



IELTS: Last Moment Tips

Listening: major problems & solutions

Problem	Solution
The recording is played only once	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ try and anticipate what the speaker will say; this will require concentration▪ if you do not know the answer to a question, attempt it but do not waste time; move quickly onto the next one▪ do not panic if you think the topic is too difficult or the speaker is too fast; relax and tune in▪ focus precisely on what you are asked to do in completion type questions
The speaker is too fast, so I miss a lot of information	Do not focus on what you have missed, leave this question and proceed to the next point
I can't answer a question because I missed it. Shall I leave the space in the answer sheet blank?	Write any answer: you aren't penalized for wrong answers! You might have a right guess
I do not understand many words while listening	Do not worry if there is a word you do not understand; you may not need to use it
People often lose marks because they exceed the word limit	pay attention to the word limit; for example, if you are asked to complete a sentence using no more than two words, if the question asks you to complete the note 'in the...' and the correct answer is 'morning', note that 'in the morning' would be incorrect; the correct answer is 'morning'

Spelling matters

In IELTS Listening, you have to write a year, phone number, part of the address, etc.

- Take care that '0' can be pronounced either 'oh' or 'zero' when saying a phone number.
- When talking about money, it is generally said as in the examples below:

£7.50 = Seven pound(s) fifty / seven fifty

\$42.65 = Forty-two dollar(s) sixty-five cents / Forty-two sixty-five

If you need to write year, write as follows:

1995 = nineteen ninety-five

2015 = twenty fifteen

2000 = two thousand

2009 = two thousand and nine / two thousand nine [Only years 2000 – 2009 are written as a number]

If you are asked to write dates, you can use any format and all are correct.

2nd June, June 2nd, June 2 and 2 June, all are considered as two words answer.

At last, for measurements, you can write either the whole word or an abbreviation, both are absolutely right.

10m = 10 metres = 10 meters

Listening: how to benefit from practice

- <http://subscriptions.viddler.com/SimonCorcoran/wpw26j>

Listening: last moment tips

□ Interesting videos and listening for pleasure

It's a good idea to note down any good vocabulary that you hear when watching online videos. [TED.com](https://www.ted.com) is the best resource!

Sometimes it's best to watch or listen to something simply because it's interesting. It's still good practice for your ear. Use [YouTube.com](https://www.youtube.com) as a source. Listening to songs is also a tool.

□ Transcripts help

If you feel you can't understand a single word or many of them, find a transcript and listen and read simultaneously.

□ Master paraphrasing

In the listening test, synonyms or similar words are often the key to getting the answer. Boost your vocab!



WRITING: Essay types

Type	Goal	Structure
Agree/disagree (to what extend do you agree?) Is (smth) positive or negative?	Give your opinion (you convince)	Intro-your opinion-arguments for your opinion- conclusion
Problem/solution	Give your opinion (you convince)	Intro-your opinion-arguments for your opinion- conclusion
Advantages/disadvantages Do benefits outweigh drawbacks?	Give your opinion and discuss the opposite (you discuss)	Intro-benefits-drawbacks-conclusion (what outweighs)?
Both views	Give your opinion and discuss the opposite (you discuss)	Intro + your opinion- why other people hold another point of view – why you disagree with them- conclusion

Writing: Rules of Thumb

1. Manage your time efficiently: 10 m'- planning; 20 m'- writing; 10 m' - revision
2. Whatever your opinion might be, choose what is easier to write (you only have 40 minutes!)
3. Remember to paraphrase
4. Employ DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVES (personal/societal/economic/cultural) strategy .Thinking about topics from different perspectives can help you to generate better ideas.
5. As soon as you finish revise your essay



Writing: Rules of Thumb

Revise your essay against the following **criteria**

Task response

- The essay fully addresses the task; it is "on topic" at all times, and it definitely answers the question.
- The position (opinion / overall answer) is clear throughout the essay. It is presented in the introduction, and then supported in the rest of the essay (with no surprises in the conclusion!).
- Lots **of detail is given. Ideas are "fully extended" (explained in depth) and well supported.**
 - **Coherence and cohesion**
- Ideas are presented in a logical and organised way.
- There is definitely a good "flow" to the essay, so that the argument builds and develops. Paragraphing is well managed, and each paragraph is well constructed.
- Cohesive devices (linking) are used in an effective but subtle way - they help with the development of ideas, but do not overshadow those ideas.
 - **Lexical resource (vocabulary)**
- A wide range of vocabulary is used.
- Vocabulary is used appropriately, skillfully and naturally in the development of ideas.
- There are several examples of "less common" items of vocabulary, all of which are used appropriately.
 - **Grammatical range and accuracy**
- A wide range of structures is used.
- There are no mistakes!