

Most IELTS marks are lost to a small number of habits, not to a gap in English. The ✕ line is what candidates do; the ✓ line is what scores. Work through the ones for your weakest skill first – universities set a floor on each skill, so the lowest number is the one that decides. 雅思失分多半来自几个固定习惯，而不是英语不够好。✕ 是常见做法，✓ 是能得分的做法。先看你最弱那一项：学校对单项都有最低要求，最低的那个数字决定录取。

Across the whole test

- ✕ Preparing the skill you enjoy and leaving the weakest one alone.
- ✓ Prepare the lowest band first. An overall 7.0 with 5.5 in Writing fails a 6.0-in-each requirement.

Universities set a floor on each skill as well as on the overall band, so the weakest number is the one that decides the offer.

先补最弱的一项IELTS scoring in detail
- ✕ Booking the paper test by habit.
- ✓ Book the computer test unless you have a reason not to.

Results come in three to five days instead of thirteen, and only a computer test qualifies for One Skill Retake.

优先选机考IELTS One Skill Retake
- ✕ Re-sitting the whole test because one skill was short.
- ✓ Sit One Skill Retake within 60 days of a computer test.

You may retake any one skill, once, and receive a new Test Report Form carrying that score and the original three.

只重考不达标的那一项IELTS One Skill Retake
- ✕ Memorising model answers and reciting them.
- ✓ Prepare topics and sentence patterns, not scripts.

Examiners are trained to discount memorised language, so a recited answer scores lower than the same idea in your own words.

准备话题，不要背范文IELTS Lexical resource
- ✕ Treating a long word as a better word.
- ✓ Use a common word precisely; check the words that go with it.

Lexical resource rewards collocation and precision. A rare word in the wrong collocation is marked as an error, not as range.

用词要准，不要堆难词IELTS Lexical resource
- ✕ Practising Listening with the recording paused or replayed.
- ✓ Play it once, straight through, then mark it.

The real test plays each recording once. Practising any other way trains a skill the test does not measure.

听力只放一遍IELTS Listening format

- ✕ Leaving an answer blank because you are unsure.
- ✓ Guess every blank before time runs out.

There is no penalty for a wrong answer in Listening or Reading, so a blank is a mark you have chosen to give away.

空着等于送分IELTS Listening format
- ✕ Assuming IELTS for UKVI is a harder test and preparing differently.
- ✓ Prepare identically; book the UKVI session if a UK university or visa route asks for it.

The questions, format, difficulty and scoring are the same. Only the session and the Test Report Form differ.

UKVI 考的是同一套题IELTS for UKVI
- 2 · Listening 听力
- ✕ Reading the questions while the recording is already playing.

✓ Use the preparation time to predict the word class of every gap.

Knowing you are waiting for a time, a plural noun or an adjective is most of the work, and that time is free.

先预判空格词性IELTS Listening format

✕ Listening for the words that are printed in the question.

✓ Listen for a paraphrase of them.

The recording almost never uses the question's own words, so a candidate listening for them hears nothing.

听同义改写，不是原词class

✕ Writing the singular when the recording said a plural.

✓ Listen for the final -s, and copy the grammar of the gap.

Plurals are marked strictly, and Mandarin has no final consonant there, so the -s is easy to miss.

复数要听尾音class

✕ Writing a three-word answer where the instruction says two.

✓ Underline the word limit before the recording starts.

An over-length answer is marked wrong even when it is true, and this rule costs more marks than mishearing does.

看清字数上限IELTS Listening format

✕ Stopping to work out a missed answer.

✓ Leave it blank, keep up, and return in the checking time.

The recording does not wait, so one lost question usually costs the next one too.

漏了就先跳过class

✕ Choosing the option you hear mentioned first.

✓ Wait for the correction – actually, in fact, although, on second thoughts.

Parts 3 and 4 name two options and reject one; the rejected one is usually said first.

先出现的常是干扰项class
- IELTS Academic · Common Mistakes 常见错误
- 2

3 · Reading 阅读

- ✗ Answering NOT GIVEN as FALSE because the passage does not say it.
- ✓ **FALSE needs a sentence that contradicts the statement. No sentence either way is NOT GIVEN.**

This single confusion is the biggest mark-loser on Academic Reading, and it is a rule rather than a judgement.
没说 ≠ 说错class
- ✗ Deciding TRUE because the statement is true in the real world.
- ✓ **Judge only what the passage states.**

Identifying information tests the text, not your knowledge, and an obviously true statement the passage never makes is NOT GIVEN.
只看文章说了什么class
- ✗ Planning to copy answers onto the answer sheet at the end.
- ✓ **Write on the answer sheet as you go.**

Academic Reading gives no extra transfer time at all, unlike Listening on paper.
阅读没有誊写时间IELTS Reading format
- ✗ Spending thirty minutes on the first passage.
- ✓ **Stop at 20 and 40 minutes, whatever is unfinished.**

The passages get harder and each carries the same number of marks, so an early passage that overruns eats a later one.
每篇 20 分钟，硬停class
- ✗ Matching a heading to a paragraph because they share a word.
- ✓ **Match the paragraph’s function – what it is doing, not what it mentions.**

The shared word is usually the trap; two headings will be near-synonyms and those are the pair being tested.
配段落作用，不配关键词class
- ✗ Replacing a word from the passage with a synonym of your own.
- ✓ **Copy the word exactly as the passage spells it.**

Most completion tasks require words taken from the text, and a substituted synonym scores zero.
填空要照抄原词IELTS Reading format
- ✗ Reading the whole passage carefully before looking at the questions.
- ✓ **Read the questions, scan for where each is answered, then read that part closely.**

Sixty minutes does not allow a careful read plus forty answers, and the questions follow the passage in order for most task types.
先看题，再定位class

4 · Writing 写作

- ✗ Describing a Task 1 figure line by line, year by year.
- ✓ **Write an overview sentence, then group the detail into two paragraphs.**

Without an overview, Task achievement cannot pass band 5 however accurate the detail is.
必须有概述句IELTS Task achievement
- ✗ Explaining why the data changed, or saying which trend is good.
- ✓ **Report what the figure shows and nothing else.**

Task 1 has no opinion; an invented cause or a recommendation caps Task achievement at band 5.
Task 1 不写观点IELTS Task achievement
- ✗ Writing ‘increased of 20%’ or ‘rose to 20%’ when you mean by.
- ✓ **Rise BY the size of the change, TO the end point, FROM one value TO another.**

These three prepositions carry the meaning, and getting them wrong is read as an accuracy error, not a style one.
by / to / from 要分清class
- ✗ Calling a change from 20% to 24% ‘a rise of 4%’.
- ✓ **Call it a rise of 4 percentage points.**

A rise of 4% of 20% would be 0.8 percentage points. The two are different quantities and examiners read this as inaccuracy.
百分点不是百分比class
- ✗ Opening with ‘With the development of society’ or ‘It is undeniable that’.
- ✓ **Start with the topic itself.**

Memorised openers carry no information and are discounted, so they lower Lexical resource rather than raising it.
删掉套话开头IELTS Lexical resource
- ✗ Agreeing in the introduction and concluding that both sides have merit.
- ✓ **Hold one position from the first sentence to the last.**

A position that wobbles cannot pass band 6 on Task response, however well the English is written.
立场要一以贯之IELTS Task response
- ✗ Answering one half of a two-part question.
- ✓ **Give each question its own paragraph.**

A partly answered question cannot pass band 5 on Task response.
两问都要答IELTS Task response
- ✗ Starting every sentence with Firstly, Moreover, Furthermore, Last but not least.
- ✓ **Link with pronouns, repeated noun phrases and the order of ideas.**

Mechanical linkers are counted as over-use and lower Coherence and cohesion.
连接词不是越多越好IELTS Coherence and cohesion

✗ Spending thirty minutes on Task 1 because it comes first.

✓ **Give Task 1 twenty minutes and Task 2 forty.**

Task 2 is worth twice as much, so time taken from it costs twice as much.

Task 2 占双倍分

IELTS Writing format

✗ Writing 180 words for Task 2 and hoping the quality carries it.

✓ **Reach 250 words. Count if you are unsure.**

Under-length is penalised mechanically on Task response before quality is considered at all.

字数不够先扣分

IELTS Writing format

✗ Writing ‘Although it is expensive, but it is useful’.

✓ **Use one connector: Although it is expensive, it is useful.**

Although...but and Because...so are direct translations of Chinese patterns and are counted as grammar errors.

although 和 but 不并用

class

✗ Writing ‘more and more informations’ or ‘many advices’.

✓ **Information, advice, equipment and research are uncountable and have no plural.**

Unmarked plurals and false plurals are the two most frequent errors in Chinese candidates’ scripts and both hit Grammatical range and accuracy.

不可数名词没有复数

class

5 · Speaking 口语

✗ Answering a Part 1 question with one word.

✓ **Answer, then add one reason or example – two or three sentences.**

A one-word answer gives the examiner nothing to mark, and Part 1 is where the easy range is shown.

回答 + 一个理由

class

✗ Running out of things to say after 45 seconds in Part 2.

✓ **Practise with a timer until two minutes is comfortable.**

The examiner does not stop you early, and a short long turn costs Fluency and coherence directly.

两分钟要练到习惯

IELTS Speaking format

✗ Writing full sentences in the one-minute preparation.

✓ **Write six to eight nouns, one or two per prompt.**

Sentences cannot be read aloud naturally; single words trigger speech without sounding recited.

准备时只记关键词

class

✗ Giving a one-sentence answer in Part 3.

✓ **State a view, give a reason, add an example, then consider the other side.**

Part 3 is where the higher bands are won, and developing an answer is the whole task.

Part 3 要展开

class

✗ Speaking fast to sound fluent.

✓ **Speak at your normal pace, with visible organisation.**

Fluency is measured by coherence and continuity, not speed, and a rush makes every pronunciation problem worse.

流利不等于快

IELTS Fluency and coherence

✗ Dropping the final consonant, the -ed and the plural -s.

✓ **Finish the word: walked, needed, lived, tickets, desks.**

Mandarin has no final obstruent, so these disappear – and they are heard as a tense or number error as well as a pronunciation one, costing two criteria at once.

词尾要发出来

class

✗ Ignoring pronunciation because it feels unteachable.

✓ **Drill the enumerable set: final consonants, -ed and -s, /θ/ and /ð/, /l/ /n/ /r/, and word stress.**

Pronunciation is a quarter of the Speaking band and the errors come from a small, fixed list, so it is the cheapest quarter to improve.

发音占四分之一

IELTS Pronunciation

✗ Answering a question you did not understand.

✓ **Ask: sorry, do you mean...?**

Asking costs nothing and is not penalised; answering the wrong question costs Fluency and coherence.

没听懂就问

class