

IELTS Reading Mastery

Compiled by Akib (Easy IELTS Studies)

Evidence-Based Guide to Score 7+



1. The Real Battlefield

- **3 passages | 40 questions | 60 minutes**
- No transfer time → answers go directly on sheet.
- Passages increase in difficulty:
 - Passage 1 → Simple (facts, everyday-style info)
 - Passage 2 → Medium (more details, some opinions)
 - Passage 3 → Hard (abstract ideas, academic style)



IDP confirms: All answers are inside the text. No outside knowledge needed.

Analogy: Like climbing a hill → first slope is easy, last slope tests your stamina.

As an Indian we don't have a habit of reading English for 1 hr but now we are preparing for IELTS then we have to form this habit.

It's just like a Person who can't do casual morning walk but now suddenly he have to run a marathon

So need to form Habit Gradually without getting Scared of it



2. The Hidden Problem: Not Time, But Reading

Most students fail not because of *time*, but because:

- They don't **read properly the first time**.
- They find passages boring → switch off mentally.
- They lack reading habit → brain gets tired fast.



Solution:

- Build daily reading habit (science articles, editorials).
- Treat every passage as a **puzzle to solve, not a boring essay**.
- Train active reading → ask: "*What's the writer's main idea here?*"



3. Understanding First, Strategy Second

- Don't panic about unknown words → use context.
- Focus on **ideas & connections**, not word-for-word meaning.
- Strategies work best only after you've understood the main flow.

✓ 4. Skimming & Scanning (With Meaning)

- **Skim** → drone view for overall idea.
- **Scan** → detective's magnifying glass for details.

⚠ Mistake: Many skim too fast and miss meaning → then waste time re-reading.

✓ 5. Order vs Random Questions

👉 **In Order (step by step):**

- T/F/NG
- Yes/No/NG
- Sentence Completion (All Types of fill-ups)
- MCQs (mostly in order)

👉 **Random (jump around):**

- Matching Headings
- Matching People/Features
- Matching Statements

6. Question-Type Strategies (Official Approach)

1. **Matching Headings** → test of main ideas, not details.
2. **T/F/NG** → factual agreement, opposite, or missing.
3. **Yes/No/NG** → opinion agreement/disagreement.
4. **Sentence/Summary Completion** → check word limit. Copy exactly.
5. **Matching People/Features** → scattered, not in order. Make notes.
6. **Multiple Choice** → eliminate 2 wrongs. Pick evidence-backed.
7. **Diagram/Flow Chart** → read labels first, predict type of word.

7. Smart Time Allocation

- Don't spend equal time on all 3 passages.

- **Passage 1:** Easier → spend less time (12–15 mins).
- **Passage 2:** Medium → 18–20 mins.
- **Passage 3:** Hardest → give it the most time (25–28 mins).

📌 *Reason:* The last passage has complex ideas, long sentences, and higher-value questions. Saving energy and time for it is crucial.

Analogy: Like running a marathon → don't sprint in the first kilometer. Save energy for the uphill finish.

✓ 8. Guessing > Leaving Blank

- No negative marking. Always answer.
- Use elimination → narrow options.

✓ 9. Practice Smart, Not Blind

- Best source = **Cambridge IELTS Books**.
- After checking answers → ask “*Why wrong?*” not just “*What's right?*”
- Train stamina: Practice with 3 full passages under real timing.



IELTS Reading Mindset

- **Engage, don't endure.** Passages are puzzles, not punishments.
- **Expect rising difficulty.** Save time + energy for Passage 3.
- **Focus on understanding first.** Strategies are helpers, not shortcuts.
- **Stay calm.** Answers are always in the text.
- **Think examiner's perspective.** They are testing comprehension, not perfection.



Myths vs Reality

 Myth: Time is the main problem.

 Reality: Poor reading habits + weak focus are bigger problems.

 Myth: All passages take equal time.

 Reality: Spend least time on Passage 1, most on Passage 3.

 Myth: You must understand every word.

 Reality: Context + main idea matter more.

 Myth: Reading newspapers is enough.

 Reality: Only IELTS-style practice builds exam skills.
