EAT IELTS SAMPLE LISTENING TESTS-BAND 9



IELTS LISTENING RECENT ACTUAL TESTS
(2020)
WITH DOWNLOADABLE AUDIO

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Acknowledgment

IELTS among pervasive language tests in the world is most demanded and widespread. It is considered as a high-stakes test due to its nature. Most immigrations and job opportunities are related to the results of this exam. Accepting in a well-known university or offering a good job is in need of delivering an IELTS number, which is mostly academic one. The higher number, especially academic one, the more opportunity to reach the goal. So, this pack is going to provide IELTS candidates with the authentic and practical solutions to get a high mark in the exam. IELTS is a proficiency language test which aims to assess the candidates' overall language proficiency. To do that, it follows some principals and rules that this pack is practicing to provide the candidate with the best practical and the most up to date official exams with their real examiner's tips to guide the candidate to achieve their goals by acing it. The best way to succeed in this exam is to get the candidates familiar with the rules, structures and rubrics of this exam. How is it administered? And how is it going to assess your language proficiency. To know the exam questions face and how to answer them is guide the candidates greatly. Finally, how the examiners are going to assess the exam and what they are looking for in the exam is paramount in achieving the exam.

Ali Shirvani

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Listening in IELTS (General, Academic and UKVI)

The **IELTS** listening test for all versions (academic, general and UKVI) is divided into four sections and the sections get increasingly difficult in each part. You only hear each section once.

The allotted time for the test is about **40 minutes**. The listening takes 30 minutes, but you then have 10 minutes to transfer your answers to the provided answer sheet.

TEST OVERVIEW

The *first two sections* of the test are concerned with social needs. The *final two sections* are concerned with situations related more closely to educational or training contexts.

All the IELTS listening topics are of **general interest** and it makes no difference what subjects you are planning to study or what work you intend to do.

A range of English accents and dialects are used in the recordings which reflects the international usage of IELTS.

The below chart provides an overview on the IELTS listening range.

Section	Context	Number of Speakers
1	Social Needs	Conversation between two speakers
2	Social Needs	Speech by one speaker
3	Educational or Training	Conversation between up to four
	Educational of Training	speakers
4	Academic Subject	Speech by one speaker

Here is a description on the different sections of the listening parts.

Section One

In the first section there is a conversation between two speakers. For example - a conversation about travel arrangements, booking accommodation, or decisions on a night out.

Section Two

The second section is a monologue (a speech by one person). It will be set in an everyday social context. For example - a speech about student services on a University campus or arrangements for meals during a conference.

Section Three

Section three is a conversation between up to four people. For example - a conversation between a tutor and a student about an assignment or between three students planning a research project.

Section Four

The final part is another monologue. It is a lecture or talk of general academic interest such as a university lecture.

Question Types

The following types of question may appear on the test:

- ✓ multiple choice
- ✓ short-answer questions
- ✓ sentence completion
- ✓ notes/summary/diagram/flow chart/table completion
- ✓ labelling a diagram which has numbered parts
- ✓ classification
- **✓** matching

You will be provided with instructions on the test paper on how to answer the questions, and they are clear and easy to follow. You will be given examples of any unfamiliar question types.

During the IELTS listening test, you are given time to read the questions and enter and then check your answers. You enter your answers on the question paper as you listen and when the tape ends ten minutes are allowed for you to transfer your answers to an Answer Sheet.

One mark is awarded for each of the 40 items in the test.

Listening skills

There are 4 key IELTS listening skills that you need to master to score highly in the test:

- ✓ Prediction
- ✓ Recognizing synonyms & paraphrasing
- ✓ Recognizing distractors
- ✓ Understanding connected speech

If you learn and practice these, you will be well-prepared for your test.

1) Prediction

Before each recording plays, you will have a short time to read through the question. Try to predict what the answers might be. This will focus your mind on what to listen out for in the recording. Occasionally, you'll be able to predict the actual word but mostly it's one or more of these three things that you'll be able to determine:

- ✓ The type of information required, e.g. surname, place name, date, phone number, postcode, percentage, price, etc.
- ✓ The type of word required, e.g. noun, adjective, verb.
- ✓ Synonyms or paraphrasing that might be used, e.g. 'a quarter' for '25%', 'business functions' for 'corporate events'.

Any clues you can get will help you to understand the audio and identify the information needed for the answers.

Here's a demonstration of how valuable this IELTS listening skill is. Read this sample question and try to predict the sort of words you would need to listen out for in the recording. Have a go at this for practice before checking my predictions below.

Sample Question:

- 2. Nearest station is (2)
- 3. Number 706 bus goes to (3)
- 4. Number (4) bus goes to station
- 5. Earlier bus leaves at (5)

Source: British Council website

Prediction keys:

- 1. A time
- 2. A place name
- 3. A place name or street name
- 4. A number

You can see that by doing this in the 20-35 seconds you are given before the audio starts, you can get a fairly good idea as to what information you need to know. This will greatly improve your chances of identifying the correct answers.

2) Synonyms & Paraphrasing

Of all the IELTS listening skills, this second one is the most important as it's essential for understanding the recording. Something you can be certain of is that the spoken text will contain synonyms and paraphrasing of key words and phrases in the questions. So, do not expect to hear the same vocabulary in the recording as is written in the questions.

Here's an example. The first column of this table contains the question or answer from a past test paper. The second column is a transcript of the sentences in the audio text that contain the answers. The matching phrases are underlined.

Spend a few moments comparing the language to understand how synonyms and paraphrasing have been used.

Question / answer

The park was **first built in** 1979.

The September Celebration day is held to <u>remember the history</u> of the park.

The Hurricane roller-coaster is <u>tall</u> and made of wood.

The rides with a **height limit** are coded black.

Audio

The park itself <u>wasn't developed</u> <u>until</u> 1979.

It's the <u>highest wooden</u> roller-coaster in the country.

And black, well, this means that you must be at least 110 cm tall to ride, regardless of age.

It is highly recommend to write down and study a couple of common synonyms for every new word you learn. This increases building up an extensive and versatile vocabulary quickly. One of the best ways to practice recognizing and using synonyms and paraphrasing is through listening to short videos or podcasts.

This should already be a part of preparation course for the Listening test but add in this exercise. Every so often, pause the recording after an individual sentence and think how you could paraphrase it and what synonyms you could use. Do this for a few sentences each day and you'll soon see a real improvement in your IELTS listening skills.

Key word technique

A technique you can use in the exam to help you deal with synonyms and paraphrasing is to identify the keywords or phrases in the question and quickly think of synonyms or related words that might come up in the recording.

You'll only have 20 seconds or so to do this but it could make a huge difference to how well you understand the audio and how successful you are at identifying the answers.

Underline or highlight the key words as I've done in this illustration using a question from a past paper.

List of possible answers:

- A was recently publicized in the media
- B includes some items **given** by the artists
- C includes the **most popular** exhibits in the museum
- D has had some of its contents **relocated**

Source: Cambridge English Past Paper (edited)

Synonym ideas:

- media newspaper, TV, radio
- given donated
- most popular favourite
- relocated moved

Even if you only have time to think up a couple of synonyms or related words, you'll find this of benefit as you listen.

3) Recognizing Distractors

Another important IELTS listening skill is the ability to recognise distractors. These are words or phrases used by a speaker to qualify something or to correct themselves or another speaker.

In the recording, a piece of information may be given and then corrected or changed. If you're not listening carefully, you'll think that the first piece of information is the answer when it is the second detail that is the correct answer. Distractors are common in the listening test and are intended to try and catch you out.

Here are some examples of sentences containing distractors.

- ✓ They live at number 64 Miller Street. **No, sorry**, it's number 46. I always get the numbers the wrong way around.
- ✓ The train leaves at 10.20. <u>In fact</u>, it's 10.21 to be precise.
- ✓ I've left my glasses in the living room. **No. wait a minute**, I remember putting them down by the phone in the hallway after I took that call.

- ✓ I really fancy a steak for my main course **but** I've decided to have the fish as I'm trying to cut down on red meat.
- ✓ The kids want to visit Spain for our holiday. <u>However</u>, the best deals this summer are in France so we'll go there instead.

Listen for words or phrases like these and don't be tricked by them. Listen to all the details before choosing your answer.

4) Connected Speech

Last one but not the least one of four IELTS listening skills list goes to something that most students struggle with to some degree or another - *connected speech*. Connected speech is when the words and sounds in a sentence run into each other making it difficult for a non-native speaker to understand what is being said.

In these three examples, you can see a sentence followed by how it might sound to the listener.

Do you want to go to the park?	→ Dya wanna getethe park?
His son lent him ten bucks.	→ Hison lent im tembucks.
I have to visit my grandma.	→ Ivte visit me gramme.

There's no easy way to overcome the challenge of connected speech apart from listening to lots of native speakers speaking at a normal rate rather than speaking and practice in the class with a professional tutor. Podcasts are ideal for this as you can pause them and listen to confusing sentences over and over again until you fully understand what is being said. You'll be surprised at how quickly you tune into the fast-paced speech with regular practice.

Listening Strategies

The most important IELTS listening strategies are:

- ✓ Question analysis
- ✓ Answer prediction
- √ 3) Keyword clues

Taking the time to learn and practice them will make answering Listening questions a lot easier and undoubtedly increase your score.