

IELTS

Understanding Listening

MINI



CAMBRIDGE



Official Cambridge IELTS Preparation

We provide you with the tools and resources you need to learn and show your skills to the world.
Whether you're studying in a classroom, or at home, you can rely on us to help you get ready for test day.

© Cambridge University Press & Assessment 2025

Contents

Introduction	1
Worksheet for Listening test	2
Worksheet answers	8
IELTS Listening test	12
Listening: Extended answers	20
Audioscripts	27
Sample answer sheet	33
Acknowledgements	34

Introduction

The IELTS Listening test lasts approximately **30 minutes** and consists of **4 parts** with **40 questions**. Let's look at this in more detail.

What is the format of IELTS Listening?

The IELTS Listening test consists of four parts. The first part is a conversation between two speakers and the second part is a monologue. The third part is a conversation between up to three people and the fourth part is a monologue with an academic context.

A variety of question types is used, including: multiple choice, matching, plan / map / diagram labelling, completion of forms, notes, tables, flow-charts, summaries and sentences, as well as short-answer questions.

Candidates hear the recording once only and answer the questions as they listen. Ten minutes are allowed at the end for candidates to transfer their answers to the answer sheet.

How is IELTS Listening marked?

Each question in the Listening test is worth one mark.

- Answers may be written in upper or lower case.
- If you are asked to write an answer using a certain number of words and/or (a) number(s), you will be penalised if you write more than this.
- In questions where you are expected to fill a gap, you should only transfer the necessary missing word(s) onto the answer sheet.
- All answers require correct spelling (including any optional words in brackets).
- Both US and UK spelling are acceptable.
- All standard alternatives for numbers, dates and currencies are acceptable.
- All standard abbreviations are acceptable.

How do I use this mini IELTS Listening practice test?

To make the most of this mini IELTS Listening practice test follow these simple steps:

- 1 Do the activities on the worksheet on pages 2–7.
- 2 Read through the answers to the worksheet and review your own answers. This will help you understand where you can improve in your next Listening test.
- 3 Complete the IELTS Listening test using the skills you have just learnt, and transfer your answers to the sample answer sheet on page 33.
- 4 Check the extended answers to the test on pages 20–26 and review your own answers.

More information on the IELTS Listening test is available on the IELTS website, ielts.org

WORKSHEET FOR LISTENING TEST

The aim of this worksheet is to help you:

- understand how to prepare for each part in the IELTS Listening test;
- identify clues on the IELTS Listening test question paper;
- recognise differences in the type of answers that are required;
- recognise when to move on to the next question.

Preparing to listen – PART 1

- 1 Look at the IELTS Listening test on page 12. Write the question type used in Part 1.

multiple choice gap fill labelling a map
--

.....

- 2 Check the instructions. What type of answer(s) could you need to write?
Choose *Yes* or *No*.

- | | |
|----------------------------------|----------|
| A one word | Yes / No |
| B one number | Yes / No |
| C one word and one number | Yes / No |

- 3 Who do you think will be speaking and why do you think that?

.....

- 4 What is the main context (situation of the listening)? What helped you decide that?

.....

- 5 The sub-headings on the Listening test are often repeated or paraphrased in the recording. They help you to understand when you should move on to the next question. What are the sub-headings in this part?

- A** Sub-heading 1:
- B** Sub-heading 2:
- C** Sub-heading 3:
- D** Sub-heading 4: