



**LearnEnglish – British Council**

Published by Neil McLaren · 11 October at 14:35 ·

Hi everyone and welcome to our Understanding IELTS Language Clinic!  
The course educators will be here for the next hour to answer all your questions, so please post them in the comments below!  
If you haven't joined our #FreeOnlineCourse yet, just click here to find out more: <http://bit.ly/UnderstandingIELTS8>  
Neil

71,654 people reached

Boost Post

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354

Top comments (unfiltered)

21 shares

119 comments



Write a comment...



**LearnEnglish – British Council** It's time for us to finish now! Thanks for all your great questions and don't worry if we haven't answered yours yet. We'll check back later today and tomorrow to answer any we've missed. Make sure you read through all the questions - maybe someone else has already asked the same thing as you. If you have any more questions, please don't ask them here - post them on the main Facebook page and we'll answer them there. Enjoy the rest of this week! Bye for now!

Neil

Like · Reply · 25 · Commented on by Neil McLaren · 11 October at 15:41



**Dolores Ruiz** Thank you, Mr Neil and dear educators. 😊  
Like · Reply · Message · 1 · 11 October at 15:43



**Dawn Holoares** Thanks Mr.David and thank you educators for answering our questions. 😊  
Like · Reply · Message · 1 · 11 October at 15:56



**Anh Hoang** Thanks and hope to join many clinics and live of yours  
Like · Reply · Message · 1 · 11 October at 15:57



**Jose Luis** Thanks for all your help. regards from Peru dear Educators!  
Like · Reply · Message · 1 · 11 October at 16:02



**Ida Lau** Thank you 🙏🙏🙏  
Like · Reply · Message · 1 · 11 October at 16:05



**Futian You**

Like · Reply · Message · 11 October at 16:14



**Futian You** Thank you Neil and all the educators  
Like · Reply · Message · 1 · 11 October at 16:14



**Winnie Huixin** Thank you so much for your guys  
Like · Reply · Message · 1 · 11 October at 16:17



**Suzan Mohamed** Thanks a lot  
Like · Reply · Message · 1 · 11 October at 16:28



Write a reply...



**Ahsan Balouchi** when is the live happening?  
Like · Reply · Message · 3 · 11 October at 14:46



**LearnEnglish – British Council** You're in it @Ahsan Balouchi! This is a live clinic today so just write your questions in a comment and one of the educators will help you! 😊  
Tina  
Like · Reply · 9 · Commented on by Tina Pole · 11 October at 14:50



**Sally British** Hi - today we have a clinic. Write your questions and we'll try to answer them :)  
Like · Reply · Message · 3 · 11 October at 14:52



**Ahsan Balouchi** where i can find the IELTS past exam papers for reading writing listening and speaking for more practice?  
Like · Reply · Message · 2 · 11 October at 14:52

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Good luck:

Tina 😊



### IELTS Free Practice tests to develop your exam technique

Spend time developing your exam technique...  
TAKEIELTS.BRITISHCOUNCIL.ORG

Like · Reply · Remove Preview · 5 · Commented on by Tina Pole · 11 October at 15:01

**Ahsan Balouchi** in writing exam, can we exceed the word limit??  
Like · Reply · Message · 11 October at 15:18

**Ahsan Balouchi** what if there is an spelling mistake in the listening exam??  
will that be counted as a mark or not?  
Like · Reply · Message · 11 October at 15:33

**LearnEnglish – British Council** Hi Ahsan, there is no upper word limit in IELTS writing. And in the Listening exam, spelling is important so if you make a mistake you will not get the mark.  
Neil  
Like · Reply · Commented on by Neil McLaren · 29 mins

Write a reply...

**Raquel López** Hello to all educators! I need some tips on how can I practice for the writing part of the test. Thank you!

Like · Reply · Message · 3 · 11 October at 15:02

**LearnEnglish – British Council** Hi @Raquel López, we'll be covering the writing tests in Weeks 4 and 6 of the course. You could also take a look at these past papers to practise - for General Training: <https://takeielts.britishcouncil.org/.../writing-practice...> and for Academic: <https://takeielts.britishcouncil.org/.../writing-practice...>  
I hope they help!  
Tina

### IELTS General Training Writing practice test

Practice your IELTS general training writing test with our general training practice test requiring 2 writing tasks to be completed over a 1 hour period

TAKEIELTS.BRITISHCOUNCIL.ORG

Like · Reply · Remove Preview · 7 · Commented on by Tina Pole · 11 October at 15:13

**Gill Kulwinder** Answers for these tests are excellent one??or they are just for help  
Like · Reply · Message · 12 October at 03:59

**LearnEnglish – British Council** HI Raquel, also check out our Writing Skills activities:  
<https://learnenglishteens.britishcouncil.org/.../writing...>  
Neil



### Writing skills practice | LearnEnglish Teens

Practise your writing skills with our activities,...  
LEARNENGLISHTEENS.BRITISHCOUNCIL.ORG

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Write a reply...

**Semoo Farid** Hello, I want to know how to enhance my writing  
Like · Reply · Message · 2 · 11 October at 14:52

**LearnEnglish – British Council** Hi Semoo, we'll be looking at writing in detail in Weeks 4 and 6, but in the meantime check out these activities for practice:  
<http://learnenglishteens.britishcouncil.org/.../writing...>  
Neil



### Writing skills practice | LearnEnglish Teens

Practise your writing skills with our activities,...  
LEARNENGLISHTEENS.BRITISHCOUNCIL.ORG

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**Winnie Huixin** LearnEnglish – British Council hi neil. the page is showed for teen in 13-18. does it suitable for us?  
Like · Reply · Message · 1 · 11 October at 15:06

**Semoo Farid** Thanks a lot Neil  
Like · Reply · Message · 1 · 11 October at 15:19

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Like · Reply · Commented on by Neil McLaren · 25 mins

Write a reply...



**Alber Kamo** Fill in the blank with no more than TWO words:

Passage:

Preparation for giving a presentation:

Get someone else to evaluate your performance and highlight your best skills. For example, go through your presentation in front of a colleague or relative.

Q/ practising your presentation on a ..... or a family member is helpful.

I think the answer MUST BE "colleague, relative" but According to IELTS standard answers, the answer is COLLEAGUE just tell me WHYYYYYY?!!!



Like · Reply · Message · 3 · 11 October at 14:41



**LearnEnglish – British Council** Hi Alber, here 'relative' is a synonym for family member, so you couldn't repeat it in that gap. The only possible answer is colleague.

Neil

Like · Reply · 4 · Commented on by Neil McLaren · 11 October at 15:09



**Saranya Kanchan** Because "relative" and "family member" are the same.

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**Sisilia Âli** can a friend be a possible answer?

Like · Reply · Message · 11 October at 15:17



**Sisilia Âli** instead of "colleague" I mean

Like · Reply · Message · 11 October at 15:18



**Liz Taylor** Close friend, maybe

Like · Reply · Message · 11 October at 16:50



**Alber Kamo** Do you really think that relative has the same meaning with the family member?!

Like · Reply · Message · 11 October at 17:24



**LearnEnglish – British Council** Hi Sisilia, 'friend' would make sense, but it doesn't have the same meaning as 'colleague'.

Alber, yes - relative means just that! 😊

Mark

Like · Reply · 3 · Commented on by Mark Appleby · 11 October at 21:38



**Alber Kamo** LearnEnglish – British Council thanks a lot. 😊

Like · Reply · Message · 1 · 11 October at 21:56



**Gill Kulwinder** Because relative is used as a synonym for family members

Like · Reply · Message · 1 · 12 October at 03:44



Write a reply...



**Miriam Padilla** Hello, this is the first time I will be taking the IELTS exam and one of the questions that I have is if in the written part we have to use American English or British English. Thank you.

Like · Reply · Message · 1 · 12 October at 19:53



**LearnEnglish – British Council** Hi Miriam, you can use either one, don't worry!

Neil

Like · Reply · Commented on by Neil McLaren · 15 mins



**Kasia Kowalska** Ok so, I would like to know, can I make a notes on the test, for example while listening.

Like · Reply · Message · 4 · 11 October at 14:46



**LearnEnglish – British Council** Hi Kasia, yes and no! In the listening test, as you hear it only once, you need to answer the questions as you listen and you do that on the paper, then you have ten minutes at the end of the test to transfer your rough answers onto the answer sheet. You have to note down the answers as you listen as it would be impossible to remember them at the end of the section.

Neil

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**Sisilia Âli** I've been wondering about the same thing, since I don't have a very good memory

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**Kasia Kowalska** Sisilia Âli, exactly + stress and confusion ready 😊

Like · Reply · Message · 1 · 11 October at 15:16



**Kasia Kowalska** Thank you Neil.

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Write a reply...

**Dilrukshi Wasana** Hi are there any programs that we can speak with English speakers? By using Facebook or Skype?

Like · Reply · Message · 5 · 11 October at 14:41

**LearnEnglish – British Council** Hi @Dilrukshi Wasana, I don't have any recommendations for using Skype or Facebook but there are tonnes of Speaking Apps - a colleague of mine recommended this one - Speaky app, <https://www.speaky.com/> but truthfully I've never tried it.  
Tina



Speaky - language exchange community to practice languages...

SPEAKY.COM

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**Dilrukshi Wasana** Thank u. I think u correct. We can't trust others. There is a lot of fake sites too

Like · Reply · Message · 1 · 11 October at 15:28 · Edited

Write a reply...

**Abdullah Al Hady** Hello everyone. Can anyone please tell me how can I avoid my robotic expression while speaking in English. I cannot feel when I speak in English. And is there any way to develop my vocabulary except studying. Thanks

Like · Reply · Message · 1 · 11 October at 15:21 · Edited

**Asadur Rahman** buddy practice in front of a mirror 😊

Like · Reply · Message · 1 · 11 October at 16:55

**Abdullah Al Hady** Yes, bondhu amar. Thanks.. Someone said he who can convince himself can convince everyone else....Kintu confidence level er prachurjotar ovabay i feel even shy in front of me and become even more robotic....

Like · Reply · Message · 1 · 11 October at 17:27

**Asadur Rahman** bepar na bondhu, practice makes a man A good helper 😊

Like · Reply · Message · 1 · 11 October at 17:37

**Asadur Rahman** bepar na bondhu, practice makes a man A good helper 😊

Like · Reply · Message · 1 · 11 October at 17:40

**LearnEnglish – British Council** Hi Abdullah Here are some links to help you, but the best way to improve your speaking is lots of practice! Why not try to form a speaking group with some friends if you can't join a class?

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>

Here are some tips and tools to help you learn vocabulary, too!

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>

Mark



Speaking skills practice | LearnEnglish Teens

Practise your speaking skills with our... LEARNENGLISHTEENS.BRITISHCOUNCIL.ORG

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**Abdullah Al Hady** Many thanks for the guidelines. This is really helpful.

Like · Reply · Message · 1 · 12 October at 01:57

Write a reply...

**Gaby Sepulveda Ramos** Hi, I want to know if accent is a problem for speaking part, I would like to know because I'm Latin...

Like · Reply · Message · 2 · 11 October at 14:58

**LearnEnglish – British Council** Hi Gaby, accent is not one of the criteria which is assessed, so having an accent is not a problem - so long as your pronunciation is clear and easy to understand. If you have a very strong accent and pronounce a lot of words very

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best thing to do is record yourself and listen back to see what you think. If there are some features or sounds which you feel could cause problems then you can focus on them.

Neil

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**Ola Osama** thank you, it's a relief

Like · Reply · Message · 1 · 11 October at 15:23

**Gaby Sepulveda Ramos** Thank you Neil! It help me to feel more confidence

Like · Reply · Message · 1 · 11 October at 15:25

Write a reply...

**Ro Se** Hi everyone, I have 2 questions for the educators, the 1st is that I fell a little bit nervous when I'm talking in English and always afraid of making mistakes, what should I do to feel more confident? The 2nd one is: how I could improve my vocabulary and learn more new words?

Thanks in advance.

Like · Reply · Message · 1 · 11 October at 14:57

**LearnEnglish – British Council** Hi Ro Se, first of all try not to think about mistakes - focus on getting your message across. When you're speaking with anyone, whether it's in daily life, in class or in an exam they want to understand what you have to say. Even in an exam, grammar is only one part of the assessment, so if you're worrying about it so much that it gets in the way of communicating then you will affect your results for the other criteria like vocabulary, fluency and coherence and pronunciation. So really try to speak as much as you can.

For vocabulary advice, check out these links:

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

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

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

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

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

Neil



### Learning new words

This section gives you lots of advice and ideas on how you can learn new words. When...

LEARNENGLISHTEENS.BRITISHCOUNCIL.ORG

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**Dalia Massri** I am good at speaking and listening , i lack in spelling and grammar ,any quick methods to fix it ?

Like · Reply · Message · 1 · 11 October at 14:55

**LearnEnglish – British Council** Hi Dalia Massri, sorry I don't know of any 'quick' methods!!! Practice, practice and more practice helps!!! Try these to help - Spelling and Vocabulary:

<http://esol.britishcouncil.org/.../vocabulary-and-spelling> and take a look at our grammar activities here:

<https://learnenglish.britishcouncil.org/en/english-grammar>

Tina 😊



### Vocabulary and spelling | ESOL

Nexus

Word endings Do you want to get better at...

ESOL.BRITISHCOUNCIL.ORG

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**Dalia Massri** Thank you. And i meant by "quick" things i can acquire/learn fast because my test is due Saturday .

Like · Reply · Message · 11 October at 16:01

Write a reply...

**Foram Madhvani** Also what sources can be accessed for improving your grammar?

Like · Reply · Message · 2 · 11 October at 14:49

**LearnEnglish – British Council** Hi Foram, check out these resources on our websites: <https://learnenglish.britishcouncil.org/en/grammar-and-vocabulary>

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

Neil

### Grammar videos | LearnEnglish

Teens

Watch English grammar videos and do the...

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**Jose Luis** Hello dear educators from Peru! I'd like to know more about the use of linking words and if it is a must to repeat the question given in the part 2 of the speaking test and what do you suggest if I have no clue about the question given. Can I ask for a clarification? any tips . thanks a bunch!

Like · Reply · Message · 3 · 11 October at 14:42

View 2 more replies



**LearnEnglish – British Council** Hi Jose Luis, that's a few questions together! Okay let's take them one by one:

- 1) Yes linking words are essential in both speaking and writing. They help with fluency and coherence and they help the listener to follow and remain interested in what your are saying. Someone who spoke exclusively in short, separate, but grammatically correct sentences would not score highly for fluency and coherence. But in spoken English the range of words necessary can be much simpler than in formal writing - and, but or so are the most common!
- 2) I'm not sure what you mean here by 'repeat the question'. You shouldn't repeat the question at all - you are given the cue card with the instructions and you should use that as a starting point to answer, not repeat it. Some people do echo the words of the question to help them follow it or to give themselves thinking time, but this is not necessary.
- 3) Check these links for information on what you can or can't ask the examiner:

<https://www.ieltsadvantage.com/.../speaking-asking-the.../>  
<https://www.ieltsadvantage.com/.../speaking-asking-the.../>

Neil



### Speaking: Asking the Examiner Questions – IELTS Advantage

IELTSADVANTAGE.COM

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**Jose Luis** Thanks Mister Alister but I meant in the second part of the speaking I am supposed to be given a card with a topic and I checked some examples and one I remember was about "commute" If I did not know the meaning I would get lost. any other tricky subjects maybe so that I can prepare myself thanks!

Like · Reply · Message · 11 October at 14:56



**Jose Luis** I'll check those videos and thanks for helping me out! I can get a bit anxious about knowing everything lol!. In the third part I will get more abstract questions related to the second part. Any piece of advice?

Like · Reply · Message · 11 October at 15:09



**Jose Luis** Thanks that website was really helpful! 😊

Like · Reply · Message · 1 · 11 October at 16:02



Write a reply...



**Luzy Juno** I got band 6 and 5.5 in ielts speaking test on the January and August respectively ,why my scores become lower than before within few month?

Like · Reply · Message · 1 · 11 October at 14:48



**LearnEnglish – British Council** Hi Luzy, unfortunately your results can vary like that depending on your performance on the day. It could mean that in just one part of the test you did less well than before, or that you had problems with more than one section. You need to practise as much and as often as you can before retaking the test - that's really the only way to help.

Neil

Like · Reply · Commented on by Neil McLaren · 16 mins



Write a reply...



**Darya Jah** Would you please take care of my question? How should we speak or write in more natural way? any efficient way to improve speaking ? Thanks in advance

Like · Reply · Message · 2 · 11 October at 14:54



**LearnEnglish – British Council** Hi Darya, the only way to become more natural is through lots and lots of practice. And not only speaking practice, but also lots of listening. Listening to how natural English sounds then comparing it with your own speech and trying to improve your pronunciation and intonation can really help. Try our Speaking Skills activities here for lots of practice:

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### Speaking skills practice | LearnEnglish Teens

Practise your speaking skills with our activities,...  
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**Darya Jah** Thanks Neil...thank you..by the way, Happy Birthday  
Like · Reply · Message · 11 October at 15:46

Write a reply...

**Sebit Michael** Hi everyone am just so confuse, because since i started from the first week uptoday i understood nothing from this course, am really very interested learn, but am falling to find the top or the subject which the learner are sposted to learn therefore i need your help to so me the right way to follow.

Like · Reply · Message · 2 · 12 October at 20:20

**LearnEnglish – British Council** Hi Sebit Michael, I'm sorry to hear that. It might be that the course is at a higher level than your current English level, but even if that is true, there are still lots of parts of the course that can help you. Don't feel you have to do everything at once - just try different steps and do any that feel right for you. Make sure you watch this video for advice on how to get the most from the course: <https://www.futurelearn.com/.../understand.../8/steps/230338>  
Neil



### Page from Understanding IELTS - British Council

Improve your English and prepare for tests,...  
FUTURELEARN.COM

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**Viktor Saenko** I read Speaking test in course and I have question. Have you links with short story-samples for answers? Like:

- Describe a restaurant you enjoyed visiting.  
and Ans. cool story for sample

- Describe a meal you remember.  
and Ans. cool story for sample

etc...

Like · Reply · Message · 1 · 11 October at 14:59 · Edited

**LearnEnglish – British Council** Hi Viktor, not exactly, but check out these resources for help:

<https://learnenglishteens.britishcouncil.org/.../typical...>  
<https://learnenglish.britishcouncil.org/.../ielts...>

Neil



### Typical speaking tasks

Speaking exams can vary a lot and there are many different tasks you might be asked to do....

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**Ibrahim Abdi** I sant to Know how to improv My grammer

Like · Reply · Message · 1 · 11 October at 22:39

**LearnEnglish – British Council** Hi Ibrahim,the best way to improve your grammar is by reading and listening to lots of English and thinking about how and why the language is being used in different ways. When you're not sure about something you can learn more and practise with our grammar activities here:

<https://learnenglishteens.britishcouncil.org/.../grammar...>  
<https://learnenglish.britishcouncil.org/en/quick-grammar>  
<https://learnenglish.britishcouncil.org/en/english-grammar>

Neil



### Grammar videos | LearnEnglish Teens

Watch English grammar videos and do the...  
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**Foram Madhvani** How are IELTS paper's corrected?

Like · Reply · Message · 1 · 11 October at 15:19

**LearnEnglish – British Council** Hi Foram, the Reading and Listening tests are corrected based on a comprehensive answer key that

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Neil

Like · Reply · 2 · Commented on by Neil McLaren · 11 October at 15:32



**Foram Madhvani** Alright thank you.

Like · Reply · Message · 11 October at 15:38



Write a reply...



**David Chisanga** 2. I also need resources for speaking. Please.

Like · Reply · Message · 1 · 11 October at 15:28



**LearnEnglish – British Council** Hi David, here you go:  
<https://learnenglishteens.britishcouncil.org/.../speaking...>  
<https://learnenglishteens.britishcouncil.org/.../typical...>  
<http://esol.britishcouncil.org/.../lear.../skills/speaking-0>

Neil



### Speaking skills practice | LearnEnglish Teens

Practise your speaking skills with our activities, ...  
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**Maḥmūd Šəbḥī** Hello, I want to know how to enhance my listhning

Like · Reply · Message · 1 · 11 October at 22:42



**LearnEnglish – British Council** Hi Maḥmūd, there are so many opportunities to practise and improve listening that it means you can really choose things you enjoy and are interested in to practise with. The best way to improve is by listening a little every day to things you really want to understand and enjoy - that way your motivation stays high and it seems less of a chore, but you'll still be improving your skills a little every single day. We have lots of resources on our websites that you can download and listen to anywhere, as well as mobile apps, video series and more. Check them out here:

- <https://learnenglish.britishcouncil.org/.../listening...>
- <http://learnenglishteens.britishcouncil.org/.../listening...>
- <https://learnenglish.britishcouncil.org/en/apps>
- <https://learnenglishteens.britishcouncil.org/.../listenin...>
- <https://learnenglishteens.britishcouncil.org/uk-now/video-uk>
- <https://premierskillenglish.britishcouncil.org/.../listen>

Neil



### Listening skills practice

Practise and improve your listening skills for your studies or for work. There are activities for...  
LEARNENGLISH.BRITISHCOUNCIL.ORG

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**Darya Jah** so sorry the link was introduced by LE Freddie ... is not working .<http://esol.britishcouncil.org/build-your-writing-skills> is not in Britishcouncil.org.

Like · Reply · Message · 1 · 11 October at 15:11 · Edited



**LearnEnglish – British Council** Here's the updated one:  
<http://esol.britishcouncil.org/.../learners/skills/writing-1> Darya!  
Tina



### Writing | ESOL Nexus

In this section you will find help with all aspects of writing. You can practise writing letters, ...  
ESOL.BRITISHCOUNCIL.ORG

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**Darya Jah** Thanks...thank you thank you

Like · Reply · Message · 1 · 11 October at 15:29



Write a reply...



**Sisilia Āli** Hello everyone, I discovered today when I talked to an adviser of a foreign university about the probability for me to apply for MA degree that I did not have any problem in talking to her since the talk was about a subject that I have information about and I'm familiar with, also I did not get nervous unlike previous times that I have been asked about things that I don't know much about or I know about but my mind freezes because I'm not familiar with the subject. My question what can I do to improve my reaction when I face such unfamiliar topics in the future? notice that I don't have problem in the vocabulary most of the time, I just cannot remember the right words...thanks in advance

Like · Reply · Message · 3 · 11 October at 14:52 · Edited



**Muhammad Ali Rafique** You need to practice



Like · Reply · Message · 11 October at 15:05



Write a reply...



**Bint E Hawwa** I can understand English I can write English but I can't speak English with others ....I forget all vocabularies in front of others ....I confused which word I use to speak ...plz tell me what can I do for speaking English ...????n I want to improve my English

Like · Reply · Message · 3 · 11 October at 14:52 · Edited



**Sally British** Hi - it sounds like you need a little more practice to become more confident. There are some excellent speaking activities here: <http://learnenglishteens.britishcouncil.org/.../speaking...>



### Speaking skills practice | LearnEnglish Teens

Practise your speaking skills with our activities,...  
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Like · Reply · Message · Remove Preview · 2 · 11 October at 14:55



**Kasia Kowalska** Talk to yourself. Question and answer- try, it really works.

Like · Reply · Message · 3 · 11 October at 14:56



**Bint E Hawwa** Thanks Kasia Kowalska nd Sally British 😊

Like · Reply · Message · 11 October at 15:43



**Safdar Talpur** We're in the same boat. I also write and understand English well but I can't speak it just because I have never tried speaking it as I don't have anyone to practice with and I don't have resources to improve my spoken English through the internet and technology either but if I were you and I had a touch screen phone and an internet connection, all I'd do is to speak to the English on video or audio call.

Anyway, your written English is good apart from 'I am confused about which, tell me what I can do to speak English.

Like · Reply · Message · 11 October at 15:51



**Orthin Munna Orthinmunna** Hello everybody ,This Abdul Hamid.I am a ielts student so i need to improve my speaking skill.I am looking for a speaking partners.If you want to improve your speaking skill then comment.I need your help.thanks

Like · Reply · Message · 11 October at 16:55



Write a reply...



**Arijit Datta** I am having some serious reading problems:

1.I get a "lump in my throat" feeling while I read.

2.I always read with my eyes/mouth instead of reading with my mind. Thus, my comprehending speed is slow. By the time I finish reading an article, I forget the beginning.

How can I overcome these difficulties?

Like · Reply · Message · 4 · 11 October at 14:38



**Sally British** Hi Arijit. Why don't you try reading the text very quickly first to get a general idea of what it's about, then read it again in more detail. You could underline the most important words as you read to help you remember the main ideas of the text. If there are questions with the text you can read these to help you get an idea of the content of the text.

Like · Reply · Message · 3 · 11 October at 14:46



**Arijit Datta** That's a good idea Sally! What should I do for online texts where there is no provision to underline?

Like · Reply · Message · 1 · 11 October at 14:55



**Sally British** You can make notes if that's possible.

Like · Reply · Message · 2 · 11 October at 14:57



**David Lewis** You could use Diigo, that allows you to annotate web pages.

Like · Reply · Message · 2 · 11 October at 15:08



Write a reply...



**Sarah Zala** has it started ???

Like · Reply · Message · 3 · 11 October at 14:43



**David Lewis** Yes it's started. Do you have a question?

Like · Reply · Message · 2 · 11 October at 14:44



**Sarah Zala** I thought it 'll be LIVE,!! I just want to attend what educators say, so that I might get new information..

Like · Reply · Message · 11 October at 14:48



**David Lewis** This isn't a live video, just a chat this week, so we'll be answering as many questions as we can in the next few minutes.

Like · Reply · Message · 2 · 11 October at 14:49

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Write a reply...

**Danny Wetangterah** I missed it.. 😞  
Like · Reply · Message · 1 · 12 October at 15:57

**Sally British** Hi I'm Sally, one of the educators on the Understanding IELTS MOOC. I'm looking forward to answering some of your questions 😊  
Like · Reply · Message · 10 · 11 October at 14:38

**محمد سمير** Hi , I am mohamed from Egypt ,in fact I am searching for the broadcast but , I Do not find?  
Like · Reply · Message · 1 · 11 October at 14:43

**Sally British** This is a clinic so we don't have a video. Please type your questions here and we'll try to answer them :)  
Like · Reply · Message · 3 · 11 October at 14:48

**محمد سمير** great thanks for illustrations ,I wasted along time searching for the on line video  
In fact I want to tell you that I have graduated from the faculty of arts Department of English and have a higher diploma in Education and for many years I used to translate Al Ahram weekly magazine , washington post ,newyork times and others  
I Love English Language very much but till now I am not sure If I can speak well be fluent in English Language , How can I achieve this?  
Like · Reply · Message · 11 October at 14:55

**Md Shajjad Hossain** Sally British.Madam,I want to know what is the meaning of these sentences  
1.I should be doing  
2.I should have been doing.  
Like · Reply · Message · 1 · 11 October at 14:59

**Sally British** The first is referring to the present time and the second is referring to the past.  
Like · Reply · Message · 2 · 11 October at 15:03

**Md Shajjad Hossain** Thanks madam!  
Like · Reply · Message · 11 October at 15:05

**Rahma Nugrahaini** Why do some native sometimes say "Lake Hurron" and also sometimes "Hurron Lake"?  
When should we use the name of something in the end or the beginning? Thanks a bunch!  
(Rahma, Indonesia.)  
Like · Reply · Message · 11 October at 15:12

**Sciences Fair** Sally British  
Like · Reply · Message · 22 hrs

**Sciences Fair** @sally british Hi,  
I am future learn member in understand ielts course , I would like u to accept my request to join MOOC group please.  
Thanks... See more  
Like · Reply · Message · 22 hrs

Write a reply...

**LE Freddie** Hello Everyone. I'm Freddie, one of the educators on Understanding IELTS. I'm looking forward to answering any questions you may have.  
Like · Reply · Message · 8 · 11 October at 14:37 · Edited

**Nivia Mahmoud** Hi,, This is Niveen and I'm gonna take IELTS test next month .Really I'm a bit scared specially from writing and listening sections ,, pls what your advice to me to get a high score ?  
Like · Reply · Message · 1 · 11 October at 14:40

**Dilrukshi Wasana** Hi  
Im Dilrukshi  
Can i know are their any programs that we can talk with native speakers by using Facebook or skype  
Like · Reply · Message · 1 · 11 October at 14:47

**Foram Madhvani** Hiya, Can the speaking topics get altered?  
Like · Reply · Message · 11 October at 14:59

**Dilrukshi Wasana** How can i emprove my pronunciation  
Like · Reply · Message · 11 October at 15:04

**Nivia Mahmoud LE Freddie** thanks a bunch .. I will complete all steps as soon as possible I can ..  
Like · Reply · Message · 11 October at 15:08

Write a reply...

**Gabriellita Ruiz** Inputs skills have become easier for me to understand, I recognize the vocabulary, I feel confident listening to British or American accent, it seems so simple to understand every single word when reading or listening. However, output skills are my weaknesses, it is hard to remember

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enjoy, but what other technique I can use to help me remember when expressing myself? Either writing or speaking

Like · Reply · Message · 2 · 11 October at 14:59

**David Lewis** There is no simple answer here Gabrielita, but there are a few things I can suggest. First of all, try to focus on a few words or expressions at a time. Take a few you really want to use, let's say 5, and make of point of trying to use them that week until you find you are using them even when you don't think about them. Another thing would be to organise the words you are learning in a thematic way. For example, have all the words about animals on a page, words to describe films on another. This means that when you come to write you will find it easy to go back and find these reference pages.

Most importantly, don't try and do too much at a time, a short study period every day is better than a long one once a week.

Like · Reply · Message · 2 · 11 October at 15:05

**Gabrielita Ruiz** David Lewis thanks a lot for your suggestions, I'll start applying them asap!

Like · Reply · Message · 11 October at 15:10

Write a reply...

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**David Lewis** Hello everyone, David here one of the educators on the course. Looking forward to answering your questions.

Like · Reply · Message · 7 · 11 October at 14:37

**Foram Madhvani** Hiya, I was wondering is you have a slight British accent does it affect your Speaking test? Thanks

Like · Reply · Message · 1 · 11 October at 14:47

**David Lewis** No it doesn't Foram. The accent isn't important, and people can achieve a good score no matter what accent they have. What is important is to speak clearly and in a manner that can be easily understood.

Like · Reply · Message · 1 · 11 October at 14:51

**Mohamed Moneer** my problem in speaking . i wait second before speak . not speak fluent . although when i write the same topic it seems to be good . this make me lose confidence of speaking

Like · Reply · Message · 11 October at 15:49

Write a reply...

**Sa Za** Hi our educators.would you please answer my question?I'm confused about why we say two hundred times,but we say we eat lots of fruit.Why we don't say fruits please?Thanks a lot.

Like · Reply · Message · 4 · 11 October at 14:44 · Edited

**David Lewis** Hello Sa Za, nice to hear from you! There are some words which are countable and others uncountable. Usually this is quite obvious and logical, such as we can say one apple, two apples, but only water (not two waters). However, there are some words that are uncountable in English that are not so obvious, such as bread and fruit. So we say 'a lot of fruit' as fruit isn't countable.

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



### Countable & Uncountable nouns 1

Countable & Uncountable nouns (1) Nouns can be countable or uncountable. When you learn...

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Like · Reply · Message · Remove Preview · 2 · 11 October at 14:48

**Sa Za** Hi David Lewis.Thank you so much.

Like · Reply · Message · 1 · 11 October at 14:51

**Tina Pole** Hello Sa! 😊 How are you?

Tina

Like · Reply · Message · 1 · 11 October at 15:04

**Sa Za** Hi dear Tina Pole.Thanks a lot.I'm fine. 😊

Love · Reply · Message · 2 · 11 October at 15:12

**Arijit Datta** Sometimes we do say "fruits and vegetables"

Like · Reply · Message · 1 · 11 October at 15:37

Write a reply...

**Muhammad Ali Rafique** If the examiner ask us to tell something about a teacher who influenced us. Can we ask to switch the person as none of my teacher was able to influence me 😊. But a class fellow did. OR should we explain why was no teacher able to influence me?

Like · Reply · Message · 3 · 11 October at 14:40

**David Lewis** That's a good question Muhammad. First of all as a general rule I think you don't have to choose someone who had a dramatic influence on your life for such a question. In your case, explaining that there was no particular teacher and that you will describe a classmate instead would be acceptable. However, make



**Sisilia Ali** David Lewis hello, does this also apply for the question about wild animal, if I wanted to talk about a bird instead?  
 Like · Reply · Message · 11 October at 14:58

**Emili de Lentz** Hi Alister, we were saw alot materials about how speak and make dialogues but i have one question: how longer might be answer for one question (i mean time duration). Thanks  
 Like · Reply · Message · 2 · 11 October at 14:55

**Emili de Lentz** My name is Lili. I was shutdown own facebook account previously, so here i am Emili. Thank you for the chat  
 Like · Reply · Message · 1 · 11 October at 15:25 · Edited

**Emili de Lentz** See, ok  
 Like · Reply · Message · 11 October at 15:25

**Shady Sayadovech** I thought it would be a conversation like the paltalk. But anyway, welcome and thank you for your efforts. I want to know what is the best way that serves me in practice of speaking to another person in presence of someone who corrects my pronunciation and grammar? And do I need to use more complicated or advanced vocabularies to express what I want to say just to appear very experienced or well informed?  
 Like · Reply · Message · 1 · 11 October at 15:02

**Sally British** Hi Shady. I think it's a good idea to practise speaking with correction to help you be more accurate and also without correction to help with fluency. In an exam you should try to use a wide range of vocabulary because this is your chance to show the examiner what you know.  
 Like · Reply · Message · 11 October at 15:09

**Shady Sayadovech** Very nice. But that wouldn't cover all parameters of evaluation the examiner focuses on.  
 Like · Reply · Message · 11 October at 15:21

**Chi Dozie** I am pretty nervous about the speaking test, because am not much of a talker. Am a bit shy when it comes to speaking with people especially when it has to do with an oral examination. How do I overcome this issue. And most times when I think of what to say, and start speaking, it doesn't really come out the way I thought of it in my head, instead I stutter and jumble everything up.  
 Like · Reply · Message · 1 · 11 October at 15:05

**David Lewis** Hello Chi, this can be difficult but the best solution is lots of practice so that by the time you get to the test room it feels like a normal activity. One thing would be to find some online test papers and ask your family and friends to help you by being the examiner while you answer the questions. Make sure they use a clock so that you speak the right length of time. Another thing, for part two, is to record yourself speaking and listen back to what you say. That way you can hear when you make mistakes or don't say things you could have. You can then practice the topic again until you are saying enough. Finally, remember the examiner is a human and will appreciate your efforts, so you have to try!  
 Like · Reply · Message · 2 · 11 October at 15:13

**Dawn Holares** Hello educators! I want to ask about how many times can I take the exam? And if I already passed the exam can I do another one to get more high benchmark? Up to what extent this exam is being recognized? Thanks ... I apologize for many questions ...hehehe 😊  
 Like · Reply · Message · 1 · 11 October at 14:54

**David Lewis** Hello Dawn, you can take the test as often as you want but usually only the most recent result will count. I think a better approach is to be well prepared so that you can get the score you want. Taking the test again and again won't help if you are making the same mistakes each time. So concentrate on improving your English and also following the tips we give so that you know how to do IELTS well.  
 Like · Reply · Message · 3 · 11 October at 15:00

**Sunita Lakra** I have one more question regarding the speaking test. I noticed in one of the speaking test videos on future learn, the interviewee has used the word "telly". Is the speaking test more formal or informal? Would television have been a better word to use?  
 Like · Reply · Message · 1 · 11 October at 15:22


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informal or slang in the context of IELTS even in the spoken test.

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [Message](#) · 1 · 11 October at 15:28


 **Sunita Lakra** Thank you,David

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [Message](#) · 11 October at 15:30



 **Sunita Lakra** I would like to improve the use of idiomatic phrases in conversations. Could you suggest some reading material which will improve this for the speaking exam.

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [Message](#) · 2 · 11 October at 15:06

 **Sally British** Hi Sunita. Reading in general in English will increase your vocabulary and your knowledge of idiomatic language. You could try the Skills section on the British Council website LearnEnglish Teens to practise speaking and reading:

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



### Skills | LearnEnglish Teens

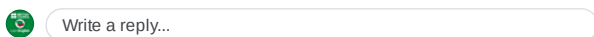
English Skills Practice to help you improve your English reading, writing and listening level.


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[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [Message](#) · [Remove Preview](#) · 1 · 11 October at 15:14


 **Sunita Lakra** Thank you,Sally

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [Message](#) · 11 October at 15:16



 **Suzan Mohamed** Hi  
In the case there is no one to practice with . are listening and reading help ? Or I have to record myself and listen to my record most the time ..thanks in advance


[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [Message](#) · 11 October at 14:59


 **Muhammad Ali Rafique** That can help but its better to talk to others. Try talking to random people. But please be careful while sharing your personal details.

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [Message](#) · 1 · 11 October at 15:08


 **Suzan Mohamed** Thanks a lot

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [Message](#) · 1 · 11 October at 15:19



 **Shani Sheikh** Hi Educators!  
I am not habitual for reading and this is the most difficult component for me. How can I overcome my deficiency?

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [Message](#) · 1 · 11 October at 15:14

 **Sally British** Hi Shani - you just need some more practice! Try reading some of the articles and stories here:  
<http://learnenglishteens.britishcouncil.org/.../graded...> There are 3 different levels to choose from!




### Graded reading | LearnEnglish Teens | British Council

Read stories and articles for your level of...

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[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [Message](#) · [Remove Preview](#) · 1 · 11 October at 15:19

 **David Lewis** Unfortunately you need to start getting into the habit of reading if you want to do that part of the exam well. The best way to start is reading texts connected to topics that you are already interested, it is always easier to study when you enjoy the topic. You could try the LearnEnglish magazine section as a start.

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




### Magazine

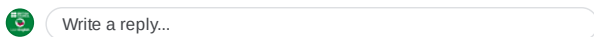
A selection of recorded articles covering a wide range of topics. They are suitable for...


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[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [Message](#) · [Remove Preview](#) · 1 · 11 October at 15:20

 **Shani Sheikh** Thank you so much for sharing these useful links and advice.

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [Message](#) · 11 October at 15:36



 **Ida Lau** I am going to take the IELTS exam but still struggling if I should take the mock exam in British Council. May I have some opinions?

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [Message](#) · 1 · 11 October at 15:00

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Like · Reply · Message · 11 October at 15:21

**Sally British** If you take the mock exam this will help you prepare for the real exam later. It's a good idea to get as much practice as possible I think.

Like · Reply · Message · 1 · 11 October at 15:21

**Ida Lau** Thank you 😊

Like · Reply · Message · 11 October at 15:23

Write a reply...

**Huda Mohammed** Hello,educators , thanks for your advices, During this course I noticed that I need to improve my vocabulary range , plz could you advice me what I have to do., thanks again

Like · Reply · Message · 11 October at 23:25 · Edited

**Johnson George** What's the difference betwixt 'I'm to meet her next week' and 'I'm meeting her next week'? Are they both used to indicate arrangements and plans? Thanks!

Like · Reply · Message · 11 October at 15:06

**Muhammad Ali Rafique** I'm or I am to meet her means I am supposed to meet , I am expected to meet or it is so arranged or planned that I meet.

I've or I have to meet means I'm obliged to meet and I can hardly help it.

There is only a nuanced difference in the degree of obligation to meet.

Note concept taken from <https://www.quora.com/.../answer/Sreenivasulu-Kondannagari>



In what situation "I am to go" and "I've to go" is used? What is the...

QUORA.COM

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Write a reply...

**Darya Jah** Hi everyone,and our educators . Would you please help me to improve my writing skill? I will take academic test ,and my writing both task 1 and 2 is not good . please tell me where should i start to learn how to write? Thanks

Like · Reply · Message · 2 · 11 October at 14:39

**LE Freddie** Hi Darya. Writing is an area of IELTS that many people find difficult. We'll be looking at it in detail in Week 4 and Week 6 on Understanding IELTS

<https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/understanding-ielts/8> In the mean time here are a couple of links to start practicing your general writing skills: <http://learnenglishteens.britishcouncil.org/.../writing...> <http://esol.britishcouncil.org/build-your-writing-skills>



Understanding IELTS - Online Course

Improve your English and prepare for tests,...

FUTURELEARN.COM

Like · Reply · Message · Remove Preview · 1 · 11 October at 14:44

**Darya Jah** Thanks for your reply, thanks

Like · Reply · Message · 1 · 11 October at 14:48

Write a reply...

**Johnson George** Hello there. I jusw want to buy the B2 level book for me to improve the English grammar rules. What should I do?

Like · Reply · Message · 1 · 11 October at 14:46

**Rouka Sh** hi everyone ...shrouk here . i can't understant some word in vedios if i didn't see the subtitle to it. how i can solve this problem ??

Like · Reply · Message · 11 October at 15:14

**Dewi** Is it oc using idioms in speaking test? How if the score if there are some sentences spoken in ungrammatical sentences?

Like · Reply · Message · 1 · 11 October at 15:14

Write a reply...

**Salimah Al Nassar Surani** Midhat Wasif Maryam Aziz Chohan

Like · Reply · Message · 1 · 12 October at 09:20

**محمد اسمير** I see that British English differs from American English, Americans do utter words clearly, but British utter not all the word , I mean to say that word like ear , British pronounce /ie/, pool /poo/, is this some kind of professional in pronouncing and how can one get used to it, thanks?

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as there are a variety of British and American accents and is something that takes getting used to. Our LearnEnglish website has listening website has listening material for practice, and you could also try listening to podcasts from the BBC as they have a wide range of accents. <https://learnenglish.britishcouncil.org/.../listening...>  
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/podcasts>



### Listening skills practice

Practise and improve your listening skills for your studies or for work. There are activities for...

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Like · Reply · Message · Remove Preview · 1 · 11 October at 15:33

محمد سمير thanks alot Mr.David

Like · Reply · Message · 11 October at 15:35

Write a reply...



**Ahmed Maher** Hello, I'm Ahmed from Egypt, I will take lets exam after two years, I'm studying in English for years but when I speak I just I can't, because I think alot about the perfect words I should use and grammar rules. I need to speak English effortlessly without struggle . what you recommend ?

thanks

Like · Reply · Message · 1 · 11 October at 14:53 · Edited

**LE Freddie** Hi Ahmed. I'd recommend recording yourself answering IELTS questions on your phone. When you do this, don't worry about grammar. Just concentrate on fluency. First record yourself speaking for 3 minutes. Then try and say the same again but in 2.30 minutes and then again in 2 minutes. This is a good technique for developing fluency.

Like · Reply · Message · 2 · 11 October at 15:11

**Ahmed Maher** Thanks for your advice, I hope it'll work.

Like · Reply · Message · 11 October at 15:14

Write a reply...



**Winnie Huixin** question regarding reading does it recite the very single word day by day will help the reading? is there any effected way to enlarge the vocabulary? which way it the most important improve reading? vocabulary? question practise?understanding?

Like · Reply · Message · 1 · 11 October at 14:57

**Winnie Huixin** sorry, forget to say good morning for everyone here!

Like · Reply · Message · 11 October at 14:58

**Sally British** One of the best ways to improve your reading is by... reading! This gives you practice at understanding texts and helps to increase your vocabulary. When you read a text, don't stop at every new word. Underline new words then check them in the dictionary later. You'll find that you don't need to understand ALL the word to more or less understand the text. There's some excellent reading practice here: <http://learnenglishteens.britishcouncil.org/.../reading...>



### Reading skills practice | LearnEnglish Teens

Practise your reading skills with our activities,...

LEARNENGLISHTEENS.BRITISHCOUNCIL.ORG

Like · Reply · Message · Remove Preview · 1 · 11 October at 15:28

Write a reply...



**Anh Hoang** Good evening, teacher. I wonder whether you could help me to answer this question: "When is the right time to take the IELTS test?" I am 15. Am I too young to take an IELTS test? Please answer my question.

Like · Reply · Message · 1 · 11 October at 15:09

**Sally British** Hi - the IELTS test is recommended for over 16-year-olds Anh as the content is aimed at adults rather than teenagers, but there is no age restriction. Maybe you could discuss this with a teacher, a parent or another adult.

Like · Reply · Message · 11 October at 15:36

**Anh Hoang** OK thanks for your help

Like · Reply · Message · 11 October at 15:38

Write a reply...




**Darya Jah** I wanna say big thanks to our educators one by one. Thank you sooooo much. Thanks. I do follow the course and the britishcouncil site. Thanks

Love · Reply · Message · 2 · 11 October at 15:27


**LE Freddie** You are welcome Darya. We are happy to help!

Like · Reply · Message · 1 · 11 October at 15:30


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 **Arijit Datta** I think a lot before attempting to write. While i write long sentences, sometimes I get lost for words. Occasionally, I face difficulty in articulating my thoughts in a structured paragraph with ease. Even for the shortest emails, I have a tendency to proofread my written work. How can I overcome?

Like · Reply · Message · 1 · 11 October at 14:42


 **David Lewis** Hello Arijit, I think the best approach is to make some notes on what you want to say before starting to write and then brainstorm some words and phrases associated with those ideas. In the context of the IELTS test, it is also a good idea to analysis the question and made some quick notes connected to each part of the question.  
More generally, I think you have to trust what you are writing and press send. If you spend all day thinking about a short email you will have no time left to enjoy yourself. If you practice writing a lot then you should find that the words come easier.

Like · Reply · Message · 1 · 11 October at 14:56


 **Arijit Datta** Fine. Notes made, words and phrases brainstormed. If I have a lengthy piece to write in multiple paras, should I do this for all para at once, then start writing? Or, Should I do this for one para, then write my para, then again make notes and brainstorm ideas for the 2nd para, then write the second para and so on?

Like · Reply · Message · 11 October at 15:05


 Write a reply...

 **LE Freddie** Thanks for your wonderful questions everyone. It's been a pleasure answering them. See you on the forums in Understanding IELTS.

Like · Reply · Message · 11 October at 15:38

 **Arijit Datta** Sometimes, when I speak, I get lost for words. I also tend to use "aa" "You know" at times. How can I overcome this?

Like · Reply · Message · 2 · 11 October at 14:43

 **Lilia Kardenas** How about trying to use some other more "sophisticated" fillers to let yourself think a bit, Arijit? I would consider these:


- That's a good/nice question.
- What I'm trying to say is that...
- I think/ Personally, I think / In my opinion / If you ask me...
- This reminds me of...
- I mean
- basically / technically / literally / hopefully (make sure you adjust those to the context)

Like · Reply · Message · 1 · 11 October at 15:13


 **Arijit Datta** Thanks Lilia.

Like · Reply · Message · 11 October at 15:17


 Write a reply...

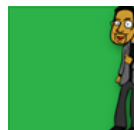
 **David Lewis** I'm afraid we have to go now, but thanks for the many excellent questions. See you on Understanding IELTS!

Like · Reply · Message · 11 October at 15:37

 **Ola Osama** i want to enhance my grammer when speaking ,so if there is any online course or links that will help me really quickly because i'm having job interview next saturday, i will be grateful for your advice and help

Like · Reply · Message · 1 · 11 October at 15:20 · Edited

 **LE Freddie** Hi Ola. There are many grammar activities on our LearnEnglish page: <https://learnenglish.britishcouncil.org/en/english-grammar> You should try recording yourself speaking with the new grammar structures that you learn and reflecting on how accurate you are.




### English grammar

This grammar by well-known author Dave Willis describes the ways that speakers of British...


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Like · Reply · Message · Remove Preview · 1 · 11 October at 15:27

 **Ola Osama** thank you very much freddie


Like · Reply · Message · 11 October at 15:36

 Write a reply...

 **Nadia Saeed** Hi, Educators. In speaking skill, what is the nature of part 2 topic? have a specific nature or a general? i.e. talk about a building or specific building.


Like · Reply · Message · 1 · 11 October at 15:30


 Write a reply...


 **Nadia Saeed** In speaking, no pause, no repeation then what is your tips to intelligently cover the point? Is there any way to take a start which can we follow in general?


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 your Speaking test? Thanks 😊  
Like · Reply · Message · 2 · 12 October at 20:56 · Edited


 **Sally British** Hi Foram - your accent will not affect your Speaking test result. Being able to communicate clearly with clear pronunciation is more important than accent.  
Like · Reply · Message · 2 · 11 October at 14:51


 **Foram Madhvani** Sally British Alright thank you ma'am  
Like · Reply · Message · 1 · 11 October at 14:57


 **Orthin Munna Orthinmunna** Foram Madhvani Hello everybody ,This Abdul Hamid.I am a ielts student so i need to improve my speaking skill.I am looking for a speaking partners.If you want to improve your speaking skill then comment.I need your help.thanks  
Like · Reply · Message · 11 October at 17:00


 Write a reply...


 **Tina Pole** Hello Everyone! I'm one of your educators on Understanding IELTS, I hope you are all enjoying the course so far! 😊  
Tina  
Like · Reply · Message · 8 · 11 October at 14:37


 **Foram Madhvani** Hiya, I was wondering is you have a slight British accent does it affect your Speaking test? Thanks 😊  
Like · Reply · Message · 11 October at 14:47


 Write a reply...


 **Phúc Nguyễn** Is gramma rules very important?  
Like · Reply · Message · 1 · 11 October at 14:55


 **Sally British** If you make a few mistakes but people can understand your English, that's not a problem. You need to try to be accurate with grammar but you don't need to be 100% accurate all the time.  
Like · Reply · Message · 2 · 11 October at 15:01


 **Phúc Nguyễn** Thanks, I just can't remeber all the things in "grammar in use" book 😊  
Like · Reply · Message · 11 October at 15:03


 **Phạm Khôi** Ur an idiot guy !!!  
Like · Reply · Message · 12 October at 15:11 · Edited


 Write a reply...


 **David Thangte** Great! I am wondering how I can improve my listening skill.  
Like · Reply · Message · 1 · 11 October at 15:03


 Write a reply...

 **Mahmoud Hamed** In the speaking test part 2, Can I ask the interviewer to change the particular topic that I've been asked to talk about? Or I've to improvise and imagine that topic even if it never happened to me in the real life? 😊  
Like · Reply · Message · 1 · 11 October at 15:14

 **David Lewis** You can't ask to change the topic, I'm afraid. I think it's unlikely the topic would be one that you had no experience of at all as the topics are quite general.  
Like · Reply · Message · 1 · 11 October at 15:16

 Write a reply...

 **Moustafa EL-Sebaie** Hello everyone. I need to know how I can improve my speaking and listening skills  
Like · Reply · Message · 1 · 11 October at 14:38

 **LE Freddie** Hi Moustafa Try to spend a little time each day listening to English. It can be anything - activities on our websites, TV shows, radio, music, Youtube videos - everything will help! Here are some activities to get you started:  
Listening  
Listen & Watch - <http://learnenglish.britishcouncil.org/en/listen-and-watch>  
Professional Podcasts - <http://learnenglish.britishcouncil.org/.../professionals...>  
Listening Skills Practice - <http://learnenglishteens.britishcouncil.org/.../listening...>  
Video Zone - <http://learnenglishteens.britishcouncil.org/.../video-zone>  
Video UK - <http://learnenglishteens.britishcouncil.org/uk-now/video-uk>  
Also, we have lots of great reading materials from Beginner to Advanced levels. Check them out here:  
Reading skills practice (A1-B2) - <http://learnenglishteens.britishcouncil.org/.../reading...>  
Read at your level - <http://learnenglishteens.britishcouncil.org/.../easy-reading>  
Read UK - <http://learnenglishteens.britishcouncil.org/uk-now/read-uk>  
LearnEnglish Magazine - <http://learnenglish.britishcouncil.org/en/magazine>

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poems  
 Stories & Poems UK -  
<http://learnenglishteens.britishcouncil.org/.../stories...>  
 IELTS Reading Video - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DrATVKQ9yNg>  
 Reading exam tips -  
<http://learnenglishteens.britishcouncil.org/.../reading...>





### Listening skills practice

Practise and improve your listening skills for your studies or for work. There are activities for...

LEARNENGLISH.BRITISHCOUNCIL.ORG

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 **Moustafa EL-Sebaie** Thanks a lot  
Like · Reply · Message · 11 October at 14:42

 **Lilia Kardenas** LE Freddie, thank you for the gorgeous link!  
Like · Reply · Message · 1 · 11 October at 14:51

 **Vien Tran** Thank you, Mr Feddie. These are also my problems when taking Ielts test.  
Like · Reply · Message · 11 October at 15:12

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 **روان مهندس** My question is: is it easier to sit the IELTS in certain centres or certain time?

Like · Reply · Message · 1 · 13 October at 15:06

 **LearnEnglish – British Council** Hi روان مهندس, no - it will be the same wherever you do it.

Neil

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 **Sarah Julia Kriesch** Is there any difference between the Speaking Test in the Academic IELTS test and the General IELTS test?

Like · Reply · Message · 1 · Yesterday at 10:58

 **LearnEnglish – British Council** Hi Sarah, no they are exactly the same.

Neil

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**Winnie Huixin** hi educator.question regarding speaking.it happens to me didn't realize the speak something wrong in gammar or pick some unaccuency word until i've been speak out whole sentence. do i need to reply the sentense and revise anything once i realize it? thank you  
[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [Message](#) · 1 · 11 October at 15:02

**David Lewis** Hello Winnie, I think if you realise that you have used completely the wrong word and so won't be understood, then you should correct it, but if it is a small error that doesn't really affect the meaning it is best to keep going. Constantly correcting yourself will be confusing for the listener and make more problems than you solve.  
[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [Message](#) · 11 October at 15:23

Write a reply...

**Tina Pole** Bye Everyc Search hopefully see you on the course! 🙏  
[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [Message](#) · 11 October at 15:39

**Yasser Baghdady** Can I write to you by Arabic tell I improve my writing ?  
[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [Message](#) · 5 hrs

**Amal Jouri** I have a problem with communication i forget i lot of word to introduce it in public speaking  
[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [Message](#) · 11 October at 19:47

**Ariana Well** Hello everybody! Good morning instructors here. I am wondering that how many sentences at least we should say in part 2 and part 3 of the speaking test? Except for reaching the quality of various marking criteria details, In order to get high marks, if i have to say more ? Whether it has something to do with the number of sentences in whole conversation?  
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**Javier Martinez Parraguez** Hi, I want to ask you in particular about the Speaking test part 1, how much time do you recommend to talk in every question of part 1? (20 sec, 30 sec, 1 minute)  
[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [Message](#) · 11 October at 15:12

**Javier Martinez Parraguez** And also how much time should I talk in questions of part 3 of the speaking test?  
[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [Message](#) · 11 October at 15:21

Write a reply...

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**Sebit Michael** How can you learn to speak fluent English, from watching a recorded Video? It's better to us a webcom for learning online done watching a Video, and it's good to make tops/subject for the leart to particpete.  
[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [Message](#) · 1 · 12 October at 20:36

**Sally British** Thanks for all your questions today. See you next time! 😊  
[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [Message](#) · 11 October at 15:37

**Sebit Michael** That's great progress.  
[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [Message](#) · 1 · 11 October at 21:29

**Tameem Husain Mais Emad**  
[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [Message](#) · 1 · 11 October at 14:38

**Mais Emad Manhal Atabi**  
[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [Message](#) · 11 October at 14:57

Write a reply...

**Futian You** Dear educators, I wanna know how to catch the main point of a paragraph as I find it difficult to deal with those "which paragraph contains the following information" questions. Thank you!  
[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [Message](#) · 1 · 11 October at 14:45

**LE Freddie** Hi Futian. This kind of question requires you to locate specific information within a paragraph (compare this to matching paragraphs to headings where you need to identify the general topic of the paragraph). Here you need to think carefully about what kind of information you need to locate, e.g. is it a name, number, place etc. You should use scanning to locate the information you are looking for and then read the sentences very carefully to check the information.  
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**Futian You** LE Freddie Thank you Freddie, can you give me some suggestions on matching paragraphs to headings? It's also my headache.

10

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