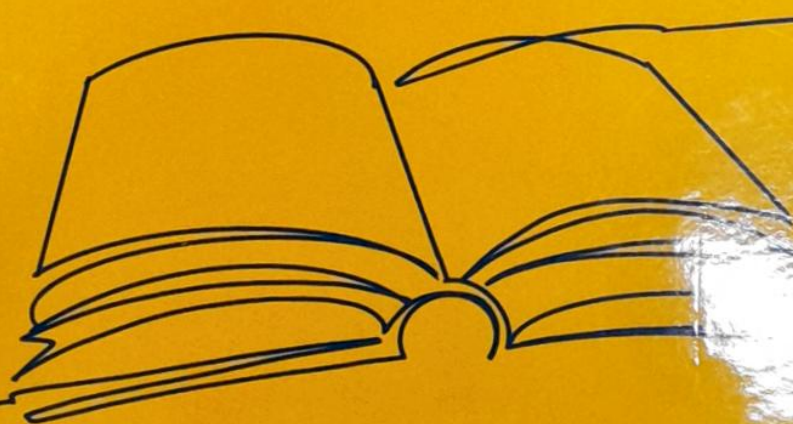


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READING FOR IELTS

Els Van Geyte &
Rhona Snelling



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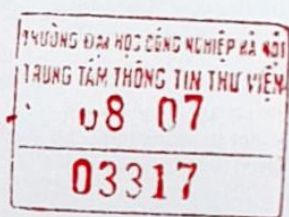
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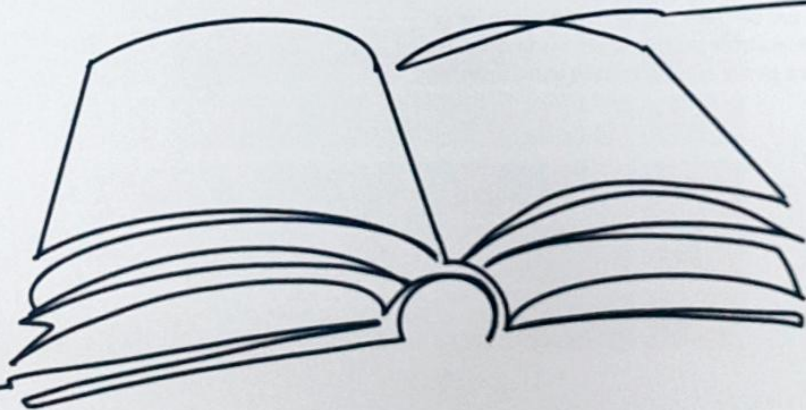
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SÁCH TÁI BẢN



NTV

Công ty TNHH
Nhân Trí Việt



NHÀ XUẤT BẢN TỔNG HỢP
THÀNH PHỐ HỒ CHÍ MINH

Collins Reading for IELTS

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All exam-style questions and sample answers in this title were written by the authors.

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Contents

Unit title	Topic	Page
Introduction		4
The International English Language Testing System (IELTS) test		6
1 Family matters	Family and relationships	8
2 Health care	Health and fitness	16
3 Getting an education	Education	24
4 Water	Nature and the environment	34
5 Non-verbal clues	Language and communication	42
6 Scientists at work	Science and technology	50
7 The job market	Employment and finances	60
8 Life's journey	Youth and life stages	68
9 Community spirit	People and places	78
10 On the move	Holidays and travel	86
11 Culture	Culture and modern society	94
12 Practice exam		102
Answer key		112
Sample answer sheet		143
Text credits		144

Introduction

Who is this book for?

Reading for IELTS will prepare you for the IELTS Reading test whether you are taking the test for the first time or re-sitting the test. It has been written for learners with band score 5–5.5 who are trying to achieve band score 6.5 or higher.

The structured approach and comprehensive answer key have been designed so that you can use the materials to study on your own. However, the book can also be used as a supplementary reading skills course for IELTS preparation classes. The book provides enough material for approximately 50 hours of classroom time.

Content

Reading for IELTS is divided into 12 units. Each unit focuses on a topic area that you are likely to encounter in the IELTS Reading test. This helps you to build up a bank of vocabulary and ideas related to a variety of the topics. As in the IELTS test, the texts are taken from authentic sources. These may contain narratives, logical arguments, descriptions or discussions. Some of the texts contain visuals.

Units 1–11 cover the task types that you will see in the IELTS Reading test. Every exercise is relevant to the exam. The aims listed at the start of each unit specify the key skills, techniques and language covered in the unit. You work towards Unit 12, which provides a final practice IELTS Reading test.

Additionally, the book provides examination strategies telling you what to expect and how best to succeed in the test. *Exam information* is presented in clear, easy-to-read boxes. *Exam tips* in each unit highlight essential exam techniques and can be rapidly reviewed at a glance.

There are also *Watch out* boxes that will help you avoid common errors made in the exam. Finally, the *Exam tutor* at the end of each unit gives you the opportunity to revise and consolidate the exam skills you have studied.

Unit structure

Each of the first 11 units is divided into three parts.

Part 1 Language development introduces vocabulary related to the topic, often in the context of short reading texts. A range of exercises gives you the opportunity to learn and use the vocabulary in a variety of contexts. The focus is on strategies and activities that will help improve your reading skills, for example, working out the meaning of unknown words through word components, or by examining word forms. The vocabulary is presented using Collins COBUILD dictionary definitions.

Part 2 Exam skills provides step-by-step exercises and guidance on specific task types that appear in the exam. Each unit covers typical text types found in the exam and focuses on different task types and skills. *Exam information* and *Exam tips* show you how to approach each task type and will help you develop successful test-taking strategies.

Part 3 Exam practice provides exam practice for the same tasks that you did in Part 2, using the same question and text types. The format follows the actual exam. Each unit also includes an *Exam tutor* checklist after the exam practice that will help you assess your readiness for the actual exam.

Answer key

A comprehensive answer key is provided for all sections of the book, including notes on why certain answers are correct or incorrect.

Using the book for self-study

If you are new to IELTS, we recommend that you work systematically through the 12 units in order to benefit from its progressive structure. If you are a more experienced learner, you can use the aims listed at the start of each unit to select the most useful exercises.

Each unit contains between three to four hours of self-study material. Having access to someone who can provide informed feedback on the reading practice exercises is an advantage. However, you can still learn a lot working alone or with a study partner willing to give and receive peer feedback.

Part 1: Language development

Ideally, you should begin each unit by working through the *Part 1: Language development* exercises. Try to answer the questions without looking at a dictionary in order to develop the skill of inferring the meaning of unfamiliar words from context. This is important because dictionaries cannot be used in the actual exam.

Part 2: Exam skills

Work through the *Part 2: Exam skills* from beginning to end. It is important to study the *Exam information* and *Exam tips* about each of the Reading task types, so that you become familiar with how to approach the different tasks in the test. Doing this will also help you develop more general skills for reading.

The strategies covered should be thoroughly mastered so that during the actual exam you are fully prepared for each section and can focus on reading and answering the questions. In the IELTS test itself, there is a time limit and you usually have to work fast, but while studying Part 2 of each unit in this book, take your time and learn as much as you can about the different task types.

Part 3: Exam practice

This section contains Exam practice questions and the *Exam tutor*. After you have done the practice questions, it is a good idea to spend some time reviewing why certain answers are the correct ones and then work through the *Exam tutor*. For this reason, we suggest you approach this part in the following way:

First do the exam. Here, you should focus on answering the questions correctly. You should try and complete the Exam practice questions within the time limit set, as this gives you the opportunity to practise under exam conditions. After you have finished the Exam practice questions, make sure the format and spelling of your answers are correct. Then, check your answers using the answer key at the back of the book.

Unit 12 Practice exam

This is a complete Reading practice test. This unit should be done under exam conditions. Remember that the total allocated time is 60 minutes; there is no extra time to transfer answers. Please keep this in mind when doing Unit 12.

Using the book in the classroom

If you are a teacher, you can use *Reading for IELTS* either as your main IELTS coursebook or as a supplementary course. Detailed teacher's notes for each unit are available at: www.nhantriviet.com/collinsielts.

The International English Language Testing System (IELTS) test

IELTS is jointly managed by the British Council, Cambridge ESOL Examinations and IDP Education, Australia. There are two versions of the test:

- Academic
- General Training

Academic is for students wishing to study at undergraduate or postgraduate levels in an English-medium environment. General Training is for people who wish to migrate to an English-speaking country. This book is primarily for students taking the Academic version.

The test

There are four modules:

- Listening** 30 minutes, plus 10 minutes for transferring answers to the answer sheet.
NB: the audio is heard only once.
Approx. 10 questions per section
Section 1: two speakers discuss a social situation
Section 2: one speaker talks about a non-academic topic
Section 3: up to four speakers discuss an educational project
Section 4: one speaker gives a talk of general academic interest
- Reading** 60 minutes
3 texts, taken from authentic sources, on general, academic topics. They may contain diagrams, charts, etc.
40 questions: may include multiple choice, sentence completion, completing a diagram, graph or chart, choosing headings, yes/no/not given, true/false/not given, classification and matching.
- Writing** Task 1: 20 minutes: description of a table, chart, graph or diagram (150 words minimum)
Task 2: 40 minutes: an essay in response to an argument or problem (250 words minimum)
- Speaking** 11–14 minutes
A three-part face-to-face oral interview with an examiner. The interview is recorded.
Part 1: introductions and general questions (4–5 mins)
Part 2: individual long turn (3–4 mins) – the candidate is given a task, has one minute to prepare, then talks for 1–2 minutes, with some questions from the examiner.
Part 3: two-way discussion (4–5 mins): the examiner asks further questions on the topic from Part 2, and gives the candidate the opportunity to discuss more abstract issues or ideas.
- Timetabling** Listening, Reading and Writing must be taken on the same day, and in the order listed above. Speaking can be taken up to 7 days before or after the other modules.
- Scoring** Each section is given a band score. The average of the four scores produces the Overall Band Score. You do not pass or fail IELTS; you receive a score.

IELTS and the Common European Framework of Reference

The CEFR shows the level of the learner and is used for many English as a Foreign Language examinations. The table below shows the approximate CEFR level and the equivalent IELTS Overall Band Score:

CEFR description	CEFR level	IELTS Band Score
Proficient user (Advanced)	C2	9
	C1	7–8
Independent user (Intermediate – Upper Intermediate)	B2	5–6.5
	B1	4–5

This table contains the general descriptors for the band scores 1–9:

IELTS Band Scores		
9	Expert user	Has fully operational command of the language: appropriate, accurate and fluent with complete understanding.
8	Very good user	Has fully operational command of the language, with only occasional unsystematic inaccuracies and inappropriacies. Misunderstandings may occur in unfamiliar situations. Handles complex detailed argumentation well.
7	Good user	Has operational command of the language, though with occasional inaccuracies, inappropriacies and misunderstandings in some situations. Generally handles complex language well and understands detailed reasoning.
6	Competent user	Has generally effective command of the language despite some inaccuracies, inappropriacies and misunderstandings. Can use and understand fairly complex language, particularly in familiar situations.
5	Modest user	Has partial command of the language, coping with overall meaning in most situations, though is likely to make many mistakes. Should be able to handle basic communication in own field.
4	Limited user	Basic competence is limited to familiar situations. Has frequent problems in understanding and expression. Is not able to use complex language.
3	Extremely limited user	Conveys and understands only general meaning in very familiar situations. Frequent breakdowns in communication occur.
2	Intermittent user	No real communication is possible except for the most basic information using isolated words or short formulae in familiar situations and to meet immediate needs. Has great difficulty understanding spoken and written English.
1	Non user	Essentially has no ability to use the language beyond possibly a few isolated words.
0	Did not attempt the test	No assessable information provided.

Marking

The Listening and Reading papers have 40 items, each worth one mark if correctly answered. Here are some examples of how marks are translated into band scores:

Listening:	16 out of 40 correct answers:	band score 5
	23 out of 40 correct answers:	band score 6
	30 out of 40 correct answers:	band score 7
Reading:	15 out of 40 correct answers:	band score 5
	23 out of 40 correct answers:	band score 6
	30 out of 40 correct answers:	band score 7

Writing and Speaking are marked according to performance descriptors.

Writing: examiners award a band score for each of four areas with equal weighting:

- Task achievement (Task 1)
- Task response (Task 2)
- Coherence and cohesion
- Lexical resource and grammatical range and accuracy

Speaking: examiners award a band score for each of four areas with equal weighting:

- Fluency and coherence
- Lexical resource
- Grammatical range
- Accuracy and pronunciation

For full details of how the examination is scored and marked, go to: www.ielts.org.