

# ROAD TO IELTS

IELTS preparation and practice

[www.IELTSpractice.com](http://www.IELTSpractice.com)

## The basics

The Reading test lasts for 60 minutes and you will answer 40 questions. You get one mark for each correct answer. The **Academic** module comprises three texts from books, magazines or newspapers, written for non-specialist readers. The **General Training** module is in three sections, which progress from (1) survival English such as public notices and advertisements to (2) workplace texts such as training materials to (3) a longer passage which may come from a book or magazine.

There is a variety of task types, including:

- Short answer questions
- Sentence completion
- Multiple choice
- Yes, No, Not given
- Matching headings to sections
- Classification

You can practise all of these in **Road to IELTS**.

## Background preparation

In the weeks leading up to your IELTS test, try to read as widely as possible. Don't limit yourself to one type of text and, if you are preparing for IELTS Academic, read articles with an academic style. On the right are three newspaper sites you might like to try.

As you read, practise developing the skills you will need in IELTS, such as summarising the content, giving headings to paragraphs, deciding what is fact and what is opinion and thinking of synonyms for words you see in the text.

*The Independent / Science*

*The Age / Travel*

*The New York Times / Health*

1. [www.independent.co.uk/news/science/](http://www.independent.co.uk/news/science/)
2. [www.theage.com.au/travel](http://www.theage.com.au/travel)
3. [www.nytimes.com/pages/health/index.html](http://www.nytimes.com/pages/health/index.html)

## Three

tips for your Reading test   

- ✓ **Don't** start by reading the whole text and then the questions: you don't have time to do this. Start by skimming: look at the title, headings, the first paragraph, the first sentence of the other paragraphs and the final sentence of the text. This will give you a good overview.
- ✓ Now look at the questions and underline key words. As you do this, think of synonyms for these words because these are likely to occur in the text. For example, the word "game" might appear in the question, where the original word in the text is "match".
- ✓ Make sure you are familiar with the question types. You can only do this by spending as much time as possible practising. Consider trying the British Council's **Road to IELTS**. Research on 130,000 candidates showed that they improved their ability to answer IELTS-type Reading questions by up to 64% - clear proof of the importance of practice.

ClarityEnglish

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## Issue 2

### Reading

To do well in the Reading test, you have to understand the task types, and you'll need strategies for reading quickly and efficiently.

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subscribe at  
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to get the band score you need.

## In the test room

- 1 Don't panic if you don't know anything about the topic of the text. All the answers will be in the passage; you don't need any specialist knowledge.
- 2 Leave a question if you can't answer it. Come back to it later if you have time and if you really can't find the answer, guess. You don't lose marks for wrong answers.
- 3 Remember that unlike in the Listening test, you have no extra time to transfer your answers.
- 4 Careless mistakes cost marks. Make sure you copy the answer correctly if it is in the passage. And check your spelling!



▶ Next Issue: 3 Preparing for the Speaking test