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基础培训

IELTS

雅思考试 听力单项训练

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TIPS AND HINTS FOR LISTENING COMPREHENSION

Listening comprehension is sometimes the most feared type of test for students of English. You may have studied hard, read all the texts, memorized all of the vocabulary, etc. But when it comes time for listening to actual native English speakers having a dialogue together with the expectation that you can understand and answer questions...that is scary!

It need not be so, with proper preparation and an understanding of what to listen to, listening comprehension can be quite easy and actually enjoyable. IELTS test writers are not out to “trick” you or slip something by, they have specifically designed this dialogues to help you improve your understanding of “live” dialogues and your ability to catch key information. The following tips for this book are meant to serve as a guide to how you can better answer listening comprehension questions during this course.

GENERAL TIPS

For every section of the test the best and first thing you should do is to quickly scan over the questions before the actual dialogue begins. As you are listening, always also

be aware of what the next question will be asking. A good thing to do while skimming over the questions is underlining the key words, nouns, and vocabulary. Very often questions repeat some portion of the text, maybe in other words, but you should be aware of what those words might be.

Also concentrate on facts, decisions, numbers or phrases in a dialogue that spark a reaction of the speakers. These moments of confusion or surprise are often the most significant sections of the passage; there is sure to be a question about what happened or argued about. During these moments in passages the key phrases will often be repeated several times, as if both speakers are trying to emphasize a point to each other.

SECTION SPECIFIC TIPS

Checking

The checking section has a variety of sections that require you show your understanding of what happening in the dialogue in terms of lists and a variety of options. For this section you can very often get the correct answer by a process of elimination as the dialogue progresses. The key to this section, however, is to first note all of the elements of each question and then listen carefully as each phrase is mentioned. As noted in General Tips, disagreements will often occur, just as decisions may be changed. These are key moments in each dialogue and essential to getting the right answers in the checking section.

Some of the questions in the “checking” section require you write in the correct

answer of those elements, which are incorrect. While listening to the dialogue, wait for those elements and then focus all of your attention of whether it really occurred or not. When you hear words such as “but” and “however” around these phrases, those may be indicators that something else should be written down in the blank next to the question.

Filling out the table

This section tests your ability to hear very detailed information. It then requires that you write this information down. Telephone numbers, names, addresses, etc. are a key part of this section. All you can do for these elements is to be prepared and ready to write as you listen. The key focus of this section is nouns, or names, numbers, people, foods, and places. The questions are often sequential and you will be able to write your answer while getting ready for the next question.

Several sections also have to do with filling out a table using a number of words given prior to your hearing the dialogue. This is actually a great help to you as you don't need to focus on writing down exact phrases.

Other sections have to do with filling in the blanks of a table with several main elements. For these sections, pay attention as each main element is mentioned, all of the answers will follow immediately, some being said by the speakers with great exclamation. This is again a large indicator of a possible answer.

Answering questions

The key to answering this section successfully is knowing what is coming next. As in

previous sections, you should look ahead to know what questions will be asked. As you hear the key words of each section, listen carefully and write down the answer. Key facts, nouns, times, destinations, these are the types of answers you will be writing down.

Questions in this section are also most often about the most interesting elements of the dialogue. Some answers are repeated multiple times because of their importance in the dialogue. This makes it easy for you to answer the questions and understand the dialogue.

Gap filling

This is a large section with sometimes-long dialogues. You will be asked to fill in the missing elements of sentences that reiterate what is happening in the text. Your ability to understand content will surely be tested. Pay attention, therefore, to the use of idioms and the flow of language in these passages, even as you pay attention to the times when the speakers say things with excitement or amazement.

The other key to this section is reading ahead and knowing what might be coming next. Very often you can read the summary of a dialogue and begin to even guess what might be coming just by getting an understanding of what is happening. If you do this properly, you will find this section of the test very easy as you are almost relieved to find out the actual answers. It will be like a puzzle where you are looking for the missing pieces. When the dialogue actually begins you will breath a sigh of relief that you finally understand what the questions were looking for.

Illustrations

This section asks you to name the parts of several key illustrations. All of these items should be very familiar to you. It should be easy, therefore, to catch the words you are looking for as you listen to the dialogue. Two sections are made even easier by having a list of possible answers. You may be able to answer some of the questions without even listening to the dialogue. Be sure to scan what answers are missing and listen carefully for those that you have questions about.

When the dialogue begins, listen as you are sequentially guided around each illustration. For some illustrations, some answers have already been given. Look for modifications of these answers on the blanks near to them as items on illustrations are sometimes only differentiated by simple adjectives.

The final illustration requires you to fill in the blank naming the location on the diagram. Look carefully at what is already written. When you hear that phrase, your answer is coming next.

Matching

The matching section has a variety of questions that require you to fill in a letter or word that is provided describing a certain aspect of the dialogue. These matching elements are often the general emphasis of each dialogue and can easily help you understand which answer is required. As you look at each question in advance, pay specific attention to the matching headings. Then, as you listen to the dialogue, you will be able to separate in your own mind the details of each matching heading. For example, if there are three

choices in the question that you have to match with each question, you can divide, in your head, the text into three sections. Then just according to each part.

In other sections of the matching portion, a number of options are given. Some of these can also serve as a theme or heading for portions of the dialogue. Listen in the text carefully for each of these options as, as in sections above, answers usually follow when the option is mentioned.

It is also helpful if you can note the options given and cross out or eliminate the options not mentioned at all in the text. This will limit the number of possible answers and lower the amount of guessing needed if you didn't understand a portion of the dialogue.

Multiple Choices

The multiple-choice section is like any other multiple-choice section you've ever seen, there are four choices and only one is right. To prepare for this section, quickly read all of the questions. Also note the answers if you have time so that you can be prepared for the key phrases as they are said in the dialogue. Usually several of the answers in each multiple-choice question are easily eliminated, leaving only two or, at the most, three options. Focus mostly on the key phrases.

The last exercises of this section are not your typical multiple-choice questions. They involve checking spaces appropriately. The best way to succeed in this section is to look ahead at all of the key phrases and wait until they are spoken in the dialogue. Then check accordingly. In exercise 10, the dialogue will proceed sequentially according to the question. In Exercise 11, on the other hand, the dialogue will

progress according to the headers of the table, not by country. This tip will help you be ready to hear the answers as they come.

Pictures

The picture section is a fun section of the test. Everyone loves pictures and pictures are easier to understand sometimes than words. Quickly look over all of the pictures so that you know that there will be questions about foods, phones, guitars, buildings, addresses, people, locations and rooms. As in all of the other sections of the listening comprehension text, listen in each dialogue for the pictures you are looking at. Arguments and exclamations will be present as the speakers debate these items. These dialogues, in that context, are actually quite colloquial; you will hear a real piece of native Americana as you listen.

Exercises in this section that are a little bit more difficult include the exercises about directions and location. You will need to take a good look at the maps before the exercise. Remember that up is always north and note the given locations. All of the locations will be referenced in the dialogue, so if you are paying attention first to what is already labeled, you will be able to find out where the dialogue is taking you. Also pay very special attention to where each dialogue starts! And then be careful to remember where the speaker is actually located in the picture when they are talking. If you are standing on Main Street and it tells you to go up to First Street, then you should find Main Street and look visually upwards. The speakers will always only go one direction sequentially, walking through each map or diagram. This is the best clue for following the dialogue and answering the questions.

CONCLUSION

That is all the tips and hints for this exam. Remember to look ahead as you are listening, watch for key phrases, listen for excitement in the dialogue, listen for “but” and “however”, and visually walk through diagrams with the speaker.

Good luck and happy listening!

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PART I

Exercises

Checking

Exercise 1

Questions 1 – 9

Example:

Students are not required to take the class “Words To Speak With”	T	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
1. The writing class meets three times a week.	T	F
2. You can miss the writing class four times!	T	F
3. The “Testing Skills” class only prepares students for vocal examinations.	T	F
4. The creative writing course is only for Journalism majors.	T	F
5. You must contact Mr. Willoby to sign up for the creative writing course.	T	F
6. You need to have an appointment to see a tutor at the Lab.	T	F
7. The Language lab is never open in the evenings.	T	F
8. To check out materials you can fill in the information on the card yourself.	T	F
9. Students do not have to pay for photocopying.	T	F

Exercise 2

Questions 1 – 4

Tick (✓) the answers for the following questions.

1-2. Which Pizza would Tom and Kelly each rather have?

Topping	Tom	Kelly
Sausage and Onion	_____	_____
Spinach and Broccoli	_____	_____
Pepperoni and Extra Cheese	_____	_____
Pineapple and Ham.	_____	_____

3-4. What appetizers do Tom and Kelly order? (Tick TWO ITEMS in total)

Appetizer	Tom	Kelly
Onion Flower	_____	_____
Onion Rings	_____	_____
French Fries	_____	_____
Nachos	_____	_____
Buffalo Wings	_____	_____

Exercise 3

Questions 1 – 5

Listen to the conversation between the manager of the Student Dormitory Cafeteria and a student. Tick (✓) if the information is correct, or write in the changes.

DORMITORY CAFETERIA

Charges for meals

Example

Breakfast	\$2.50	\$2.75
Lunch	\$3.75	✓
Dinner	\$4.50	(1) _____
Weekday Plan	\$50	(2) _____
Full Week Plan	\$68	(3) _____

Meal Times

Breakfast	6:30 – 9 am	(4) _____
Lunch	11:30 – 1:30	(5) _____
Dinner	5:30 – 8 pm	(5) _____