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Improve your Skills

Listening & Speaking *for IELTS*

with Answer Key

4.5–6.0



Barry Cusack • Sam McCarter


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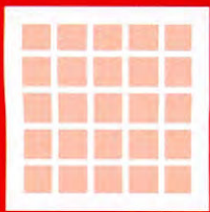
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What is *Improve your IELTS Listening and Speaking Skills*?

Improve your IELTS Listening and Speaking Skills is a complete preparation course for students at score bands 4.5–6.00 preparing for the Listening and Speaking components of the International English Language Testing System. Through targeted practice, it develops skills and language to help you achieve a higher IELTS score in these two components.

How can I use this book?

You can use *Improve your IELTS Listening and Speaking Skills* as a book for studying on your own or in a class.

If you are studying on your own, *Improve Your IELTS Listening and Speaking Skills* is designed to guide you step by step through the activities. The book is completely self-contained: a clear and accessible key is provided, so you can easily check your answers as you work through the book. There are two CDs which contain all the recorded material necessary for the Listening skills and Speaking skills sections of each unit.

If you are studying as part of a class, your teacher will direct you on how to use each activity. Some activities, especially in the Topic talk and Speaking skills sections, provide the opportunity for speaking and discussion practice.

How is *Improve your IELTS Listening and Speaking Skills* organized?

It consists of ten units based around topics which occur commonly in the real test. Each unit consists of:

Topic talk: exercises and activities to introduce vocabulary and ideas useful for the topic.

Listening skills: exercises and activities to develop the skills for questions in the Listening component.

Speaking skills: exercises and activities to develop skills and language for the Speaking component, including practice questions from one part of the module.

Pronunciation focus: exercises and activities to practise key aspects of pronunciation in English.

Exam listening: one complete section of the Listening exam to practise the skills learned.

In addition, there are Techniques boxes throughout the book. These reinforce key points on how to approach Listening and Speaking tasks.

How will *Improve your IELTS Listening and Speaking Skills* improve my score?

By developing skills

The skills sections of each unit form a detailed syllabus of essential IELTS Listening and Speaking skills. For example, in Listening skills there is coverage of *Signpost phrases* and *Prediction skills*. In Speaking skills, there is coverage of *Comparing and evaluating* as well as *Describing advantages and disadvantages*. There is also Pronunciation practice at the end of the Speaking skills sections.

By developing language

The Topic talk part of each unit develops vocabulary, phrases and sentence forms for use in the Listening and Speaking components. The Speaking skills section has phrases to help you introduce and organize your spoken answers.

By developing test technique

The Listening skills sections introduce you to the skills you need to tackle the various types of question that can be asked. Knowing the best way to tackle each type of question will enable you to get the best mark you can. The Speaking skills section will make you familiar with the different question types and enable you to relax in the exam and perform at your best.

How is the IELTS Listening component organized?

It consists of four sections: usually there are two monologues and two conversations on a variety of topics. There are ten questions in each section. The topics cover everyday social matters and subjects related to educational or training situations. You hear the recording only once, but you have time to look at the questions first and further time to write your answers.

What kind of questions are there?

There are a variety of question types including multiple-choice, matching, short answer questions, sentence completion, form/table completion, labelling a diagram/plan/map, classification of information, matching information and summary.

How will I be assessed?

You will get one mark for each correct answer up to a maximum of 40 marks. The questions gradually increase in difficulty, but all the marks have the same value.

How is the IELTS Speaking component organized?

You have a one-to-one interview with an examiner lasting between eleven and fourteen minutes. There are three parts. Firstly, the examiner asks questions on everyday topics such as family, hobbies and likes and dislikes. Secondly, you speak for one to two minutes on a topic given by the examiner. Finally, you take part in a discussion on more abstract issues linked to the topic of the talk.

How will I be assessed?

The examiner awards marks under four headings:

Fluency and coherence: speaking in a continuous way, without unnatural hesitation, and organizing your thoughts and speech in a logical way.

Lexical resource: using a range of vocabulary appropriate to the topic.

Grammatical range and accuracy: using a range of grammatical forms, including more complex forms, with a reasonable degree of accuracy.

Pronunciation: speaking so that you can be understood by the examiner.



UNIT AIMS

LISTENING SKILLS
Predicting in tables

SPEAKING SKILLS
Identifying yourself
Discussing familiar topics
Saying where you come from
Pronunciation: stressing syllables



a Room available in large, central apartment in return for looking after pets and general duties. Must be reliable, tidy and a non-smoker. Would suit female student.



b Studio available. £700 a month, excluding bills. Twenty minutes by train from London. Single occupant only.

Topic talk

- Look at the advertisements and answer the questions below.
 - Is rented accommodation expensive where you live? Why/Why not?
 - How can students be helped with accommodation when they move away from home?
 - Which accommodation would you apply for, a or b? Why?
- Make a list of types of accommodation that you know.
- Write your own advertisement (15–20 words). This can be based on your own accommodation.
- Complete sentences a–g with the words in the list.

Example

Here in Australia, I live in a large flat in a twenty-storey tower block.



shared house ■ studio ■ farmhouse ■ house ■ flat ■ bungalow ■ penthouse
terraced house

- I'd love to live in a _____ on the top floor of a tower block.
- In my home country, I live in the capital in a spacious detached _____.
- I can't afford to live in a large flat so I am renting a small _____.
- My parents live in a remote two-storey _____ on a mountainside.
- As my grandmother can't climb stairs and hates lifts, she lives in a _____ in the suburbs.
- My host family live in a red-brick _____ right in the middle of a long row.
- There are six of us living together in a _____ in a student area of town.

- 5** Add extra information to four of the sentences in exercise 4 using phrases 1–4 below.
- 1 with spectacular views of the city, especially at night.
 - 2 with lots of open fields around them and plenty of fresh air.
 - 3 which has a kitchen, bedroom and living room all in one. It suits me fine.
 - 4 which can get a bit noisy if all our friends are around.

Technique

Add information to statements using *with* or *which*. The additional information doesn't need to be long.

- 6** Decide which adjective in a–g below is the opposite of the other two.
- a boring dull fascinating
 - b cramped spacious sizeable
 - c traditional modern old-fashioned
 - d bustling quiet peaceful
 - e cosy uncomfortable inviting
 - f smart elegant shabby
 - g vibrant boring lively

Technique

Keep a list of new adjectives by theme with examples if possible.

- 7** Which type of accommodation do you live in? Make a list of adjectives to describe where you live.

- 8** The questions below come from an IELTS Speaking test. Match the examiner's questions with the candidate's answers.

- 1 Where do your host family live?
- 2 How close to the city is it?
- 3 Is your accommodation modern or old-fashioned?
- 4 Can you tell me what the area you live in is like?
- 5 What is your family home like?

- a The neighbourhood where I live is very peaceful.
- b My parents' apartment is in a very dynamic part of the city.
- c The family I'm staying with live in a very chic part of town.
- d The house is very high tech.
- e It is in a very good location.

- 9** Develop the sentences a–e in exercise 8 by adding one of the following sentences.

- 1 because it is well connected to the city centre by train and bus.
- 2 so it is always noisy and full of people.
- 3 with plasma screens, remote controls for the lighting and wireless computers.
- 4 The area is residential with tree-lined streets, no shops and not many cars.
- 5 At all times of the day it is really tranquil. I have to say I love it there.

- 10** Which items in exercise 9 give these extra types of information?

Reason _____

Consequence _____

- 11** Ask and answer the questions in exercise 8.

Listening skills Predicting in tables

1 Choose the best title a–c for each table 1–3.

- a Climate change over 50 years
- b Transport use by type
- c Comparison of housing by area

2 Complete each table with the information below.

1

District	Typical style	Average price	Transport
Aberton	bungalows	£180,000	1 _____
Hunborough	2 _____	£225,000	poor
Millview	flats	3 _____	excellent

2

	1955	2013	
Average temperature	17.4°C	4 _____	
Annual rainfall	5 _____	652 mm	

3

	Bus	Train	Bicycle
Price of fare	£1.50	7 _____	N/A
Total journeys	6 _____	2504	962
Male passengers	34%	62%	8 _____
Female passengers	66%	38%	9 _____

£125,000 ■ £4.50 ■ 18.2°C ■ 25% ■ 3567 ■ 612 mm ■ 75%
good ■ terraced houses

3 Look at the numbering in the tables. Which tables are read from top to bottom? Which are read from left to right?

Technique

Familiarize yourself with charts and tables. Find them in newspapers and magazines and online, e.g. at www.ons.gov.uk. Learn to read and understand them.


4 The table below is taken from a table completion task. Read the table contents then answer questions a–d.

	Price now	Main advantage	Second advantage	Length of guarantee	Main disadvantage
Analogue radio	Example: <u>£29.99</u>	Cheap	Excellent 3 _____ with expensive systems	4 _____	Service will finish soon
Digital radio	1 £ _____	2 Lots of _____	Little or no interference	2 years	5 _____ is short

- a What is the topic of the table?
- b How many products are discussed?
- c How many aspects of each product are considered?
- d Which answers may be numbers?

5 The instructions for the table completion task in exercise 4 are: 'Write NO MORE THAN TWO WORDS AND/OR A NUMBER for each answer.' Which of the following answers must be wrong, and why?

- a very high quality
- b 210
- c £35 or £55
- d 3 or 4 years

6  1.1 Listen to the recording, follow the instructions as given in exercise 5 and complete the gaps in the table in exercise 4.


7 The table below is also taken from a table completion task. Read through the table carefully and answer these questions.

- a In which order will you hear the information?
- b Which answers can you predict?

Technique

Pay special attention to the rubric, the headings and the numbering in table completion tasks. Use this information to predict the type of information which is missing.


	old ValueCard	new SuperValue Card
Points	Standard number	Double points
Free credit period	One month	6 _____ months
Interest rate	18.5%	7 _____ %
Cardholder shopping evenings	8 _____ per month	Two per month
Benefits	Free delivery within 9 _____ miles	Free delivery within 50 miles
Fee	Nil	10 £ _____

8  1.2 Listen to the recording and complete the gaps in the table. Write NO MORE THAN ONE WORD AND/OR A NUMBER for each answer.

Speaking skills Identifying yourself

Technique

Speak slowly and clearly. In the opening exchange, sound interested in order to make a good first impression.

- 1  1.3 Listen to four questions from the start of the IELTS Speaking test. Write the exact questions the examiner asks.

- a Can you _____ ?
 b And what _____ ?
 c Where _____ ?
 d Could you _____ ?

- 2 Read this information about a candidate for the Speaking test. Use the information to complete the dialogue with the examiner.

Benjamin Weiss is going to take the Speaking module at 3.30 this afternoon. He comes from Switzerland and prefers people to call him Ben. He has brought his passport as identification.

Candidate: Hello, good _____ .

Examiner: Good _____ . Can you _____ me your _____ name, please?

Candidate: My name is _____ .

Examiner: And what can I _____ you?

Candidate: Please _____ me _____ .

Examiner: Good. Where _____ you come _____ ?

Candidate: I come _____ .

Examiner: Can you _____ me your identification, please?

Candidate: Of course. _____ is my _____ .

- 3 With a partner, practise reading the dialogue above. Then practise again giving answers as yourself.

Discussing familiar topics

- 1 The following questions are taken from an interview in a daily newspaper with a famous singer. Match the questions 1–8 with her answers a–h.

- 1 What kind of town did you grow up in?
- 2 Where would you like to live?
- 3 Do you have any hobbies?
- 4 What sort of TV programmes do you like watching?
- 5 What is your greatest fear?
- 6 Which living person do you most admire?
- 7 What is your most precious object?
- 8 What sort of place do you live in now?

- a I've got this beautiful ring that belonged to my grandmother. It has sentimental value for me. It's very special.
- b Spiders.
- c In New York, of course.
- d I'm quite keen on comedies. I don't particularly like news and current affairs. They make me feel sad.
- e Hotels mostly.
- f I grew up in quite a small town. It was quiet and nice, and everyone seemed to know everyone else.
- g I like playing jazz piano. I like it because it relaxes me.
- h My dad. He has taught me such a lot about how to live my life well, and I'm grateful for that.

2 Look again at the questions and answers in exercise 1. Answer the questions below.

- a Are the questions complex and abstract or do they relate to personal information?
- b Which answers would be good in the Speaking test? Why?

3 Make 10 typical questions that examiners ask in Part 1 of the Speaking module. Use the words given to make the full questions, add in extra words such as articles where necessary. The first one has been done for you.

- a How often / you / listen / music?

How often do you listen to music?

- b Where / was / last / place / you / travelled / to?

- c What form / transport / you / use most?

- d When / you / start / learning English?

- e Which form / communication / you / like / use / most – / email / phone?

- f What sports / you / played?

- g What kind / food / like / eat?

- h What hobbies / you / have?

- i What sort / television programmes / you / enjoy / watching?

- j What type / books / you / enjoy / reading?




Technique

Prepare for Speaking Part 1 by thinking about the kinds of topic the examiner may ask you about. Prepare also by thinking of extra details to support your answers.

4 With a partner, ask and answer the questions you wrote in exercise 3. Give extra information to elaborate your answers.

Saying where you come from

1  **1.4** In Speaking Part 1, you will often be asked about your home town or where you live now. Listen to an extract from an interview. Complete the examiner's questions in the spaces below.


Now in this first part I'd like to ask you some questions about yourself. Let's talk about your town or village.

Question 1: Could you tell me

Question 2: What

Question 3: Is there anything

Question 4: And what kind

2  **1.4** Listen again. Make notes on the details that the student mentions in response to each question.

- Question 1 _____
- Question 2 _____
- Question 3 _____
- Question 4 _____

How much detail does the student give in each answer?

3 Make a note of your own personal answers in response to the questions in exercise 1.

4 With a partner, ask and answer the questions in exercise 1. Try to add extra information to your answers. Use the phrases in the list below to help you.


- I used to live in ... but now I ...
- I moved here ...
- It's a ... place with ...
- What I like about it is ... because ...
- The great thing about ... is ...
- I suppose most people ...

Technique
Always support your answer by adding extra information. Use *for example* and *because*.

Pronunciation: stressing syllables

1 How many syllables are there in each of these words for describing places?

pleasant ■ dynamic ■ flat ■ peaceful ■ cramped ■ bungalow ■ detached ■ overpriced

2  **1.5** Listen to the words and match each word with a stress pattern below.

Example
pleasant *pattern 2*

Pattern 1 O Pattern 2 Oo Pattern 3 oO Pattern 4 Ooo Pattern 5 oOo Pattern 6 ooO

3 Identify which word has a different stress pattern from the rest of the words.

- | | | | |
|-----------------------|-------------|--------------|--------------|
| a discuss | also | although | reply |
| b interest | hotel | prefer | technique |
| c quality | radio | comedy | solution |
| d example | experience | advantage | afternoon |
| e technology | variety | information | environment |
| f interference | explanation | analysis | sentimental |
| g unacceptable | theoretical | unobtainable | communicable |

Exam listening

Section 2

1.6

Questions 11–15

Write **NO MORE THAN THREE WORDS** for each answer.

What three kinds of people are listening to the talk?

11

12

13

14 What will you need to do to visit the Fieldhouse Library?

.....

15 What is necessary for gaining access to the library?

.....

Technique
Read the questions first to predict what the listening is about. Listen carefully as you will only hear the recording once.

1.7

Questions 16–20

Write **NO MORE THAN TWO WORDS AND/OR A NUMBER** for each answer.

What are the two collections which have not yet been fully moved in?

16

17

18 What is currently being built?

.....

19 How many computer places have been installed?

.....

20 What else can you get from the librarians if you ask?

.....

Technique
Check the instructions. How many words and/or numbers must you write?

Listening & Speaking *for IELTS* 4.5–6.0

Improve your IELTS Skills 4.5-6.0 is a three book series for students preparing to take the IELTS exam. The series aims to develop the skills, language and test techniques required to achieve an IELTS band score of 6.

The series can be used for self-study or in class. Each of the ten topic-based units guides you through the activities step by step.

Improve your Listening and Speaking Skills for IELTS offers complete preparation for the Academic IELTS Listening and Speaking tests. The book comes with two audio CDs.

Each unit includes:

- **Topic talk** activities to introduce key vocabulary and ideas for the unit topic
- **Skills focus** to develop listening and speaking skills
- **Language development** with skills and useful phrases for the Speaking test and revised **Pronunciation** focus
- **Technique boxes** with ideas on how to approach the IELTS listening and speaking tasks
- **Exam listening** task with authentic test questions

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