

General Training Writing Task 1 week

Day 1 a) Make sure you know exactly what the Writing Test (Tasks 1 and 2) is like. Go to <https://www.ielts.org/about-the-test/test-format> and read the information carefully.
b) Go to <https://takeielts.britishcouncil.org/take-ielts/prepare/free-ielts-practice-tests/writing/general-training/task-1> and read this information carefully too. Then do the practice task. Type your answer to this question on your computer. Put the English spellchecker on and make a note of those words you have spelt wrongly. Keep your Task 1 letter and try this task again after your study week.

b) Go to https://takeielts.britishcouncil.org/sites/default/files/ielts_task_1_writing_band_descriptors.pdf and download the public descriptors for task 1. These give you a good idea of what the examiner is looking for at each Band level for Task Achievement (how well you answer the question), coherence and cohesion (how well you organise your essay and how well you link your ideas), lexical resource (your vocabulary), and grammatical range and accuracy (how well you can use grammar). Look at the descriptors for the band level you need.

Day 2 Writing Task 1 consists of writing a letter. These letters could be complaints, requests for information, job applications etc. It is recommended that you spend 20 minutes on this task, and you should write a minimum of 150 words in order to do this task satisfactorily. Start your letter with a clear statement of the purpose of the letter.

a) Go to Road to IELTS <https://rtigt.clarityenglish.com/#prefix=TD> then click on <Writing>, <Practice Zone>, <Set 1> and work through this series of exercises that will help you with starting and ending letters correctly, expressing likes and dislikes, and expressing frequency. There is a practice activity at the end. Write this letter in 20 minutes. Then look at the sample answer. Did you:

- start and end the letter correctly?
- write about all three bullet points?
- write the information in the same order as in the sample letter?

b) You are sometimes asked to make describe something that has happened and to say what effects this has had on you, for example, the heating isn't working in your rented flat. You will need to use different tenses for this task.

Go to the IELTS Prep App <https://takeielts.britishcouncil.org/take-ielts/prepare/free-apps>, click on <Writing> and then <More prep>. Select <Grammar> then <Past simple>. Do the exercise.

Go to the IELTS Prep App <https://takeielts.britishcouncil.org/take-ielts/prepare/free-apps>, click on <Writing> and then <More prep>. Select <Grammar> then <Present Perfect>. Do the exercise.

c) Find out your CEFR level (A1, A2, B1, B2, C1, C2) by doing an online test at <https://learnenglish.britishcouncil.org/online-english-level-test> Then do the appropriate grammar practice below:

Further practice of tenses and time words for B1-B2

<https://learnenglish.britishcouncil.org/grammar/intermediate-to-upper-intermediate/present-perfect>

<https://learnenglish.britishcouncil.org/grammar/intermediate-to-upper-intermediate/just-yet-still-and-already>

Further practice of tenses for A1-A2

<https://learnenglish.britishcouncil.org/grammar/beginner-to-pre-intermediate/past-continuous-and-past-simple>

d) Do a practice Task 1. Go to <https://www.ielts.org/-/media/pdfs/writing-sample-tests/gt-writing-sample-task-1a.ashx?la=en> Then look at two sample answers at Band 5 and Band 7. Read the examiner's comments.

Day 3 Punctuation is assessed as part of Grammar Range and Accuracy.

a) Go to <https://learnenglish.britishcouncil.org/grammar/intermediate-to-upper-intermediate/capital-letters-and-apostrophes> for practice on capital letters and apostrophes.

b) Go to <https://learnenglish.britishcouncil.org/grammar/intermediate-to-upper-intermediate/relative-clauses-non-defining-relative-clauses> for practice in using commas in relative clauses.

c) Do a practice Task 1. Go to <https://www.ielts.org/-/media/pdfs/writing-sample-tests/gt-writing-sample-task-1b.ashx?la=en>

Did you

- finish the letter in 20 minutes?
- write at least 150 words?
- start and finish the letter correctly?
- clearly say the purpose of the letter?
- write in the correct register (formal or informal)?

Use an English spellchecker to see if you have spelt any words incorrectly. Make a list of these words with the correct spelling and learn them.

Day 4 Go to the IELTS Prep App <https://takeielts.britishcouncil.org/take-ielts/prepare/free-apps>, click on <Writing> and then <Practice Test 1>. Do Task 1

Did you finish the letter in 20 minutes?
 write at least 150 words?
 start and finish the letter correctly?
 clearly say the purpose of the letter?
 write in the correct register (formal or informal)?

Use the English spellchecker to highlight any spelling mistakes. Make a note of the correct spelling of the words you misspelt.

Day 5 Go to the IELTS Prep App <https://takeielts.britishcouncil.org/take-ielts/prepare/free-apps>, click on <Writing> and then <Practice Test 2>. Do Task 1

Did you finish the letter in 20 minutes?
 write at least 150 words?
 start and finish the letter correctly?
 clearly say the purpose of the letter?
 write in the correct register (formal or informal)?

Use the English spellchecker to highlight any spelling mistakes. Make a note of the correct spelling of the words you misspelt.