



IELTS Preparation Mini-Course

Lecture 4

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Mastering the IELTS Reading Test



Objectives

By the end of the lesson, students will be able to:

1. Understand the **format, timing, and difficulty** of the Reading test.
2. Apply key strategies: **skimming, scanning, detailed reading, paraphrasing.**
3. Identify and answer **10 question types** confidently.
4. Use **time management techniques** to finish all 40 questions.
5. Avoid common traps, such as matching distractors and paraphrase confusion.

Lead-in

Why is IELTS Reading difficult for you?

Vocabulary → Time pressure → Long passages →
Similar words (paraphrasing)

IELTS Listening and Reading Answer Sheet

Centre number:

Pencil must be used to complete this sheet.

Please write your **full name** in CAPITAL letters on the line below.

Then write your six digit Candidate number in the boxes and shade the number in the grid on the right.

Test date (shade ONE box for the day, ONE box for the month and ONE box for the year):

Day: 01 02 03 04 05 06 07 08 09 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31

Month: 01 02 03 04 05 06 07 08 09 10 11 12 Year (last 2 digits): 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21

Listening		Listening	Listening	Listening	Listening
1		✓ 1 ✗ □ □	21		✓ 21 ✗ □ □
2		✓ 2 ✗ □ □	22		✓ 22 ✗ □ □
3		✓ 3 ✗ □ □	23		✓ 23 ✗ □ □
4		✓ 4 ✗ □ □	24		✓ 24 ✗ □ □
5		✓ 5 ✗ □ □	25		✓ 25 ✗ □ □
6		✓ 6 ✗ □ □	26		✓ 26 ✗ □ □
7		✓ 7 ✗ □ □	27		✓ 27 ✗ □ □
8		✓ 8 ✗ □ □	28		✓ 28 ✗ □ □
9		✓ 9 ✗ □ □	29		✓ 29 ✗ □ □
10		✓ 10 ✗ □ □	30		✓ 30 ✗ □ □
11		✓ 11 ✗ □ □	31		✓ 31 ✗ □ □
12		✓ 12 ✗ □ □	32		✓ 32 ✗ □ □
13		✓ 13 ✗ □ □	33		✓ 33 ✗ □ □
14		✓ 14 ✗ □ □	34		✓ 34 ✗ □ □
15		✓ 15 ✗ □ □	35		✓ 35 ✗ □ □
16		✓ 16 ✗ □ □	36		✓ 36 ✗ □ □
17		✓ 17 ✗ □ □	37		✓ 37 ✗ □ □
18		✓ 18 ✗ □ □	38		✓ 38 ✗ □ □
19		✓ 19 ✗ □ □	39		✓ 39 ✗ □ □
20		✓ 20 ✗ □ □	40		✓ 40 ✗ □ □

Marker 2
Signature

Marker 1
Signature

Listening
Total

IELTS Listening and Reading Answer Sheet



IELTS_Reading_-_answer_sheet.pdf

Test Structure

Feature

Passages

Questions

Time

Sources

Academic Reading

3 long texts

40 total

60 minutes (no extra transfer time)

Journals, magazines, newspapers, textbooks

Difficulty increases from Passage 1 → 2 → 3.

Key skills:

- Understanding paraphrasing
- Recognizing synonyms
- Reading fast with accuracy

Types of questions:

A- Multiple choices

Focus on:

- synonyms
- distractors
- eliminating wrong answers



Free_practice_test_-_Academic_Reading_-_Multiple_Choice_one_answer_-_Sample_Task_-_Global.pdf

Tip: Underline the part of the text that supports the answer.

Types of questions:

B- True / False / Not given (Identify Information)

True : You can find it in the text.

False: You can find it in the text, but it has incorrect / false information, the passage states the opposite of the statement.

Not Given : You cannot find it in the text, or there are not information regarding it.



Academic_20Reading_20Sample_20Task_20Identifying_20Information_20True_20False_20Not_20Given_20_20Task.pdf

C- Yes / No / Not Given

(same as TFNG but tests [the writer's opinion / claims](#))



ac_reading_identifying_writers_views.pdf

Types of questions:

D- Matching Headings

Steps:

1. Read headings first → underline keywords
2. Read first & last sentences of each paragraph
3. Choose the **main idea**, not details



Free_practice_test_-_Academic_Reading_-_Matching_Headings_Task_-_Sample_Task_-_Global.pdf

E- Matching Information

Find **specific detail** in the paragraph, not the heading.

Types of questions:

F- Matching features:

Match a statement to a list of options. Ex. Countries with culture, research with research findings, age group to a characteristic.



ac_reading_matching_features.pdf

G- Sentence Completion / Summary Completion



Free_practice_test_-_Academic_Reading_-_Summary_Completion_selecting_from_a_list_of_words_or_phrases_-_Sample_Task_-_Global.pdf



Academic_20Reading_20Sample_20Task_20Summary_20Completion_20selecting_20words_20from_20the_20text_20_20Task.pdf

Types of questions:

H- Diagram / Table / Flowchart Completion

Predict what kind of word fits before reading.



Academic_20Reading_20Sample_20Task_20Flowchart_20Completion_20selecting_20words_20from_20the_20text_20_20Task.pdf

I- Short Answer Questions

Maximum number of words must be respected.

E.g., "NO MORE THAN TWO WORDS" → (2 words max).

Time Management Techniques

- Spend **15 minutes per passage**.
- Do easy questions first (sentence completion, matching).
- Guess if unsure (no negative marking).
- Last 5 minutes: check spelling & word count.
- Don't spend a lot of time on one question, you have to balance. If You don't know the answer, just mark it and come back to it later.

IELTS Listening & Reading Band Score

LISTENING		ACADEMIC READING		GENERAL READING	
Correct Answers	Score	Correct Answers	Score	Correct Answers	Score
39 - 40	9	39 - 40	9	40	9
37 - 38	8.5	37 - 38	8.5	39	8.5
35 - 36	8	35 - 36	8	37 - 38	8
32 - 34	7.5	33 - 34	7.5	36	7.5
30 - 31	7	30 - 32	7	34 - 35	7
25 - 29	6.5	27 - 29	6.5	32 - 33	6.5
23 - 25	6	23 - 26	6	30 - 31	6
18 - 22	5.5	19 - 22	5.5	27 - 29	5.5
16 - 17	5	15 - 18	5	23 - 26	5
13 - 15	4.5	13 - 14	4.5	19 - 22	4.5
10 - 12	4	10 - 12	4	15 - 18	4

Essential Reading Strategies

1 Skimming

Purpose: To get the *general idea* or overall meaning of a text.

When to use it: Before reading in detail, or when the question asks about the main idea, purpose, or general topic.

How to skim:

- Read the **title, headings, and subheadings**.
- Read the **first and last paragraph** quickly.
- Read the **first sentence** of each paragraph (topic sentence).
- Let your eyes move fast—don't stop for unknown words.

2 Scanning

Purpose: To find *specific information* quickly.

When to use it:

When the question asks about:

- a **name**
- a **number**
- a **date**
- a **place**
- a **percentage**

How to scan:

- Don't read everything.
- Move your eyes quickly down the page.
- Look for **keywords** or **numbers**.
- Use **capital letters**, **bold words**, and **numbers** to guide you.

3 Understanding Paraphrasing

Examples:

- “rise” → “increase”
- “young people” → “the youth”
- “causes” → “leads to”
- “dangerous” → “poses a risk”

4 Read the Instructions carefully

- Sometimes they will tell you write **3 words or less**

For example, if the answer is “**The tomb of the pharaoh**” and you write it as it is, **5 words**, it will be marked **wrong**, but if you write “**The pharaoh’s tomb**” it will be marked right because it is only **3 words**.

- Sometime, in *multiple answers*, they ask you to choose **two** answers, if you choose only **one** it is marked **wrong**.
- Sometime the **true/false/not given** is replaced with **Yes/No/Not given**.
If you write **true** instead of **yes**, it is marked **wrong**.

The life and work of Marie Curie

Marie Curie is probably the most famous woman scientist who has ever lived. Born Maria Sklodowska in Poland in 1867, she is famous for her work on radioactivity, and was twice a winner of the Nobel Prize. With her husband, Pierre Curie, and Henri Becquerel, she was awarded the 1903 Nobel Prize for Physics, and was then sole winner of the 1911 Nobel Prize for Chemistry. She was the first woman to win a Nobel Prize.

From childhood, Marie was remarkable for her prodigious memory, and at the age of 16 won a gold medal on completion of her secondary education. Because her father lost his savings through bad investment, she then had to take work as a teacher. From her earnings she was able to finance her sister Bronia's medical studies in Paris, on the understanding that Bronia would, in turn, later help her to get an education.

In 1891 this promise was fulfilled and Marie went to Paris and began to study at the Sorbonne (the University of Paris). She often worked far into the night and lived on little more than bread and butter and tea. She came first in the examination in the physical sciences in 1893, and in 1894 was placed second in the examination in mathematical sciences. It was not until the spring of that year that she was introduced to Pierre Curie.

Questions 1 – 3

Do the following statements agree with the information given in Reading Passage 1?

In boxes 1-3 on your answer sheet, write

TRUE

if the statement agrees with the information

FALSE

if the statement contradicts the information

NOT GIVEN

if there is no information on this

- 1 Marie Curie's husband was a joint winner of both Marie's Nobel Prizes.
- 2 Marie became interested in science when she was a child.
- 3 Marie was able to attend the Sorbonne because of her sister's financial contribution.

Answers

Answers

- | | |
|---|-----------|
| 1 | FALSE |
| 2 | NOT GIVEN |
| 3 | TRUE |

'This Marvellous Invention'

Of all mankind's manifold creations, language must take pride of place. Other inventions – the wheel, agriculture, sliced bread – may have transformed our material existence, but the advent of language is what made us human. Compared to language, all other inventions pale in significance, since everything we have ever achieved depends on language and originates from it. Without language, we could never have embarked on our ascent to unparalleled power over all other animals, and even over nature itself.

But language is foremost not just because it came first. In its own right it is a tool of extraordinary sophistication, yet based on an idea of ingenious simplicity: 'this marvellous invention of composing out of twenty-five or thirty sounds that infinite variety of expressions which, whilst having in themselves no likeness to what is in our mind, allow us to disclose to others its whole secret, and to make known to those who cannot penetrate it all that we imagine, and all the various stirrings of our soul'. This was how, in 1660, the renowned French grammarians of the Port-Royal abbey near Versailles distilled the essence of language, and no one since has celebrated more eloquently the magnitude of its achievement. Even so, there is just one flaw in all these hymns of praise, for the homage to language's unique accomplishment conceals a simple yet critical incongruity. Language is mankind's greatest invention – except, of course, that it was never invented. This apparent paradox is at the core of our fascination with language, and it holds many of its secrets.

Questions 1 – 4

Complete the summary using the list of words, **A-G**, below.

Write the correct letter, **A-G**, in boxes 1-4 on your answer sheet.

The importance of language

The wheel is one invention that has had a major impact on **1** aspects of life, but no impact has been as **2** as that of language. Language is very **3** , yet composed of just a small number of sounds. Language appears to be **4** to use. However, its sophistication is often overlooked.

A difficult
D admired
G fundamental

B complex
E material

C original
F easy

Answers

- | | |
|---|-------------|
| 1 | material |
| 2 | fundamental |
| 3 | complex |
| 4 | easy |

Complete Cambridge 19 IELTS Academic Reading Test 1

Websites

<https://www.ieltsolve.com/>

<https://ielstrainingonline.com/>

<https://takeielts.britishcouncil.org/>

<https://www.ielts.org/about-the-test/sample-test-questions>

<https://learnenglish.britishcouncil.org/skills/reading>

<https://ieltonlinetests.com/>

<https://mini-ielts.com/>

https://www.examenglish.com/IELTS/IELTS_reading.html

<https://www.cambridgeenglish.org/learning-english/exams/ielts/>



Thank You

