

# IELTS Test Prep

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LISTENING SECTION



Gradhopper

# Structure and Timing

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4 sections

Lasts 30 minutes

- + 10 minutes to fill out answer sheet for the paper test
- Computer test includes 2 minutes extra to review answers

# Structure and Timing

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4 sections:

- Conversation between 2 people in a social context
- A monologue (1 person speaking) in a social context
- A conversation with multiple people in an educational context
- A monologue (1 speaker) in an academic context

# Scoring

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## IELTS Listening Scores

Correct Answers	Band Scores
39 - 40	9
37 - 38	8.5
35 - 36	8
32 - 34	7.5
30 - 31	7
26 - 29	6.5
23 - 25	6
18 - 22	5.5
16 - 17	5
13 - 15	4.5
11 - 12	4

# Subject matter

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## Social context

- Situations that can happen in everyday life
  - Renting an apartment, booking a hotel, meetings

## Academic context

- Situations from an educational setting, such as lectures from university courses

# Types of questions

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## Table completion

*Complete the table*

*Write **NO MORE THAN THREE WORDS** for each answer.*

<b>Name of Office Bearer</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>
Robert Young: President	To manage meetings
Gina Costello: Treasurer	to 18. <input type="text"/>
David West: Secretary	to 19. <input type="text"/>
Jason Dokic: Head Coach	to 20. <input type="text"/>

Complete the form below.

Write **NO MORE THREE WORDS AND OR/NUMBERS** for each answer

<b>Hotel Information</b>	
<i>Example answer</i>	
Name of accommodation:	<b>(0) <i>Carlton Hotel</i></b>
Length of stay:	3 nights
Ages of children:	<b>(1)</b> <input type="text"/>
Rooms available:	Two en-suites at £270
Price inclusive of:	<b>(2)</b> <input type="text"/>
Payment method:	credit card
Name:	Michael <b>(3)</b> <input type="text"/>
Date of birth:	<b>(4)</b> <input type="text"/> 1968
Address:	273, Stanton Court, London.
Post code:	<b>(5)</b> <input type="text"/>

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Form completion

# Types of questions

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## Sentence completion

### **Questions 11 - 13**

*Complete the sentences below*

*Write **NO MORE THAN TWO WORDS** for each answer.*

**11.** The next meeting of the soccer club will be in the  in King's Park on 2 July.

**12.** The first event is a .

**13.** At the final dinner, players receive .



Complete the notes below

Write **NO MORE THAN TWO WORDS AND/OR A NUMBER** for each answer.

## Behaviour of Dolphins

- almost 40 species of dolphin
- found (31)
- usually in shallower seas
- carnivores

### SOCIALISING

- very sociable and live in pods
- super-pods may have more than (32)  dolphins
- have strong social bonds
- help other animals - Moko helped a whale and calf escape from (33)

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Note completion

# Types of questions

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## Note completion

Write **NO MORE THAN THREE WORDS** for each answer.

### Box Telecom

Problems: been affected by

- drop in **21.**
- growing **22.**
- delays due to a strike

Causes of problems:

- high **23.**
- lack of good **24.**

# Types of questions

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*Choose the correct letter, **A**, **B**, or **C**. for each answer*

Multiple choice

**11** The company expanded in

**A**  2000

**B**  2007

**C**  2014

**12** The number of permanent staff is

**A**  75

**B**  90

**C**  150

# Types of questions

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## Short answer

*Answer the questions below.*

*Write **NO MORE THAN THREE WORDS AND/OR A NUMBER** for each answer.*

What **TWO** factors can make social contact in a foreign country difficult?

- **11** .....
- **12** .....

# Types of questions

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## Matching

*What main problem do the students suggest each company has.  
Match the company to the problem. The first has been done for you.*

Choose your answers from the box and write the letters **A–G** next to questions 23–27.

**A** *knowledge about their customers*

**B** *long-term gain*

**C** *competition*

**D** *customer satisfaction*

**E** *employees*

**F** *external factors*

*Example*

*E. Stacks Stationary*

23.  *Princeton Windows*

24.  *MK Cars*

25.  *Lakeside Golf*

26.  *Bryson's Meats*

27.  *Mojo's Music Shop*

Which opinion does each person express about Mojo's Music?

Choose your answers from the box and write the letters **A-F** next to questions 28-30.

**A** It has good managers

**B** It has been operating for too long

**C** There aren't enough music shops

**D** It needs more innovative marketing

**E** It will close down in the end

**F** It has a good long-term future

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## Matching

28.  Sarah

29.  John

30.  Neil

# Types of questions

Plan/map/  
diagram/labelling

*Questions 6–10*  
*Label the map.*  
*Choose five answers from the box and write the letters A–H next to Questions 6–10.*

**A** bird cages  
**B** football field  
**C** play equipment  
**D** pond  
**E** recycling centre  
**F** sports field  
**G** storyteller's chair  
**H** tree house

The map shows the layout of Cranley Hill Primary School. At the top left is a wind turbine. To its right is a large open area with a circle and a dashed line labeled '10 .....'. Further right is another circle with a solid line labeled '9 .....'. Below the wind turbine are two trees and a 'secret garden'. To the right of the secret garden is a 'vegetable patch' containing several small circles and plants. Below the secret garden is a large area with a circle and a solid line labeled '8 .....', which is identified as a 'play area'. At the bottom center is a shaded rectangular area labeled 'primary school'. To the right of the primary school is a 'car park' with a circle and a solid line labeled '7 .....'. On the left side of the map is a large rounded rectangular area with a circle and a solid line labeled '6 .....'. A north arrow is located to the left of the map.

# Types of questions

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Plan/map/diagram/labeling

Some useful phrases to study for this section include:

- At the top/at the bottom
- Slightly north/south/east/west of
- In the southeast
- Just past, before you get to
- In the middle of



# Types of questions

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Plan/map/diagram/labeling

Some useful phrases to study for this section include:

- Above/below, Inside/outside
- Opposite/in front of
- Adjoining, via, alongside
- Clockwise/anticlockwise

# Strategies

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Read questions during the allotted time, before hearing the audio

- Pay close attention to special instructions

Take notes while listening

# General Tips

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# General Tips

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## Take notes

- You only get to hear things once!

# General Tips

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Pay attention to word count limits

# General Tips

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Don't fill in the answer sheet right away

- Sometimes information will be repeated or changed later in the recording

# General Tips

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Familiarize yourself with a variety of accents

Don't only study the North American accent

# General Tips

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Allow yourself to listen to the audio multiple times when you first start practicing

- After you are comfortable with the test, start to time it and listen only once



# General Tips

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Practice listening to audio that has a transcript to check later. Take notes when listening and compare them to the transcript

- You can do this with many forms of audio, not just IELTS practice tests (TED Talks, music, YouTube videos, etc.)

# General Tips

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Transfer your answers to the answer sheet carefully

- Spelling and grammar counts, so be sure to write the answers correctly
- Note: British and American spelling both count as correct, so use whichever one you are most comfortable with

# General Tips

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Don't leave anything blank

- Points are not taken away for wrong answers

# Other ways to prepare

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Listen to as much content in English as possible!

- Practice tests, television, movies, videos, music, etc.
- Listen to things for fun and listen to more academic things while taking notes.
- Active listening is important, but extra listening practice in English is always helpful too

# Other ways to prepare

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Listen to a wide range of types of situations to learn new vocabulary

Listen to content in a variety of accents (not just North American accents)

Practice, practice, practice

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Please join us again for our next  
video!