

# IELTS Listening Short Answer Questions



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The thumbnail features a woman wearing headphones and writing on a notepad, with a laptop in front of her. The background is dark blue with a green triangle in the top right corner. On the left, a red arrow points right with the text 'click here'. The main text reads 'IELTS LISTENING PRACTICE TEST' in large, bold letters, with 'IELTS' in white on a green background and 'LISTENING PRACTICE TEST' in white and green. Below this is a white button that says 'DAILY NEW VIDEO'. A red play button icon is in the center. In the bottom right, there is a circular logo with 'IELTS Listening Test Daily' and a green checkmark, next to a red 'SUBSCRIBE' button.

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# IELTS Listening Short Answer Questions

## IELTS Listening Short Answer Question PDF: Practice Tests and Tips

A short answer question is a common question type in the IELTS Listening test. While they can appear in any section, they're especially frequent in Section 2. This section typically features a monologue (one person speaking) about an everyday social topic, like a welcome speech for students. In the IELTS listening short answer question, you need to listen carefully and fill in the blanks with concise answers. Sometimes more than one answer will be needed.

Learn how to answer IELTS Listening Short Answer questions successfully in this article.

## IELTS Listening Short Answer Questions Explained

To answer IELTS Listening short answer questions, first, quickly read the question to understand what information is needed and its word limit. You have 20 seconds to quickly go through the questions.

As you listen, focus on identifying the specific factual details from the recording that directly answer the question, and write them down using the **exact words** you hear, ensuring you stay within the specified word count. You will only get one chance to listen to the audio. The audio will not be played more than once. So be accurate while noting down the answers.

Here are a few sample IELTS Listening Short answer questions to give you an idea of the task.

## Sample IELTS Listening short answer questions for Practice

### Sample Question 1

Video Library Application Form Listening Answer

**Audio 1** (Refer to the article)



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*Write NO MORE THAN 3 WORDS for each answer.*

1. How much does it cost to join the library?
2. When will Louise's card be ready?

**Answers:**

1. \$25/ twenty-five dollars / 25 dollars (refundable)

Explanation: MR MAX tells LOUISE: Oh, and I nearly forgot, the membership fee. \$25, refundable if you leave the library for any reason.

2. next week / in a week / in one week / the following week

Explanation: MR MAX tells LOUISE: You can borrow videos now if you like, but your card won't be ready until next week.

## **Sample Question 2**

Waste and Waste Management

**Audio 2 (Refer to the article)**

*Write NO MORE THAN ONE WORD AND/OR A NUMBER for each answer.*

1. Where was a Stone Age rubbish dump found?
2. In Medieval times, what type of waste was most common?
3. What did science link with waste?
4. Which invention is the biggest problem for the environment?

**Answers:**

1. Norway
2. Organic
3. Disease
4. Plastic



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## IELTS Listening Short Answer Questions: Tips

### Follow the Instructions

Always **read the instructions carefully** for each question. They'll tell you how many words you can use for your answer. If you write over the **word limit**, even if your answer is correct, you'll lose marks. These limits can change, so check every time!

### Answers in Order

The great thing about listening questions is that the **answers appear in the same order** as the questions on your paper. This means you can just follow along with the audio from question one onwards.

### Predict the Answer

Before the audio starts, **look at the questions and try to guess what kind of answer you need**. Is it a name, a number, a place? This helps you focus on the right words when you're listening. Think of the questions as clues to what you should be listening for.

### Spot Paraphrasing and Synonyms

Don't expect the questions to use the exact same words as the audio. They often use **paraphrased sentences or synonyms**. Before you listen, quickly read the questions and **underline any words** that you think might be rephrased or replaced with similar meanings in the recording.

### Build Your Vocabulary

It's super important to **understand the words you hear** in the audio. A **strong vocabulary** is key for this. If you want to boost your understanding of common IELTS Listening words, you can check out resources like our IELTS Listening Words list.

### Watch Out for Distractors

Be aware of **distractors** in the audio – these are words or phrases meant to confuse you or make you second-guess. Words like "but," "however," or "until" often signal that the speaker is about to change information or offer an alternative. When you hear these, **think twice** about the full meaning of the sentence before choosing your answer. For more help with tough questions, explore our IELTS Listening tips page.



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