

COMPREHENSIVE
GUIDE TO A BAND 7.0
FOR DUMMIES



IELTS
Listening Module



VICTOR DANIEL

COMPREHENSIVE GUIDE TO A BAND 7.0 FOR DUMMIES- IELTS LISTENING MODULE

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PREFACE

This guide provides a step-by-step approach for IELTS test takers, regardless of their level of English proficiency, to score a minimum of Band 7.0 in the IELTS Listening test.

It offers practical insights into listening skills and techniques to help you succeed in the Listening module. A brief time with this book will enlighten anyone preparing for the IELTS exam in a short period.

Introduction

The International English Language Testing System (IELTS) consists of four modules that assess your communication skills:

1. Listening
2. Speaking
3. Reading

4. Writing

To excel in the IELTS, you must be efficient and proficient in each of these modules. For example, to ace the Listening module, you need to be an attentive listener. The same goes for the Speaking, Reading, and Writing modules, which require proficiency in those respective skills.

The IELTS is called a "testing system" because it evaluates how well you perform in these areas. In essence, it challenges your claim of having a good command of English by putting you to the test.

To succeed, you must be well-prepared, just as a footballer must be ready to prove their skills on the pitch or a hairdresser must pass a test to prove their expertise.

Many people fail the IELTS because they are not even 50% ready to take this test.

However, achieving a high band score is easy when you know exactly what to do every step of the way. That's why it's crucial for every potential test taker to undergo thorough training to ensure full readiness.

As I always say, "Your success in the IELTS exam depends largely on two things:

- a.) updated knowledge
- b.) adequate practice."

Keep this in mind as you pursue knowledge and engage in constructive practice.

Also, by purchasing this book, you've already taken the right step toward acquiring updated knowledge.

Because the **Comprehensive Guide for Dummies (Listening Module)** will guide you through every stage of the process, regardless of your level of English proficiency.

Once you've finished reading this book and participated in the practice sessions via the provided [Telegram support group](#) where you'll be asking your questions—if any, you'll be well-prepared for the exam.

So, get your mind ready for what's ahead.

Are you ready?

Let's go!

Section 1: The Art of Listening

Before diving into the structure of the IELTS Listening test, let's explore the **art of listening**—an essential skill not only for the exam but also for effective communication in life. When people lack the ability to listen attentively, it hampers meaningful communication.

This is why mastering the art of listening is vital for every IELTS test taker.

Below are five key skills and techniques you must adopt to listen effectively, especially when preparing for the IELTS:

1. Being Intentional

Listening is a choice. You can choose to pay attention to someone's speech or an audio recording—or you can choose not to. When you make the deliberate decision to listen attentively, you'll be more focused and grasp the information better. Intentionality is the first step to effective listening.

In the IELTS Listening module, you must be intentional about every aspect, from registration to practice and honing your skills. Being intentional helps you stay focused and avoid distractions during the exam.

2. Staying Focused

Focus means concentrating fully on something without giving in to distractions.

In the IELTS Listening module, you'll be required to multi-task: listening to the audio, deducing correct answers, and writing them down simultaneously.

Maintaining focus is crucial throughout this process.

To avoid distractions, immerse yourself fully in the task. Stay focused until the exam is completed.

3. Emotional Stability

Emotional stability refers to maintaining a balanced and healthy state of mind.

A calm and focused mind allows you to listen effectively and stay optimistic about your results.

Avoid exposing yourself to negative influences or stressful situations, especially around the exam date, as these can impair your ability to concentrate.

4. Sustaining Interest

Interest in the task at hand can significantly affect how much attention you give it. Develop a genuine interest in the IELTS process—from preparation to practice—and enjoy the journey.

This will help sustain your focus during the listening exam.

5. Time Management

Time management is essential for success in the IELTS Listening module.

You'll need to practice listening and understanding within a set time limit, as the test requires you to extract answers from audio recordings within 30 minutes and transcribe them accurately.

If you're a slow listener, practice can help improve your speed. I strongly recommend spending more time consuming English content (podcasts, movies, news broadcast from news outlets like BBC, CNN, VOA, and other like stations by native English speakers), plus our IELTS Listening practice materials multiple times a day until you begin to score high.

Consistent practice is key to mastering time management.

By mastering these techniques, you'll find the Listening module much easier to handle.

1.1. Developing Active Listening

Listening is defined as the learned skill in which sounds are received through the ears and transformed into meaningful messages (Ulogu, 2020).

According to Ulogu (2020), it involves diligently hearing and interpreting the meaning of words and sentences spoken by a speaker during conversation or learning.

If the purpose of listening is not achieved, then that listening is neither active nor effective.

Active Listening occurs when the purpose of listening is fully achieved—i.e., when all information is completely heard and well understood by the listener.

Listening differs from hearing. While hearing merely involves perceiving sounds, listening requires paying attention to those sounds (Ulogu, 2020).

Listening is an active, conscious process that demands both physical and psychological effort. As a skill, listening needs to be developed by everyone—not just for the IELTS exam but for daily communication in life.

According to Ulogu, the following are ways to develop active listening:

1. Remain calm to fully grasp and understand the message.
2. Be open to new ideas and information.
3. Take notes of important points.
4. Analyze and evaluate the speech in spare time.
5. Rephrase and summarize the speaker's ideas.
6. Ask questions when necessary.
7. Avoid distractions.

As an IELTS candidate, you should master these techniques in all areas of life. Active listening is a skill that can be acquired and improved.

It involves listening with all your senses, making it an all-encompassing activity.

Though it can be challenging, like any skill, it can be developed through practice.

Consistent practice is the key to improvement, which is why the saying "practice makes perfect" holds true.

This means you should practice active listening daily—not monthly or weekly.

I hope you know that what you do for 30 days becomes a routine, what you do for 60 days becomes a habit, and what you do for 90 days becomes a lifestyle!

So, practicing active listening daily will make the listening test much easier than it will be to the thoughtless and careless test taker.

So tell me, are you serious about succeeding in this test?

Yes?

If so, start preparing by practicing active listening in every area of your life.

1.2 Note-Taking Strategies

Note-taking is crucial for active listening. In fact, taking notes while paying attention shows interest and eagerness to grasp all that the speaker says.

In the IELTS exam, note-taking helps sustain your focus throughout the test by jotting down potential answers on your question paper. This process ensures you listen actively without hindering comprehension.

Generically speaking, learning to take notes effectively will improve your study and work habits, by helping you to remember important information.

So keep these tips in mind while taking notes:

1. Write down the correct information.
2. Keep your notes short and simple—using shorthand where necessary.
3. If you miss something, leave space and fill it in later. Don't leave any blank spaces.
4. Focus on the main points; you can't transcribe everything the speaker says.

5. Edit your notes after the session.

During the IELTS listening test, note-taking involves jotting down perceived answers on your question paper throughout the 30-minute test.

You need to be quick in deducing answers from the recordings and jotting them down to transfer them to your answer sheet (for those taking the paper based test) later. As mentioned earlier, write in shorthand. For example, use "TP" for transportation, "D" for "the," and "U" for "you" to save time.

The answer to the next question might follow immediately after the previous one in the audio. If you try to write every word verbatim, you could miss the next answer and lose focus.

In all, stay smart, attentive, and optimistic throughout the test.

2.0 Recognizing different question types

Another key to excelling in the IELTS listening module is recognizing and mastering how to answer each question type.

Every question type has a specific approach, and your ability to quickly identify it and respond accurately will put you in a strong position to achieve a high score.

It's essential to note that each question type comes with its own set of instructions. Make sure to follow all the rules carefully, such as "Do not write more than one word and/or a number."

This means that when you begin a section of the listening test, your first focus should be on:

1. The question type
2. The range of question numbers (e.g., questions 25–30)
3. The instructions provided

Keep these three aspects in mind throughout the test to avoid missing any crucial details.

The question types in the listening module include the following:

2.0.1 Multiple Choice:

This type of question presents you with a question followed by three possible answers or a sentence beginning followed by three possible completions. Your task is to choose the one correct answer—A, B, or C.

Sometimes, you might be given a longer list of possible answers and asked to select more than one.

In this case, carefully read the question to determine how many answers are required.

SECTION 1

Questions 9 and 10

Choose the correct letter, **A**, **B** or **C**.

9 Type of insurance chosen

- A** Economy
- B** Standard
- C** Premium

10 Customer wants goods delivered to

- A** port
- B** home
- C** depot

Source: Cambridge English IELTS Past Papers.

Or

Questions 36–40

Choose the correct letter, **A**, **B** or **C**.

36 We are all present hedonists

- A** at school
- B** at birth
- C** while eating and drinking

37 American boys drop out of school at a higher rate than girls because

- A** they need to be in control of the way they learn
- B** they play video games instead of doing school work
- C** they are not as intelligent as girls

Source: Cambridge English IELTS Past Papers.

2.0.2) **Matching question type**: Meeting this, you are required to match a numbered list of items from the listening text to a set of options on the question paper.

The set of options may be criteria of some kind. Your answers should be in line with what you hear from the recording.

See example in image below

SECTION 1

Questions 1 – 4

Which hotel matches each description?

Choose your answers from the box and write the correct letter **A-E** next to questions 1-4.

- | | |
|----------|------------------|
| A | The Bridge Hotel |
| B | Carlton House |
| C | The Imperial |
| D | The Majestic |
| E | The Royal Oak |

- 1 is in a rural area
- 2 only opened recently
- 3 offers facilities for business functions
- 4 has an indoor swimming pool

Source: Cambridge English Test
Paper

SECTION 3

Questions 21 - 25

What does Jack tell his tutor about each of the following course options?

- A** He'll definitely do it.
- B** He may or may not do it.
- C** He won't do it.

Write the correct letter, **A**, **B** or **C** next to questions 21- 25.

You may choose any letter more than once.

- 21 Media Studies
- 22 Women and Power
- 23 Culture and Society
- 24 Identity and Popular Culture
- 25 Introduction to Cultural Theory

Source: Cambridge English
Test Paper

From the examples above, the only way to identify the correct information is by getting it correctly from the audio record.

Hence, the need to listen well.

2.0.3) **Plan, map, diagram labeling**: In this question type, you are required to complete labels on a plan (e.g., a building), a map (e.g., part of a town), or a diagram (e.g., a piece of equipment). The answers are typically selected from a list provided on the question paper.

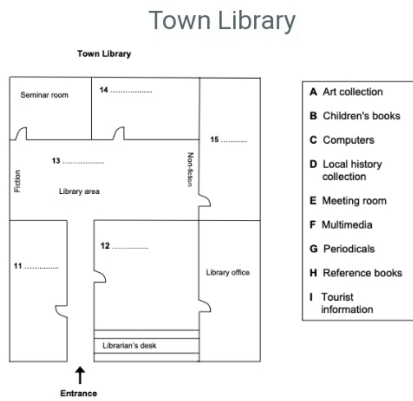
This type of question assesses your ability to understand spatial relationships between various features, such as descriptions of places, and to connect them to visual representations. It may involve following language that expresses spatial relationships and directions (e.g., "straight on" or "through the far door").

Hence, an active and attentive mind is essential for success in this section.

See example in image below

Questions 1-5

Choose FIVE answers from the box and write the correct letters A-I next to questions 11-15.



- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5

2.0.4) Form, note, table, flow-chart, summary completion

In this section, you are required to fill in the gaps in an outline of part or all of the listening text. The outline will focus on the main ideas or facts presented. It may take the form of:

1. **A form:** Often used to record factual details such as names.

2. **A set of notes:** Used to summarize information, showing how different items relate to one another.
3. **A table:** Used to summarize information related to clear categories (e.g., place, time, price).
4. **A flowchart:** Used to summarize a process with clear stages, indicated by arrows.

You will either select answers from a list on the question paper or identify the missing words from the recording, adhering to the word limit specified in the instructions. You do not need to alter the words from the recording.

Be sure to read the instructions carefully, as the word limit will vary (e.g., "NO MORE THAN TWO WORDS AND/OR A NUMBER"). Writing more than the allowed number of words will result in a lower score. Contracted words will not be accepted, and hyphenated words count as a single word.

2.0.5) **Sentence Completion**

In this type, you will read sentences summarizing key information from the listening text or part of it.

You must fill in the gaps using information from the listening text, keeping to the word limit (e.g., "NO MORE THAN ONE WORD AND/OR A NUMBER"). Pay close attention to the instructions.

Sentence completion focuses on identifying key information and understanding functional relationships such as cause and effect.

2.0.6) **Short-Answer Questions**

In this question type, you will read a question and provide a short answer based on information from the listening text. Again, a word limit will be specified (e.g., "NO MORE THAN THREE WORDS AND/OR A NUMBER").

This type of question emphasizes the ability to listen for specific facts, such as places, prices, or times.

3.0. **Listening test strategies**

IELTS Listening can be tricky as you progress in the listening sections and you might find it challenging to keep up with the speed of the recording especially as they come in different accents.

Also, in the test, you hear the recording only once! You cannot rewind it or go back to listening to it again. This is what exactly makes the test

more difficult and results in you making some mistakes. There are some things you can hold on to scale through.

3.1 Use of prediction skills:

IELTS Listening tests your listening capabilities and your valid understanding of the topic by answering the questions.

Sometimes you may be so focused on carefully listening to the audio and knowing the clues, that you forget to predict some sort of information before the audio begins.

Therefore it is important to know that without predictions, it may get difficult for you to find your response from the audio played in the IELTS Listening test.

You should be able to predict -

👉 The kind of audio you are going to listen to in the current IELTS Listening task(having glanced through the question).

👉 Specific information that the question demands you to find e.g names, figure, place , angle, etc

Now this is what you should do,

👉 Underline the keywords that can help you predict the answer.

Remember, all the answers are hidden in the IELTS Listening recording. Concentrate on the keywords, their synonyms, and paraphrases that are used. You might find your answer somewhere in that part of the audio.

Sharpen your prediction skills before your exam day

3.2 Using Contextual Clues: This is a strategy that can help you find your answer quickly. It entails that you use the terms in the questions as a clue to finding your answers.

3.3 Effective Time management

Just like the aforementioned, it is very Imperative to work with time. The listening test lasts for 30 minutes plus extra 10 minutes to transfer your answers to your answer sheet—for paper based test candidates—whereas those taking the computer delivered test will be given 2 additional minutes to review their answers.

So whenever you practice, practice with this time frame.

Also, ensure that you come to a point where you can effectively use the time frame judiciously and still achieve a great result.

You can work with a stop watch or a clock to effect this time stipulation for your practice tests.

Do this everyday till your exam day.

Go through the above again. Inscribe them in your mind while you work with the practice guide via [this link starting from now on!](#)

Conclusion

Now that you've gone through this ebook, I'll advise that you ruthlessly implement everything that I have extensively taught here.

Also, if you have questions that you'd like me to answer, don't hesitate to drop your questions and commentaries in the support group on Telegram.

If you're yet to join this community, [click here to access it right away!](#)

Just in case you'd need an extra hand with your IELTS preparation, in the form of virtual one-on-one session, don't hesitate to reach out to me when you [click here!](#)

Above all, I am in deep expectations of your testimony.

Make sure you share it with us in the [Telegram support community](#).

Cheers to your success.