



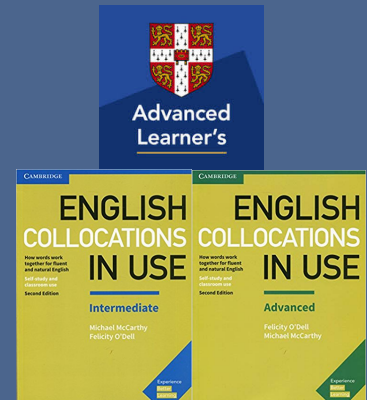
ST. ANDREW'S
COLLEGE
Cambridge

IELTS NEWSLETTER APRIL 2019



IELTS TIPS AND ADVICE

- Making the most of your English
- Useful websites, apps and books
- Self-study support



Making the Most of your English

Tips of the month: Use English during the Easter holiday. It is vital that you maintain your level of English over the holiday, especially if you have not yet achieved the IELTS score you need for university and are planning to take an IELTS test in May or June. Your IELTS teacher can give you homework based on things you find difficult in the test. You can also do the activities on page 5, check your vocabulary on Quizlet and use other apps such as IELTS Wordpower and IELTS Prep.

Useful Websites, Apps and Books

Website of the month - We suggest using <https://www.cambridgeenglish.org/exams-and-tests/ielts/> There is information about the test format as well as preparation material in the form of a free practice test to download, practice tests you can purchase, online resources and recommended books.

App of the month - We recommend the **Cambridge Advanced Learner's Dictionary** app. Using an English only dictionary is essential because it provides definitions in English as well as synonyms. This is very useful for IELTS reading and listening because to answer the questions you need to understand how things are expressed in different ways in English. This is also useful for IELTS writing and speaking, as you need to avoid repetition and use a wide range of language. The example sentences provided in the dictionary show you how to use new language, which helps to make your writing and speaking more accurate. When you record new language in your notebook, you should always write down synonyms and an example sentence for context.

Book of the month - **English Collocations in Use Intermediate/ Advanced** Using collocations instead of single words is a good way to improve your vocabulary scores for writing and speaking. These books provide examples of collocations on a wide range of topics.

Self-Study Support

If you would like extra support with your English, you can speak to Jo.

You can find her in the teachers' quiet room on the top floor at Regent St.

Jo can give you extra exam practice and feedback as well as advice on how to study effectively outside of lessons.

IELTS TEACHER PROFILE

In every newsletter we will include a profile of one of our IELTS teachers, so you can get to know more about us. This month, Wenyan Lu.



IELTS Teacher Profile

I have been teaching English since I finished university a long, long time ago. I studied English at university in Shanghai, and subsequently acquired a TESOL Certificate from Trinity College London and a Master's degree in Creative Writing from the University of Cambridge. Beyond teaching, I also have extensive experience of working in radio in China.

I love teaching and learning in a setting with a warm and friendly atmosphere, which is exactly what St Andrew's College offers. I always try to create a strong rapport in class and to accommodate students' individual needs, encourage them to be proactive and not afraid to make mistakes.

In my spare time, I write novels and translate literary works.

Your IELTS Teachers

All our IELTS teachers have experience preparing students for the exam. They are always happy to help.

If you are worried about a particular part of the exam, let your teacher know and they will focus on it in class.

SKILL OF THE MONTH: LISTENING



Listening Advice

Listen Regularly

It is essential that you get into the habit of listening to English regularly. You are more likely to perform well in the exam if you are used to listening.

You can

- Watch TV programmes/ films in English
- Listen to talks online, such as <https://www.ted.com/#/>
- Use language learning websites, such as <http://www.bbc.co.uk/learningenglish/english/features/6-minute-english>
- Use listening apps, such as BBC Sounds

You should

- Have a set time every week to listen to English. You are more likely to keep up the habit if you have a regular time.
- Listen something you are interested in. You are more likely to maintain this habit if you are interested in what you are listening to.

Use the listening script/ subtitles in English - Listening can be difficult if you don't understand how we pronounce words and sentences. Listening and reading at the same time helps you get used to this, so that next time you hear the words, you should be able to understand them.

Increase your Vocabulary - You need to understand a wide range of complex vocabulary to perform well in the exam. It takes a long time to build up the amount of language required, so make sure you are regularly expanding your range of vocabulary. Regular listening will help you do this.

Self-Study books - You can also work through self-study books to help you develop your listening skills. For example, *Improve your skills: Listening for IELTS*. This will give you advice about how to answer the different types of questions.

Check your answers effectively - In order to make progress, when you do practice tests, it's essential that you understand why answers are right and wrong and can notice connections between the questions and answers. One of the best ways to do this is to use a practice test book that explains this, for example IELTS Trainer. You can also ask your teacher to explain the answers.

It is important to develop exam skills and strategies for all parts of the IELTS test.

You need to identify which task types are difficult for you and do further practice on them.

Analyse your practice tests with you teacher to help you understand which parts of the test are more difficult

Every month we will focus on a different skill with advice about how to improve.

For more information on IELTS Listening, look here:

<https://www.ielts.org/about-the-test/test-format>

<https://takeielts.britishcouncil.org/prepare-test/understand-test-format/listening-test>

TOPIC OF THE MONTH: TOWNS AND CITIES

The IELTS logo is displayed in a white rectangular box. The word "IELTS" is written in a bold, red, sans-serif font. A small "TM" trademark symbol is located at the top right of the letter "S".

Develop your vocabulary for speaking:

Go to <https://www.ielts speaking.co.uk/ielts-town-and-city-vocabulary/> for vocabulary in context. There are sample questions and answers for IELTS speaking using a range of vocabulary related to towns and cities

Read about the topic:

News articles are a great source of authentic reading material.
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-cambridgeshire-47628185>

The British Council also has reading material with tasks designed for language learners. <http://learnenglishteens.britishcouncil.org/magazine/life-around-world/whats-it-be-londoner>

Listen to talks about the topic:

<https://www.ted.com/search?cat=videos&q=city> TED talks are a great way to help develop your listening skills.

Other useful sites are
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/learningenglish/english/features/6-minute-english/ep-170202> and <http://www.bbc.co.uk/learningenglish/english/features/6-minute-english/ep-160714>. Listen to a conversation about the topic for 6 minutes, answer a comprehension question and hear new language in context.

Write about the topic:

Here is a sample question for IELTS Writing Task 2.

You should spend about 40 minutes on this task.

People who live in large cities face a range of problems in their daily life. What are the most significant of these problems? How can these problems be tackled?

Write at least 250 words

Email your essay to jo.medcalf@standrewscambridge.co.uk or bring it to the teachers' quiet room on the top floor at Regent St for feedback.

It is essential to develop your vocabulary on a range of topics for IELTS. To get a high score you need to show that you can understand and use a wide range of language.

Every month we will focus on a topic and activities and tasks related to it.

It is important to read about different topics to develop your ideas as well as to learn new language and see how it is used.

Listening is another way to learn new language in context. Listen with the transcript to help you understand how we pronounce words and sentences.

You should also write regularly about different topics, as a chance to practice using a variety of language and to get regular feedback from your IELTS teachers, in order to help you improve.

USING QUIZLET AND JOINING THE ST ANDREW'S QUIZLET CLASS

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You can use the [Quizlet app](#) on your phone or log on to www.quizlet.com. The app is free to use for students.

Why is Quizlet useful?

- In order to be able to remember new language, you need to see and use it a number of times. There are 5 different activities to use on the app and an extra 2 on the website. If you do all the activities, you have a good chance of remembering the words.
- You will see new words and phrases used in a sentence. This is because, rather than learning lists of words, it is better to see new language in context, to show you how it is used. Pay attention to this, for example, notice which preposition is used before or after the word. This will help you use it more accurately.
- You will also see the meaning of the word or phrase in English. This is helpful because you need to get used to understanding how language is expressed in different ways in English.

How often should you use Quizlet?

- It is better not to do all the activities at the same time. Do one or 2 a week and then return to the vocabulary set after a break. This will help consolidate the language into your long-term memory.

What should you do after you have completed the practice activities?

- The next stage is to use the language in your writing and speaking. This will help you remember it and enhance your vocabulary score in these areas. For example, when your teacher gives you writing homework, try to use as many of the words as you can.

How to join the St Andrew's IELTS Quizlet class

- Download the app and register for free (don't use the paid version – this is for teachers)
- Search under 'Users' for JoMedcalf
- Go to 'Classes'
- Select the 'St Andrew's IELTS' class.
- Send a request to join

One of the best ways to develop your English is to expand the range of vocabulary that you can understand and use. This will help in all parts of the exam.

For IELTS, it is important to develop your topic-based vocabulary.

Every month we will add vocabulary for a new topic to the St Andrews's Quizlet class.

This month's topic is Towns and Cities

If you would like any help joining the class, using Quizlet, or would like to suggest a topic to add, please email jo.medcalf@standrewscambridge.co.uk

IELTS DROP-IN SESSIONS

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Please come along to the drop-in sessions for additional support with your English.

These sessions are student-led, so the focus is on what you would like help with. For example, you can

- ask questions about the IELTS exam
- ask questions about learning English in general
- develop your speaking skills through discussion in English
- get extra homework and feedback on reading, writing, speaking, listening, vocabulary or grammar
- get advice about how to study IELTS and improve your English in your free time.

For more information, please contact jo.medcalf@standrewscambridge.co.uk

There are 2 sessions depending on your level of English:

Wednesday 17:00-18:00

(IELTS 7+)

Regent St Room 7

Thursday 16:30-17:30

(IELTS 5-6.5)

Regent St Room 1

BOOKING IELTS TESTS AND THE NEXT IELTS PRACTICE TEST



Please speak to Jo when you want to book an **IELTS test**. You can find her in the teachers' quiet room on the top floor at Regent St. Wednesday is the best day as she is there all day.

Which IELTS test should you take?

There are two types of IELTS test: Academic and General Training. You must take the **Academic test** for university.

The Academic test can be taken as a UKVI and Non-UKVI test. It is school policy for all students to take a **UKVI test**. This is so you can use your results to support visa applications and to enter university. A UKVI test is necessary for a university Foundation Course, which you will need to take if you don't get the IELTS score you need.

What you need to book the test

- Your passport or a photo of it.
- A Visa or Mastercard (or you can pay in cash at the Accounts office, 9 Station Road. If you do this, you need to show Jo the receipt before she can book the test.) The cost is £200 (£205 if you book using the school credit card.)
- If you are paying by card, the phone the card is linked to. (Some credit cards send a code to your phone when you pay.)

When should you take an IELTS test?

We will do practice tests every half term. We recommend that you use the results to decide if you are ready to take the external test again. Your teacher can also advise you. It is best not to take the test too often, as your result is unlikely to change in a short time. You should also avoid taking the test too soon after a holiday break, as you need time to refresh your English when you return.

May and June are popular times to take the IELTS test. Therefore, if you need to take an IELTS test then, you should book it before the Easter holidays in case spaces run out on your chosen date.

Test Dates in Cambridge

These are the upcoming test dates in Cambridge. Spaces can fill up quickly, so we advise booking well in advance.

April 6th 2019

April 13th 2019

April 27th 2019

May 4th 2019

May 11th 2019

May 18th 2019

June 1st 2019

June 22nd 2019

June 29th 2019

July 6th 2019

July 20th 2019

July 27th 2019