



**Pause.  
Reflect.  
Prepare.**

## **Before you take the IELTS test again...**

### **Pause**

IELTS is a test of English language proficiency and taking the test again and again will not improve your result.

### **Reflect**

- Have you read about IELTS band scores and what each band score represents?
- Have you tried the practice test questions?
- Are you practising your English at home and at work/university?
- What other steps can you take to improve your English language skills?
- Were you as calm and relaxed as possible when you took the test?

### **Prepare**

If you answered “No” to some of these questions above, consider the advice provided overleaf to help you prepare for the next time you sit the test.

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# Preparing to take an IELTS test

| Tip  | How to prepare   |
|--|--|
| <b>Before the test</b>                             |  |
| Read the <i>Information for Candidates</i> booklet | The official IELTS <i>Information for Candidates</i> booklet provides essential information about how to respond correctly to each part of the test. Find it online at <a href="http://www.ielts.org/candidates.aspx">www.ielts.org/candidates.aspx</a> or get a print copy from your IELTS test centre.   |
| Consider taking an English language course         | It takes time to learn a language and the best way is to take an English course. The feedback you receive from your teacher will help you improve the specific skills involved in speaking, listening, reading and writing English.  |
| Use your English everyday                          | A proven way to improve your IELTS band score is to practise your English every day at home and at work/university. This includes speaking English with your friends, watching and listening to English language programmes, reading English publications and practising your written skills wherever possible.  |
| Know what to expect                                | To familiarise yourself with the types of tasks included in an IELTS test, you may wish to consider taking an IELTS preparation course. This will help you: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• practise the type of tasks included in an IELTS test (e.g. Writing a short essay or letter for the Writing component.)</li><li>• get feedback and learn from your answers to practice questions</li><li>• become more confident in your test-taking skills</li><li>• help you decide if you are ready</li></ul> Ask your local IELTS test centre for more information. |
| Understand the IELTS band scores                   | IELTS band scores are explained at <a href="http://www.ielts.org/bandscore">www.ielts.org/bandscore</a>  |
| Practise sample questions                          | You may wish to complete the IELTS test sample available at <a href="http://www.ielts.org/test_takers_information.aspx">www.ielts.org/test_takers_information.aspx</a> . <i>Official IELTS Practice Materials</i> (two books available) can be obtained from your test centre or you can use the order form online at <a href="http://www.ielts.org/candidates.aspx">www.ielts.org/candidates.aspx</a>   |
| Rest and relax                                     | Get plenty of rest the night before your test. Also ensure you are familiar with the venue's location before test day so that you arrive in time.  |

## During the test

|                                     |  |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| Understand the task                 | Follow instructions carefully during the test. Remember that the Writing component of the test has specific word length requirements.  |
| Allow enough time for each question | Some questions have suggested time limits for you to follow. Every test room will have a clock on the wall. Stay aware of the time during the test so that you can complete all the questions. |
| Stay calm enough to do your best    | If you feel worried, take deep breaths to calm down. If you focus on the questions and don't rush your answers, you will be able to do your best.  |

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