need more you can ask for more paper.

Like · Reply · Message · 2 · March 14 at 2:46pm



Somaye Ahmadi Thank you Neeraj. Thanks

Like · Reply · Message · March 14 at 2:48pm





Joan Betina Ramos Tips to maximize my 60 minutes during the reading examination.

Like · Reply · Message · 2 · March 14 at 2:55pm



Alister Widdowson Hi Joan. Time management is a real challenge for all of us in the reading. My main tip is to be very disciplined when answering questions. If you need to spend more than a minute answering a question then you probably will not get it right anyway! In that case, try to decide which answers are definitely wrong and then guess from those that might be correct.

Like · Reply · Message · 1 · March 14 at 3:05pm





Shadi Jarmouche Very thanks dear Admin Neil

Like · Reply · Message · 1 · March 14 at 3:19pm



Alister Widdowson Hi! Alister here ready to answer some of your questions.

Like · Reply · Message · 3 · March 14 at 2:44pm



Gloria Velarde could you send me some tests to solve and improve my english ? please?

Like · Reply · Message · 1 · March 14 at 2:59pm



Gloria Velarde

Like · Reply · Message · March 14 at 3:01pm



Gloria Velarde thank'S a lot

Like · Reply · Message · March 14 at 3:02pm





Taha Ansari Hi, I need some stuff about "Syllable Stress" in British English.

Like · Reply · Message · 2 · March 14 at 3:17pm



Lena Ann <https://www.englishclub.com/pronunciation/word-stress.htm>

Like · Reply · Message · 1 · March 14 at 8:45pm



Taha Ansari Thank you so much Lena Ann

Unlike · Reply · Message · 2 · March 15 at 2:46am



Neeraj Edu Thanks for all your questions everybody. See you soon !



Karen LearnEnglish I hanks for all the questions. Bye from me 😊

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [Message](#) · March 14 at 3:42pm

[Write a comment...](#)
