



## One-Month General Training IELTS Study Plan

With only a month to prepare for the **General Training IELTS exam**, it's likely you're feeling some pressure! The IELTS is challenging, even for test-takers who are very proficient in English—which is why it's helpful to use an IELTS guide as you learn *how* to study for IELTS.

During the next four weeks, you should engage with English as much as possible. Go out of your way to find opportunities to speak, write, listen, and read in English. You can learn a lot in a month, especially new vocabulary!

Of course, it is also critical that you use this time to become very familiar with the IELTS exam and how to approach each section of the test. And that is what this study schedule is designed to do!

The schedule is useful for students with varying degrees of English proficiency. Plan to spend between 1-2 hours studying each day (although some days will require more time and some less). Students with lower English proficiency will need additional time to complete the daily tasks simply because they will have more incorrect answers to review

from the practice exercises. (Lower proficiency students may also want to spend extra time reviewing passages, questions, tasks, and audio tracks.)

Even if you don't have time to complete all the listed tasks for a given day or week, do what you can! Modify the schedule to fit your circumstances. The Magoosh lessons "[Create your study schedule 1 – 3 weeks](#)" and "[Create your study schedule 4 – 8 weeks](#)" will help you develop a study schedule that meets your needs. If you have less than a month to prep, you might even consider using our [One-Week IELTS Study Plan](#). Check out our [complete list of study plans here](#). The goal of the study schedule is to keep you organized, motivated and on track with your IELTS preparation.

Each week, there are six days of preparation. One day per week will be a rest day, which isn't included in the schedule. Use that day to relax and regain your strength. If you study every day, it is likely you will get tired and benefit less from your study time.

## Table of Contents

Click these links to jump to the resource lists or the day you're working on:

- [IELTS Prep Materials](#)
- [Week One](#)
- [Week Two](#)
- [Week Three](#)
- [Week Four](#)
- [If you have time remaining](#)
- [The day before your IELTS test](#)

## Prep Materials for IELTS Guide

Here are three essential things you need to use this study schedule:

1. A computer with internet access
2. [\*The Official Cambridge Guide to IELTS for Academic & General Training\*](#)

And here are some great resources that are also mentioned in the study schedule. These are optional, but highly recommended!

1. [The Magoosh IELTS Blog](#)
2. [www.ielts.org](http://www.ielts.org)
3. [www.takeielts.britishcouncil.org](http://www.takeielts.britishcouncil.org)
4. [www.englishvocabularyexercises.com](http://www.englishvocabularyexercises.com)

### **How Should I use Magoosh's IELTS Essay Scoring Service in my Study Plan?**

Magoosh offers IELTS essay feedback to our premium subscribers. Those with a six-month Magoosh IELTS subscription can get up to four of their essays scored. The one-month plan includes one scored essay. While we don't strictly require the use of essay grading in our IELTS study schedules, it can definitely be useful.

If you have just one essay credit, it's good to use that credit in the first week of your study plan. That way you can check your Writing "baseline" and get some feedback on how you should improve over the course of your study schedule.

If you have four essay credits, it's still get one essay scored at the beginning. However, from there, you should space your remaining essays evenly throughout the rest of your schedule. That way, you can periodically re-check your progress. And the feedback you receive can help you decide which Writing skills to focus on in a given week.

# How to Prepare for IELTS: Week One

## Week 1, Day 1:

- **Lessons:**

- Watch the first three videos in Magoosh under *Introduction to the IELTS*:
  - [General Overview](#)
  - [Exam Format](#)
  - [Scoring](#)
  - [Build Your Vocabulary](#)
- Also watch the video [Using the Grammar Lessons](#) in *Introduction to IELTS Grammar*.
- Watch any 4-5 grammar videos of your choice in Magoosh. Choose grammar lessons that will help you most with your weaknesses.

- **Magoosh Practice:**

- Start working on [Magoosh's IELTS flashcards](#). Your goal should be to learn 15-20 new words each day.

- **Official Practice:**

- Complete some Reading and Listening questions from the [official IELTS website](#). Make sure to select the “General Training Reading” tab to get the correct practice material for that section. The General Training and Academic IELTS Listening sections are exactly the same, so there is only one tab for that section.
- Today, your goal is to become familiar with the format of the test. Don't worry too much about how many right and wrong answers you get.

## Week 1, Day 2:

- **Lessons:**

- Watch the next four videos in Magoosh, under *Introduction to the IELTS*:
  - [Reading Paper Overview](#)
  - [Listening Paper Overview](#)
  - [Speaking Overview](#)
  - [Writing Paper Overview](#)

- **Magoosh Practice:**

- Click the “Practice Reading” button on your Dashboard. Read one passage and answer all questions for that passage. Watch the explanation video for every question you get wrong.
- Click the “Practice Listening” button on your Dashboard. Answer all of the questions associated with two different recordings. Watch the explanation video for every question you get wrong.

- **Official Practice:**

- Read and complete the practice exercises about General Training Writing Task 1 on pages 113-116 of *The Official Cambridge Guide to IELTS*. If you have time, you can also complete the “Checking and Correcting” exercises from 117-118.
- Answer the speaking questions on page 172 of *The Official Cambridge Guide to IELTS*. Make sure to read the directions carefully. Simply respond out loud to the prompts one-by-one. Your goal today is to become familiar

with the format of these IELTS sections. Don't worry about grading yourself today.

- **(Note:** The speaking questions come from an Academic IELTS practice test in *The Official Cambridge Guide to IELTS*. The speaking section is exactly the same on the General Training and Academic IELTS exams, so these practice questions are appropriate for General Training study.)

### Week 1, Day 3:

- **Lessons:**

- In Magoosh, watch the video [Studying for the IELTS](#) in the *Introduction to IELTS* section. Then, watch the first two videos under the *Reading* section, titled [The SUN Method](#) and [Introduction to Sections 1, 2, and 3](#).

- Watch any 3-4 grammar videos of your choice in Magoosh, according to your weaknesses.

- **Official Practice:**

- Take the Listening section of Practice Test 1 from *The Official Cambridge Guide to IELTS* (pages 154-159). Grade yourself by checking answers in the back of the book on page 387. You should review your wrong answers carefully so that you understand why you made every mistake. However, the goal for today is to become familiar with the question types you will encounter in the IELTS Listening section.

- **(Note:** The listening questions come from an Academic IELTS practice test in *The Official Cambridge Guide to IELTS*. The listening section is exactly the same on the General Training and Academic IELTS exams, so these practice questions are appropriate for General Training study.)

## Week 1, Day 4:

- **Lessons:**

- In Magoosh, watch these videos under *Speaking*:
  - [General Tips and Strategies](#)
  - [Part 1](#)
  - [Part 2](#)
  - [Part 2 Sample Response](#)

- **Magoosh Practice:**

- Click the “Practice Speaking” button on your Dashboard. Answer two full sets of interview questions. Make sure to utilize the built-in recording function. Afterwards, assess your responses using [official IELTS band descriptors](#) for Speaking. If possible, find a native English speaker or someone proficient in English to help you assess your speaking. Make sure to watch the explanation videos for both sets of interview questions.
- Master at least 20 more words in [Magoosh’s IELTS flashcards](#). If you believe the deck you are working on is easy for you, finish it today.

- **Official Practice:**

- Read and complete the exercises from the General Training Reading unit in *The Official Cambridge Guide to IELTS* (pages 78-90).

## Week 1, Day 5:

- **Lessons:**

- In Magoosh, watch the videos in the *Listening* section called [General Tips and Strategies](#) and [APT Method](#). You should also watch these short introductory Listening videos:
  - [Part 1 Introduction](#)
  - [Part 2 Introduction](#)
  - [Part 3 Introduction](#)
  - [Part 4 Introduction](#)
- Watch any 3-4 grammar videos of your choice in Magoosh, according to your weaknesses.

- **Magoosh Practice:**

- Click the “Practice Writing” button on your Dashboard. Complete one Task 2 essay and watch the explanation video.

- **Official Practice:**

- Take the Reading section of Practice Test 7 from *The Official Cambridge Guide to IELTS* (pages 286-298). Use the self-scoring chart in the back of the book (page 394) to see where you stand. You should review your wrong answers carefully so that you understand why you made every

mistake. However, the goal for today is to become familiar with the question types you will encounter in the IELTS Reading section.

### Week 1, Day 6:

- **Lessons:**

- In Magoosh, watch these lessons in the *Writing* section:
  - [How to Practice Writing](#)
  - [How Edit Your Practice Essays](#)
  - [General Training Task 1](#)
  - [Introduction to Task 2](#)
  - [Task 2 Organization](#)

- **Magoosh Practice:**

- Click the “Practice Reading” button on your Dashboard. Read at least two passages and answer all questions for those passages. Read more passages answer more questions if you have time. Watch the explanation video for every question you get wrong.
- Click on the “Practice Writing” button on your Dashboard. Complete one Task 1 letter and watch the explanation video.

## How to Prepare for IELTS: Week Two

### Week 2, Day 1:

- **Lessons:**

- In Magoosh, watch three videos under *IELTS Skills*:
  - [Finding Information: Skimming and Scanning](#)
  - [How to Skim](#)
  - [How to Scan](#)

- **Magoosh Practice:**

- Spend time today learning more new words with [Magoosh's IELTS flashcards](#).
- Click the “Practice Listening” button on your Dashboard. Listen to two different passages and answer all questions related to those passages. Watch the explanation video for every question you get wrong.

- **Official Practice:**

- Read the essays that you wrote on Week 1, Days 5 and 6. Compare them to the sample essays in Magoosh. Edit both of your essays. Did you catch any errors that you could correct the next time you write? Did you meet the word count minimum? Are your essays organized clearly? Use the official IELTS Writing band descriptors to help you evaluate how you did. Here are the band descriptors for [Task 1](#) and [Task 2](#). If possible, find a native English speaker or someone proficient in English to help you assess your writing and give you feedback.

## Week 2, Day 2:

- **Lessons:**

- In Magoosh, watch these videos under *Speaking*:
  - [Part 3](#)
  - [Part 3 Response Structure](#)

- [Improve your Band Score: Fluency and Coherence](#)
  - Watch 4-5 new grammar videos in Magoosh. Have you discovered any areas of weakness with your grammar by evaluating your writing and speaking responses? Focus on these areas.
- **Magoosh Practice:**
  - Click the “Practice Speaking” button on your Dashboard. Answer two full sets of interview questions and watch the explanation videos.
- **Official Practice:**
  - Complete the “Listening” section of Practice Test 2 on pages 173-176 in *The Official Cambridge Guide to IELTS*. Review your incorrect answers carefully. Study the scripts in the back of the book (pages 344-346) to understand your incorrect answers.
  - **(Note:** The listening questions come from an Academic IELTS practice test in *The Official Cambridge Guide to IELTS*. The listening section is exactly the same on the General Training and Academic IELTS exams, so these practice questions are appropriate for General Training study.)

### Week 2, Day 3:

- **Lessons:**
  - In Magoosh, watch the first two videos under *Writing* and the second two videos under *Speaking*:
    - [Task 1: Informal Letters](#)
    - [Task 1: Formal Letters](#)
    - [Improve Your Band Score: Pronunciation](#)
    - [Improve Your Band Score: Lexical Resource](#)
- **Magoosh Practice:**

- Click the “Practice Writing” button on your Dashboard. Complete one Task 1 essay, and then watch the explanation video.
- Spend 20-30 minutes answering questions from [this set of Speaking prompts](#) on the Magoosh IELTS blog.
- **Official Practice:**
  - Answer all questions from the “Speaking” section of Practice Test 2 in *The Official Cambridge Guide to IELTS* (page 189). You should record your responses so you can evaluate them at a later time [using official IELTS band descriptors](#). You may be able to use your computer or phone to record your responses. This [online recorder](#) may also be helpful.
  - **(Note:** The speaking questions come from an Academic IELTS practice test in *The Official Cambridge Guide to IELTS*. The speaking section is exactly the same on the General Training and Academic IELTS exams, so these practice questions are appropriate for General Training study.

## Week 2, Day 4:

- **Lessons:**
  - In Magoosh, watch the next three videos under *Writing*:
    - [Task 2 Introductions](#)
    - [Task 2 Thesis Statements](#)
    - [Task 2 Body Paragraphs](#)
    - [Task 2 Conclusions](#)
  - Watch 3-4 new grammar videos in Magoosh.

- **Magoosh Practice:**

- Click the “Practice Listening” button on your Dashboard. Listen to 3 different passages and answer all questions related to those passages. Watch the explanation video for every question you get wrong.

- **Official Practice:**

- Choose two of the “Reading” passages from Practice Test 3 on pages 195-204 in *The Official Cambridge Guide to IELTS* and answer the questions. If you have time for more practice, you can read and answer the questions for the third passage as well! Review your wrong answers carefully so that you understand why you made every mistake.
- **(Note:** These reading questions come from a practice test for the Academic IELTS. All three of these passages have the same length and difficulty as Section 3 of the General Training reading test. The question types and difficulty are also the same as Section 3. They are great practice for the General Training test since Section 3 is the toughest section! Sections 1 and 2 of the General Training test have shorter and simpler texts. You will get more practice with those sections in your Magoosh practice sessions and later in the study schedule in the *Cambridge* book.)

## Week 2, Day 5:

- **Lessons:**

- In Magoosh, watch three videos under *Reading*:
  - [Matching Features Questions](#)
  - [Matching Information Questions](#)
  - [Sentence Completion Questions](#)
  - [Short Answer Questions](#)

- **Magoosh Practice:**

- Click the “Practice Writing” button on your Dashboard. Complete one Task 2 essay, and then watch the explanation video.

- **Official Practice:**

- Edit the essays you wrote today and on Week 2, Day 3. How could you make them better? Can you find grammar mistakes you could avoid next time you write?
- Listen again to your recorded Speaking responses from Magoosh and your official practice. Can you find mistakes or ways to improve your answers? If you had trouble answering a few specific questions, try answering them again. Repetition is a great way to improve your speaking responses.

## Week 2, Day 6:

- **Lessons:**

- In Magoosh, watch the next three videos under *Reading*: [Matching Headings Questions](#), [Matching Sentence Endings Questions](#), and [Multiple Choice Questions](#).

- **Magoosh Practice:**

- Click the “Practice Reading” button on your Dashboard. Read three passages and answer all questions for that passage. Watch the explanation video for every question you get wrong.

- Spend 10-20 minutes working on your vocabulary either with [Magoosh's IELTS flashcards](#) or [these vocabulary exercises](#).

## How to Prepare for IELTS: Week Three

### Week 3, Day 1:

Congratulations—you've now reached the halfway point of your one month of IELTS study!

- **Lessons:**

- In Magoosh, watch the next two videos under *Writing*, [Task 2 Essay Type: Advantages and Disadvantages](#) and [Task 2 Essay Type: Agree or Disagree?](#)

- **Magoosh Practice:**

- Click the “Practice Listening” button on your Dashboard. Listen to two different passages and answer all questions related to those passages. Watch the explanation video for every question you get wrong.
- Click the “Practice Writing” button on your Dashboard. Complete one Task 1 essay, and then watch the explanation video.

- **Official Practice:**

- Do the Task 2 Writing task of Practice Test 3 on page 205 of [The Official Cambridge Guide to IELTS](#).
- **(Note:** The Task 2 writing question comes from an Academic IELTS practice test in *The Official Cambridge Guide to IELTS*. Task 2 is exactly the same

on the General Training and Academic IELTS exams, so this question is appropriate for General Training study.)

### Week 3, Day 2:

- **Lessons:**

- In Magoosh, watch the next three videos under *Reading*:
  - [True/False/Not Given and Yes/No/Not Given Questions](#)
  - [Summary Completion Questions](#)
  - [Flow-Chart Completion Questions](#)
- Watch 3-4 new grammar videos in Magoosh and review one more.

- **Magoosh Practice:**

- Click the “Practice Speaking” button on your Dashboard. Answer two full sets of interview questions and watch the explanation videos.
- Spend 10-20 minutes working on your vocabulary using [these vocabulary exercises](#).

- **Official Practice:**

- In *The Official Cambridge Guide to IELTS*, read page 132-133. Take your time as you analyze the three essay samples on page 133. Then do the same exercise with the essays you wrote on Week 3, Day 1. Make sure you also read the sample essays in Magoosh (for Task 1) and in the back of the book on page 391 for Task 2. Compare them to your own. What features of these essays could you incorporate into your own responses to improve them?

### Week 3, Day 3:

- **Lessons:**
  - In Magoosh, watch the next three videos under *Listening*:
    - [Question Type: Short Answer](#)
    - [Question Type: Sentence Completion](#)
    - [Question Type: Plan, Map, and Diagram Completion](#)
- **Magoosh Practice:**
  - Click the “Practice Writing” button on your Dashboard. Complete one Task 1 and one Task 2 essay, and then watch the explanation videos.
- **Official Practice:**
  - Complete the “Listening” section of Practice Test 3 on pages 190-194 in *The Official Cambridge Guide to IELTS*. Review your incorrect answers carefully, learning from your mistakes.
  - **(Note:** The listening questions come from an Academic IELTS practice test in *The Official Cambridge Guide to IELTS*. The listening section is exactly the same on the General Training and Academic IELTS exams, so these practice questions are appropriate for General Training study.)

### Week 3, Day 4:

- **Lessons:**
  - In Magoosh, watch the next three videos under *Writing*:
    - [Task 2 Essay Type: Cause and Solution](#)
    - [Task 2 Essay Type: Thematic Questions](#)
    - [Task 2 Essay Type: Discuss Both Sides](#)
  - **Magoosh Practice:**

- Click the “Practice Reading” button on your Dashboard. Read three passages and answer all questions. Watch the explanation video for every question you get wrong.
- **Official Practice:**
  - Answer all questions from the “Speaking” section of Practice Test 3 in the *The Official Cambridge Guide to IELTS* (page 206). Record your answers so you can review them later.
  - **(Note:** The speaking questions come from an Academic IELTS practice test in *The Official Cambridge Guide to IELTS*. The speaking section is exactly the same on the General Training and Academic IELTS exams, so these practice questions are appropriate for General Training study.)

### Week 3, Day 5:

- **Lessons:**
  - In Magoosh, watch the next video under *Listening*:
    - Question Type: Multiple Choice
    - Question Type: Matching
    - Question Type: Form, Note, Table, Flow-Chart, Summary Completion
  - Watch 3-4 new grammar videos in Magoosh and review one other lesson of your choice, grammar or IELTS-based.
- **Magoosh Practice:**
  - Click the “Practice Listening” button on your Dashboard. Answer all of the questions for with three passages. Watch the explanation video for every question you get wrong.

- Click the “Practice Writing” button on your Dashboard. Complete one Task 2 essay, and then watch the explanation video.

### Week 3, Day 6:

- Today, you’re going to take a full practice test. If you don’t have a full three hours to spend, then switch this day with a day next week when you will have the time. You need three hours with **no interruptions** to complete the test.
- Take Practice Test 8 in *The Official Cambridge Guide to IELTS*, which begins on page 300. Do not take breaks during the Listening, Reading, and Writing sections, and be careful with the clock. Time yourself strictly in order to replicate exam conditions the best you can.
- If at all possible, try to find a native English speaker to interview you for the Speaking exam. If that isn’t possible, find a friend who knows some English to read you the questions. And if that is also impossible, simply read the questions and answer them on your own. Remember to record your responses so you can analyze them later!

## How to Study for IELTS: Week Four

### Week 4, Day 1:

- **Lessons:**
  - In Magoosh, watch this video in the *Speaking* section:
    - [Practice Interview #1](#)
  - In Magoosh, watch this video in the *Writing* section:
    - [How to Add Detail to Your Writing](#)
- **Magoosh Practice:**
  - Click the “Practice Writing” button on your Dashboard. Complete two essays: a Task 1 essay and a Task 2 essay. Watch the explanation videos.
- **Official Practice:**
  - Review all of your answers from the full practice test you took at the end of last week. Pay careful attention to your wrong answers in Reading and Listening, learning from your mistakes. Grade your Speaking and Writing tasks by comparing them with the examples provided in the back of the book.

## Week 4, Day 2:

- **Lessons:**
  - In Magoosh, watch the last three videos under *IELTS Skills*:
    - [Structuring Answers: Transition Words and Phrases](#)
    - [Structuring Answers: General and Specific](#)
    - [Paraphrasing](#)
- **Magoosh Practice:**
  - Click the “Practice Reading” button on your Dashboard. Read two passages and answer all questions. Watch the explanation video for every question you get wrong.
- **Official Practice:**

- Do the Listening section of Practice Test 5 from [The Official Cambridge Guide to IELTS](#). Review your incorrect answers carefully.
- **(Note:** The listening questions come from an Academic IELTS practice test in *The Official Cambridge Guide to IELTS*. The listening section is exactly the same on the General Training and Academic IELTS exams, so these practice questions are appropriate for General Training study.)

### Week 4, Day 3:

- **Lessons:**

- In Magoosh, watch the last two videos under *Reading*:
  - [Table Completion Questions](#)
  - [Diagram Completion Questions](#)

- **Magoosh Practice:**

- Click the “Practice Listening” button on your Dashboard. Listen to three different passages and answer all questions related to those passages. Watch the explanation video for every question you get wrong.
- Click the “Practice Writing” button on your Dashboard. Complete one Task 1 essay, and then watch the explanation video.

- **Official Practice:**

- Do the Task 2 Writing task of Practice Test 4 on page 224 of [The Official Cambridge Guide to IELTS](#).

- **(Note:** The Task 2 writing question comes from an Academic IELTS practice test in *The Official Cambridge Guide to IELTS*. Task 2 is exactly the same on the General Training and Academic IELTS exams, so this question is appropriate for General Training study).

## Week 4, Day 4:

- **Lessons:**

- In Magoosh, watch these *Speaking* videos:
  - [Improve Your Band Score: Grammatical Range and Accuracy](#)
  - [Practice Interview #2](#)
  - [Practice Interview #3](#)

- **Magoosh Practice:**

- Review all your vocabulary from both [Magoosh flashcards](#) and [EnglishVocabularyExercises.com](#).
- Click the “Practice Speaking” button on your Dashboard. Answer two full sets of interview questions. Watch the explanation video for both sets.

- **Official Practice:**

- Return to the Speaking task recordings you created on Week 3, Day 4. Repeat the same tasks better than the first time, attempting to include new vocabulary in every answer. Try to avoid grammar errors you made the first time through. When you’re done, compare the recordings. Were you more fluent than the last time? Were your responses more organized? Did new problems emerge?
- Return to the essay you wrote yesterday. Edit them and consider ways to improve them. If at all possible, give your essays to a teacher, friend, or

family member (with knowledge of English) to read and evaluate. It can be very helpful to get another person's opinion about your writing.

#### Week 4, Day 5:

- **Magoosh Practice:**

- Click the “Practice Writing” button on your Dashboard. Complete one to two essays, depending on how much time you have. Watch the explanation videos.

- **Official Practice:**

- Complete at least two of the Readings and questions from Practice Test 5 from page 232 to 243 of *The Official Cambridge Guide to IELTS*. Review each incorrect answer carefully.
- **(Note:** These reading questions come from a practice test for the Academic IELTS. All three of these passages have the same length and difficulty as Section 3 of the General Training reading test. The question types and difficulty are also the same as Section 3. They are great practice for the General Training test since Section 3 is the toughest section! Sections 1 and 2 of the General Training test have shorter and simpler texts. You will get

more practice with those sections in your Magoosh practice sessions and later in the study schedule in the *Cambridge* book.)

#### Week 4, Day 6:

- **Magoosh Practice:**

- Click the “Practice Reading” button on your Dashboard. Read two three passages and answer all questions. Watch the explanation video for every question you get wrong.
- Click the “Practice Listening” button on your Dashboard. Listen to two to three different passages and answer all questions related to those passages. Watch the explanation video for every question you get wrong.

### If you have time remaining:

- Review Magoosh videos and practice questions daily.
- Complete any unanswered questions in *The Official Cambridge Guide to IELTS*. The only questions that you should avoid completely are Task 1 Writing prompts for the Academic tests.
- Review vocabulary that you’ve already learned.

- Regularly listen to TED talks and read articles from New York Times or Newsweek. After every article or talk, summarize what you learned either in writing or in speech. If you speak your summary, record yourself.

## The day before your IELTS test:

- Tell yourself you're a rock star who's going to ace the test. Don't study today—you'll just build up anxiety! Instead, find out what to expect on test day by reading about [what you need to bring on test day](#). If you've followed this one month IELTS study schedule, you should be in good shape for the test. Get a good night's sleep, and have a healthy breakfast in the morning.

**Good Luck!**