

All you need for IELTS success podcast
Episode 6: Top tips for IELTS Reading

Speakers:

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IELTS teacher: Liz Marqueiro (LM)

LM: We're here today and we're going to be giving you some top tips for reading. Again, these tips apply for both the general training and the academic test.

EC: Okay, so number one, remember to read all the instructions carefully.

LM: Especially instructions regarding the maximum number of words. Remember, sometimes the instruction says, write one word only, write two words, write three words and or a number. Those instructions are so important, highlight them, underline them.

EC: Yep because if you add an extra word by accident, that's it. You won't get the mark.

LM: Unfortunately not.

EC: Okay, so talking about the questions. It's important to note that the questions sometimes follow the order of the information in the text, but not always. So, it might be a good idea to highlight a number as you find the answers so that you can go back and find them again more easily later on.

LM: Yeah. So basically, if you've had a quick look at the questions, and then go and read the text and you come across a part of the text and you think, 'Oh, this part of the text answers question number four', write number four in the text on the question paper, so you know where to go to the text to find that answer.

EC: Alright, so if you're unable to answer the question, move on to the next question. Don't waste time.

LM: Remember, each question is worth one mark. So, all the questions have exactly the same value to them. So, if you've missed one, move on to the next one, you might have time at the end to go back to it.

EC: And when you have to write words, check the spelling really carefully. This is another thing that trips people up all the time. If you make a spelling mistake in your answer on the answer sheet, you will lose that mark. So please, please, please check your spelling very carefully.

LM: And the last tip for me for today is, when you're actually doing the paper-based test, you can write all over your question paper. But then, as Emma said, you've got to transfer your answers onto the answer sheet, and you've got to do that within the 60 minutes. You don't get any extra time to transfer your answers onto the answer sheet. They have to be done within the test time. So, make sure you leave enough time at the end of your test to do that.

EC: And also, leave a bit of time at the end to check your answers. Because you might just find that one spelling mistake or you might have transferred the answer incorrectly. And if you can catch that, and fix it, extra marks.

LM: And also, leave yourself time at the end to go back. If you've left a gap, fill it, take a guess. Don't leave a blank. Okay, right. That's it. See you again soon

