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培训教材

# 耳聪心明手疾眼快 备战雅思听力

[英] Stella Gatehouse 编著

雅思宝典  
IELTS TREASURY  
Language Skills Development for Listening

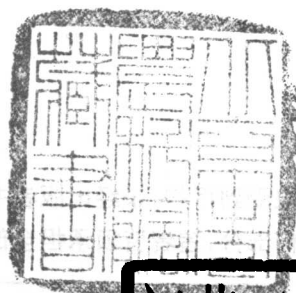
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# Preface

## 前言

Students of English may find that listening is the most difficult skill to develop. Yet the Listening Test is just as important as any other part of IELTS, since adequate listening skills are essential to successful academic study and professional training in an English-speaking environment. In addition, listening skills are important for the growing number of Chinese students, professionals and others who have to understand spoken English in face-to-face meetings, conferences, telephone conversations, the media and many other real-life circumstances.

Students often ask teachers what their study priorities should be and what they most need to improve. The answer was given by Vice-Premier Li Lanqing on a visit to Xi'An Translators' Training College in 2001: 'The foundation of language learning is listening.' But acquiring the skill of listening demands considerable effort. There are many reasons for this. For one thing, a great deal of study is needed of such aspects of English as vocabulary, sentence structures, pronunciation, stress and intonation. Secondly, listening to English means listening in a different way, because the patterns in which meaning is expressed in English are different from Chinese. Thirdly, listening requires thinking in English, as you try to predict what the speaker is going to say. (Studies show that the students who are best at predicting tend to score higher in tests and perform better in real-life listening.)

On top of all these difficulties, there are challenges to overcome in the act of listening itself. First of all, no one speaker speaks in exactly the same way as any other speaker. Speakers differ in accent and dialect, in stress, rhythm and intonation, in speed and fluency, and in volume and clarity. Usually there is nothing the listener can do about this and, in contrast with reading, where the reader can usually backtrack over a problem area, there is generally only one chance to listen. Listeners also have to respond quickly without pausing to work out any problems they may have in understanding. Then again, whilst print can generally be read clearly, speech often cannot be heard clearly because of interruptions, poor reception or background noise. Finally, the listener often has to carry out other tasks while listening, such as taking notes, referring to written material, or writing down directions.

This book is intended to help you develop in a structured, easy-to-understand way the key skills of listening in English as a means of preparation for the IELTS Listening Test and a method of learning the listening strategies you will need in real-life situations. The book is not, however, a complete listening course or a pronunciation course and you may need to undertake a separate study of particular aspects of listening such as pronunciation if they are a problem for you. The book gives you detailed guidance on how to prepare for the IELTS Listening Test and answer the questions. The book contains eight practice Listening Tests which pose questions in forms similar to those found in the IELTS test itself. A range of accents including Australian, American and British can be heard on the accompanying cassettes. As in the test itself, the questions do not



only require you to remember what you have heard but also to use the information in realistic ways, such as completing budgets, planning a social occasion or taking notes from a lecture. Sometimes you are expected to recognise the attitude or opinion of a speaker in a conversation, even when it is not stated, as you need to in real life. *None of the material, however, is real IELTS test material. All of it is original and is for practice only.* Some of the IELTS test instructions are included with permission to make the practice tests as realistic as possible.

The practice tests are all referenced to authentic materials, that is, the facts have been checked to ensure that they are accurate at the time the book was prepared, and the style of the dialogues and talks is as close as possible to real life. It is hoped that the information contained in the practice tests will help students learn something about the UK, Australia and Canada. It is recommended that students prepare portfolios to develop their knowledge of English-speaking countries. This will help them prepare for their time abroad and may be helpful for the IELTS test. In addition the book contains all the necessary information about the IELTS Listening Test, taken with permission from the original source, University of Cambridge ESOL Examinations (formerly known as UCLES). Finally, there is a carefully selected book list together with a list of high quality websites which provide further practice in all aspects of listening.

#### **COPYRIGHT ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

Anglo-Australian Observatory

Commonwealth of Australia

European Communities

University of Cambridge ESOL Examinations (formerly UCLES)

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## LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT SKILLS FOR LISTENING

*Who should buy this book?*

*Language Development Skills for Listening* is for Chinese students who want to get the best score they can in the IELTS Listening Test.

The book may also be useful for candidates taking BEC, CET – 6, PETS5 and TOEFL and for all students of English at lower intermediate level or above.

This book will help you become good enough at listening to study, train and live successfully in an English-speaking country. Study carefully and practise regularly. Then you will get the best score you are able to. But neither the author nor the publishers give any guarantee to any person about their score in the IELTS test.

You should read this introduction first. Then work through the rest of the book chapter by chapter.

The book shows you:

- how to develop the listening skills you will need in the IELTS test
- the right way to respond to listening exercises
- simple, practical advice about test strategies
- practice tests with answer keys

You can use this book as a textbook on:

- an English language course
- an IELTS preparation course or
- as a self-study book

The English in this book is British, but on the cassette tapes you will also hear Australian and North American accents as you may in the test.

Both British and American English spellings are accepted for IELTS.

### *Purpose of the book*

*Language Development Skills for Listening* gives you a clear idea of what the Listening Test is like and practical help to get as good a score as you can. Some candidates take the test before they are ready. It is important to get enough practice in the special skills of listening to English before doing the IELTS test. Sometimes, it is said, students are simply told to listen five times and fill in the gaps to do a listening test.

But that advice is not enough on its own. You need to:

- become familiar with the sounds of English – how they relate to the spelling, how they





link together etc.

- learn about the different types of question you may meet in the Test and understand what the examiners expect

You must develop your language skills and not rely on trying to predict the questions or simply on luck. Otherwise you are likely to get a disappointing score and waste your time and your money.

This book will help you prepare for the IELTS Listening Test. But it is not a complete English listening course and does not have pronunciation exercises or a glossary. Look at the book list and list of websites for textbooks and reference books you can buy in China and websites where you can get more help if you need it.

#### *What you have to do in the IELTS Listening Test*

- First, you can read about the various tasks in the Listening Test. Some of them may be different from tests you have done before.
- Secondly, the book tells you how to do each of the different kinds of question.

There are two main types of question in the IELTS Listening Test.

1. *Information transfer*. You have to take the right information from what you hear on the tape and answer the questions in your question booklet.
2. *Gapfill*. You have to choose the right words from what you hear and complete sentences.

Gapfill questions can be difficult for Chinese candidates. To answer this type of question, you have to do two things:

- select the correct *information* from what you have heard.
- complete a sentence with it.

The sentence is often different from the one spoken on the tape. Your job is to complete it so that it not only gives the right information but is also *grammatically correct*. And, of course, correct British or American spelling is *essential*. Completing sentences incorrectly is (in the author's teaching experience) one of biggest problems Chinese students have in listening tests.

#### *Recommendations for teachers*

- Discussions on the sort of topics to be found in the test can really help the students prepare to listen. They will start to think about the type of information they will need to listen for and understand. Discussions will also help the students prepare for their time on an English-speaking study or training course and feel more at ease when they get there.

According to the information published by the people who set the test, University of Cambridge ESOL Examinations (formerly UCLES), there are three broad topic areas in IELTS Listening: everyday student life; solving living problems in an English-speaking country; and understanding



lectures. Students therefore need to learn a suitable vocabulary and become more familiar with the cultural background.

- Writing *essays* about one of the topics can also be helpful. Students will be encouraged to think more deeply about the sort of situations that they will hear about on the tapes and build up the relevant vocabulary. They may also have questions that may need to be answered before a listening exercise begins. This is especially important where the way of life or education system of an English-speaking country is the subject.

Advice about building up portfolios (collections) of spoken and written material on the topic areas is given in the listening strategies chapter. Materials on life and study in the UK, and guides to sources of further information and advice, are often available free of charge. Portfolios may be created as a class project. This should motivate the students to organize their own displays and look after them.

### *Start preparing early*

IELTS is taken by people from many countries and backgrounds and with widely different levels of English. The better the score you need and wish to achieve, the longer you should prepare. Teachers generally say it takes up to 200 hours' (three months) hard study on a good course to improve your score by one band. It can be quicker and cheaper to prepare well in China than spend time and money on a test that is too difficult for you and have to take another course abroad.

To get an acceptable score in the IELTS Listening Test, you have to plan your strategy carefully. An acceptable score usually means 26 correct answers out of 40. The score you need to achieve a particular band, however, may vary a little between tests. The reason is that, although the tests are basically the same standard, it is impossible to produce the large number of versions of the test that are required at precisely the same level every time. What you need to achieve to get a particular band therefore can vary by one or two marks. The right way to get the best score you can is to learn the right strategies and get plenty of practice.

### *What the book contains*

This is a book of listening test strategies, practice tests and reference materials. The following chapters describe:

- the instructions and questions in the IELTS Listening Test
- the key facts about how to listen in English
- how to answer listening test questions correctly

It is essential to understand all these thoroughly and respond in the right way when you do the tests. You should study each section carefully to identify the areas where you need to improve. The practice tests, however, are not the real IELTS test material and are for practice only.





### *Help with reading, writing and speaking*

Although this book is about listening, it will also give you valuable help with the reading, writing and speaking parts of IELTS. This is because of the study skills you will learn and the vocabulary and cultural background you will gain. So, when you listen to the short lectures on the tapes, imagine you are in a university class or at a professional training presentation in an English-speaking country and listening to the keynote speaker.

### *How to do the practice tests*

- Use a table or desk which is comfortable to sit at and clear of any other papers.
- Make sure you will not be interrupted.
- Use a pencil. (Only pencils are allowed in the test.) Have a pencil sharpener and eraser with you.
- Time yourself.

You should write a complete set of answers within the time allowed (30 minutes). Then you can feel sure that you will be able to do so in the real test. You may feel this is too much to do at first. If so, ask your teacher for advice. But you should be able to keep to the time limit at least several weeks before you take the test.

You should not use textbooks or reference books when doing the practice tests. (You will not be able to use them in the test.) Some teachers may let weaker students use dictionaries at first.

You should now read the *Introduction to the IELTS test* – what it contains, how it is organised, what kinds of questions there are etc. You should read this together with the *IELTS Handbook* that you may receive from the test centre when you register for IELTS. If you are not given a *Handbook*, you can download a copy free of charge from [www.ielts.org/handbook.htm](http://www.ielts.org/handbook.htm).

Then go on to study the *listening strategies* – how to listen efficiently. After that, study the *test-taking strategies* – how to answer the different kinds of question, listen for various types of data and complete sentences correctly in accordance with the instructions and what you hear. You will find plenty of help with aspects of listening to English that cause problems for Chinese students.



## THE IELTS LISTENING TEST

*What is IELTS?*

IELTS means *International English Language Testing System*. The test is set by University of Cambridge ESOL Examinations (formerly UCLES).

In China the test is run by the China IELTS Network. The partners are:

- the British Council
- IDP Education Australia.

IELTS is a test for people who have to show that they have a certain level of English to enter universities, colleges or training programmes in English-speaking countries or in countries where courses are given in English.

IELTS is also useful for immigration to Australia, Canada and New Zealand.

IELTS is useful for entry to some professions in the UK and Australia, too, and for some international organisations and businesses.

Taken in 109 countries, IELTS is the most widely recognised test of English language for overseas students and professionals who wish to study or train in a university or college in the United Kingdom, Australia, New Zealand, Canada and within Europe. IELTS is also accepted by an increasing number of universities in the United States. IELTS is becoming popular in China and tests are currently given at 24 centres, all well-known universities.

IELTS tests four main areas of language: Listening, Reading, Writing and Speaking. Candidates do not pass or fail IELTS. Within two to three weeks of taking the test, they receive a certificate which records their results in the form of 'band scores' on a scale of 1 to 9. The scores are also sent to the learning institution to which the candidate has applied. As a broad guide, you can assume that:

- for linguistically demanding academic courses, such as medicine, law, linguistics, journalism and library studies, an overall IELTS score of 7.5 or above is generally required;
- for linguistically less demanding academic courses, such as agriculture, pure mathematics, technology, computer-based work and telecommunications, an overall score of 7.0 or above is usually needed;
- for linguistically demanding training courses, such as air traffic control, engineering, pure and applied sciences and industrial safety, a score of 6.5 or more is generally acceptable;
- for linguistically less demanding training courses, such as animal husbandry, catering or



fire services, a score of 6.0 or above is usually acceptable.

Obtaining these scores is, of course, no guarantee of admission. The relevant department or faculty determines whether the candidate's band scores are of an acceptable level for admission.

The Listening Test is the same both for Academic and General Training candidates. There are 40 questions in the Test. The band scores for both Tests are reported in half bands.

Scores are calculated on the basis of one point per question. (Some questions require two answers to get the point.) Band scores 6.0 and above represent the following levels of competence in English.

**Band 9** Fully operational command of the language, appropriate, accurate, fluent, with complete understanding.

**Band 8** Fully operational command of the language with only occasional unsystematic inaccuracies and inappropriacies. Misunderstandings may occur in unfamiliar situations. Handles complex detailed argumentation well.

**Band 7** Has operational command of the language, though with occasional inaccuracies, inappropriacies and misunderstandings in some situations. Generally handles complex language well and understands detailed reasoning.

**Band 6** Has generally effective command of the language despite some inaccuracies, inappropriacies and misunderstandings. Can use and understand fairly complex language, particularly in familiar situations.

For more detailed information about IELTS and where it is accepted, please refer to [www.ielts.org](http://www.ielts.org).

### *The Listening module*

The Listening Test is the first part of IELTS. Then come Reading, Writing and Speaking. The Listening Test lasts for a total of 40 minutes. First, you listen to a tape for 30 minutes. While you listen, you have to answer 40 questions. You write your answers in an answer booklet. Then you get ten extra minutes to transfer your answers from the booklet to an answer sheet. The test comes in four sections and covers a variety of academic and social topics relevant to candidates entering university or further training in an English-speaking environment. More general subjects are tested in the other parts of IELTS. The tape is played only once, to help make the test as realistic as possible. The information below is provided by the University of Cambridge ESOL Examinations, the examining organisation. It is copyright © and is reproduced with their permission.

## The Listening Test

There are 40 questions in the Listening Test (or 'module'). The questions come in four sections and the whole test takes around 30 minutes. After that, you get 10 minutes extra to transfer your answers from the answer booklet to the answer sheet.

The first two sections are about the social needs of an overseas student or trainee in an English-speaking country. First, there is a conversation between two speakers, for example, about finding accommodation or making arrangements for a student outing (trip). Then there is a talk by *one* person (a monologue), typically about student services on a university campus or arrangements for meals during a convention.

The final two sections are about typical situations which may be met with while studying or training. There is a conversation between *up to four* people, for example, between a tutor and a student about an assignment or between three students planning a research project. Then comes a further *monologue* in the form of a lecture or talk of general academic interest.

All the topics in the IELTS Listening Test are of general interest and it makes no difference what subjects candidates study.

A range of English accents (North American, Australian, British etc.) are used in the recordings, which reflects the international usage of English and the various destinations of candidates.

The tasks become more difficult as the test goes on.

A variety of questions are used, chosen from the following types:

- multiple choice
- short-answer questions
- sentence completion

## SECTION 2 - Questions 11 - 20

Questions 11 - 15

Circle the correct letters A-C.

**11** The most important reason for a settlement at Botany Bay was

- A. fresh water
- B. its good harbour
- C. fertile land

**12** The plague was brought to Sydney by

- A. ships' cats
- B. convicts
- C. sailors

**13** The Opera House was built

- A. in 10 years with 7 deaths
- B. in 10 years with 17 deaths
- C. in 17 years with 10 deaths

**14** The Chinese community arrived in Sydney in

- A. 1825
- B. 1844
- C. 1870





- notes/summary/diagram/flow chart/table completion
- labelling a diagram which has numbered parts
- classification
- matching

The instructions are clear and easy to follow. They require as little reading time as possible. Examples are given of any types of question that may be unfamiliar.

The Listening Module is recorded on a tape and is heard ONCE only. After the test starts, all instructions are given on the tape. You should not need to ask any questions; if you do have a problem, raise your hand and wait for an invigilator (supervising teacher) to come.

During the test, the tape gives you time to read the questions before each section and to check your answers at the end of the section. You have to write your answers in the answer booklet as you listen. After the questions have finished, ten minutes are allowed to transfer your answers to the answer sheet. Time checks are given on the tape two minutes and one minute before the end of the test.

Each of the 40 items in the test is worth one mark but questions sometimes require you to give two answers to get the mark. The markers use a band score conversion table for each version of the test to translate your mark out of 40 into the IELTS 9-band scale. The band score can vary slightly between versions to reflect the difficulty of each version, but the differences are only small and you need not worry about them. Scores are reported as a whole band or a half band.

**You should note that, according to the examining body, poor spelling and grammar in your answers are penalised.**

**15** The Chinese shops were mainly

- A. restaurants and laundries
- B. soap shops and general stores
- C. general stores and laundries

**SECTION 2 - Questions 16 - 20**

Complete the table below.

Write **NO MORE THAN THREE WORDS** for each answer.

Number of convicts brought to Hobart **16**

Date of last convict ship **17**

Crime of oldest convict **18**

Age of youngest convict **19**

Reason for most crimes **20**



*The challenge of the Listening Test*

The Listening Test is different, perhaps very different, from the listening parts of some other English language tests.

- First, the IELTS Listening Test is only about various aspects of life and study in an English-speaking environment.
- Secondly, the test contains four sections. These are either monologues (one person speaking) or dialogues (two or more people speaking). The speakers may have a variety of accents – British, Australian, Canadian, American and possibly others.
- Thirdly, the test is difficult because you have to do a number of different exercises in a short time and often have to do something else as well as listen, as you would in real life.

IELTS is such a demanding test that it is becoming even more highly regarded around the world and is indeed the only English language test accepted for immigration purposes by Australia, Canada and New Zealand. In fact IELTS is such a good measure of language skills that you may find this book useful even if you do not plan to sit the test.

- You must answer the questions in the way you are asked to answer them. Otherwise, you will lose marks. This is only fair to other candidates who have met the requirements. Finally, failing to observe the requirements may suggest that you do not understand them or that you are not willing to cooperate with routine instructions. You will be given about 30 seconds after each section of the test to check your answers.

*Test regulations*

The IELTS test has strict rules. You must obey them or your test may be cancelled.

The rules are there to help you do the best you can, prevent cheating and ensure that the test keeps its high reputation for reliability. You get a copy of the regulations in English and Chinese and have to sign to say that you accept them. If you go through an agency to apply for the test, make sure they let you read the rules before you sign them.

When you do the test, a teacher called an ‘invigilator’ will give you instructions. Listen carefully and obey.

Note:

- After check-in, you cannot leave the exam room until the break, so go to the toilet first.
- A white sticker will be put on your ID card/passport at check-in. You must keep the sticker on until you have taken all the tests including the Speaking Test.
- You are only allowed to have with you on your desk pencils, an eraser, a pencil sharpener and your ID card. You should put your test confirmation letter and all other papers



away with your belongings.

- You must not have a mobile phone or anything like that with you in any exam room, 'power off' or not. If you do, you may be told you cannot continue with the test. In fact, you must not make or receive any kind of phone call until after the end of the morning tests.
- You must put your bag where the centre staff or invigilators tell you. Afterwards you cannot take anything from it without the permission of an invigilator.
- *You must stop writing when told. If you are seen to continue, you may be reported to the embassies and educational organisations you have applied to.*
- *If you are found cheating in any way, including looking at someone else's paper, making notes of any test materials and taking them out of the exam room, or telling anyone outside the exam room anything about the test, your test may be cancelled and you may be reported.*
- The information in this book was correct at the time of writing (September, 2002) but test rules may change. Make sure you get the latest information and obey all instructions.
- For further information about test administration, visit the British Council website: [www.britishcouncil.org.cn/english/education/examinations/index.htm](http://www.britishcouncil.org.cn/english/education/examinations/index.htm).

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## LISTENING – THE BASIC SKILLS

### *Practice*

- Practise as much as possible. Begin with the basic skills. Then practise the specific skills for the test. Make sure you practise for long enough. Most students will need to practise regularly over several months.
- Practise each skill separately. Leave time between practices and each time leave longer between practices. This way you learn more easily and quickly, and you remember more.

### *Listen and learn*

The best way to improve your listening is to practise with a native speaker. But if this is not possible, you need to listen to audio cassettes. Get some prepared by experienced teachers and choose those which enable you to practise listening to people talking about everyday social and academic situations, the sort of subjects you will need when you are abroad and which you will meet in IELTS. Cassettes are now available in all main accents – British, North American and Australasian especially. You can also make your own cassettes from the TV, radio, or the internet. If you can, use CCTV Channel 9 or an English-language cable or satellite channel. On radio, there are China Radio International, VOA, and the BBC, Radio Australia and Radio New Zealand. Australian radio reception is often good in China.

Another medium you will find useful is VCDs, DVDs and videos. Make sure there is enough speech on these and the sound quality is reasonable. If you are good with computers, you can burn your own CD from the internet using Real Player or similar software.

Whatever you use, concentrate on predicting what the conversation will be about. Play the recording and pause it after one or two minutes and ask yourself what you might hear next. Have a paper and pencil handy and write down the key words and phrases you expect to hear. If you encounter a new word or phrase, note it down in your vocabulary book.

The more you listen, the more you learn, and more quickly. Choose your listening carefully. The IELTS Listening Test is about study, training and daily life in English-speaking countries, so choose those subjects to listen to. Look for cassettes (tapes), CDs, and VCDs/DVDs that contain such material, and listen to TV, radio and internet broadcasts on those topics. Plan your listening to support the rest of your English-language learning. Always make notes of new facts, ideas and vocabulary. Try to record particularly useful items and listen to them again.

You can get information about BBC World Service broadcasts from [www.bbc.co.uk/worldservice](http://www.bbc.co.uk/worldservice). There are many Learning English and Education programmes to choose from. *World Learning* can be heard on Saturdays and Sundays and *Learning English* programmes throughout the week.

Also read about relevant topics in newspapers, magazines, books or on the internet.