

IELTS Games and Activities

Speaking and Writing

Focus and fun for the IELTS classroom

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About the book

This resource pack has been written BY a teacher FOR fellow teachers. The purpose of this book is to spice up the IELTS classroom with refreshing alternatives to fairly “dry” and repetitive IELTS practice materials. The tasks have come straight from the IELTS preparation classroom. This means that they not only relate directly to the exam, but specifically target the “hottest” areas in which IELTS candidates require extra support. These tasks are aimed at helping candidates to meet the requirements of the IELTS **Speaking** and **Writing** modules. This includes lexical and grammatical range, coherence and cohesion, topic coverage, as well as developing answers.

The innovative approach we take is to ensure that, while the questions and topics remain similar to the ones in the traditional exam, the *format of the tasks* is truly engaging and varied. Group, pair, and individual activities include board and card games, surveys and questionnaires, worksheets, races and much more!

This book is primarily intended for IELTS teachers and their students. It could though be used just as well in secondary schools and university EAP/ language support departments. The material can be easily adapted for General English classrooms, and thus reduce planning time for teachers whose workload involves both higher level General English and exam classes. A lot of this material can also be used for self-study, making it an invaluable resource for teachers promoting learner autonomy.

Content

In addition to the **Speaking** and **Writing** chapters, there are also some **IELTS Overview** tasks. These tasks give students the opportunity to explore a wide range of questions. Working through them will help to build confidence and awareness in preparation for the exam.

The **Speaking** and **Writing** functions practised in this book have all been carefully selected following a thorough analysis of dozens (if not hundreds) of exam questions.

The IELTS hacks

Most of the Teacher’s Notes include short **IELTS hacks** which provide bite-size tips and advice about the exam tasks and skills practice, and aim to debunk common IELTS myths.

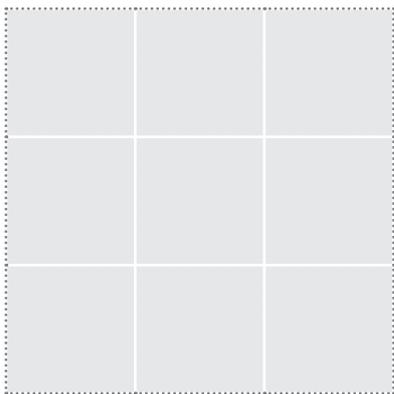
Differentiation

The fact that there are nine bands in the IELTS exam means that most exam preparation classes today are mixed-ability groups. In addition to highlighting the recommended level for each activity (Level ◆ is an equivalent of Band 5+, Level ◆◆ is Band 6.5+), many tasks provide options to make them easily adaptable for higher or lower-level candidates.

Global follow-up

Many of the activities in this book have follow-up suggestions. While these are task-specific, on the next page there is a global follow-up suggestion which can be adapted to any language/function practice and made part of weekly practice (or pulled out of the sleeve to “spice up” the exam routine).

The IELTS bingo / noughts and crosses (open grid)



1. Just like in a traditional game of *Bingo*, the grid is completed with nine words, for instance:

Speaking Parts 1–3: nine question words (*Wh-?* + auxiliaries, e.g. *should, did, has...*)

Speaking Part 2: nine nouns (a place, person, experience, creature, etc.)/**nine descriptive adjectives**

Writing Task 1: nine collocations (nouns, verbs, etc.) used in a particular chart type

Writing Task 2: nine linking words/nine useful phrases/nine punctuation marks

General: **nine problems/nine solutions/nine topics/nine grammar forms/nine “fillers”**, etc.

2. The challenge is to complete the whole grid (bingo) or a line (noughts and crosses) by either:

- using the words/questions in the grid (even performing a speaking task), or
- listening to a partner using them.

Downloadable material

A selection of the photocopiable sheets are available for you to download from our website

<https://www.deltapublishing.co.uk/>

Abbreviations / Symbols

In the **Writing** and **Speaking** tests, performance is assessed in four categories. You will see these abbreviations dotted throughout the book.

TA task achievement

CC coherence and cohesion

LR lexical resource

GRA grammatical range and accuracy

🔑 answer key

▼▲ differentiation

Topics

IELTS **Speaking** and **Writing** papers can cover a huge range of topics. Some of the topics touched on in this book are:

art and architecture; accommodation; business, commerce and finance; climate and weather; communication, advertising, media and news; crime and law; customs and traditions; digitalization and internet; environment and nature; education; family and children; fame; fashion and lifestyle; food and diet; globalization; government; health; holidays and travel; leisure, sport and exercise; personality; science and technology; society; values; work and employment

Speaking and Writing Exam functions and sub-skills

Speaking

providing personal and non-personal information, making choices, describing, expressing feelings and attitudes, comparing and contrasting, expressing and discussing opinions, hypothesising, making suggestions, giving explanations, speculating, narrating, analysing, making concessions, hedging, predicting, generalising and making exceptions, problem-solving, evaluating, proposing changes, etc.

Writing Task 1

Reporting factual data based on graphic or pictorial information:

- selecting and reporting on key features
- describing and comparing data
- identifying significance and trends in factual information
- describing a machine, device or process
- organising and presenting writing in an academic or semi-formal/neutral style
- recognising the most relevant points in a graphic

Writing Task 2

Presenting a written argument on a given topic:

- presenting a clear, relevant, well-organised argument
- giving evidence or examples to support ideas
- using language accurately
- analysing problems and offering solutions
- commenting on others' opinions
- exploring causes and highlighting effects
- weighing up advantages and disadvantages

Most of the **Speaking** tasks can be followed up with relevant **Writing** questions, and vice versa.

Title	IELTS Focus	Part	Type	Level	Page
Familiarisation					
1. IELTS Writing and Speaking – the quiz	Test structure overview	all		◆	10
2. IELTS'agram	Self-study/reflection	any		◆	13
Expressing your ideas					
3. Say it better!	LR, academic English	all		◆	15
4. Snap a linker!	CC, using linking words accurately	all		◆	19
5. IELTS checkers	LR and CC, linking ideas on range of topics	all		◆	21
Writing Task 1					
6. The IELTS cocktails	Part 1 lexical and grammar requirements overview, LR and GRA	1	 	◆	24
7. Jumbled charts	Organisational (CC), syntactic (GRA) and linguistic features (LR) of describing a process, a map and a bar chart	1		◆◆	27
8. Opposites attract	LR and GRA for describing trends	1	 	◆	32
9. Reversed graphs	Understanding graphs and bar charts, LR, TA	1		◆+	34
10. I like to map it, map it!	Describing maps	1		◆	37
11. Snap chart	Revision of most common chart types, TA (selecting, present and highlighting key features)	1		◆◆	39
12. Escape	LR: Describing trends, describing proportions	1		◆+	41
13. Teach this!	Describing a process	1		◆	44

Title	IELTS Focus	Part	Type	Level	Page	
Writing Task 2						
14.	Bones for the skeletons!	TA and CC, organisation and idea development	2		◆◆	46
15.	The IELTS suitcase	Brainstorming writing ideas, TA and LR	2		◆	49
16.	Jigsaw essays	Scaffolded writing, TA, CC	2		◆◆	52
17.	The app that saved the world	Activating background knowledge, TA and LR	2		◆	61
18.	Reversed noughts and crosses	LR (paraphrase, uncommon language), multiple-level challenge	2		◆	63
19.	Picto-essays	Scaffolding writing, brainstorming, drafting editing, TA, CC	2		◆	65
20.	Roll an essay	CC: answer structure, fully extending and developing arguments, Self-study	2		◆◆	67
Speaking Tasks						
21.	Guess the question	Multi-topic; LR (precision)	1	survey 	◆	69
22.	My past, present and future	Multi-topic; multi-grammar; LR, GRA (range) Self-Study	1	interview 	◆◆	73
23.	The IELTS eye	LR and GRA, detailed feedback Self-study	1	interview 	◆◆	76
24.	The elevator exam	Rare questions, FC (coherence), LR (risk-taking)	2		◆	79
25.	The IELTS noughts and crosses	FC: speaking coherently at length with minimal repetition, LR, Self-study	2		◆	82

Title	IELTS Focus	Part	Type	Level	Page
26. The pedestrian crossing	FC, LR, positive and negative language, Self-study	2		◆	84
27. The IELTS desert	Holistic practice (FC, LR, GRA, P)	2	 	◆◆	86
28. Descriptions poker	LR: descriptive language, reducing hesitation	2	topic cards/ 	◆◆	89
29. The IELTS agony aunts	Discussing issues, problems, solutions (lead into Writing Task 2), Self-study	3		◆	96
30. Guided interviews	FC (content development), LR (paraphrase)	2,3		◆◆	98
31. The answer mapper	FC: answer structure, Developing arguments fully, Self-study	1–3		◆◆	103
32. Causes and consequences	Discussing causes and consequences, LR (paraphrase) (lead into Writing Task 1)	1–3		◆	106
33. No such thing? Prove it!	Presenting a balanced view; critical thinking and avoiding overgeneralisation	1–3	debate/ 	◆◆	108
34. I can... I want... I dread...	Highlighting areas of perceived strengths and weaknesses; self-study <u>study</u>	1–3		◆	110
35. Nuclear topics	FC, LR (Mixed-speaking function overview), Brainstorming, Self-study	1–3	 	◆◆	112
36. The time capsule	FC (changes over time), GRA (incorporating complex grammar)	1–3		◆	115
37. Cultural profiles	Speaking personally vs. speaking generally	1–3	interview 	◆	117

Title	IELTS Focus	Part	Type	Level	Page
38. The IELTS bingo	LR, revision and expansion of lexis	1–3		◆	119
39. One minute race	Holistic practice (FC, LR, GRA, P), Differentiation between personal and general	1–3		◆	121
40. Bee hive	FC, LR (Mixed-topic practice), Self-study	1–3		◆	123
41. The IELTS battle boards	Integrated practice of speaking functions found in most questions	1–3	 	◆◆	125
42. IELTS'tronomy	Integrated practice: FC, LR, GRA, P	1–3	 	◆◆	128
Additional resources					
43. Feedback sheet	Language production evaluation	all		◆	137
44. The IELTS topics jar	A jar filled with IELTS topics	all		◆	138
45. IELTS essay and interview questions	Bank of essay questions for more practice	all		◆	139
46. IELTS exam phrases	Functions and phrases to help structure IELTS exam answers	all		◆	140