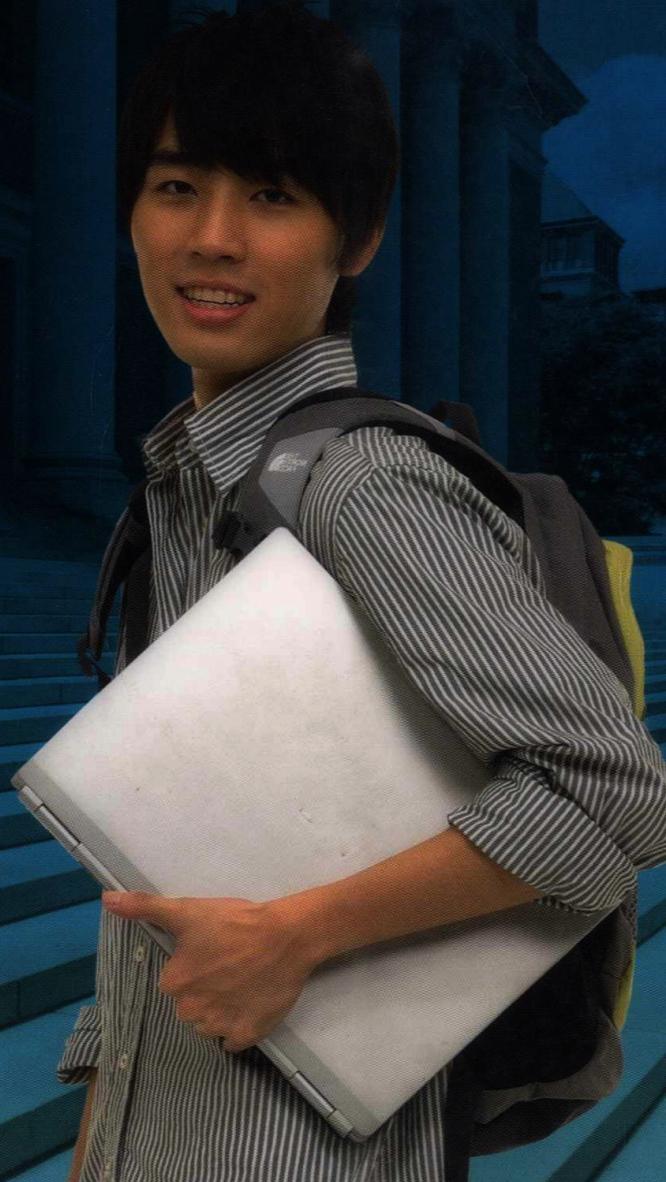


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Reading for IELTS

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Introduction

Who is this book for?

Reading for IELTS will prepare you for the IELTS Academic Reading test whether you are taking the test for the first time, or re-sitting the test. It has been written for learners with band score 5-5.5 who are trying to achieve band score 6 or higher.

The structured approach and comprehensive answer key have been designed so that you can use the materials to study on your own. However, the book can also be used as a supplementary reading skills course for IELTS preparation classes. The book provides enough material for approximately 50 hours of classroom activity.

Content

Reading for IELTS is divided into 12 units. Each unit focuses on a topic area that you are likely to meet in the IELTS exam. This helps you to build up a bank of vocabulary and ideas related to a variety of the topics. As in the IELTS test, the texts are taken from authentic sources. These may contain narratives, logical arguments, descriptions or discussions. Some of texts contain visuals.

Units 1–11 cover the types of question that you will see in the IELTS test. Each unit focuses on a particular type of question, for example, matching questions, short-answer questions, completion questions, multiple choice, questions asking you to identify information or identify writers' views or claims.

The exercises in the unit are relevant to the test. The aims listed at the start of each unit specify the key skills, techniques and language covered in the unit. You work towards Unit 12, which provides a final practice IELTS Reading test.

Additionally, the book provides examination strategies telling you what to expect and how best to succeed in the test. Exam information is presented in clear, easy-to-read chunks. 'Exam tips' in each unit highlight essential exam techniques and can be rapidly reviewed at a glance.

Unit structure

Each of the first 11 units is divided into 3 parts.

Part 1 introduces vocabulary related to the topic, often in the context of short texts. There are a range of exercises to help you to understand and use the vocabulary. The focus is on strategies and activities that are useful in the context of reading skills, for example working out the meaning of unknown words through the meaning of word components, or by examining word forms. The vocabulary is presented using Collins COBUILD dictionary definitions.

Part 2 provides information and practice on the task types you will come across in the IELTS Reading test. An explanation on each task type is followed by exercises of increasing difficulty. These exercises give you the opportunity to practise the skills that are needed to complete the task, and they help you to develop strategies for completing these tasks in the test. For example, in the unit about completing notes, and summaries, you develop strategies such as predicting what words may be missing by using your knowledge of grammar. You can then use this strategy when sitting the test.

Part 3 provides exam practice which focuses on the task that you practised in the unit. There is a text with questions. The number of questions is similar to the number in the actual test for the particular task type. You can use this as a way of assessing your readiness for the actual exam.

Answer key

A comprehensive answer key is provided for all sections of the book including suggested answers. Notes are also given on why certain answers are correct or incorrect.

Using the book for self-study

If you are new to IELTS, we recommend that you work systematically through the 12 units in order to benefit from its progressive structure. If you are a more experienced learner, you can use the aims listed at the start of each unit to select the most useful exercises.

Each unit contains between three and four hours of study material. Having access to someone who can provide informed feedback on reading practice exercises is an advantage. However, you can still learn a lot working alone or with a study partner willing to give and receive peer feedback.

Ideally, you should begin each unit by working through the **Part 1** vocabulary exercises. Try to answer the questions without looking at a dictionary in order to develop the skill of inferring the meaning of unfamiliar words from context. This is important because dictionaries cannot be used during the actual exam. Avoid writing the answers to vocabulary exercises directly into the book so that you can try the exercises again once you have completed the unit.

Take time to work through the **Part 2** exercises from beginning to end. It is important to study the notes about each of the task types so that you know the how to approach the different task types in the test. Doing this will also help you develop more general skills for reading. The strategies covered should be thoroughly mastered so that during the actual exam you are fully prepared for each section and can focus on reading and answering the questions. In the IELTS test itself, there is a time limit and you usually have to work fast, but while studying Part 2 of each unit in this book, take your time and learn as much as you can about the different task types.

Reading is a skill that can only be improved through extensive practice. The IELTS reading test can cover almost any topic considered to be within the grasp of a well-educated person. Therefore, you should aim to become well-informed about a wide variety of subjects, not just those covered in the book. Regularly reading English language materials on subjects such as science, business and education, can help with this, too.

In **Part 3** you are given the opportunity to put the strategies that you have learnt in Part 2 into practice. Work through the exercises at a reasonable speed. Again, check the answers carefully and learn from the notes provided in the Answer key. Also, remember to read the question carefully and complete the task in the exact way you have been asked. Do not assume that you know a particular task because you have practised similar ones in the past. There may be slight variations in the tasks in the actual IELTS test.

Unit 12 is a complete practice reading test. This unit should be done under exam conditions. Remember that the total allocated time is 60 minutes; there is no extra time to transfer answers. Please bear this in mind when doing Unit 12.