

IELTS *Express*

Intermediate Coursebook

Second Edition

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INCLUDES
COMPLETE
PRACTICE
TEST

IELTS EXPRESS

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READING

Studying Overseas

Exam tasks Short-answer questions; classification; true/false/not given
Skills Skimming and scanning; predicting content

1 Introduction

Discuss these questions with a partner.

- Have you ever studied abroad? Where did you study? Did you enjoy it? What were the main benefits of studying abroad? What were the main challenges?
- If you have never studied abroad, would you like to? Where and what would you like to study? Why? What do you think are the main benefits of studying abroad? What do you think would be the main challenges?

2 Skimming and scanning

A Both skimming and scanning involve reading a text quickly, but are used for different reasons.

Skimming is when you quickly read for just the main idea of a text, without thinking about specific details. Scanning is when you read to find specific pieces of information, such as names, dates and facts.

Look at situations 1–4 and tick the correct box for each.

IN THE EXAM

Reading module: Academic and General Training

The IELTS Reading module takes 60 minutes and consists of three sections. In the Academic module, each section features one reading text taken from books, magazines, journals and newspapers. In the General Training module, each section may consist of one or more passages, taken from sources such as advertisements, leaflets and instruction manuals, of the kind you would find every day in an English-speaking country.

In both the Academic and General Training modules, you have to answer 40 questions in total, based on a variety of task types, such as matching, short-answer questions, true/false/not given and multiple-choice questions. The task types and skills required for them (skimming, scanning, making predictions, etc.) are the same for the Academic and General Training modules.

Express Tip

In the IELTS Reading module, one of your biggest challenges is time; being able to skim and scan quickly will help you save time.

- 1 You look at a newspaper to see if there's a film on TV tonight.
- 2 You look at a train timetable to see when the next train is due.
- 3 You need to decide if a long article will be useful for some research you are doing.
- 4 You have a meeting in ten minutes, and you haven't read the report you are going to discuss.

skim

scan

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B Skim the short article below in 30 seconds. Which of the following describes the main idea of the text?

- 1 It is important to speak English if you want to be successful in business.
- 2 Most of the world's mail is written in English.
- 3 English is the most widely used language in the world.

English is the second most commonly spoken, and by far the most widespread of the world's languages. It is estimated that there are 350 million native speakers, 300 million who use English as a second language and a further billion using it as a foreign language. English is spoken by scientists, pilots, computer experts, diplomats and tourists; it is the language of the world! Did you know over 50% of all business deals are conducted in English? And over 70% of all mail is written and addressed in English? It is the official or co-official language of over 50 countries and furthermore, it is spoken extensively in other countries where it has no official status. It is perhaps, therefore, not surprising that in recent years we have seen a dramatic increase in the number of students opting to study abroad. In the future this will cement the role that English plays in the cultural, political or economic life of many countries around the world from Australia to Zambia.

C Look at these numbers from the text. Do you remember what they refer to? Match the numbers with their reference below. Then scan the text in 30 seconds to find the answers.

- over 70% the amount of business done in English
over 50% the amount of mail written in English

3 Predicting content

A Before you read a text in the IELTS exam, it is a good idea to predict what you are going to read. One way is to use the information in the title (or main heading), the summary paragraph and any subheadings.

Look at the article on page 12. Read the main heading and the subheadings. Based on the information in the headings, which of the following do you think best describes the text?

- 1 Information about universities, promoting each institution as a good place to study
- 2 A holiday brochure, 'selling' the UK as a destination for a quick break
- 3 A magazine article, giving advice on living and studying abroad in different English-speaking countries

B When you skim a text, don't worry about words you don't understand. Try to get an overall impression of the text. Make sure you read the first sentence of each paragraph. These will help you get an overview of the text. Time yourself, and take two minutes to skim the article. Then decide if your answer in 3A was correct.

Your adventure starts where?

An increasing number of students are thinking of going overseas to study for a degree. This week we focus on five English-speaking countries, examining what each has to offer and why you might choose to study there.



With thousands of institutions and courses to choose from, how do you decide where to study as an international student? Do you dream of heading for the land of Uncle Sam or would you feel more at home in Shakespeare's country? Perhaps the Australian outback will give you the space you need to work out the problems of the world. Whichever you choose, the adventure begins right here!

STUDY IN AUSTRALIA

Free-spirited Australia has been open to migration for many years and is today one of the world's top three destinations for international students. Australia's renowned cultural diversity, its high level of public safety and the vibrant atmosphere of its cities all help to make it easy for overseas visitors to feel at home. Academically speaking, most of the national, publicly-funded universities are of similarly high standard. Moreover, Australian institutions have a particularly strong reputation for research into the environment and sport science.

STUDY IN THE UK

Many students are attracted to Britain by its long history of literature, from Chaucer and Shakespeare to Bridget Jones and Harry Potter. Look beyond this, and you'll find a university system with one of the best reputations in the world. Universities in the UK have a record of achievement in business, law, the sciences, philosophy, linguistics and many other fields. Some UK institutions offer a foundation course (usually three months or one year in length) to prepare international students before they go on to do a full undergraduate or post-graduate degree; applying for one of these courses normally involves taking the IELTS exam.

STUDY IN NEW ZEALAND

With its vast and beautiful open spaces and friendly city

centres, New Zealand is a country where you can enjoy both the great outdoors and the conveniences and dynamism of modern city life. Low living costs and a high standard of living also make life here very appealing. New Zealand's highly respected educational programmes are based on the British system. A large part of a degree programme is practical; this gives graduates both the knowledge and the skills they need when entering the workplace.

STUDY IN THE USA

The population of the USA is made up of people from every continent, joined together by a shared language and a core set of values. Of these values, liberty and freedom are probably the most important, combined with individual responsibility. American students are therefore expected to think independently and have responsibility for their own studies; classes are often informal and students are encouraged to express their opinion. With 50 states all offering a huge range of different types of institutions – from two-year community college courses to four-year undergraduate programmes – deciding where to study in the USA may appear confusing, so it is important to do some research first.

STUDY IN CANADA

Surveys conducted by the United Nations have repeatedly found Canada to be among the top ten places in the world to live in. In addition, Canada's largest cities, Vancouver, Toronto and Montreal, have been recognised as world-class cities in which to live and work, for their cleanliness and safety and for their cultural activities and attractive lifestyles. A Canadian degree, diploma or certificate is well regarded in business, government and academic circles around the globe. Canada has two official languages – English and French. Studying and living in Canada could be your opportunity to learn both!