

IELTS Band 7

IELTS band 7 is one of the hardest goals to reach when doing the IELTS Academic test or the IELTS General exam.

I assume you already know what the IELTS exam is and you've probably even been to an IELTS preparation course or an IELTS seminar.

You're probably wondering how you can get to your target of IELTS band 7 quickly and easily. Actually, that's not possible. There's a lot of hard work involved and most of that involves vocabulary building. There are no quick tricks to getting a score of 7 in every section, or even just an overall band score of 7.

In the IELTS speaking test, if you're aiming for band 5 then your level of vocabulary is probably intermediate. If your target is band 7 then you must have advanced level vocabulary and should expect to use jargon - words specific to an industry.

A band 5 speaker might say.

"Australia has a lot of money at the moment and so everyone can spend more on houses."

A band 7 speaker might say

"Australia's economic position is quite superior, in comparison to other countries' economies. As a result, more of the population is investing in property."

Can you see the difference?

So even if you could somehow memorise the answers to previous IELTS tests in the hope of getting an IELTS score of 7, you're not going to pass the speaking part if you don't know the vocabulary.

The same is true for writing. If you are planning to do the General IELTS exam, here are a couple of examples:

Here is an example from a letter by an IELTS 5 writer:

"Recently I buy saltanas bag from your shop. It is bad. It has not end date on it"

Here is an example from a General Task 1 letter by an IELTS 7 writer:

"I am writing to complain about the poor treatment I have received from your establishment. Having purchased a bag of sultanas from your store, promoted as being fresh, I had been looking forward to including them in my cereal this morning. Unfortunately, what greeted me when I unsealed the bag was a mouldy sticky mess that could hardly be described as being fresh, let alone edible. To add insult to injury, there was no expiry date on the bag."

Here is an example of a General Task 2 essay body paragraph excerpt from an IELTS 5 writer for General IELTS writing. The question is on whether children should be encouraged to study more and play less sport.

"Sport is really good and helps make your body better. It is lots of fun and good for kids. The sport is important for thinking too as you can think better if you are feeling good. My brother play sport and I think he is really smart too"

Here is an example of a General Task 2 essay body paragraph excerpt from an IELTS 7 writer for General IELTS writing. The question is on whether children should be encouraged to study more and play less sport.

"Physical activity is necessary to help promote healthy bodily functions. Removing sport from the syllabus would encourage the development of obesity and other problems. Not only does sport improve fitness, it also helps the mind. My brother is a lawyer and regularly uses the gym to help improve his thinking processes"

Here is an example of an Academic Task 2 essay body paragraph excerpt from an IELTS 5 writer for Academic IELTS writing. The question is on whether children's involvement in sporting activities will greatly reduce their capacity to compete when they reach an employable age.

So, now that you've read these examples and can see for yourself what it is that makes the difference between a band 5 IELTS student and a band 7 IELTS student, what can you do about it now to improve the chance of getting an overall band score of 7, or even a 7 in every section?

1. Learn New Words

You should be learning 10 new words every day. If you believe you're band 5 now it'll take you at least 6 months of daily English study to get to band 7. It has been said that for some students of English that you increase your overall IELTS score by 0.5 point for every 6 months of intensive study. It depends on how quickly you learn, how often you learn and what you're doing while you're learning.

2. Write every day.

Write in a journal or diary. Write using the new words you've learnt. Write letters and essays. Write about graphs if you're doing the Academic exam.

But you must write every day. You should be spending at least an hour of writing every day, preferably two. That's not 5 days with 2 days off. That's every day!!!

These are the two main things you should be doing. If you're not doing these, you're not going to increase your listening, reading, writing or speaking skills. After all, how are you going to answer the questions if you don't know the words???

3. Find an English tutor.

You will need to practice your IELTS **writing and speaking skills**. What you need is an IELTS preparation tutor. We have two available at Adult English School in **Sydney**.

4. Stop speaking in your native language

This is probably the most important. There is no point flying to an English speaking country if you then spend most of your time with your friends speaking your native language. It could take you 10 tries to pass IELTS test, maybe more. If you want to get IELTS 7 quickly you have to stop speaking your native language. That means avoiding your friends for a year, getting a part time job only in an English speaking company and only talking with your family in English.

I hope this article helps you to reach your goal of IELTS band 7.

Kind regards

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