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Ielts listening techniques and strategies

Make sure you spend time analysing your answers and techniques as well as reviewing paraphrasing and transcripts - it's the only way to develop! I hope you enjoy the learning curve! An oldie but goodie. With practice and a focus on improving vocabulary. IELTS Listening tips to predict answers in the listening exam You have the opportunity to read the questions before listening to the recording. Repetition makes it easier to understand the words and phrases when you hear them again. Note- The transfer/checking time is the only difference between taking the listening test on computer or on paper. Take advantage of this! The questions can help you determine what type of answer you're looking for. All candidates take the same test whether writing their answer on paper or into a computer. This is essential even for people who have native level English. This is an academic lecture. You get a band 9 simply by getting almost every question correct. Because they are interesting I listen right to the end -unlike practice tests which can send me to sleep! The British Council has a selection of recordings for students. You will listen to four different recordings and then answer 10 written questions for each (40 in total) You will only hear each recording once. CONCENTRATE!!! 30 minutes is a long time to actively listen for answers. If the question is a note or form completion, such as each 1) PLACE: = the answer can be just one word (with or without the article) "hospital" or "the hospital" (if two words are possible. How to predict answers in the IELTS listening exam. Section 3 = three or four speakers. You will not hear it a second time. This page has over 100 answers to your questions: IELTS Test FAQ Improve your IELTS listening for free with this practice lessons: IELTS Listening Lessons RECOMMENDED . English Test Store -ETS offers listening comprehension exercises like those in IELTS. Try the listening exercises for other exams. You have 40 minutes for all four sections. Two test changes: 1) transfer/checking time (see above) 2) no example answer provided at start of recording. English Club has a good one. Don't stress. You can't pause the recording. Native speakers will read books with a higher vocabulary too, so it is worth the effort. The biggest challenges: 1) concentration 2) losing your place in the recording 3) writing the wrong number of words for your answer 4) not spotting paraphrases 5) getting distracted by detail There are many different question types and you must practice them all. Hyphenated words (like "part-time") are considered as one word. Cambridge is the best because they are usually slightly harder than the real test. Focus on your weak spots at first before branching out in a new direction! IELTS Writing and Listening simultaneously (a key skill!) Writing while listening is hard if you aim to capture everything. If you are completing the sentence, for example: The best place to meet is Step 5: Listen a few more times without the text At this point, you should be able to understand the majority of the clip. It has video lessons on how to answer each specific question style. The paper test has 10 mins answer transfer time to move your answers from the question paper to the answer sheet after the recording has finished. You only need to write down enough to help your memory later. Only move to step 3 when you're not comprehending anything more from the audio. Who knows, maybe you guess right !! You can write your answer using capital or lower case letters. You should practice doing this. We often give this tip to students wondering how to improve listening in IELTS. Similar words might not be the right answer. If the question requires a plural answer, a singular answer is incorrect. IELTS Listening Question Types You can find samples of these question types in my practice lessons below. Reading answers or potential answers is an important IELTS skill because you will be listening, for example, for synonyms of multiple choice answers. Get the habit of distinguishing between essential and non-essential information. Each time the question type changes, the number of words for the answer might change too. This site turns music videos into game-like listening exercises. Here is a link to download the IELTS listening answer sheet. The total number of points is 40. by Liz The essential IELTS listening tips and information for success in your test. Answers may come slowly. Write the letter and not the corresponding answer. 30 minutes to listen to the recordings and write your answers on the question paper. Here's one of our favourite IELTS listening tips: Different prepositions will dictate different answers. The answer, in this case, has to be either a period of time (2 days), a month (April), a year (2018), or a season (Winter). Listen to the podcast here: Watch on Youtube IELTS Listening test audio and answer sheet downloads Listening practice test 1 - questions (PDF) Listening practice test 1 - answers (PDF) Now take the IELTS listening sample test online from the British Council, click here. The music video plays side-by-side with a gap fill. Training your ear to distinguish between sounds is an important part of this foundational skill. All students take the same test. Points are not taken away for incorrect answers. Focus more on part 3 and 4 to improve. You also need to improve your focus levels in order to improve your listening skills. A compound noun which is not hyphenated "tennis shoe" is considered two words. Practice full tests at home to build up your ability to concentrate. Once you have completed the listening test you will be graded according to the following bandwidth ranging from a score of 4 to 9. You might hear information about a building, a resort, a company, a charity etc. Recordings and podcasts can definitely help but English pronunciation is complex. To learn exactly what these instructions mean, please watch the video lesson above. SPELLING!!! If your answer is spelled wrong, the answer is marked wrong. You will hear a variety of accents. Our IELTS Reading online preparation course is for people who want to score high on the reading test the first time. So, these answers will certainly be given to test your listening ability. Audible - I have been addicted to their audiobooks since starting. "at the hospital" or "hospital". Note that this is the same listening test regardless of whether you write your answer on paper or into a computer. Example: "She is interested in it" all runs together and sounds like one word "shezinterestedinit". You can find here all the essential tips you need to succeed in IELTS Listening. You'll find IELTS-specific exercises. Why do native speakers sound like a block of sound? If you are asked to write a letter, your answer must be a letter (not a word). This is an academic discussion. You can only listen to the recording once. Lyrics Gaps - This is a fun one. Find audio examples with a text transcript to check your comprehension after listening. Be careful to not waste time on a question that you don't know though - guess and move on. It could either be two students talking with a professor or a student presenting their resource to their colleagues. This is very challenging and even fluent speakers can get confused. There will be 40 questions with one point for each correct answer. LINK Passive Vocabulary Constantly build your passive vocabulary by reading and listening. Work out how the questions are asked, what they ask and how. Make sure you have the answer key. Where can I find IELTS listening exercises? Continue to listen to the clip several times to see if you can comprehend a little bit more each time. For more tips and explanations - please watch the video above. Exam English - Exam English provides test prep resources including practice tests and exercises. There are over 20 different vowel sounds and they can be difficult to tell apart. You can find lots of minimal pairs listening exercises online. There will be a range of accents but the main accents will probably be British and Australian. Click here: Band Scores Explained You will have time to read the questions before the recording starts. I have highlighted the pages that contain both practice and crucial tips and advice. The ability to hold information and construct answers in your mind are two other skills. That means Academic and GT candidates will take the same listening test with the same scoring. This will help you get a sense of how questions are spaced out, as well as learning some useful common expressions that are frequently used in listening tests. This is often a talk from a guide. This is a skill you can practice and improve. Look out for answers which are plural. Check how many points you need for the band score you require. You must listen for specific information, such as names (tips on listening for names), dates, times (tips on listening for time), places and numbers. Pattern 3: Phonetic links Any word that starts with a vowel gets linked to a previous word which makes it hard to hear each word distinctly. Listening Resources (authentic native English speaker material) Below are different resources to help you prepare for the IELTS Listening exam. For example: a) spring b) summer c) winter If the answer is b, you must write "b" on your answer sheet not "summer". You can upload our vocabulary lists into Quizlet and start practising today. The words van and fan are minimal pairs. You must practice completing a full listening test by listening only once before your test. IELTS listening tips for band 9 For high level listening, we have more information here, including IELTS listening tips for band 9 pdf resources. You should do this a number of times. Don't try to understand everything - the answer must be grammatically correct so you need "at the hospital". TEST CHANGES: There have been only very minimal changes to the listening test since I made this video. This will require you to develop your concentration skills and limit distractions even more so than before because you are now using both of these tips simultaneously. Here are a few other tips and tricks to improve your listening for IELTS Stronger Vocabulary Another first step for improving your listening score is by building a stronger vocabulary. For example, if you have the following question, "He would like to meet in". The preposition "in" clues you into the type of answer you should be looking for. How can we avoid mistakes in IELTS listening? For more information about each section, click here: IELTS LISTENING TEST SECTIONS With each set of questions, you will be given instructions about the answer. After the recording has ended, you will be given extra time to either transfer or check your answers: Paper-based test = you will write your answers on the question paper. Don't take notes in complete sentences - jot down the key points and abbreviate. There used to be an example recording given before the real answer came in the recording. In this recording we can hear an examiner for the speaking section, but with a Scottish accent. Same goes for numbers. Pattern 1: Contractions Using contractions is the normal method of speech. Writing letters or words. The key here is that it's not always possible throughout the entire exam so don't let this tactic take up too much time. Don't panic. Watch this video about IELTS listening multiple choice to understand this tip. Here are some examples: Preposition: AT Possible answer: Time, Part of Day. Six Examples: 9 pm, dawn, the restaurant Preposition: IN Possible answer: Period of Time, Month, Year, Season Examples: 2 days/hour/minutes, April, 2018, Winter Preposition: ON Possible answer: Day, Date Examples: Monday, January 15th (or 15th of January) Preposition: no preposition Possible answer: Person other Examples: Emily now, at once, tomorrow, next year, this afternoon, person What happens on the listening test? If you lose focus, you will miss answers. You need to be familiar with and develop strategies for each type of question. Native speakers have speech patterns that sound unique to learners. Remember that any IELTS listening tips and tricks for band 9 would be useful for all levels but specifically address more challenging skills in the IELTS exam. Prepare to hear a potential answer that is not the actual answer. Sentence Completion Summary Completion Form Completion Note Completion Multiple Choice Short Answer Questions Table Completion Diagram Labelling Map/Plan Completion Flow Chart Completion Sections of the IELTS Listening Test There are four parts to the listening test and each section will have 10 questions. I find them high quality and informative. They come quickly or with large gaps between them. When asked to complete a sentence using no more than two words, and the correct answer is "leather coat," then "a coat made of leather" is incorrect. Check the number of words you can have for your answer. You don't lose a mark if your answer is wrong. How is the IELTS Listening score calculated? Sections 1 and 2 are based on social situations and Sections 3 and 4 are based on educations/training and lectures. Your goal should be to understand as much as possible from the audio! Step 3: Read the text Check your understanding and identify any new vocabulary. If you are asked to write words or numbers, for example "no more than two words and/or numbers", you must adhere to those instructions. Keep track of your results and improvement. For the reading and listening, take practice tests to see where you're losing points. The recording lasts for 30 mins. Speakers, will often drop clue words or outline what they will talk about beforehand. It is marked in the same way. No more than three words and/or numbers You can write three words or less, with or without numbers. The recordings include a range of accents, probably British and Australian, so try to get familiar with these. Don't worry about spelling while you are listening because you don't have time to concentrate on spelling. Section 4 is a monologue on an academic topic. There are 40 questions There are 4 sections Section 1 = two speakers. The IELTS listening test is designed to assess how well you can: Understand both main ideas and detailed information Recognise the opinions and attitudes of a speaker Follow the development of an idea or argument IELTS Listening test structure The listening test is the same for IELTS academic and IELTS general training and they are scored in the same way. Read these tips carefully. If you are a visual learner, try making your own flashcards instead of using one that has already been made. Step 2: Repeat and repeat again (still no reading!) Listen to the clip again. If you don't know an answer, guess. VIDEO: Please Don't Be Tricked in the IELTS Listening Exam Audio Tutorial - How to Improve for the IELTS Listening Exam In this IELTS podcast, we give out a few IELTS listening tips on how to perform better on your IELTS listening exam. How to improve your listening skills The IELTS listening test requires you to exhibit your comprehension skills. These 10 IELTS Listening Tips provide you with essential strategies to help you get the score you need in the exam and show you how to improve IELTS listening. The IELTS listening exam tests English comprehension skills. There is a free pdf vocabulary resource available too. Only the answer sheet will be marked. This gives you the ability to start your own outline to then fill in. My recommendation is to use all capital letters as it is easier to read and avoids mistakes when writing by hand in the paper test. The word "summer" would be marked wrong because the instructions ask you to write a letter not a word. These steps were adapted from Benny's great blog: FluentIn3Months. Transfer/Checking Time. This is the same as the IELTS reading test. Here is an example: "Is it ok to meet at 7pm?" / "Yes, 7pm works fine for me" / "Oh I've just remembered I have a late meeting, could we make it half past instead?" The answer was 7pm but then the speaker changed it to 7.30pm. This is common in section 4. IELTS know that students have difficulty hearing the plural "s". Then 10 minutes to transfer these to the answer sheet. IELTS Listening Question Types form completion note completion summary completion sentence completion multiple choice diagram labelling map labelling table completion form chart If you want practice with these types of question, go to my IELTS listening page. A hyphenated word "part-time" is considered one word. At the end of the recording, you will have 10 mins to transfer your answers from the question paper to the answer sheet. Here are some tutorials to help you with your IELTS listening preparation Audio tutorial: How to improve your listening Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) How can I get 8.5 in IELTS listening? This is just one of the courses that we offer to help you improve and prepare. Find official IELTS exams. Computer-based test = you will enter your answers directly into the computer during the test. However, that example recording has now gone. See if you can guess the meaning of any new words based on the context before looking them up. Watch out for plurals in answers. Start at a lower level and progress as your skills improve. For the computer test, this isn't an issue. If two people are talking about making plans for a dinner date, the important information is the date/time they finally agree to go. Don't let that happen to you. The recordings and questions get more difficult as the test progresses: Section 1 is two speakers having an everyday conversation. This is common when two people are making plans. Both academic and GT students take the same listening test. Practice and learn as much vocabulary as you can to have the best chance of success. Reading improves vocabulary and also helps you understand sentence structures better. VOA Learning English - A wide variety of news, science, and general interest audio clips and videos, along with written transcripts (perfect for practicing the 5 steps above!). This is often a telephone conversation between two people, for example organising a place on a course, booking a table at a restaurant or renting an apartment. An ability to visualise the words you heard is another skill worth developing. Answers appear in the order they are heard in the audio. Reverse engineer the reading and listening tests We also mention this tip in the IELTS Preparation guide. IELTS accept either British English or American English spelling. Your score will not change due to incorrect answers. It gets harder with fast speech. The examiner looks to see whether you can listen to a piece of information and successfully answer questions. Six Minutes English by the BBC is another fantastic free resource. Don't waste time. A lot of students over-focus on the IELTS Exam skills and forget that language skills will always come before exam skills. You need to concentrate on listening to the recording and following the questions. Listening is a skill and the best way to improve your listening, is immersion in the language. The recording will be played only once. At the end of the recording, you will have only 2 mins to check your answers. Listen to the audio while reading the audio script. There may be a gap between answers. It is the same test regardless of how you write/type your answers. The following IELTS listening tips and tricks will help you to be successful in your test as well as improve your real-world listening. Understanding the proper native use of collocations. As Ben W says: REPETITION IS THE MOTHER OF ALL LEARNING. one word (with numbers or without) two words (with numbers or without) three words (with numbers or not) one number or numbers without any word You cannot write four or more words The practice lessons for IELTS Listening below will help you develop the skills needed for IELTS listening. On IELTS Podcast, Ben often tells his listeners to grab a pen and take notes, this is another form of active listening. Do you have a question about IELTS listening or about the IELTS test? Develop your IELTS listening skills with these structured practice lessons that are designed to help you gain insight into IELTS listening and into your own areas of concern. On this page, you will find: IELTS Listening Test Information Practice Materials for IELTS Listening with Essential Tips Included Essential Tips for IELTS Listening IELTS Listening Test Information There is only one listening test for all IELTS candidates. Learn the right listening techniques with over 25 top tips to help you achieve a high score. Always write something in the box on your answer sheet. The news is always being broadcast in English and often includes topic-specific vocabulary or phrases. However, this will require speed reading to spot the keywords in the question. The listening test is about multi-tasking - you have to listen, read the questions and write the answers all at the same time. Recognising the points of your IELTS listening exam where should you be paying more attention to your examiner speak. This strategy for the IELTS listening test makes it far easier to find answers when you do the real test. IELTS will add lots of extra information but you only need to listen for answers. You must do more than simply practice IELTS listening, you must analyse your answers, develop awareness of question types and also build techniques. Understanding a native English speaker can be a challenge (especially with all the northern accents!). From the moment the recording starts, the test starts and you must listen directly for answers. It also groups News Stories by difficulty. Common Problems Giving the answer and then changing it. A date (1990) is considered one number. Scores are calculated by the number of points you got correct. We talk about: How to write and listen simultaneously - a vital skill. If you miss an answer, just move on to the next question. If you get a multiple choice question, it will ask you to write down the letter as your answer. This is not a change to the test, it is just an adaptation of time because in the computer test your answers are already entering into the computer. You will need to multitask. The listening test is 40 mins (paper test) and 32 mins (computer test) - a time difference due to transfer/checking time below: 30 minutes to listen to the recording and write down your answer on the question paper additional time after recording has stopped: paper test = 10 minutes given after recording has ended to transfer your answers from the question paper to the answer sheet computer test = 2 mins given after recording has ended checking time for the computer test IELTS is an international test. Always keep listening and be ready for the speaker to change the answer. Take care when you transfer your answers and pay attention to the word limit for your answers on your answer sheet! Multiple-choice answers will ask for a letter (a, b, c, d). Section 4 = one speaker. How words and numbers are calculated: A date "1950" is considered one number. A large number "1,000,500" is considered one word. IELTS listening practice with essential tips and techniques to maximise your score. Here is a link to learn all about the IELTS band scores: IELTS Band Scores Explained. Should you write the article and preposition? The IELTS exam tests your active listening skills, i.e your ability to extract meaning from conversations or speeches. They first agree on meeting at a certain time, but then one remembers that they cannot so they decide on a new time. Based on what you understood the first time, is there now more that you can pick out? However, I recommend using all capital letters. You must have the correct spelling to get a point and have the answer marked correct. Two words may differ by a single sound but have very different meanings (minimal pairs). Step 1: Listen to the audio clip (no reading!) See how much you can understand the general gist and start to pick out keywords. Don't lose your place in the recording. Focus on what the speaker is saying not how they say it. The BBC has a wide range of band score-improving podcasts available here. Stay focused, listen for plural endings and word types (is it going to be a noun, verb, or adjective?) Check spellings carefully and with multiple choice remember you are listening for a synonym of the question keyword. Then move these words into your active vocabulary by regularly using them when speaking or writing , so as to develop fluency faster! When you have a little more time, add context to the new words that you come across - it will help with understanding them for next time too! Reading Are you listening effectively? You might get three answers in a very short time. Five-step method for improving your listening skills for IELTS Improving your listening skills requires active (not passive) listening practice. Focusing on understanding what you are listening to is important when you practice listening. Why is IELTS listening so hard? How to understand native English speakers Although there are a lot of tips for IELTS listening, this is something that many students are unaware of. You can find more info about the listening test on the IELTS website. Here they share everyday English, often in a real-life situation. Sit down with an exam paper and look at the answers first, and then look at the questions. This means section 1 is the easiest and section 4 is the most difficult. Check the instructions to see if you can have a number (which means only one) or numbers (plural which means more than one number). Step 4: Listen with the text Listen to the pronunciation of phrases and groups of words. Only the answer transfer/checking time is different. The lessons vary in difficulty to reflect the real levels that appear in each section of the IELTS Listening Test. Another strategy to improve your listening score is by reading more. How can I get 9 in IELTS listening? It's different from textbook or written English. Answers may come quickly. Capital letters in IELTS listening. RANDAL ESL Listening lab - Take a look at this website that can help you improve your listening for the IELTS exam. Section 3 is an academic conversation between up to 4 people. The instructions are not set for the whole section, they refer to each different question type which can change within one section. For more on weak forms and their pronunciation, check out the video below. Pattern 2: Weak forms Structural words in sentences are often pronounced as their "weak form." Example: "to" and "you" on their own are pronounced with a long u: sounds. This page has everything you need to do well in your test. Section 2 is a monologue (one person talking) about an everyday situation. Example: "I am" becomes "I'm," "did not" becomes "didn't" etc. Keep yourself focused on listening for answers to questions. As a part of sentences though, they are usually pronounced in their weak form with short u: sounds. The sections get more difficult as the test progresses. Check your spelling when you transfer your answers to the answer sheet. You must do more than simply practice IELTS listening, you must analyse your answers, develop awareness of ... The best IELTS Listening tips and tricks to get a high score on IELTS Listening. Take time to read listening test scripts to recognize the interaction patterns, memorise commonly used phrases and be aware of how the answers are spaced out. Practice transferring your answers to the answer sheet at home before your test. This is a MUST WATCH video lesson for all IELTS students. You can write in capital letters or lower case - your choice. You should write your answers on the answer sheet using pencil not a pen. Get ready to write your answers down quickly. At the end of those 2 mins, your computer screen will lock preventing you from writing one more word or letter. The Cambridge practice tests are also written by the same professionals who write the official exams. We're going to break down the main skills needed to score well on this section exam and outline some tips for you. The example recording gave you time to adjust the volume and get used to the speaker's voice. If you learn what these patterns are, it will be easier to understand them. Your answer will depend on the type of question you have. Flashcards When using flashcards make sure that the word is on the front and how to pronounce it is on the back. This is fine when you are in training. However, the computer test has only 2 mins checking time. Learn about the listening exam content, writing the answers correctly, types of questions, scoring, making notes and much more. The essential IELTS listening tips and information for success in your test. The IELTS listening test lasts for a total of 40 mins. Concentration skills can be improved through meditation and practice. Transcripts include definitions of key vocabulary words. Below is a list of IELTS listening tips that have been given in the video above. Other dates/times they considered become irrelevant. Here is an example of instructions: "No more than two words and/or a number". Practice tests are great because they will show what areas of English are giving you trouble and where to focus your attention in order to improve. When you are developing skills and vocabulary, you might want to practice listening more than once. At the end of those 10 mins, you will not be able to write one more word or letter. Listening to the news in English It may seem like an obvious step given that you are listening for your IELTS test but this can be very useful and helpful. These tips are divided into IELTS Listening exam-specific skills/tips and then general English language listening skills. That is the time to check and make sure everything is correct. Section 2 = one speaker. Some people sell it separately. Otherwise, all relevant for 2024! IELTS Listening Tips These 25 IELTS Listening Tips provide you with essential strategies to help you get the score you need in the exam and show you how to improve IELTS listening. They might be making plans for the weekend or discussing where to get dinner that evening. See point number 6 below. It may be a speech or a talk about making plans for something. Some tips ... IELTS listening practice with essential tips and techniques to maximise your score. The site also offers one-minute lessons on common English idioms. The listening scores are out of 40 and are calculated based on the number of correct answers. Like anything, it gets easier with practice. Personally, I find addictive turn-pager novels boost my reading time. IELTS Video: Listening Tips Summary List of Tips Given Below Video. Try to guess what the speaker is going to say. The best method to develop this skill is by combining listening and reading. This means you must be able to read the questions, listen for the answer and write down words all at the same time. 14 Listening tips for your IELTS exam Attempt all questions - there are no penalties for incorrect answers. Remember that listening and reading tests will try to trick you, especially with multiple choice questions, unlike the writing and speaking exams. Sound overwhelming?

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