

## All you need for IELTS success podcast Episode 7: Top tips for IELTS Listening

### Speakers:

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EC: We're here today talking about tips for listening in IELTS test. So these tips are good for the General Training IELTS and the Academic IELTS, because it's the same test.

LM: Okay, so a top tip for the Listening test would be to remember that you only hear the recording once. So please write your answers as you go along. And if you've missed one, don't panic, move on to the next question, answer that one, and at the end of the test, if you've got time, then go back and fill in that gap. Do not leave gaps.

EC: You don't you don't lose marks for a wrong answer.

EC: And another tip is that at the beginning of each part, you have a chance to look at the task so use that time to look ahead at the task that you're going to be doing. Read the questions, think about the topics, and start thinking about the vocabulary that's related to those topics.

LM: So what do you mean? If the questions saying you're going to listen to, I don't know, a marine biologist talking about their working day.

EC: Start thinking about what does a marine biologist do, so start thinking about the ocean, start thinking about the names of sea creatures, of the beach, of geological features, of boats, of submarines.

LM: So you've just done that basically, you get the topic in your head and then start thinking about other vocabulary related to that topic.

The other thing I would say is, when you're reading the instructions, first of all before you know looking at the task, read the instructions really carefully. Because you'll note that different tasks, different questions ask for different things. So for example, in one listening question, the instruction will be write only one word, so obviously don't write two.

EC: And what happens if you do write two.

LM: You don't get the mark, you lose the point. Other instructions might be use two words and or a number. So therefore do not write three words. So you need to look at the instructions really, really carefully. And there's a blog about that.

EC: Another point is check your spelling. When you're transferring your answers to the answer sheet, be really careful. Make sure you're writing your answer next to the correct number. And look at your spelling. Be really careful, because if you make a silly spelling mistake, you will lose that mark.

LM: And also think about plurals because sometimes you don't think but you should, does it need an s? Is it a plural or is it a singular because it's a really small thing, but you'll risk losing a mark.



EC: Actually, that's a really good point that you can use grammar to really help you to get your answers right and to predict what answers are going to be. Parts of speech, grammar, what are you listening out for? Are you listening for a noun, an adjective, a verb?

LM: So that goes back to your other point, look at the question, look at the instructions and then look at what's being asked of you so that you can start predicting. You go 'Okay, in this gap, it looks like I'm going to need to use a number so I must listen out for a number. Oh, in this gap, they're asking me for the name of somebody so I must be listening out for a name.' So yeah, instructions are really important.