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DR MATTHEW PISCIONERI

IELTS LISTENING TEST STRATEGIES & TECHNIQUES

What **NOT** to do in your preparation.....

- ❖ Simply take one listening test one after another, check your results and then start another one
- ❖ Take all your preparation tests under test conditions: in the first few weeks – after benchmarking – build up to taking a round of tests under test conditions at the end of the first four week cycle
- ❖ Simply watch TV, movies or listen to the radio to help “tune” your ears to English
- ❖ Only listen to practice tests through earphones. The real test is broadcast through speakers and you must become familiar with this audio quality

And then on exam day....try **NOT** to...

- ❖ Excessively underline ‘keywords’ in the questions/instructions of the possible answer choices
- ❖ Quickly choose the first answer that sounds right...IELTS does intentionally try to trick you...if it’s too easy or obvious an answer then it’s probably not the correct choice.
- ❖ Forget to include quantity measures (eg: kgs/gms) with the answers that require them
- ❖ Write more words than the instructions allow/ask for
- ❖ Inaccurately copy your answers from the question sheets to the answer sheet (this does happen **often!**)
- ❖ Miss the start of the recording’s broadcast as you are too busy reading ahead and/or underlining keywords

What to do in your preparation.....

- ❖ At first, take four practice tests under test conditions and average out your result (eg: 28/40 = band 6). **Do not** check why any answers are incorrect! Be patient 😊
- ❖ Take the next four practice tests **slowly** trying to get as many answers correct as possible...stopping the recording if necessary...rewinding...learning the tricks of IELTS Listening tests!
- ❖ Read the transcripts and explanations for the correct answers, especially those you answered incorrectly
- ❖ RETAKE the test until you obtain 100% correct answers; then move on and repeat this procedure with the next practice test.
- ❖ In the final week of the four week cycle, retake the first four tests, score the test and compare with your first results on average: was there any improvement?
- ❖ Finally, take two more tests under test conditions: what's the average result?
- ❖ Listen to a variety of English-language materials (not only TV/movies). 'Speaking books' are good, as are online texts that have the transcripts available...listening AND reading is the best additional practice.

And then on exam day....try to...

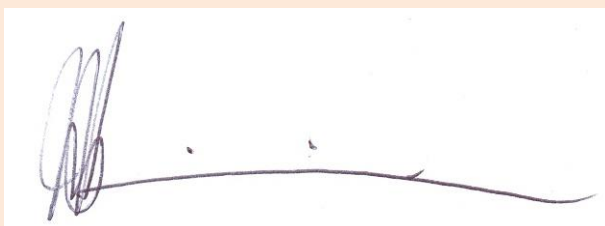
- ❖ Focus in from the very start of the recording broadcast
- ❖ Listen for “switch” words in the speaking (eg. *However, but, on the other hand...*)

- ❖ Listen for “change of mind” indicators (eg. “ummmm ...well... you know...)
- ❖ Listen for changes of stress/emphases in the speaker’s voice. Quite often (but not always!) the correct answer is actually emphasized by the speaker.
- ❖ Listen out for adverbs of degree and frequency (eg. mostly, mainly, typically, often, rarely)
- ❖ Be patient...even if the speaker appears to give the answer quickly, stay tuned for any changes of mind that might occur.
- ❖ Guess any unanswered questions!

The overall key to IELTS Success in the Listening Test is the way you approach your preparation.

As I have stressed above, just about the WORST thing you can do is simply take one practice listening test, one after the other and all under test conditions!

With methodical and careful preparation according to the M.I.C.E program, IELTS TO SUCCESS in the Listening Test is very possible!



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