

# MELBOURNE INTERNATIONAL COLLEGE OF ENGLISH



## IELTS TO SUCCESS 1

PREPARATION  
STRATEGIES

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## 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
5. READING STRATEGIES 1
6. READING STRATEGIES 2
7. WRITING STRATEGIES 1
8. WRITING STRATEGIES 2
9. 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
3. 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 word-bank
- ▣ 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.

1. In weeks 1-3 **DO NOT** take the test under test conditions
2. 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
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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