

What is IELTS?

The international English language testing system

It is the world's most popular English language proficiency

IELTS assesses all of your English skills (Reading, Writing, Listening and Speaking)

It is designed to reflect how you will use English at work in the UK.

It is accepted by over 9,000 organisations worldwide, including TFL.

IELTS is the most widely accepted English language test that uses a one-on-one speaking test to assess your English communication skills.

IELTS Test format

The IELTS test assesses your abilities in all four skills - listening, reading, writing and speaking - in less than three hours (2 hours, 45 minutes)

The IELTS test format is tried and trusted by organisations and test takers worldwide, and has not changed significantly for over 20 years.

You will take the Listening, Reading and Writing components of the test on the same day one after the other, with no breaks in between them (approximately 3 hours in total). They are always taken in this order. The Speaking component will either be after a break on the same day as the other three tests, or up to seven days before or after that. This will depend on your test centre.

Two versions of the test

Academic Test

Listening

Academic Reading

Academic Writing

Speaking

General Training Test

Listening

General Training Reading

General Training Writing

Speaking

There are two versions of IELTS; IELTS Academic and IELTS General Training.

Everyone takes the same Listening and Speaking tests, regardless of which version they take. The Reading and Writing components differ in content, depending on whether you are taking IELTS Academic or IELTS General Training.

IELTS scores

IELTS is designed to assess English language skills at all levels, and uses a 9 band scale.

IELTS results are easy to understand and apply, and you will receive your scores within 13 days of taking the test.