

Tips for the IELTS Listening Test

- Test takers should follow the instructions given by the recorded voice carefully (cf. the listening sample part of this preparation pack) and make full use of the time allocated to look at the questions before the sections start
- Read the tasks carefully so you can make sure to listen out for the right information
- Make sure you know what to listen out for, i.e. look at the gaps and multiple choice options
- Be aware that often the answers are given as synonyms or paraphrases of the word you are listening out for
- Try to pre-empt the way the conversation or speech is going and what could logically follow
- Don't worry if you don't understand a word or part of a sentence! It might not be important and you might end up spending valuable time worrying about a word that is not important for the task
- If you don't know the answer to a question, don't spend a lot of time thinking about it, but quickly move on to the next question to make sure you don't miss that one as well
- Pay attention to your spelling and grammar
- Try to multi-task and read, write and listen at the same time
- Pay attention to the word limit: If you are asked to write no more than two words, make sure you stay under this limit. For example, if the correct answer is "remote communities", don't write "communities in remote areas", as this will be marked incorrect
- Attempt all questions. No points are being deducted for wrong answers
- At the end of each section you have 30 seconds to check your answers. Make sure you make full use of that time to check that you have spelled everything correctly and the answers refer to the right questions
- At the end of the listening test you have 10 minutes to transfer your answers from the questions booklet to the answer sheet. Make sure you transfer all answers and double-check you have transferred them for the right questions. Also, make sure that you only write in the answer boxes.

Exams Office | British Council | Alexanderplatz 1 | 10178 Berlin | Germany
ielts.plus@britishcouncil.de | T +49 (0)30 31109910 | F +49(0)30 31109920

www.britishcouncil.org/takeielts