



**Pause.
Reflect.
Prepare.**

Before you sit the IELTS test again...

Pause

IELTS is a test of English language proficiency and learning a language takes time and practice. If you are disappointed with your result, here is some advice to consider before sitting the test again.

Reflect

- Have you read about IELTS band scores and what each band score represents?
- Have you tried the practice test questions?
- Are you practising your English at home and at work/university?
- Were you as calm and relaxed as possible when you took the test?

Prepare

If you answered “No” to some of these questions above, consider the advice provided overleaf to help you prepare for the next time you sit the test.

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IELTS AUSTRALIA

Preparing to take an IELTS test

Tip	How to prepare
Before the test	
Download your free IELTS Essentials pack	The IELTS Essentials Pack contains advice and tips every test taker should read, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• IELTS Information for Candidates booklet• IELTS Application form• Examiner approved IELTS tips• What to expect on test day• Prepare for IELTS checklist Download your pack at IELTSessentials.com/prepare
Consider taking an English language course	It takes time to learn a language and the best way is to take an English course. The feedback you receive from your teacher will help you improve the specific skills involved in speaking, listening, reading and writing English.
Use your English everyday	A proven way to improve your IELTS band score is to practise your English every day at home and at work/university. This includes speaking English with your friends, watching and listening to English language programmes, reading English publications and practising your written skills wherever possible.
Know what to expect	To familiarise yourself with the types of tasks included in an IELTS test, you may wish to consider taking an IELTS preparation course. This will help you: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• practise the type of tasks included in an IELTS test (e.g. Writing a short essay or letter for the Writing component.)• get feedback and learn from your answers to practice questions• become more confident in your test-taking skills• help you decide if you are ready Ask your local IELTS test centre for more information.
Understand the IELTS band scores	IELTS band scores are explained at IELTSessentials.com/criteria
Practise sample questions	You may wish to complete the IELTS test sample available at IELTSessentials.com/prepare . <i>Official IELTS Practice Materials</i> (two books available) can be obtained from your test centre or you can use the order form online at IELTSessentials.com/purchase
Rest and relax	Get plenty of rest the night before your test. Also ensure you are familiar with the venue's location before test day so that you arrive in time.

During the test	
Understand the task	Follow instructions carefully during the test. Remember that the Writing component of the test has specific word length requirements.
Allow enough time for each question	Some questions have suggested time limits for you to follow. Every test room will have a clock on the wall. Stay aware of the time during the test so that you can complete all the questions.
Stay calm enough to do your best	If you feel worried, take deep breaths to calm down. If you focus on the questions and don't rush your answers, you will be able to do your best.

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