


LearnEnglish – British Council
 Published by Neil M

Hi everyone and welcome to our special Understanding IELTS Facebook Clinic! The course educators will be here for the next hour to answer all your IELTS questions and share lots of great resources. So post your questions in the comments below and we'll get started!

Neil

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67 comments




LearnEnglish – British Council Hi everyone, it's time for us to finish for today. Thanks for all your great questions, and make sure you read through other people's as well - you're sure to find lots of useful information! For anyone who has not yet started the free online course, click here to join: <http://bit.ly/UnderstandingIELTS2018>, and for everyone else we'll see you back on the course! Bye for now!
 Neil



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9

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Deborah Leite Caputo thank you so much!!!
 1

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Ezinne Favour Kazi Uche Kazi
 1

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Palash Saha Do British people need IELTS?? Is IELTS enough to study or work in abroad or some other test's are also required?
 2

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LearnEnglish – British Council Hi **Palash**, they don't need it in their own country - that is covered by their school and university qualifications. But yes, British people who are applying for visas in Australia for example, and who want to get the extra points for a professional visa, have to take IELTS.
 Neil
 2

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Palash Saha Thanks. Is IELTS enough or I will need to take some other tests??
 1

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LearnEnglish – British Council Hi **Palash Saha**, for language, IELTS is enough.
 Neil
 1

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Palash Saha For work or study??

Like · Reply · Message · 4d




Hashmatullah Faqiri I have problem on writing professional email due to using appropriate words, may i know your advice please.
 1

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LearnEnglish – British Council Hi Hashmatullah, we'll be looking at this in Week 4. In the meantime, check out these resources: <http://bit.ly/EnglishForEmails>



English for Emails

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Maria Rita Nobile Ho,I'm Maria Rita, from Italy.Could you give me any suggestion to empower my vocabulary ?(I'm a teacher and my communicative competence IS supposed to be at the top.Thanks

1

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LearnEnglish – British Council Hi Maria Rita

I think that would be a really great question to put to all the English teachers on our [TeachingEnglish - British Council](#) Facebook page! Why not post it there and see what all your colleagues around the world have to say? 😊

Mark

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · Commented on by Mark Appleby · 3d



Lydie Bureau Hi! I'm Lydie, I have more like a general question. I am thinking of booking the test in April and I would like to know how long does usually last the exam day ? Do I need to clear a whole day or half a day is fine ? Thanks

1

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LearnEnglish – British Council Hi Lydie

Here's the information from our website:

'IELTS has four parts – Listening (30 minutes), Reading (60 minutes), Writing (60 minutes) and Speaking (11–14 minutes). The total test time is 2 hours and 45 minutes. The Listening, Reading and Writing tests are done in one sitting. The Speaking test may be on the same day or up to seven days before or after the other tests.'

<https://takeielts.britishcouncil.org/ielts-questions...>

Contact your local IELTS centre to confirm the exact times of the test there.

Good luck! 😊

Mark

1

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · Commented on by Mark Appleby · 3d



Lydie Bureau [LearnEnglish – British Council](#) thank you very much Mark for your response! I will do!

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Write a reply...



Rakan Homs Another question , regarding to speaking test, if I didn't have idea about the topic which given to me ,you know sometimes there are idioms about that subject so can I use vocabularies closers to that idioms and is this way will impact negatively to my band or score

1

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LearnEnglish – British Council Hi Rakan, it's very unlikely you will be given a topic that you know nothing about. The topics are very general and are designed to apply to everyone. The most important thing is to answer the questions as they are asked, so I would not recommend just using random idioms!

Neil

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Rakan Homs I have problem with listening because as I understood from your explanation in the course the podcast will be heard once,that is difficult to know correctly the words ,do you have special training related to this issue?

1

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LearnEnglish – British Council Hi Rakan Homs, we're looking at listening in Week Three, and if you follow the advice we share there it will help a lot.

Neil

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Marisa Roxana Jara Hi everyone! I'm Marisa, from Argentina, is it possible to have some sort of skype talk, so we can get to practice our speaking skills? I mean with you or with learner partners from some other parts of the world?

2

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LearnEnglish – British Council Hi Marisa Roxana Jara, are you studying on our free online course? If not click here to join:

<http://bit.ly/UnderstandingIELTS2018>

We do offer a service like that on this course, and there are also public sites and apps you can use. Check my answer to [Mohamed Tarek](#) for



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1

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湯耀丞 I'd like to ask, "1)How to speed up the reading pace?" and "2)How to balance between the correcting rate and speeding up of reading at the same time?" (because according to psychology, the correcting rate will decrease while you speed up the reading pace.)

1

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LearnEnglish – British Council Hi 湯耀丞, we look at how to improve your reading speed in Week 5 of the course, so check it out there. However, as you say, increasing speed is not necessarily the answer, as it can lead to errors or misunderstanding. So we focus more on how to read 'smart' - how to practise skimming and scanning for information and how to identify what exactly the questions are looking for and where in the text the information can be found, rather than on reading the whole text more quickly. Take a look at Week 5 for more.

Neil

3

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湯耀丞 Thank you very much!

1

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Write a reply...



Zulfa Awad how can i improve my spelling ? how can i manage my time during writing and reading tasks ?

3

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Top comments is selected, so some replies may have been filtered out.



LearnEnglish – British Council Hi Zulfa Awad, for spelling, the best way is to read as much as you can and practise with these links:
Vocabulary and spelling – <http://esol.britishcouncil.org/.../vocabulary-and-spelling>
How to spell - <http://www.howtospell.co.uk/spelling.php...> [See more](#)



Vocabulary and spelling | ESOL Nexus

ESOL.BRITISHCOUNCIL.ORG

6

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David Lewis To manage the time during tasks first you need to practice using the time limits found in the exam. Making some notes before writing will help, and with reading, don't spend more than a minute on a question. If you don't know the answer move on. If you have time later you can come back to it. There are many more detailed tips on the course, so have a look at them.

1

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Zulfa Awad **LearnEnglish – British Council** thank you, i will definitely use your advice

1

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · Message · 3d



Zulfa Awad David Lewis thank you, this is very useful.

1

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · Message · 3d

Top comments is selected, so some replies may have been filtered out.



Write a reply...



Ramesh Paudel How to improve accent like british people ?

1

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LearnEnglish – British Council Hi Ramesh, accent is not one of the criteria assessed in IELTS, and it's much more important for you to focus on making sure that your pronunciation is clear and easy to understand than it is to sound British or American! But if you do want to work on this, check out some of the useful tips here:
http://britishenglishcoach.com/33-ways-to-speak-better...
Neil



BRITISHENGLISHCOACH.COM

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Imren Merve Ceylan Is there a certain validity of the IELTS exam results?

1

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LearnEnglish – British Council Hi Imren, yes, the results are valid for two years. That's because most people use them for university entry and visa purposes and both of these things need up-to-date, current results.

Neil

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Ustym Grygoriev Hello, what's about the pdf-version of yesterday's "Facebook Clinic"? Where I can see it?

1

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LearnEnglish – British Council Hi Ustym Grygoriev, if you're here on Facebook then you don't really need the PDF! The PDF is intended for people who cannot or do not use Facebook. You can see all the questions answers and links here!

Neil

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Sarah Gamal I can't memorise words as i was young how could i improve that, and how could i improve my grammar?

1

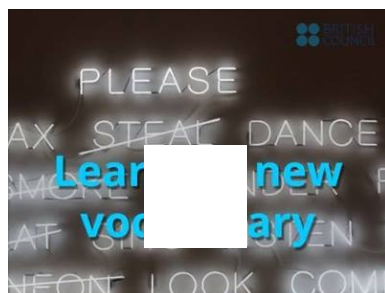
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LearnEnglish – British Council Hi Sarah, check out this post for some really useful advice:

<https://www.facebook.com/LearnEnglishTeens.BritishCouncil/videos/1524605540927935/>

Neil



Learning new vocabulary

02:20

12,372 Views

LearnEnglish Teens – British Council

12 February at 00:49 ·

How do you record and review new vocabulary? Try these tips to help you then click here for more: <http://bit.ly/ExamsSkills>

Sign up for our [#FreeOnlineCourse](#) for lots more advice:

<http://bit.ly/UnderstandingIELTS2018>

Neil

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Faisal Muhammad Please help me with good English grammar app (s). The one that I use has stopped working.

1

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LearnEnglish – British Council Hi Faisal, have you tried our LearnEnglish Grammar app?

<https://learnenglish.britishcouncil.org/.../learnenglish...>

Neil



LearnEnglish Grammar (UK Edition)

LEARNENGLISH.BRITISHCOUNCIL.ORG



Mehdi Hassan Somairi Sir how I improve my speaking and reading skills ?

1

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LearnEnglish – British Council Hi Mehdi

Take a look at these playlists to begin with. And make sure you look at everyone else's questions and answers to find more good ideas! 😊

Speaking (4 videos in playlist) - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LQQE2hWri98...>

Writing (4 videos in playlist) - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=43AIGwz1Aq0...>

Mark



IELTS Speaking: Improve English & prepare for IELTS - Vocabulary

YOUTUBE.COM

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Mehdi Hassan Somairi Good

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Write a reply...



Eko Kertaraharja Hi...Learn English!what is the meaning of Facebook clinic n what is the program in educator want teach..please answer one by one..Thx

1

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [Message](#) · 4d



LearnEnglish – British Council Hi Eko Kertaraharja, a clinic (as well as its medical meaning) is 'an occasion when an expert teaches a class on their subject'. It's basically a question and answer session where you can ask about any topics related to IELTS and we will help you.

Neil

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · Commented on by Neil McLaren · 45m



Sansi Devon Could you please suggest me any websites or books to refer for sample letters and essays for IELTS General Training module?I'm targeting band 8 in Writing and quite not sure what resources should I follow to improve my writing. Thanks in advance 😊

1

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LearnEnglish – British Council Hi Sansi, well the first place you should start is with our free online course! It's full of practice activities AND links to useful online resources. Just click here to join:

<http://bit.ly/UnderstandingIELTS2018>

Next try out these writing skills activities, particularly the B2 and C1 ones: <http://learnenglishteens.britishcouncil.org/.../writing...>

Neil



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Minh Trang Hello. How long will it take to get from band 5.0 to more than band 6.5?

1

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LearnEnglish – British Council Hi Minh Trang, check my answer to Duong Dang here:

<https://www.facebook.com/LearnE.../posts/1956734771021684...>

Neil



LearnEnglish – British Council

14 February at 14:31 ·

Hi everyone and welcome to our special Understanding IELTS Facebook Clinic! The course educators will be here for the next hour to answer all your IELTS questions and share lots of great resources. So post your questions in the comments below and we'll get started!

Neil

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Alfa Adamu My question is do you people at IELTS offer any online certificate causes? If yes what are the categories....Thank you.

1

answering your questions today are all from our free online course! If you haven't joined it yet, click here to sign up:

<http://bit.ly/UnderstandingIELTS2018>

Neil



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4d



Ishraga Hassan [LearnEnglish – British Council](#) hi, are we having a certificate after free IELTS test can you explain it plz.

1

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · Message · 13h



LearnEnglish – British Council Hi [Ishraga Hassan](#), only students who upgrade can get a certificate I'm afraid.

Neil

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · Commented on by Neil McLaren · 28m



Write a reply...



Gulsher Ali Hello guys how are you ? Hope you all doing well: I want to ask about IELTS. What is the best way to learn IELTS, I am from India and my name is Gulsher Ali, Can I good speaker in English ? Actually my grammar is very poor and I want to make it strong that's why I want to participate in IELTS. Please give me advice about it.

1

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LearnEnglish – British Council Hi [Gulsher Ali](#), IELTS is a test of your language ability, used for entry to university or for migratoion to English speaking countries etc. So it's not really the way to improve your grammar etc. You should do that first THEN think about IELTS. Join our free course here to learn more:

<http://bit.ly/UnderstandingIELTS2018>

Then visit our websites to practise every day:

<https://learnenglish.britishcouncil.org/en/>

<https://learnenglishteens.britishcouncil.org>

Neil



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2

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4d



Gulsher Ali thanks for this information.

1

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Write a reply...



Alejandra Ardila The idea of listening to the podcasts just once really afraid me. Any advice about it?

1

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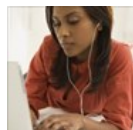
LearnEnglish – British Council Hi [Alejandra](#), I know what you mean! It can seem scary at first, especially if you're used to listening to things twice or more in class or at home. But really with practice, and by following the advice we give on the course, it becomes much easier. The questions come in the same order as you hear them, and you have time before and after each section to read the questions and think about exactly what you are listening for. The best solution is practising a little every day with the resource on our websites:

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

<https://learnenglish.britishcouncil.org/.../listening...>

After all, in real life if you attend a lecture or presentation, you can't stop the speaker and ask them to repeat themselves, so it's great practice!

Neil



Listening skills practice | LearnEnglish Teens

LEARNENGLISHTEENS.BRITISHCOUNCIL.ORG

1

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4d



Ishraga Hassan i tried it but it's not working?


Duong Dang How long will it take me to get 8 listening when im at 6.0 (i try doin at home only) 🙄

1

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Duong Dang ohhhh.I mean how to do that and will it be a long journey 🙄

1

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LearnEnglish – British Council Hi Duong Dang, it's not really possible to give a specific time - it depends on many things. For example, it depends on how much and how often you can practise every day, on how motivated you are, on your previous experience, and on your work on other skills like reading, vocabulary building etc. Another point, which Alister made in another answer, is that you don't really need 8.0 for most things. The highest score demanded by universities is normally 7.5, with many requiring just 6.5. For immigration purposes, or to practise as a medical doctor n the UK, for example, they also ask for 7.5. So check what you need first before setting very high goals. Finally, as a general guide, look at this link. 6.0 is just at the border of C1, whereas 8.0 is equivalent to C2, so this would suggest you would need around 300 hours of guided learning. <https://support.cambridgeenglish.org/.../202838506-Guided...>

Neil

1

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Duong Dang Thank you so much ❤️ I do hope that i can learn more and more useful things from your page

1

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 Write a reply...


Yusuf Mustafa hi... i wanna ask how we get band score 8 in speaking session?

3

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Alister Widdowson That's not easy Yusuf! it all depends on what your band is at the moment and how much work you will need to do to get up to an 8. Actually, 8 is a very high score and universities don't normally need more than a 7.5 What do you need IELTS for?

1

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LearnEnglish – British Council Hi Yusuf, there is no simple answer to that! IELTS tests your abilities in real-world communication, so the only way to get Band 8 is to develop your fluency, pronunciation, grammar and vocabulary to the necessary level through lots and lots of practice. There are no shortcuts! But if you follow the advice we share on the course and keep practising, then you can definitely achieve your goals in time.

Neil

1

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Kanishk Singh I am deepika I am working hard to improve my speaking skills but after every five minutes I stop than become blank

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Yusuf Mustafa Actually i need IELTS for submission to apply master degree Alister Widdowson and how we handle the nervous during interview with examiner? and what advice do you have to make our speaking skill more fluently?

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 Write a reply...


Mohamed Tarek Is there app or site that help in practicing English with others

3

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [Message](#) · 4d


LearnEnglish – British Council Hi Mohamed, there are some, but we haven't tested them all so can't recommend or endorse any one in particular. Take a look at this article and link for example: <https://www.fluentu.com/.../english/english-speaking-online/> <http://www.speaking24.com/>

Neil


 Want to Practice Speaking English with a Native Speaker? Go Online!
FLUENTU.COM



Zeeshan Haider What exactly we have to write and speak in writing and speaking modules respectively during IELTS Exam? Are there any specific topics or we can choose any topic by ourselves. How long to speak and how many words have to be written in writing module?

1

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Alister Widdowson Good questions there Zeeshan. Actually, that's a rather big question but essentially you are told what to write and speak about and you are not given any choice. Have a look at weeks 2,4 and 6 on the course for more information

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Zeeshan Haider Where can i find course you are talking about?

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [Message](#) · 4d



LearnEnglish – British Council Here's the course, Zeeshan. It's already started, but there's still time to catch up if you join now! 😊

Mark

<https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/understanding-ielts>



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Write a reply...



Dinesh Roy I want to know when I apply Gerund nd participle

1

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Dinesh Roy I know Gerund is noun and participle as adj. But how can under stand this formula is apply

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [Message](#) · 3d



LearnEnglish – British Council Hi Dinesh Roy, you will find a very clear explanation here:

<http://www.chompchomp.com/terms/gerund.htm>

<http://www.chompchomp.com/terms/participle.htm>... See more



Grammar Bytes! :: The Gerund

CHOMPCHOMP.COM

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Write a reply...



Lissett López Hi! Good morning! What can I do if I haven't a person who I can practice my spoken English? Some site online or link that you recommend us, how Will find a secure site where se find people with the same purpose... thank a lot

1

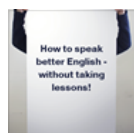
[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [Message](#) · 4d

Top comments is selected, so some replies may have been filtered out.



LearnEnglish – British Council Hi Lissett López, check my answer to Mohamed Tarek for more on that. And also take a look at this excellent blog: <http://britishenglishcoach.com/33-ways-to-speak-better.../>

Neil



33 ways to speak better English

BRITISHENGLISHCOACH.COM

2

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Write a reply...



Shreya Jauhar Hi! Will this not be in the form of a live video?

3

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Alister Widdowson I'm afraid not, this is a Facebook clinic where people type their questions and we answer them

1

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many more questions in an hour and instantly share links to useful resources. Plus afterwards you can save them as a resource.

Neil

5

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Write a reply...



Riizwan Khan The main problem I am facing is the writing module which i find really annoying help me with it

2

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Alister Widdowson What kind of problems do you have? I suggest you have a look at weeks 4 and 6 on the course to start off with.

1

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LearnEnglish – British Council Hi **Riizwan Khan**, that's a big topic! So big in fact that we spend two whole weeks on it in our free online course. If you haven't joined yet, click here and check out Weeks 4 and 6: <http://bit.ly/UnderstandingIELTS2018> You'll see on the course that we also offer a one-to-one service for people in your situation, so check it out on Step 1.16.

Neil



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Riizwan Khan Thanks a lot

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Write a reply...



Chandra Boro Hi..sometimes I get puzzled in using the verbs "Be"and"Become"...please let me clear the difference between these two verbs.

1

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LearnEnglish – British Council Hi **Chandra Boro**, 'become' really means to start to be something. It gives the idea of change from one thing to another, for example becoming an adult, becoming angry etc.'Be' on the other hand describes a state - how or what something is.

Neil

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · Commented on by Neil McLaren · 42m



Penina Achies Irene How can I push my students to band 8

1

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LearnEnglish – British Council Hi **Penina** Check out the teaching resources here: <https://takeielts.britishcouncil.org/.../ielts-teaching...> ... See more

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · Commented on by Mark Appleby · 3d



David Lewis Hello everyone, this is David, one of the educators on the Understanding IELTS course. Looking forward to answering your questions in the next hour.

12

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Anna Penny Oh no, this isn't the 'live' event. I am missing your cute ostrich smile dear sir. Thank you for answering questions on the future learn course. 😊

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · Message · 4d



David Lewis It is live Anna, just not a video!

1

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Anna Penny How's Sally? Please pass her my warm regards. Happy valentine's day to both you. Thanks. 😊

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · Message · 4d



Moa'amal Moa'amal Hi,please can you tell me what are the important words we should memorise it to be able to get high score in IELTS. Thanks

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · Message · 4d



David Lewis Hello Moa'amal, IELTS doesn't work like that, it is primarily a test of skills rather than memory of word lists. Of course it is important to have a good range of vocabulary to produce good essays or when speaking, and you'll find lots of good tips related to this on our course. <https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/understanding-ielts>



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Write a reply...



Rafah Hadidi Hi, I really have problem in vocabulary when I speak I cannot find the right word quickly, what can I do?

2

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Alister Widdowson Hi Rafah, that's a good question. I suggest that for speaking you don't worry too much about using really difficult vocabulary. Stick to more familiar items and it should be easier to speak fluently.

1

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Write a reply...



Debora Leite Caputo Hi! Glad to be here! What should I do if I'm not familiar with the topic in part 2 of speaking test?

4

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [Message](#) · 4d


Alister Widdowson Hi Debora. many people are concerned about this but it is very rarely a problem. Most of the topics are very general (favorite film, a teacher you liked etc.) and it does not cause problems. If there is a topic you do not know much about then say what you can, remember it is an English test, not a test of your subject knowledge.

3

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Debora Leite Caputo Alister Widdowson Tks! 😊

1

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Write a reply...



Cibele Sales What can I do to improve my listening? besides to practice the test and watch series in English

4

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Mohamed Tarek +1

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Alister Widdowson That's a good question. i think that for IELTS preparation, the best thing you can do is to listen to the news in English (I like BBC) every day. This should be at least half an hour every day an plan to do it for a few months rather than days or weeks.

1

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Write a reply...



Tamer Sh Hello educators, I would like to ask about speaking test (part 2), can I read from paper when I speak?

3

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Alister Widdowson For part two you certainly can, in fact you get a minute to think about the Question and to make notes to help you speak so it is a very good idea! you can't do it for part one and part three though

1

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Tamer Sh Thank you

2

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Write a reply...



David Lewis I'm afraid it's time to go now. Thanks for the interesting questions and remember you can keep asking on the course.

2

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Chandra Boro What is the full form of IELTS?

2

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Julianna Wolf International English Language Testing System

2

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Chandra Boro Thank you very much

2

 **Maxime Djoudi** Silvia..it s me
1
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 **Waseem Michael** thank you all for being following us with our questions and answering us.
I hope my writing & my grammar are correct when I'm commenting to you now.....
I hope also that you hold more live facebook so we can ask you more questions when we go deep in our study with your program.
1
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 **Alister Widdowson** Thanks Waseem. We really enjoy these sessions as it brings us closer to our participants. We will certainly have more as the course progresses.
1
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 Write a reply...

 **Baig Habiba** Hello educators....I am really looking forward to your golden tips as usual.....any good tip to control my nervousness and build confidence to communicate others in english.😁
4
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 **Alister Widdowson** Hi there, I hope we can help! I think the main answer is to do lots and lots) of practice but also to practice in front of people to get used to speaking under pressure. Even if you can only get a family member to sit in the room when you practice it will raise the pressure a bit and i think that makes it easier in the exam.
3
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 **Baig Habiba** valuable answer thanks..
[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [Message](#) · 4d

 Write a reply...

 **Debora Leite Caputo** Is there a difference on booking the exam through the British Council or Cambridge websites? Is booking only through web, or is it possible to book at the application center in person?
3
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Top comments is selected, so some replies may have been filtered out.

 Write a reply...

 **Bárbara Santiago** Many people usually correct yourself or take long pauses when speak either in their mother tongue. I mean, if I do this in my mother tongue, I will probabaly do in english.... How to deal if it?
1
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 **Alister Widdowson** Very god point there. If you do it in your own language then it means it is part of normal communication right? This is totally fine in English and IELTS as long as you don't do it too much. practice speaking a bit more slowly than normally - this might help.
1
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 Write a reply...

 **Baig Habiba** If in speaking test the given topic is related to restaurant which I am not use to go then, can I express my negative feelings towards that topic for instance, to say I don't like visiting restaurants for dinner or lunch
1
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 **Alister Widdowson** You could do but it's better to try to answer the question directly. So if they ask you about your favourite restaurant and you don't have one, think about a restaurant you went to which you didn't mind so much and talk about that.
1
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 Write a reply...

 **ang juying** Hi. English is not my mother tongue. The challenge that i face which decreases the fluency of the language is, i tend to translate the sentence in my mind before i speak it in english. Any guidance in coping with this?
1
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 **Alister Widdowson** This tends to change with time. The more you study and particularity the more you can use your English, the better

4

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 **ang juying** thanks Alister

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · Message · 4d · Edited

 **ang juying** any resources to improve writing?

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · Message · 4d

 Write a reply...

 **Tarek Mohamed** Hi, my question is (How can I score 7 in Ielts which will be hold in May because I am planning to do it in that month which still almost 3 months, could you give me the best plan that I follow to study everyday? btw I am engineering student final year and no really enough time) thank you so much

1

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 **Alister Widdowson** Tricky question Tarek. Actually it depends on where you are now and which of the papers you need most work with. Do some practice tests on this site <http://takeielts.britishcouncil.org/.../free-practice-tests> so you know where your strengths are and then focus on the weakest areas. I think that you need to be doing at least 30 minutes of reading and the same listening every day (yes, every day!) as a minimum then practice your grammar, vocab, speaking and writing for an hour in total every day too. It's a lot of work but it does pay off in the end.

3

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 **Tarek Mohamed** Alister Widdowson I see, thanks in advance 🌹🌹

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 Write a reply...

 **Waseem Michael** my next question is also in the same step - step 2.6 in week 2 : when you said that "Nancy uses a range of discourse markers including some less common markers like 'for sure' " is this good or not?... [See more](#)

1

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 **David Lewis** This is good, it means she doesn't just use the simple standard discourse markers like 'OK' or 'so.'

2

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 Write a reply...

 **Mohamed Arafat** Hello, I have a problem with the spelling, specially with (a,e,i,o,u) and most, I don't know how to solve it. do you have advice.

2

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 **Alister Widdowson** Hi Mohamed. you just have to sit down and memorise them i'm afraid. Vocabulary lists, particularly ones with academic English are on the internet and i would suggest starting with the 100 most frequent vocabulary items and study them till you get them right each time.

1

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 Write a reply...

 **Odilia Ivana** Hi, I hope I haven't missed the live video yet, there's one saying that says "A FOREIGN CAN NEVER REACH A NATIVE LEVEL" what do you think about this saying? is it valid based on your teaching experience?

1

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 **Alister Widdowson** This is indeed a challenge but if you dedicate enough time to it and ideally spend some time living in the country then you can certainly attain a very high level of English.

1

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 **Odilia Ivana** so the point that I got is.. it is not impossible!

I'm going to take an academic test, I've been wondering if the writing test would be something like writing that we learn in college, like a paragraph consist of 1 main idea and several supporting ideas? or it be anything as long as the ideas connect and written grammatically correct?

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