


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.
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✓ 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
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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.
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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.
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✅ 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.
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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.
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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.
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