

TRICKS & TIPS

IELTS



You can be anxious about facing the IELTS test.

Here are some tips from IELTS Experts to help you prepare well and be confident on your test day.

Don't memorise answers

In your Speaking and Writing tests, the examiner will expect your answers to be natural.

The examiner can tell if your answers are memorised which can in turn influence your final band score.

Use a range of grammatical structures

Fluency and coherence, Lexical resource, Grammatical range and accuracy play a major role when an examiner evaluates you in the IELTS Speaking and Writing tests.

Make sure you use a wide range of Grammatical structures like to express what you say.

Practice well !!

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You can make use of our free practice materials to familiarise with the test. The IELTS Masterclass sessions are conducted by IELTS Experts where you get your questions answered.

You can also make use of the free practice tests and other support tools to prepare well for your IELTS test.

Asking for clarification

If you didn't hear the question properly in the IELTS Speaking test or you aren't sure what the examiner means, it is okay to ask for clarification. It can be a good idea to suggest what the examiner is trying to ask you by asking 'Do you mean ...?'. You don't lose marks if you need to check the question. Asking for clarification can help to make sure you are not off topic with your answer.

Listening practice

In Part 1 and Part 3 of the IELTS Listening test, there are multiple speakers, so it can be a good idea to practice your listening with various dialogues, such as a TV drama or discussion panel.

Section 2 and Section 4 of the IELTS Listening test only has one speaker, so some good practice can be listening to a short video lecture.

Part 2 and Part 4 last for approximately 5-7 minutes, so it is a good idea to listen to something of a similar length.

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The order of answers in reading

Remember that some task types in the IELTS Reading test have answers that appear in order, such as True / False / Not Given or Multiple Choice.

This means that you don't have to begin with the first question and do them in order. Look at which question has something that is easily identifiable (e.g. a name of a person or place) and start with that question.

Then, the answer for the other questions will most likely appear above and below this point.

Follow these simple guidelines to help improve your writing skills. If you are a visual learner, jump to the bottom of the page for an equally informative video on 7 steps towards a band 7 in Writing Task 2.

Step 1: Answer all parts of the question

IELTS Writing Task 2 requires you to write an essay in response to a statement, or premise.

You must read the question carefully so that all parts are answered. For example, in the question below, you must do 3 things to achieve a higher band, showing the examiner that you are addressing all parts of the task.

Present one view

Present the other view

Present your opinion

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Example question:

Some people think that wild animals should not be kept in zoos. Others believe that there are good reasons for having zoos.

Discuss both these views and give your own opinion.

Present one view and then the other view, and then present your opinion.

Wild animals are kept in zoos all over world. At present, zoos are a tourist attraction in many countries and need wild animals to attract visitors. I believe that wild creatures should not be kept in zoos and there should be alternative ways to see them.

There are many good reasons for having zoos in our cities. Most importantly, they attract tourists and make money for city.

Visitors get chance to see wild animals that they would not see unless they travelled far away. Rare species, like Chinese panda, or Indian tiger, or African rhino for example, are endangered and if we had no zoos they would die. Zoos care for these animals and give us chance to see them. Therefore, we cannot underestimate the educational importance of zoos.

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However, many people feel that wild animals should be free. They should not be kept in cages and small areas in zoo.

This is cruel for animal and they often die because they is not in natural habitat. We frequently see news story about rare animals dying in zoos or getting sick because area is not big enough or suitable for wild animals like lions or polar bears.

Also, these animals are unhappy and sometimes attack humans. Caging wild animals is unhealthy for the animals and is cruel.

Both views put forward valid points, however, I strongly believe that zoos are no place for wild animals.

If animals need to be cared for, they should be looked after in their natural habitat in game parks or wildlife reserves.

Governments should look after the precious wild animals at their country and should close down zoos that profit from them.

In conclusion, although people believe that zoos are good places to keep wild animals because they can earn money and educate people, I feel that we do not need zoos anymore. We can look at wild animals on the internet and we can feel happy knowing that they are free.

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Step 2: Present a clear position

Although you are presenting different points of views in your essay, you must present a clear position.

This simply means you must let the examiner know what you think about the question.

Your position must be clear for the complete essay. Don't change your mind in the conclusion.

Both views put forward valid points, however, I strongly believe...

However, many people feel that...

I believe that wild creatures should not be kept in zoos...

Step 3: Structure your essay

Essay writing need not necessarily be a difficult achievement.

Present your ideas in a structured manner using paragraphs to present and develop each idea.

Make use of the following points to help you structure your essay.

Show the reader where to start with an introduction paragraph.

Present ideas that are important and then, elaborate further.

Conclude the essay with your opinion on the question.

Develop a clear idea within each paragraph.

Make it easy for the examiner by leaving a space between each paragraph.

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Essay example

Introduction

Wild animals are kept in zoos all over world. At present, zoos are a tourist attraction in many countries and need wild animals to attract visitors. I heure that wild creatures should not be kept in zoos and there should be alternative ways to see them.

First view

There are many good reasons for having zoos in our cities. Most importantly, they attract tourists and make money for city. Visitors get chance to see wild animals that they would not see unless they travelled far away. Rare species, like Chinese panda , or Indian tiger, or African rhino for example, are endangered and if we had no zoos they would die. Zoos care for these animals and give us chance to see them. Therefore, we cannot underestimate he educational importance of zoos.

Second view

However, many people feel that wild animals should be free. They should not be kept in cages and small areas in zoo.

This is heir for animal and they often die because they is not in natural habitat.

We frequently see news story about rare animals dying in zoos or getting sick because area is not big enough or suitable for wild animals like lions or polar bears. Also, these animals are unhappy and sometimes attack humans.

Caging wild animals is unhealthy for the animals and is cruel.

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My opinion

Both views put forward valid points, however, I strongly believe that zoos are no place for wild animals.

If animals need to be cared for, they should be looked after in their natural habitat in game parks or wildlife reserves.

Governments should look after the precious wild animals at their country and should close down zoos that profit from them.

Conclusion

In conclusion, although people believe that zoos are good places to keep wild animals because they can earn money and educate people, I feel that we do not need zoos anymore. As far as I am concerned, wild animals should be set free.

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Step 4: Use linking Devices

Linking devices or transition words are connecting words and phrases that make your answer cohesive.

It is the glue that sticks your sentences and ideas together. The below table shows some linkers that are frequently used in essays.

On one hand	Whereas
On the other hand	Because
Firstly	Similarly
Another	Finally
However	Nevertheless
Despite	Consequently
Although	In conclusion
Regardless	In addition
For example	As a result
Therefore	Undoubtedly

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Step 5: Use a Range of Vocabulary

Writing is a means of communicating your thoughts and ideas to the reader. Therefore, make use of vocabulary that is easy to understand.

Also, only use words that you can easily spell. Use words that go naturally together – collocation, and include idiomatic language/phrasal verbs in your essay. This proves to the examiner that you can use a range of vocabulary.

And finally, check for spelling errors and typos after you complete your writing task.

Examples of collocation:

Tourist attraction

Alternate ways

Rare species

Natural habitat

Examples of idiomatic language & phrasal verbs:

To be cared for

Close down

Make money

Chance to see

Looked after

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Step 6: Use a range of grammatical structures correctly

When you are aiming for a band 7, you need to master both simple and complex sentences. And remember that you must produce frequent error-free sentences as well.

So, how do you think you can achieve that? Yes, with practice. Try out sample test papers and analyse the mistakes you usually make.

When you keep practicing different sentence structures, we are sure you are going to improve writing an essay on any given topic.

Examples of grammatical structures

Articles Most importantly, they attract tourists and make money for (the) city; visitors get (a) chance
Subject/verb agreement because they is (are) not
in natural Prepositions wild animals at (in) their
country Plurals We frequently see news
story (stories) Punctuation Most importantly,
they attract tourists and make money for the city.

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Step 7: Check your essay thoroughly

Even after you produce a perfect essay, you may make careless spelling and grammatical mistakes.

These can easily be eliminated if you check your essay thoroughly. Ask yourself the following questions once you complete your writing task.

Did I answer all parts?

Did I use paragraphs?

Did I use linkers?

Did I use punctuation?

Did I check my work?

Is my spelling correct and did I use a range of vocabulary?

Did I use complex sentence structures?

When you can answer to these questions positively, you are surely on your way to a band 7 score!

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