

Hi, I'm Fiona!



I'm an **IELTS Specialist** and I help busy people like you get 7+ in the IELTS Test.

Where do I start?

With so much information on the Internet, it's difficult to know **who to trust** and how to make sure you've covered **everything you need**.

I've been an **IELTS Teacher and Examiner** for so long that I know the test inside out. I know what problems it causes and how to solve them.

If you've never taken IELTS before, or if you need **more time and support**, join the **90- Day study programme in The Members Academy**.

The lessons in the Academy take you **step by step** through the planner, with daily videos, worksheets, model answers, a private Facebook group and access to me. It will save you time and money because you'll get **everything you need in one place!**

The 28-Day Planner will help you...

- get **organised** and feel **confident** about the test
- learn the essential **vocabulary** you'll need for every part of the test
- practise **all 4 skills** and learn **strategies** to get a higher score
- stay **motivated** with **daily tasks and tips**

The IELTS test will never be easy – it is **carefully designed** to assess your English ability up to Band 9 so it has to be difficult in places.

But it is also a test of your **general English**, so anything that you do in the next 28 days leading up to the exam will help improve your score.

Good Luck!

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Welcome to your **General Training IELTS 28-Day Planner**

There's a lot to do here. **Don't worry** if you don't finish everything. Just do **as much as you can**.

Writing

Writing, like Speaking, Reading and Listening, is a **SKILL** and all skills improve with **practice**. Just writing *something* **every day** will make you write more easily. Looking at **models** will give you plenty of ideas and help focus you on what the examiner expects.

Speaking

Practice speaking **every day**. Speak for 2 minutes, record yourself and listen to yourself. You will gain confidence and fluency by doing this. Try my **30 Day Speaking challenge**.

Reading/Listening

It's important that you use reliable tests. I've used the tests here from the **British Council** website. There are lots on my [website](#) too, with clear explanations and answers.

<http://takeielts.britishcouncil.org/prepare-test/free-practice-tests>

*****Please note***** General Training Reading **Section 3** is the same as Academic Reading **Section 1**, so don't worry if some of the links give you advice based on Academic Reading.

Vocabulary

Check out my [28 tips to help you learn vocabulary for IELTS](#).

Follow me on [YouTube](#), [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#) and [Pinterest](#) to get lots more advice, or get in touch by email if you have any questions: fjwattam@gmail.com

Best of luck!

Fiona

P.S. The 28-Day planner is an outline of the **syllabus** in my 90-day Study Programme in the [Members Academy](#). These online courses will support you through your preparation, with videos, worksheets, practice exercises, live lessons, a supportive, sharing community in a closed Facebook group, and a fantastic teacher (me!).

Week 1

	Vocabulary	Reading	Listening	Speaking	Writing
	Week 1: The Natural World Get a notebook, check all words for meaning, form and pron.	No time limits this week. Take your time to understand the texts and the answers. Download the full test here.	Click here for Listening Part 1 and Answers . Get your band score with my calculator .	Record and listen to yourself on these topics for ONE MINUTE. Get more advice here and here	Check out my online Writing Course to help you match the band descriptors for Writing Task 1.
Day 1	Agriculture intensive farming organic food pesticides monocrops biodiversity fertilisers to cultivate/harvest/yield Review Quiz here	Section 1 Q 1 – 8 Emergency Evacuation Gap Fill	Section 1 Q 1 – 10 Dialogue Completing a form Everyday information Click here for audio	Part 1 Do you work or are you a student? Practice speaking about your job or your studies	Task 1 Task Achievement: Learn the basic requirements of a Task 1
Day 2	Nature invasive species threatened ecosystems pest/predators/prey immunity/resistance flora and fauna deforestation	Section 1 Q 9 - 14 Short Courses: Business True/False/Not Given	Practice spelling names e.g. <i>Jon/John</i>	Part 1 Do you live in a house or apartment? Practice speaking about your home and hometown	Task 1 Task Achievement: Learn how to use formal and informal greetings
Day 3	Wildlife/Animals bred in captivity/ in the wild carnivore/herbivore evolution endangered extinct marsupial	Section 2 Q 15 - 21 Keyboard Operator Matching Headings	Practice numbers e.g. <i>14/40</i>	Part 1 Art Birthdays Childhood Clothes Computers	Task 1 Task Achievement: Learn how to choose your overall tone
Day 4	Pollution fossil fuels single-use plastic non-biodegradable renewable energy global warming ozone layer depletion soil erosion	Section 2 Q 22 - 28 Workplace Dismissals Gap fill Matching a list	Watch out for distractors e.g. <i>Did you say fourteen? No forty.</i>	Part 1 Daily routines Dictionaries Evenings Family and Friends Flowers	Task 1 Task Achievement: Learn how to write a letter of complaint
Day 5	Recycling waste disposal landfill reduce, reuse, recycle groundwater hazardous waste incineration to bury	Section 3 Q 29 - 40 Matching paragraphs Gap fill	Identify your weak points eg. <i>j/g, i/e</i>	Part 1 Food Going Out Happiness Internet Leisure Time Music	Task 1 Task Achievement: Learn how to write a letter of request
Day 6	Water marine pollution over-fishing irrigation reservoir glacier drought/flood	Types of text - Descriptive (based on facts) Discursive (based on research)	Make guesses e.g. <i>do you need a noun/verb/plural?</i>	Part 1 Neighbours Neighbourhood Newspapers Pets Reading	Task 1 Task Achievement: Learn how to give advice
Day 7	Tourism culture shock eco-tourism sustainability carbon footprint indigenous people globalisation responsible tourism	Have a break!		Part 1: Shopping Sport Time/Watches TV Transport Weather	Task 1 Grammar: review the Present Perfect

Week 2

	Vocabulary	Reading	Listening	Speaking	Writing
	WEEK 2: The Man-Made Environment	Basic Skills Read carefully. Go back and check that you understand the answers.	Click here for Listening Questions and Answers and Tapescript (scroll down)	Record and listen to yourself on all of these topics (2 minutes each) Get more advice here .	Checkout my Facebook/Instagram posts. Write your own first. Compare with the model.
Day 8	Housing construct/construction demolition renovation residents/residential citizens/inhabitants close-knit community affordable housing	True/False/Not Given Basic strategies	Section 2 Q11 – 20 Monologue: Match names Complete gaps in table Click here for audio	Part 2 Objects A gift you gave/got A thing you bought An important gadget A piece of art A photo	Task 2 Learn the basic requirements of a Task 2
Day 9	Buildings modern architecture feats of Engineering sustainable materials environmentally-friendly building materials preservation historical buildings	True/False/Not Given Using quantifiers	Multiple choice/Matching Information	Part 2 People Someone you admire A neighbour A celebrity A family member Someone you met An old person A kind person	Task 2 Learn how to generate ideas.
Day 10	Cities urban sprawl infrastructure facilities/amenities poor housing housing shortage rural deprivation high-rise flats	Yes/No/Not Given An example	Choosing from a list	Part 2 Experiences A film/book A concert/sports event A day out A prize you won A holiday/difficult journey Good news	Task 2 Learn how to structure your answer into clear paragraphs
Day 11	Development sustainable developing countries the digital divide poverty reduce inequalities economic growth	Gap fill	Completing a table	Part 2 Imaginary situations A business A country A car A language A skill/sport A job	Task 2 Learn how to write an introduction
Day 12	Civilisation aboriginal people indigenous tribes the Maori native Americans/Inuit adventurers/explorers colonisers/settlers migration	Completing a table	Labelling a map	Part 2 Things you like A sport/exercise A website A song	Task 2 Learn how to write a general statement
Day 13	Transport Congestion Alternative fuels pedestrians Road safety Cycle lanes Car-share schemes	Labelling a diagram	Labelling a floor plan	Part 2: Places A building A shop A museum A restaurant/café A tourist attraction A sports centre	Task 2 Learn how to link your ideas together.
Day 14	Crime crime prevention deterrents punishment the justice/legal system the role of prisons rehabilitation	Have a break!		Have a break!	Task 2 Learn how to write a conclusion

Week 3

	Vocabulary	Reading	Listening	Speaking	Writing
	Week 3: Life and Society	20-minute time limit for each part this week.	Click here for Listening Questions and Answers .	What are the issues? What happened? What can be done? How will it change?	This week you need to practice writing different types of letter in the time limit (see Model Bank)
Day 15	Family nature/nurture genes/genetic environmental factors identical twins bring up/grow up to inherit	Matching Headings Using the whole meaning of the paragraph	Section 3 Q 21 – 30 Dialogue: Complete gaps Click here for audio	Part 3: The environment Nature Water Tourism Global Issues Animals	Task 1 Formal request to boss
Day 16	Personality inherited/innate vs learned behaviour biological makeup innate characteristics peer influence	Matching Headings Using the 1st line	Listening to an expert	Part 3 Cities Crime Police/Security Transport Housing	Task 1 Formal Job application
Day 17	Gender equality roles/stereotypes bias/discrimination the pay gap under-representation equal opportunities	Matching People One, both or none?	Gap fill	Part 3 Family Friendship Personality Sport and Leisure Health	Task 1 Letter of complaint
Day 18	Happiness mental health well-being the rat race wealth/possessions basic survival needs optimistic/pessimistic	Any Section 1: Try this one Young Person's Railcard Train Information	Choosing from a list	Part 3 Money Work Education	Task 1 Informal letter of request to a friend
Day 19	Health obese/obesity diabetes sedentary jobs to subsidise gyms life-expectancy the NHS crisis alternative medicine	Any Passage 2: Try this one	Matching from a list	Part 3 Technology TV/Internet Advertising	Task 1 Informal letter giving advice/instructions to a friend
Day 20	Free time & time life-expectancy the biological clock an ageing population care for the elderly loss of traditional skills	Any Passage 3: Try this one	Listening for suggestions	Part 3 Education Language Traditional/Modern Past/Present	Task 1 Semi-formal letter about something you lost
Day 21	Finance consumerism greed economics cashless society advertising sponsorship celebrity endorsement		Matching who does what	Watch BBC News for opinions and discussions	Task 1 Semi-formal letter requesting information and help with accomodation

Week 4

	Vocabulary	Reading	Listening	Speaking	Writing
	Week 4: Research and Technology	The skills and strategies you need	Click here for Listening Questions and Answers	Ask a friend to do a whole practice speaking test with you. 15 minutes only	This week, focus on the section you need more practice on. (These follow Task 2 lessons in the Members Academy)
Day 22	Education public vs private curriculum choices assessment/evaluation degrees/qualifications technology distance learning single-sex education	Complete sentences	Part 4 Q 31 – 40 A lecture Complete gaps Multiple choice Click here for audio	15-minute Test	Learn how to make your language more formal
Day 23	Languages mother tongue language acquisition linguistics literacy rates minority languages age factors bilingual benefits	Choose from a list	Make a list of common answers in Part 4 (or get my list in the Academy)		Learn how to 'hedge' effectively
Day 24	The Arts culture/cultural creation/creative imagination/imaginative fiction/fictional art/artistic poetry/poetic music/musical drama/dramatic	Choose a time period	Multiple Choice in Part 4	15-minute Test	Learn the language of cause and effect
Day 25	Technology the digital divide a technophobe artificial intelligence cyber-crime digital literacy labour-saving devices	Multiple choice	Gap fill in Part 4		Learn advanced linking words
Day 26	Research evidence experiment evaluation hypothesis/theory placebo effect volunteer respondent	Open questions	Signal Words e.g. <i>Well! So!</i>	15-minute Test	Learn how to express your opinion strongly
Day 27	Inventions inventor/invention innovation/ discovery to pioneer/a pioneer a breakthrough to coin a phrase	Question 40 Question about overall purpose	Transferring your answers: How not to lose points		Learn how to use advanced collocations
Day 28	Vocab Day 28: The future Space tourism/ mission/ ship/ station/ shuttle/ travel/ exploration nuclear technology/ alternative energy/ genetic engineering bio-tech industry/ GM crops/ scientific advances potential dangers/ environmental change				Learn how to develop your opinion



Tips and Advice

Reading Tips

- The questions always come in the **same order** as they appear in the text **apart from** Matching Headings, Matching Information and Matching People
- **Timing** is crucial. If you can't find an answer **MOVE ON**. You have about 1.5 mins for each question
- With gap-fills, copy the words exactly as they are in the text. Check spelling on your answer sheet.
- Correct answers are usually **synonyms** or paraphrased versions of sentences in the text: this is why vocabulary is SO important.
- Skim the text quickly before you start. Focus on:
 - Title/subtitle
 - First lines of each paragraph
 - Capital Letters - people, places, organisations
 - Numbers
 - Words in *italics* or 'inverted commas'

Listening Tips

- **Wrong spelling** loses marks. Check your answer sheet carefully, and double check for plural forms.
- It's OK to **write short forms of dates** – it's better to write Wed 31 than to mis-spell it and lose the point
- Always **check the word limit** e.g. if you are only allowed one word in the gap, keep the one that fits the gap best
- Try to **predict** or guess what might come in the gaps – you can often guess answers without listening!
- Practise **the alphabet** for Part 1, especially letters which are similar e.g. e/i/y, g/j, b/p
- **Underline key words** in the time they give you to read through the questions
- Make sure your **handwriting** is clear – or use capital letters



Speaking Tips

- Don't wait for the examiner to say 'Why?' in Part 1 – show the examiner that you can speak fluently **without help**.
- Whatever you do, **don't stop talking**, especially in Part 2.
- Always use the **1 minute prep** to write a brief plan and to jot down some less common phrases and adjectives you can use.
- In the 1 min prep, write down all **PAST Tenses** you will need, especially irregular ones.
- Be natural and honest – tell the examiner exactly what's going through your head.
There's no right answer in the Speaking Test.
- Don't be afraid to say **negative** things – e.g. a film you DIDN'T like. This can help you show a wider range of vocabulary.
- **Read widely** on a wide range of issues so that you can argue your viewpoint with plenty of examples in Part 3.

Writing Tips

- The most important thing about writing a letter (Task 1) is a consistent **TONE**.
- Write **AT LEAST** the minimum number of words in both Task 1 and Task 2.
- Organise Task 2 into clear **paragraphs** – leave a space between each paragraph.
- Make sure your **opinion** is clearly stated **throughout** Task 2
- Finish the Task 2 conclusion with a final **thought, recommendation or consequence**
- **Don't memorise long chunks, but do memorise short chunks** e.g. *'It's high time that the government took action to tackle (global warming).'*

Before the exam:

- Go to bed early and get a good night's sleep
- Plan your journey
- Have a good breakfast/ take snacks so you don't get hungry
- Leave valuables at home so you don't stress about handing them in
- Relax! You've done everything you can. You'll be fine
- Let me know how you got on!



You made it - yay!

I hope you found the 28 Day IELTS Planner useful and I hope it will help you get the score you need in the IELTS Test.

Studying alone is never easy, especially when you're not sure if you're doing the right thing. So what's the alternative?

The [Members Academy](#) is a **3-month Study Programme** with **everything you need in one place**.

This is what one of my new members said recently:

'I previously took a course from Magoosh last year. Magoosh is also great. But their video lessons make the students feel sleepy. I liked the colour of your site. It just encourages me to watch more and more.'

I do everything I can to make IELTS interesting and memorable so that you actually WANT to study, you remember more, and you learn faster.

When I started making courses a year ago, I saw that there are already hundreds online.

So why is mine different? My courses are:

- **bite-sized** (all the key information is packed into nice, short, 10-minute videos)
- **step by step** (All courses move from Day 1 - 28 and follow a logical progression)
- **clear and easy to follow** (colour-coded and relevant)
- **visually appealing and lively** (with well-chosen images and short YouTube clips)
- **flexible** (you can speed up or slow down the videos, and work at your own pace)
- **suitable for different types of learners** (you can print off, write on and keep all of the practice materials)
- **supported** (I don't just abandon you - I post in the Facebook group every day and I'm there to motivate you with the live lessons)
- **reliable and accurate** (I've been teaching IELTS at an IELTS Test Centre for 15 years with 5 other IELTS specialists including active examiners and trainers. I have also been a Test-Day Administrator and clerical marker for the Reading and Listening Test).

If you have any questions about the Academy please [click here](#) or email me at fjwattam@gmail.com.

Thank you for your interest and keep up the good work!

Best wishes

Fiona

