



What to expect on the test day

Overview

The IELTS test has four sections. Three sections – Listening, Reading, and Writing – are always taken on the same day. The Speaking section is usually on the same day.

The IELTS test implements sophisticated, biometric security measures which protect candidates and organisations from attempts to cheat. You will go through the processes described below when you register on a test day.

Arrive early

You should arrive early for your IELTS test to allow time for you to be registered and be seated for the test. Please refer to your booking confirmation for details. If you arrive late, you may not be allowed to take the test.

Have a good breakfast, especially if you are sitting IELTS on paper test which is conducted in the morning. You will have several hours of concentration ahead of you. You may even want to bring food and/or snacks with you to have after the written sections, especially if your Speaking section is later that day. You cannot take food or drink into the test room (except water in a clear plastic bottle).

Check-in your personal belongings

No personal items are to be taken into the test room. Test day staff will collect and safely store your personal belongings. Items which are forbidden from the test room include: watches, mobile phones, hand-held computers, cameras, hats, scarves, wallets, books, or notes.

Identification documents

When you arrive on test day, a staff member will check your identification (ID). Your ID must be the same ID that you used when you booked the test. It must also be valid (not expired) and have a recognisable photo of yourself.

As a secure, high-stakes test, IELTS uses the latest biometric technology to verify your identity. This means that on the day of your test we will capture your high-resolution photograph to include on your

Test Report Form. We also ask for your finger scan as further measure of checking your identity. Each time you re-enter the test room (after a toilet break or for your Speaking section), your identity will be verified by simply asking you to scan your finger.

How do these measures help you on test day? These biometric tools speed up the process of verifying your identity. This means the time you spend waiting to register on test day is minimised and together with other test takers you can get settled into your seats quicker.

Entering the test room

When it is time to enter the test room, a test invigilator will guide you to your seat. You are not permitted to speak to other candidates. If you have a question, put your hand up and a staff member will assist you.

On your desk, you are only allowed to have your identification, pens/pencils, eraser and water in a transparent bottle.

Breaks and asking for help

You are not permitted to leave the test room during the last 10 minutes of any of the last two written sections and during the Listening sections. If you need to leave the test room to go to the bathroom at any other time, raise your hand and ask a staff member.

If you have a problem (for example, you cannot hear the instructions, or you feel ill) raise your hand to attract the attention of the supervisor. Remember that the invigilators will not provide any explanation on the questions.

Keep track of time. It is essential that you keep track of time and pace yourself as you are taking the test.

End of the test

You cannot leave your seat until you have been notified by an invigilator and given permission to leave. If you finish the test early you must wait quietly until the test is finished and you are advised that you can leave. You must leave any notes and materials on the desk.

After the test

Collect your belongings. Your results and Test Report Form will be available online 13 days after your IELTS on paper test. The Test Report Form will be posted to you or you can collect it in person from our exam office if preferred.