

Study Skills: Listening

The Listening module is the first part of the IELTS exam. Do this quiz to see how much you know about it.

Quiz

- How long is the Listening module in total?
A about 30 minutes **B** about 40 minutes
C about 50 minutes
 - How many sections are there?
A 4 **B** 5 **C** 6
 - How many questions are there in total?
A 25 **B** 30 **C** 40
 - The first part of the Listening module is the easiest and the last part is the most difficult. True or false?
 - Each section is worth the same number of marks. True or false?
 - There are four situation types in the Listening module. Match the examples with a situation type (A–D). Then number the situation types (A–D) in the order you will hear them.
 - Adam telephones a restaurant to book a table for a party.
 - Professor Jones lectures on climate change.
 - Steve, Mary and Sarah discuss their assignment on water pollution.
- Mr Green gives a talk on how to open a bank account in the UK.
 - A** a monologue (one person speaking) in a university situation, e.g. a lecture
 - B** a monologue relating to social needs, e.g. a speech about arrangements for meals at a conference
 - C** a dialogue (two people talking together) relating to social needs, e.g. a conversation about travel needs
 - D** up to four people talking together in an academic situation, e.g. a conversation between a tutor and a student about an assignment
 - How many times do you hear each section?
 - Do you have time to read the questions before you listen?
 - Where should you write your answers?
 - You will lose marks for incorrect spelling. True or false?

Section 1

Remember

- In the dialogues in Section 1 two people are exchanging **factual information** for a **practical** reason.
- Read the instructions carefully so that you know what to do. Underline the key words in the instructions to find out which type of question you need to answer.
- Read the questions carefully and predict what you will hear. Think about **who** is talking, **where** they are and what the **topic** is. In the exam you will only have a short time for this, so do it as quickly as possible.

Skills development

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Prediction

Listening module Section 1: Exam information

Number of people: two (a dialogue)

Context: asking for factual information for a social/personal purpose

Example situation: a student applying for a parking permit or someone reporting a stolen bag

- Read the questions. Think about:
 - who is talking
 - who wants the information
 - where they are
 - what kind of information they want
 - what they want to do with the information
- How long has the girl been at the college?
 - a day
 - a few days
 - a couple of weeks
- The main building
 - has three floors.
 - is by a lake.
 - has a glass front.
- Which door should she take for the accommodation office?
 - the first on the left
 - the second on the right
 - the second on the left

-  Listen and answer the questions.

Remember

- Most information is not repeated, but if it is, you will usually hear it in different words (paraphrased), e.g. *studying overseas will not be cheap, in fact it could be one of the most expensive ways of getting qualifications.*
- In dialogues, information is sometimes repeated by another speaker to confirm something.

Recognizing repetition and avoiding distracters

- 1 Read the recording script below. Which information is repeated?

Stephan: ... when you get inside, go straight down the corridor, to the far end, and turn left. You'll see three doors on your left – accommodation is the middle one.

Keiko: So, I go along the corridor, turn left, and it's the second door on the left?

Stephan: That's right!

- 2 Look again at question 3. Why might someone choose B?

Completing notes

When completing notes, you will be given a word limit. You can write what you hear, but you might have to change the order of the words or miss some out for the answer to make sense.

e.g.

Students usually look for accommodation conveniently located on campus.

Students prefer accommodation on campus.

- 1 Rewrite these sentences. Write **NO MORE THAN THREE WORDS** for each answer. Check your answers are grammatically correct.

1 When you choose a university course, think about it carefully. It's a really important decision.

You need to before you choose a university course.

2 You might like to study near to your home town, or to go further afield.

You may prefer to go to university or in another town or city.

3 The number of students who choose to study overseas is increasing very rapidly.

There has been a rapid rise in the number of students wanting to
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- 2 Keiko made some notes about the accommodation available through the college. Read the notes and predict the kind of information you need to listen for.

- 3  Listen and complete Keiko's notes. Write **NO MORE THAN THREE WORDS** for each answer.

- 4 Check your answers on page 71.

Three types of accommodation available:

- Home stay

Cost of home stay: (1) _____
per week with meals

- (2) _____

- Private lets

College makes sure flats are
(3) _____

Remember

- You will not have to change the form of the words in your answer.
- BUT
- You may have to change the position of some of the words you hear on the recording to keep your answer grammatically correct.
- For example
There are flats for three or four students to share, as well as one-bedroom flats. Some students live in one-bedroom flats, while others prefer to share with friends.

First name: Keiko
 Surname: (4)
 Nationality: (5)
 Address: The Sunrise Guest House
 (6)
 Phone number: (7)
 email address: keiko@hotmail.com

5 03 Listen to the final part of the conversation between Keiko and the Accommodation Officer and complete the form.

Remember
 All answers must be spelt and punctuated correctly.

Remember

- Names of people and places always begin with capital letters. You will lose marks if you don't include them.
- When you listen for numbers that sound similar (e.g. 15 and 50) listen carefully for the stressed syllable (e.g. *fif'teen* or *'fifty*) to help you tell the difference.

Listening for numbers and letters

1 04 How do you say these numbers in English? Listen and check your answers.
 15 50 162 £3.25 47% 0.54 12,651

2 05 How do you say these letters in English? Listen and check your answers.

U Y J O G X I P
 Z W H A Q R E B

3 06 How do you say these punctuation marks in English? Listen and check your answers.

1 /
 2 -
 3 :
 4 ;

5 (in web addresses) © Macmillan Publishers LTD

4 07 Listen and complete the notes with the appropriate words or numbers.

- The man's name is
- The answer is
- The address is
- Everest is high.
- His name is
- The address is
- Her test score was
- His favourite author is
- The phone number is
- The reference number is
- The woman's name is
- The address is
- The web address is
- The man wants to make an appointment with
- The registration number is

Skills practice

Now practise the skills you have learnt by listening to the recording and answering questions 1 and 2.

Questions 1–2

08 For questions 1 and 2, listen and choose the correct answer.

- 1 How many people can the restaurant seat in one group?
A 10
B 8
C 18
D 24
- 2 How many people will be able to sit at each table?
A 10
B 8
C 15
D 16

Questions 3–5

While he was on the phone, Dan made some notes. For questions 3–5, listen and complete the notes. Write **NO MORE THAN THREE WORDS** for each answer.

For parties, the restaurant usually serves a (3) for a fixed price. There are three choices for each course, for example for starters there is prawn cocktail, soup or antipasto. At least one of the choices is (4) Also included in the price is (5)

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Questions 6–9

For questions 6–9, listen and complete the booking form.

GIOVANNI'S

...

Price per person:	(6) £
Deposit:	(7) £
Name:	(8)
Phone number:	(9)

Section 2

The listening passages in Section 2 focus on exchanging factual information for practical purposes. The passages may be dialogues or short talks given by one person (monologues) about **how to do something**. When you start listening ask yourself what the situation is and what the listener can do when they have the information.

Skills development

Listening module Section 2: Exam information

Number of people: one (a monologue)

Context: non-academic, social needs

Example situation: an informal talk on how to open a bank account

Using key words for prediction

1 Read questions 1–3 below and underline the important words. Can you think of synonyms for these words?

2  09 Now listen and answer questions 1–3.

1 The programme

A gives information about used car sales.

B tells you the best way to buy a car.

C tells you the most popular way to sell a car.

D looks at different ways of buying a new car.

2 Which of the following reasons does the presenter give for someone wanting to buy a used car? Circle **TWO** letters A–D.

A You are a new driver.

B You have had an accident in your old car.

C Your car is too old to be repaired.

D You are not in a hurry to drive.

3 One advantage of a dealer is

A they have a lot of room to show you the cars.

B they are cheap.

C you have a legal right to return the car if something goes wrong.

D they are honest.

Eliminating wrong answers

If you can eliminate even one or two wrong answers, you will improve your chances of getting the right answer.

3  09 Listen again and decide why the other answers to questions 1–3 above are wrong.

Completing a summary

1 Read this summary. For each gap, predict:

- the type of word missing (e.g. noun/verb/adjective)
- the kind of information it is asking for (use the context to help you)

A (1) way to buy a car is privately. Usually this is done by looking through the (2) and contacting the person selling the car directly. The (3) is that you will not get a warranty. If you are not knowledgeable about cars, you should have the car checked (4)

You could also buy a car at auction. This could be very risky as you won't have (5) to inspect it properly before you buy it.

2  10 Listen and complete the summary.

Remember

- The order of the questions follows the recording, so you can answer them in order.
- Think of synonyms or other ways of saying the important words.
- In a multiple-choice question you may have to choose two or more answers.

Remember

Contractions such as *he's* count as two words.

Skills practice

Questions 1–4

ⓐ Read through questions 1–4. Use the skills you have just practised and then listen to the recording and write the correct letter **A**, **B** or **C** next to questions 1–4. You can choose any letter more than once.

What does Jenny Arnold tell the students about preparing for holidays abroad?

- A** They might ...
 - B** They should ...
 - C** They should not ...
- 1** find out about necessary vaccinations.
 - 2** find out just before they leave.
 - 3** have to pay for vaccinations.
 - 4** have to pay for malaria tablets.

Questions 5–6

Read through questions 5–6 and complete the summary. Write **NO MORE THAN THREE WORDS** for each answer.

It is important to buy some (5) before you leave, even though it may be (6), especially if you plan to do adventure sports. It will make your holiday more relaxing if you know that you could always get home safely.

Questions 7–9

Read through questions 7–9 and then complete the sentences. Write **NO MORE THAN THREE WORDS** for each answer.

- While you are away, you should be careful of getting burnt by (7) at midday.
- You should be careful of drinking local water and using it when you (8)
- If you get an upset stomach, drink plenty of (9)

Skills development

Listening for specific speakers

Listening module Section 3: Exam information

Number of people: up to four people

Context: education or training

Example situations: a tutor and a student discussing an assignment, or a seminar situation with several students talking

12 Listen and answer the questions.

- 1 How many speakers are there in the conversation? How do you know?
- 2 What are their names?
- 3 How many times does each person speak?

Remember

- Listen for introductions at the beginning.
- Listen for any names that people use to direct the conversation.

Listening for specific information/short answers

- 1 Read the questions below and underline the key words. Which answer is a number? Which is a location or a situation? What **recent ecological problems** can you think of?
- 2 13 Listen and answer the questions. Write **NO MORE THAN THREE WORDS OR A NUMBER** for each answer.

1 Which **TWO** kinds of recent ecological problems does Anand mention?

A

B

2 What is the word limit for the assignment?

.....

3 Where did Robert get his idea for a topic from?

.....

Completing a table

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- 1 Look at the table. Which questions ask you to identify types of pollution? Which answer is a date?
- 2 14 Listen and complete the table. Write **NO MORE THAN THREE WORDS** for each answer.

Pollution problem	Solution provided by	Completed
(1)	City Council	(2)
Boat traffic	(3)	next year
(4)	(5)	ongoing project

Remember

- Use the time that you have before listening to the recording to look at the headings in the table. Then you can predict what you will be listening to.
- Look at the answers that are already in the table. These will help you to understand the type of answers required.
- Check if the numbering goes across or down the table.

Matching

For matching tasks, you have to match statements in a list to one of three options. The options may be categories, situations or conditions. There may be more than one statement for each option.

Remember

You may have to use the options more than once.

- 1 Look at the question below and underline the key words.
- 2  15 For questions 1–4:
How do each of the following relate to the problem of pollution in the harbour?
 - 1 local diving clubs
 - 2 marine life
 - 3 bad weather
 - 4 jet skis and small motor boats

A benefit from the problem
B cause the problem
C solve the problem

Spelling

As in Section 2, sometimes words are spelt out for you, but often they are not. Even if the words are not spelt out, you must still spell them correctly.

- 1  16 Listen and complete the sentences.
 - 1 The college is on the of an old castle.
 - 2 The meeting will be held on
 - 3 Please hand your essays in by next
 - 4 We that you take the test in May.
 - 5 The course is and highly beneficial.
 - 6 rose dramatically in 2001.
 - 7 I would you to do your homework.
 - 8 He was a very successful
 - 9 Different have different management systems.
 - 10 The maths exam was than the statistics test.
 - 11 Studying abroad can help you become more
 - 12 unwanted emails, or spam, is a growing problem.
- 2 Now check your answers on page 73.
- 3 Here is a list of words common in academic writing. Which **THREE** are spelt wrongly? Use your dictionary to check form and meaning.

accompany constent evident percieved suficient specified

Skills practice

Questions 1–4

Ⓞ17 Use the skills you have just practised to listen to the recording and complete the table. Write **NO MORE THAN THREE WORDS OR A NUMBER** for each answer.

	'A' Levels	Foundation Course
Length of course	2 years	1 year
Number of subjects studied	2–3	(1)
English language support given	often none	(2) per
Main type of assessment	exam(s)	(3)
Most popular with	(4)	overseas students

Questions 5–8

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

- 5 What kind of English does Cathy study?
- 6 What does she say is different from her language?
- 7 Cathy studies the following modules:
 - economic theory
 - marketing strategies
 -
- 8 What does Brenda think about Cathy's course?

Questions 9–12

For questions 9–12:

if they refer to Millford University write **M**
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 Ainsley University write **A**
 Parmouth University write **P**

- 9 Which university has given Cathy a conditional offer?
- 10 Which university usually requires an IELTS score of 6.5?
- 11 Which university has a good reputation for Business Studies?
- 12 Which university is in a good location?

Skills development

Labelling a diagram with numbered parts

Listening module Section 4: Exam information

Number of people: one (a monologue)

Context: education or training

Example situation: a lecture. The subject may be quite specific, but remember that you do not need any specialist knowledge to answer the questions.

1 Look at the following three diagrams.

- 1 Which one shows a plan or map?
- 2 Which one shows a process?
- 3 Which one shows an object?

Diagram 1

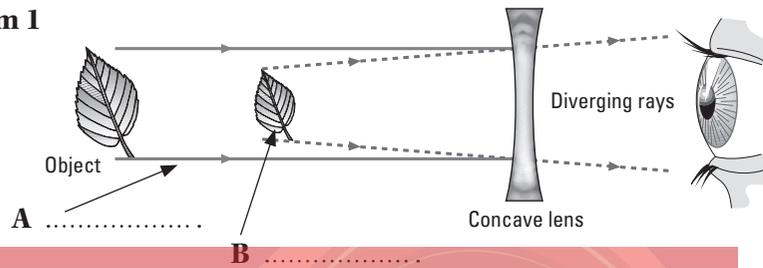


Diagram 2

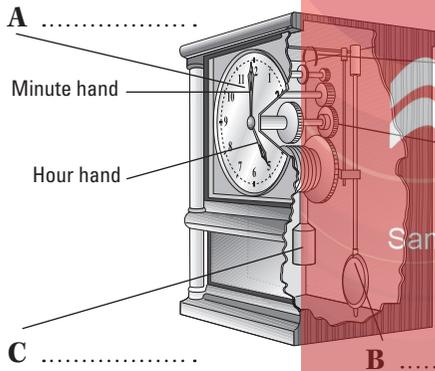


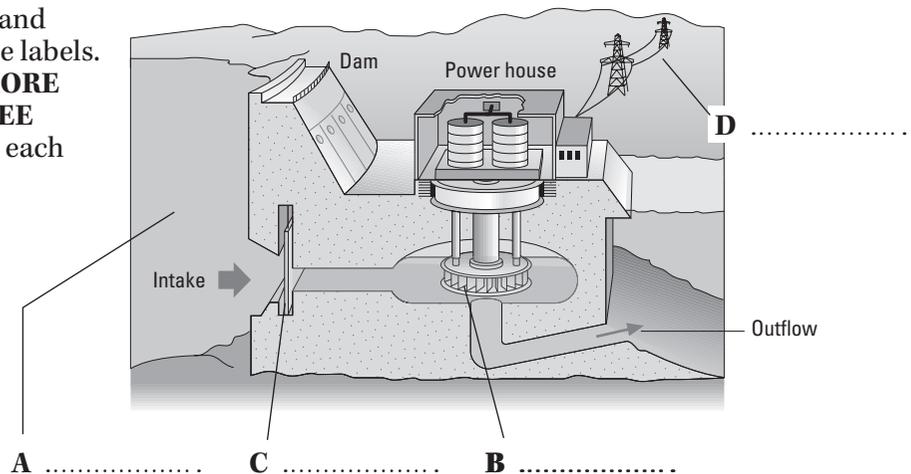
Diagram 3



2 18 Now listen and complete the labels on the diagrams.

3 Look at diagram 4. What does it show? Describe the positions of the numbered parts.

4 19 Listen and complete the labels. Write **NO MORE THAN THREE WORDS** for each answer.



Remember
Study the diagram. Note what it shows and what positions things are in.

Labelling a flow chart

- 1 Look at the flow chart below. Which answer is a number?
- 2 20 Complete the flow chart. Write **NO MORE THAN THREE WORDS OR A NUMBER** for each answer.

GENERATOR	<input type="checkbox"/> Create power
TRANSMISSION SUBSTATION Power at 1 volts	<input type="checkbox"/> Transforms electricity to high voltages
LOCAL POWER SUBSTATION Power at 7,200 volts	<input type="checkbox"/> Reduces voltage <input type="checkbox"/> 2 <input type="checkbox"/> Can turn off power if necessary
TRANSFORMER BOX/DRUM Power at 240 volts	<input type="checkbox"/> Lowers power to make it suitable for 3 service
CIRCUIT BREAKER/FUSE	<input type="checkbox"/> Safety device to minimize 4

Remember

- You may be able to use words from the text, or you may need to change the form of the words, e.g. *reliable flow of water* (= four words), change to *reliable water flow* (= three words).
- You don't always need to include articles.

Sentence completion

- 1 Is the information you need in the sentences below a noun, a verb or an adjective?
 - 1 Two positive aspects of hydroelectricity are that it is and
 - 2 One limiting factor of hydroelectricity is that it requires
- 2 21 Listen and answer the questions.

Listening for signpost words

Signpost words are words or phrases that tell a listener what the speaker is going to talk about next, e.g. *Right*, or *Anyway* indicate a change of subject and *for instance* indicates when the speaker is going to give an example.

Look at these extracts from the lecture on hydroelectricity. What do the underlined words indicate?

- 1 I want to move on today to a form of power that many would argue is far superior.
 - A contrasting information
 - B introducing a new topic
 - C summing up
- 2 Right, as you can see, under the dam there is a control gate ...
 - A introducing a new topic
 - B drawing attention to a visual
 - C emphasizing a point
- 3 As we've said, the power leaves the generator and enters ...
 - A recapping or reviewing information
 - B summing up
 - C adding extra information

Remember

- You will have 10 minutes to transfer your answers to the answer sheet at the end of the exam.
- Write your name and your candidate number on the answer sheet.
- You have to complete the answer sheet in pencil.
- Take great care that you transfer your answers correctly – if you have the right answer in the wrong place on the answer sheet you will not get any marks. Use a ruler to help you if necessary.
- Check that your spelling is correct.
- You will not lose marks for an incorrect answer, so don't leave any blank spaces.

Skills practice

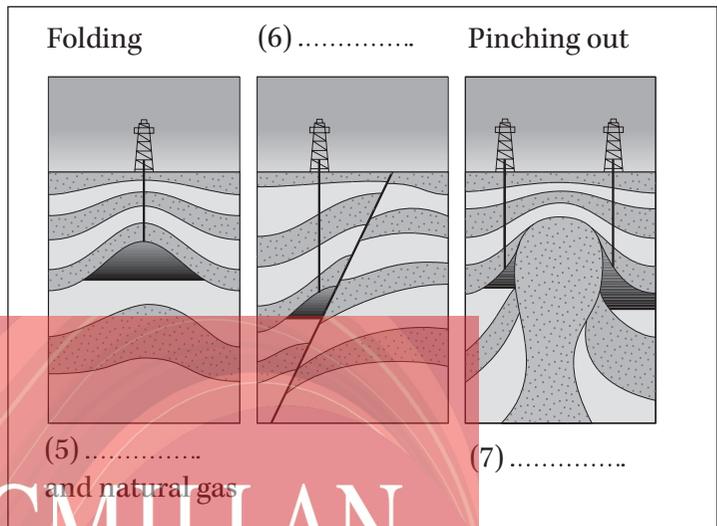
Questions 1–4

Now practise the skills you have learnt by listening to the recording and completing the sentences below. Write **NO MORE THAN THREE WORDS OR A NUMBER** for each answer.

- 1 Oil formation began between 10 million and years ago.
- 2 Dead plankton sank to the sea bed to mix with the
- 3 Layers of sediment put pressure and on the source rock.
- 4 Oil collects in porous rock, e.g.

Questions 5–7

Complete the diagram below. Write **NO MORE THAN THREE WORDS** for each answer.



Questions 8–12

Complete the flow chart using **NO MORE THAN THREE WORDS** for each answer.

Initial stages

Legal issues are settled.

Preparation for drilling

Land is cleared and levelled.
 (8) may be built.
 A well is dug or a source of local
 (9) is found.
 Large, plastic-lined hole called a
 (10) is made.
 A cellar is dug at the site of
 (11)

Drilling

Main hole begun with smaller drill.
 (12) Main rig is

Now go back to the quiz on page 7 and fill in the answers that you did not manage to do before.