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How to use *IELTS Trainer* General Training

Test 1 Training

- For each part of the paper (e.g. Listening Part 1, page 10), first read the overview **What is ...?**, describing the type(s) of task which that part may contain. For some parts there is also a section called **What does it test?** which describes, for example, the kind of skills that part of the exam tests (e.g. identifying key facts, understanding speakers' opinions).
- Read through the **Task information**, which describes in detail the particular task type that follows.
- Look at the information marked **Tip**, which gives general advice on exam strategy and language.
- Work through **Useful language** exercises in the Listening, Writing and Speaking sections before tackling the exam tasks on the practice pages. These training exercises help to develop the necessary skills and offer practice directly relevant to the exam tasks in Test 1. Answers to the exercises are in the **Explanatory answer key** (available to download from esource.cambridge.org). Many exercises involve focusing on and correcting common language mistakes made by actual IELTS candidates, as shown by the **Cambridge Learner Corpus** (see page 6).
- Check the boxes marked **Advice**. These give practical help with individual questions.
- In **Listening**, use the audio files available to download with the audioscripts from esource.cambridge.org.
- In Test 1 **Writing**, many exercises are based on language used in IELTS essays in the **Cambridge Learner Corpus** and sample answers written by actual IELTS candidates. There are also sample answers which show what is expected of the best candidates. The **Explanatory answer key** contains answers to the exercises. These training exercises build up to an exam task at the end which is similar to, but not the same as, those in the training exercises.
- In **Speaking**, there are exercises which build into a bank of personalised, useful language for the first part of the test and other exercises which practise the language necessary for the prepared talk and discussion which follow in Parts 2 and 3. These can be used with a partner, or when working alone, for timed practice.

Test 1 Exam practice

- Read the **Action plan** for each task in the Listening, Reading and Writing papers immediately before working through the exam practice task. There are many different task types and the Action plans show how to approach each type in the best way to achieve good marks and avoid wasting time.
- Work through the task, carefully following the steps of the Action plan and making use of the help in the **Tip** information and **Advice** boxes.
- Answers to all items are in the **Explanatory answer key**, which explains why the correct answers are right and others are wrong.

Test 2 Training

- Answer the questions in the **Review** section to remind yourself about each part of the test. If you need to, look back at Test 1 to check your answers.
- Work through the exercises in the Writing and Speaking sections. The Speaking section extends the strategies and skills introduced in Test 1 and adds to the topics which you might be asked about. The Writing section revises the strategies covered in Test 1 and offers further targeted language training exercises. Many of the exercises are based on IELTS candidates' answers from the **Cambridge Learner Corpus**.

Test 2 Exam practice

- Answer the questions in each **Action plan reminder**. These ask you about strategies which were introduced in Test 1. Use the cross-reference to refer back to Test 1 if you need to.
- Read through the **Action plans** for the new task types which weren't in Test 1. Use the **Tip** information and **Advice** boxes to help you do the tasks and the **Explanatory answer key** to check your answers.

Tests 3–6 Exam practice

- Try to do the exam tasks under exam conditions where possible, applying the skills and language learnt in Training Tests 1 and 2.

What is Listening Part 1?

- a conversation between two people, either face to face or on the phone
- one or two tasks (e.g. table completion)
- an example and 10 questions

The purpose of the conversation is to communicate and share information that will be useful in some way (e.g. for making a holiday booking, for working out the best transport options).

What does it test?

- understanding specific information e.g. dates, prices, everyday objects, locations
- spelling of people and place names

Useful language: spelling

In Part 1, a speaker will sometimes spell out the name of a person, street or company.

You need to be very familiar with the English names for the letters of the alphabet, as the word will only be spelt out once.



1 Listen and choose the first letter in each pair that you hear.

- | | | | |
|---------|----------|----------|----------|
| 1 A / E | 2 A / I | 3 E / I | 4 A / R |
| 5 Y / E | 6 O / U | 7 B / P | 8 G / J |
| 9 S / F | 10 M / N | 11 H / X | 12 D / T |



2 Listen to some words being spelt out and write down what you hear.

- 1 Manager: Sarah
- 2 Email:@gmail.com
- 3 Meeting point: School sports field
- 4 Hotel name:
- 5 Address: 112 Terrace
- 6 Company: Movers

Useful language: numbers



1 Listen and write the numbers you hear.

- 1 Customer cell phone:
- 2 Distance of race: miles
- 3 A one-way ticket is:
- 4 Home address: Bayside Road.
- 5 Width of window frame: inches
- 6 Booking reference:

Task information: Table, Note and Form completion

This task requires you to fill in the spaces in the table. The spaces are numbered in the same order as the information you hear.

You have to:

- listen to a conversation, which you hear once only.
- write one to three words, a number, or a date in each space in the table.
- write the exact words you hear.
- spell everything correctly.

Advice

Not all place names are spelt out. For example, the underlined words are very common in English, so you should learn how to spell words like these.

Mountain View Hotel
Ocean Road
Bridge Street

Advice

When we say a phone number, we can pronounce 0 as **oh**, or say **zero**.

When we talk about money we say, for example, **seven pounds / dollars / euros fifty**. (£7.50, \$7.50, €7.50).

TIP

The answer can be written in numerals or in letters, e.g. 650, or six hundred and fifty. But it's much easier and faster to write numerals!

TIP

For similar sounding numbers, listen out for the stressed syllable e.g. fifteen, fifty, sixteen, sixty.

Useful language: times and dates



1 Listen and write the times or dates you hear.

- 1 Arrival date:
- 2 Class schedule: to 6:30 p.m.
- 3 Date of last inspection:, 2018
- 4 Best time to visit:
- 5 The courses finishes on:
- 6 Delivery date:

Useful language: recognising when the answer is coming

In Part 1, you might see a question like 'Height: about **1**cm'. You might not hear the word 'height' in the recording. Instead, the speaker might ask a question, or say something that relates to a person's height. This will tell you when the answer is coming.

1 Match an answer 1–6 with a question A–F the speaker might ask.

Height: around 1 <i>6</i> feet	A 'So can you tell me how long the curtains are?'
Width: 2 <i>15</i> centimetres	B 'How tall are the trees at the moment – approximately?'
Distance: 3 <i>26</i> kilometres	C 'And what would the charge for that be?'
Length: 4 <i>330</i> inches	D 'How heavy is the box you want us to move?'
Weight: about 5 <i>63</i> kg	E 'Do you know how wide the screen is?'
Cost: 6 \$ <i>560</i>	F 'How far is it from the hotel to the airport?'

TIP

Don't add words like **euros** or **inches** or **kilometres** to the answer sheet if they are provided on the question paper.

Advice

We say dates like 1752 or 1997 as **seventeen fifty-two** and **nineteen ninety-seven**. For years following 2000, we can say, for example, **two thousand eighteen**, or **two thousand and /ən/ eighteen**, or **twenty eighteen**.

TIP

You can write a date in different ways to get a mark (e.g. 3rd March, March 3 or 3 March). This fits the **one word and / or a number** in the instruction.