



# Preparing for the IELTS Test

If you are preparing to sit the IELTS or another language test for the purposes of immigration or entry to higher education it is important that you focus your attention on two aspects: improving your general level of English language so that you can function successfully in an English language environment and familiarising yourself with the test.

## Improving your general level of English

There are many ways you can do this but to make the fastest progress you need to spend most of your time speaking, reading, writing and listening in English. Try some of the following opportunities:

### At UniSA:

- The Aussie Family scheme – matches Australian families and International students to meet for social events such as bush walking, barbecues, the movies or a home cooked meal. Check this website for more information [Aussie Family scheme](#).
- Apply to assist with orientation for new students. Learning Connection advertises both paid and voluntary positions before the start of study periods 2 and 5.
- For more ideas see the [English language development](#) site.
- The [Events and conferences](#) site lists current public lectures and other events. By attending these you will get extra practice in listening to English and learn from experts in many fields.

### In the community

- Try to practise speaking English at every opportunity – when shopping, while at the market at the bus stop etc. Asking someone a question is a good way to start a conversation.
- Use the local media to practice listening and reading and writing.
- Read Australian newspapers and magazines to improve your reading skills and vocabulary. Many newspapers are available on the Web or in libraries.
- Listen to the radio to practise your listening skills – Radio National has many talk programs. Find one on an interesting topic and perhaps record it so that you can listen to it more than once.
- Write short summaries and reactions to news stories. This will give you practice at expressing your opinions in writing.

## Test practice materials

Try the sample materials on the IELTS pages to get an idea of the kinds of questions to expect in the test: [http://www.ielts.org/\\_lib/pdf/Information\\_for\\_Candidates\\_May\\_2006.pdf](http://www.ielts.org/_lib/pdf/Information_for_Candidates_May_2006.pdf)

There are many test practice materials available. You can:

- purchase from bookshops
- borrow from libraries - UniSA library has some for loan and some only available for use in the library
- access via the web – just enter 'IELTS test practice' in the search engine.

Use these materials to practice doing the test in the time required and to get an idea of the kinds of questions that will be asked.