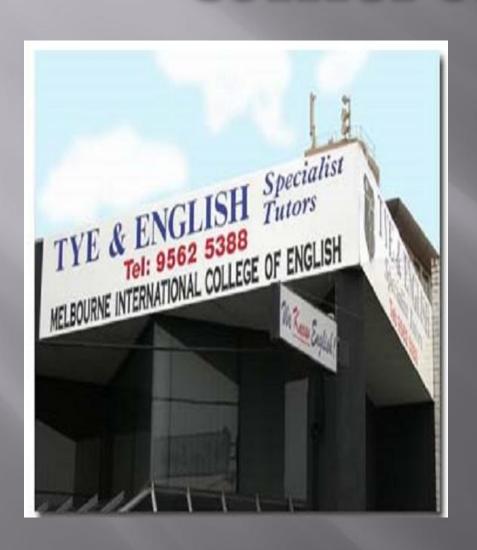
# MELBOURNE INTERNATIONAL COLLEGE OF ENGLISH



**IELTS** TO **SUCCESS PREPARATION STRATEGIES** 

# MELBOURNE INTERNATIONAL COLLEGE OF ENGLISH

**IELTS** 

TO SUCCESS

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PREPARATION STRATEGIES

- 1. PREPARATION STRATEGIES
- 2. INCREASE YOUR WORD POWER
- 3. LISTENING STRATEGIES 1
- 4. LISTENING STRATEGIES 2
- READING STRATEGIES 1
- READING STRATEGIES 2
- WRITING STRATEGIES 1
- 8. WRITING STRATEGIES 2
- SPEAKING STRATEGIES 1
- 10. SPEAKING STRATEGIES 2

# IELTS PREPARATION: some common mistakes

- SHORT LEAD IN TIMES TO EXAM: minimum 3 months @ least 20+ hours per week required for (assisted) self-directed student
- PRACTICE TEST FEVER: taking practice test after practice test is only useful at a certain point
- IMPATIENCE: read and complete ALL the Introductory exercises in any of the materials you use (including this one!)
- OVER RELIANCE ON TIPS & TRICKS
- INADEQUATE GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: especially a problem in the Speaking Test
- OVER CONCENTRATION ON PROBLEM SKILLS

# 4 WEEK STUDY PLAN CYCLE

- In general, preparing for IELTS is 24/7
- Plan your preparation around a 4 week cycle
- Any time spent 'thinking' about IELTS will be beneficial: eg: 'hot' topics in writing; rehearsing possible speaking topics; practising new vocabulary
- Do not simply rely on FREE materials either from the internet or from the library.
- Structure your study routine & stick to it: this is what the best students do. They are methodical.
- Have a clear idea what you want a tutor's help with.

## SELF DIRECTED STUDY PLANS: LISTENING

if you think watching TV or listening to the radio from time to time is enough to prepare you for the IELTS Listening

Test...PLEASE THINK AGAIN!

### **GENERAL TIPS**

- Listen AND read eg. news services that also provide texts of the broadcast; the transcriptions of the IELTS Listening Test dialogues; movies with the English sub-titles; 'speaking books' from the Library
- Make sure you listen to a number of different accents in the preparation
- Write down as many phrases and idioms you are unsure of in your practice listening
- Don't always listen through headphones to practice materials

### SPECIFIC TIPS

Maximum of one listening test per day. Please follow this procedure:

- 1. Take the test under test conditions
- 2. Check your results
- Read the transcripts for the test and identify why any answers were incorrect.
- 4. **RETAKE** the test until you get 100%
- 5. Collect any new words and phrases
- 6. Listen again to the recordings while reading the text.
- 7. Do this with EVERY test.

## SELF DIRECTED STUDY PLANS: READING

true, false, not given....

#### **GENERAL TIPS**

- Words, words and more words: again simply reading widely is not enough to prepare you for the Reading test
- You must begin to build a specific and prolonged wordbank
- You must employ the Cover-Copy-Check technique to test your knowledge of the meanings of the new words
- Avoid taking one test after another
- Access and complete many True/False/NG exercises

#### SPECIFIC TIPS

Maximum of one reading test per day. Please follow this procedure:

BENCHMARK according to the instructions in the Workbook.

- In weeks 1-3 **DO NOT t**ake the test under test conditions
- Take your time and check your results...working out why any answers were incorrect, according to the guidelines in the practice test materials.
- 3. Collect any new words and phrases and 'bank' them and practice using the CCC technique.
- 4. Do this with EVERY test in weeks 1-3.5
- Test your under test conditions with two new tests in Week 4.

# SELF DIRECTED STUDY PLANS: WRITING an essay a day!

### GENERAL TIPS

- Copy, copy and copy!
- Copy 2 x 150 word
   paragraphs from the reading tests (General or Academic)
- Copy highly rated samples of both tasks for your module
- Find a good tutor/native speaker who can correct your grammar and provide advice on word choice and structure

### SPECIFIC TIPS

- Find a good tutor!
- In weeks 1-3 write 5 typical task 1s under non-test conditions
- In weeks 1-3 write 10 typical task 2s under non-test conditions
- Check out "hot topics" list for suitable essay topics
- After your tutor revises your writing tasks YOU MUST
   REWRITE AND REWRITE
   UNTIL PERFECT

# SELF DIRECTED STUDY PLANS: SPEAKING rehearse but don't act

### **GENERAL TIPS**

- Speak English as much as you can...
- Try and avoid non-English speaking situations eg. At home with flatmates
- Ask non-native English speaking friends to try and chat in English
- Find pronunciation resources and practice as much as possible
- Broaden your general knowledge

## SPECIFIC TIPS

- Rehearse the speaking test 'in your head' whenever you can
- Use the dialogues from the Listening as practice models
- Find recordings with texts and 'shadow' the speakers, stopping and practising difficult words
- Find an expert tutor
- Learn specific strategies for Task 2 topics

# IELTS PREPARATION SUMMARY

- Give yourself enough lead-in time to your IELTS exam to prepare thoroughly
- At least 2-3 hours a day is required to build up the 'momentum' you require for IELTS to SUCCESS
- Self-directed IELTS preparation can be very effective as long as you are disciplined and methodical
- You will probably require some expert help at some stage
- Endlessly doing practice tests can be a waste of time and resources

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