

## STRATEGIES TO IMPROVE LISTENING IN IELTS

*Deputy Dean, English Language Faculty 2  
Uzbekistan State World Languages University*

**Bazarov Ihtiyor Rahmatullayevich**

*Sophomore Student of State World Languages  
University of Uzbekistan*

**Kenesova Jazira Baurjan qizi**

**Annotation:** *The following article provides you with some methods to improve your listening skills.*

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The very first step to an IELTS exam starts with understanding the format of it. It doesn't matter whether it is writing, listening, reading or writing. However, as this article discusses about improving listening section you have to learn about different types of Listening tests. It might be multiple choice questions, matching, completion or filling gaps. Get information about all question types so that you know what to expect at the exam.

Next step is to start listening to different accents. The main reason is that English has different accents which appeared due to a person's origin. Hence, try to expose yourself to a variety of accents as it may have a huge impact on your understanding of English. Watch movies, listen to podcasts, speak with natives as much as you can to feel comfortable hearing various accents.

Nevertheless, only listening to English audios do not help you as long as you do not summarise what you have heard or shortly retell the main topic to yourself. Predicting what is going to come next can also be a great contributor to stay concentrated.

You will be given some time to read the questions before the audio plays, so use this time to take notes by underlining key words in order to stay focused on important parts.

Expand your vocabulary every day by learning at least 10 words a day. Actively use it in your writing and speaking as it helps you to remember better. Your vocabulary can be increased by reading or listening to a wide range of materials in English. Keep in your mind to learn common idioms or phrases, synonyms and antonyms so that you may comprehend the speaker without an effort in the listening test.

Create the environment before sitting an IELTS exam. What does it mean? Set a time and try not to use dictionary until you complete one full practice test. It gives you the sense like you are in real exam atmosphere eliminating the stress and anxiety during the real test day. Therefore, be prepared and start developing your time-management skills beforehand.

After completing one full practice test on listening do not leave mistakes unanalysed. This is one of the common mistakes most people preparing for IELTS or any language test make. The way to progress lies in analysing your mistakes and understanding the reason of being mistaken. Nail down the question type where you were incorrect and find more strategies based on this types of questions. This will help you a lot to be aware of mistakes you constantly make and prevent them with strategies that are suitable for you personally.

Do not forget, that consistent practice and exposure to English environment are the main elements to enhancing your listening skills in IELTS.

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