

**IELTS tips with gaps which are useful language for the exam**

*First of all without any help, fill each gap on the pages below with one word, thinking about what it must be to fit grammatically and to make an accurate statement about the exam.*

*Use these mixed words to help.*

after	all
between	by
compare	consequences
disadvantage	drop/ fall/ decrease/ decline
during/ within	each
end	enough/ sufficient
every	exactly/ precisely
experience	fair/ reasonable/ certain
figure/ number	flowchart
guess	important
increase	instance/ example
interesting	least
line	little
little/ minimal	main/ biggest
minimum	more
most	move
much/ far	no
no/ zero	obvious/ noticeable
opinions	outweigh
persuasive	pie
rapidly/ dramatically/ quickly/ suddenly	same
second/ next/ following	similar
summary	table
under	vast
your/ personal	

*Check as a class or with the suggested answers.*

*Underline language in the tips that could be useful for IELTS Speaking and/ or IELTS Writing.*

## Gaps to fill to make IELTS tips

### IELTS Writing

#### IELTS Writing Tasks 1 and 2

- You should use your eraser as \_\_\_\_\_ as possible.
- Even someone getting a 9.0 will make a \_\_\_\_\_ number of grammatical mistakes.
- Being ambitious with your language use (using more advanced language) can make up for basic errors, but the most \_\_\_\_\_ thing is to be comprehensible.
- IELTS Writing is \_\_\_\_\_ less academic than journal papers and university theses, because you are encouraged to mention \_\_\_\_\_ experience and it is impossible to use references. It is more \_\_\_\_\_ to a school essay than to a real academic paper.
- Don't waste time counting individual words. Count the words on two lines, then calculate a number of words per line. \_\_\_\_\_ that, count the number of lines to work out a rough total. It is even better do all your writing on official IELTS paper so you know how many words per line you usually have.

#### IELTS Writing Task 1

- You have to write at \_\_\_\_\_ 150 words. There is no maximum number of words but writing much more than 150 wastes time that you could spend on Task 2.
- In Writing Task 1 you have to describe one or more bar chart, \_\_\_\_\_ graph, \_\_\_\_\_ chart, \_\_\_\_\_, map, flowchart or other diagram.
- The \_\_\_\_\_ majority of Writing Task 1 essays can best be written with a three-sentence introduction and then two body paragraphs.
- How you decide to divide the information into two paragraphs has \_\_\_\_\_ importance. It is much more important to quickly decide some way of doing so.
- In the last sentence of the introduction, explain what you will write about in the \_\_\_\_\_ paragraph and the one after that.
- In each body paragraph, it is usually best to start with the most important or most \_\_\_\_\_ information. This will help make sure that you select and summarise, and not describe everything.
- Unless it is impossible (as it sometimes is in \_\_\_\_\_ tasks), you should always \_\_\_\_\_ and contrast.
- You should mention how slowly/ gradually or \_\_\_\_\_ things rise/ go up/ climb/ increase or \_\_\_\_\_.
- Be careful about confusing "change from", "change to" and "change \_\_\_\_\_".
- Don't include your own \_\_\_\_\_ or ideas of what the data might mean, just select and analyse the data that is there.
- It's difficult to write a good final \_\_\_\_\_ paragraph (but one is not needed).

#### IELTS Writing Task Two

- Pay attention to plurals in the question. For \_\_\_\_\_, if the questions say "Give reasons" you must give more than one.
- The \_\_\_\_\_ advantage of brainstorming your ideas before you decide on your plan for your essay is that you will know you won't run out of ideas while you are writing. The greatest \_\_\_\_\_ is that it takes up valuable time. For most people, the bad points \_\_\_\_\_ the good points.
- Start by rephrasing the question, perhaps after writing why the topic is important,

- topical, relevant or \_\_\_\_\_ if that is not included in the question.
- If you weigh up both sides of the argument and then give your conclusions, make sure you say why one side of the argument is more \_\_\_\_\_ than the other.
  - The \_\_\_\_\_ common problem people have with Task 2 is running out of time.
  - Support for your arguments should be realistic things like personal \_\_\_\_\_ and logical \_\_\_\_\_, not things you couldn't know without research like exact quotations and precise statistics.
  - Leave a \_\_\_\_\_ of three or four minutes for editing, also adding better language while you correct your mistakes.

## IELTS Speaking

### IELTS Speaking Parts One, Two and Three

- Ask \_\_\_\_\_ time you are not sure about the meaning of a question, or state your understanding of the question in your answer.

### IELTS Speaking Part Two

- You need to speak for \_\_\_\_\_ one and two minutes.
- Before that you have \_\_\_\_\_ one minute to prepare what you are going to say, making notes to help you if you like.

### IELTS Speaking Part Three

- Almost \_\_\_\_\_ candidates find some Speaking Part Three questions difficult or impossible to understand and/ or answer.

## IELTS Listening

- There are \_\_\_\_\_ half points in the IELTS Listening test. You get \_\_\_\_\_ points for a wrongly spelt answer.
- Each of the three listening texts usually has \_\_\_\_\_ than one kind of question.
- If there is more than one way of writing the answer, e.g. as a \_\_\_\_\_ or as a word, write the one you are most confident is correct.
- The words that you have to write down are always the \_\_\_\_\_ as the words you hear in the text, but the words around them are usually different from the words written on the question paper.
- You have ten minutes at the \_\_\_\_\_ of the test to transfer your answers to the answer sheet, which is a good time to \_\_\_\_\_ answers you haven't decided on.

## IELTS Reading

- You need to transfer your answers onto the answer sheet \_\_\_\_\_ the sixty minutes of the exam, perhaps after finishing \_\_\_\_\_ text.
- Even someone getting a 9.0 will usually get answers wrong, so you need to learn when to give up on a question and \_\_\_\_\_ on to the next one.
- The texts \_\_\_\_\_ in difficulty as you progress through the test, but there will still be some easier questions with the final text.
- Most people do not have \_\_\_\_\_ time to read through the whole text first. If you do so, it should only be to get an idea of where the information is (not to understand anything) and should be completed in \_\_\_\_\_ four minutes, using tactics like skipping onto the next paragraph as soon as you know what a paragraph is about.

## Suggested answers

### IELTS Writing

#### IELTS Writing Tasks 1 and 2

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- IELTS Writing is much/ far less academic than journal papers and university theses, because you are encouraged to mention your/ personal experience and it is impossible to use references. It is more similar to a school essay than to a real academic paper.
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- In the last sentence of the introduction, explain what you will write about in the second/ next/ following paragraph and the one after that.
- In each body paragraph, it is usually best to start with the most important or most obvious/ noticeable information. This will help make sure that you select and summarise, and not describe everything.
- Unless it is impossible (as it sometimes is in flowchart tasks), you should always compare and contrast.
- You should mention how slowly/ gradually or rapidly/ dramatically/ quickly/ suddenly things rise/ go up/ climb/ increase or drop/ fall/ decrease/ decline.
- Be careful about confusing “change from”, “change to” and “change by”.
- Don't include your own opinions or ideas of what the data might mean, just select and analyse the data that is there.
- It's difficult to write a good final summary paragraph (but one is not needed).

#### IELTS Writing Task Two

- Pay attention to plurals in the question. For instance/ example, if the questions say “Give reasons” you must give more than one.
- The main/ biggest advantage of brainstorming your ideas before you decide on your plan for your essay is that you will know you won't run out of ideas while you are writing. The greatest disadvantage is that it takes up valuable time. For most people, the bad points outweigh the good points.
- Start by rephrasing the question, perhaps after writing why the topic is important,

- topical, relevant or interesting if that is not included in the question.
- If you weigh up both sides of the argument and then give your conclusions, make sure you say why one side of the argument is more persuasive than the other.
- The most common problem people have with Task 2 is running out of time.
- Support for your arguments should be realistic things like personal experience and logical consequences, not things you couldn't know without research like exact quotations and precise statistics.
- Leave a minimum of three or four minutes for editing, also adding better language while you correct your mistakes.

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- You need to speak for between one and two minutes.
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