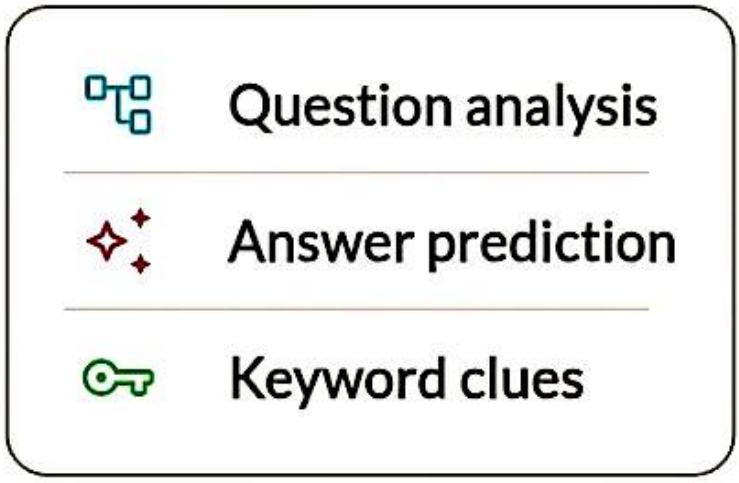
Lesson
Answering Strategies

In this lesson we will learn 3 important IELTS Listening strategies. Here they are:



Taking the time to learn and practice them will make answering Listening questions a lot easier and undoubtedly increase your score.

www.englishwithshoaib.com

Question analysis

🎯 The listening test contains 4 recordings. Before listening to each of them you will be given time around 20-35 seconds to read the questions they relate to.

CamScanner

Use this time well. It might not sound very long but it is long enough to do the important *preparation work* that will enable you to complete the questions successfully.

When analysing the questions, there are 3 key things to note:

1. Which section of the test are they in?
2. What type of questions are they?
3. What sort of information do you need to listen for?

www.englishwithshoaib.com

These all will give you valuable clues to understanding the audio recording and identifying the correct answers.

1. **Test parts**

   There are 4 parts or sections to the IELTS Listening test:

CamScanner

Lesson
Answering Strategies

Part 1:

A conversation between two people set in an everyday social context *(e.g. booking tickets to the theatre)*.

Part 2:

A monologue set in an everyday social context *(e.g. a welcome talk for new college students)*.

www.englishwithshoaib.com

Part 3:

A conversation between up to four people set in an educational or training context *(e.g. a group of students discussing a university assignment)*.

Part 4:

A monologue on an academic subject *(e.g. a lecture on wildlife)*.

CamScanner

🎯 If you memorise these, you will know the *general context* of each audio before it plays and how many people will be talking – one (a monologue), two people in conversation or a group conversation.

This might not seem especially important to know but any clues you have as to what you will be listening to will be helpful. This information will also help you to be better prepared mentally for the test which will reduce your stress level and enable you to think more clearly and listen more effectively.

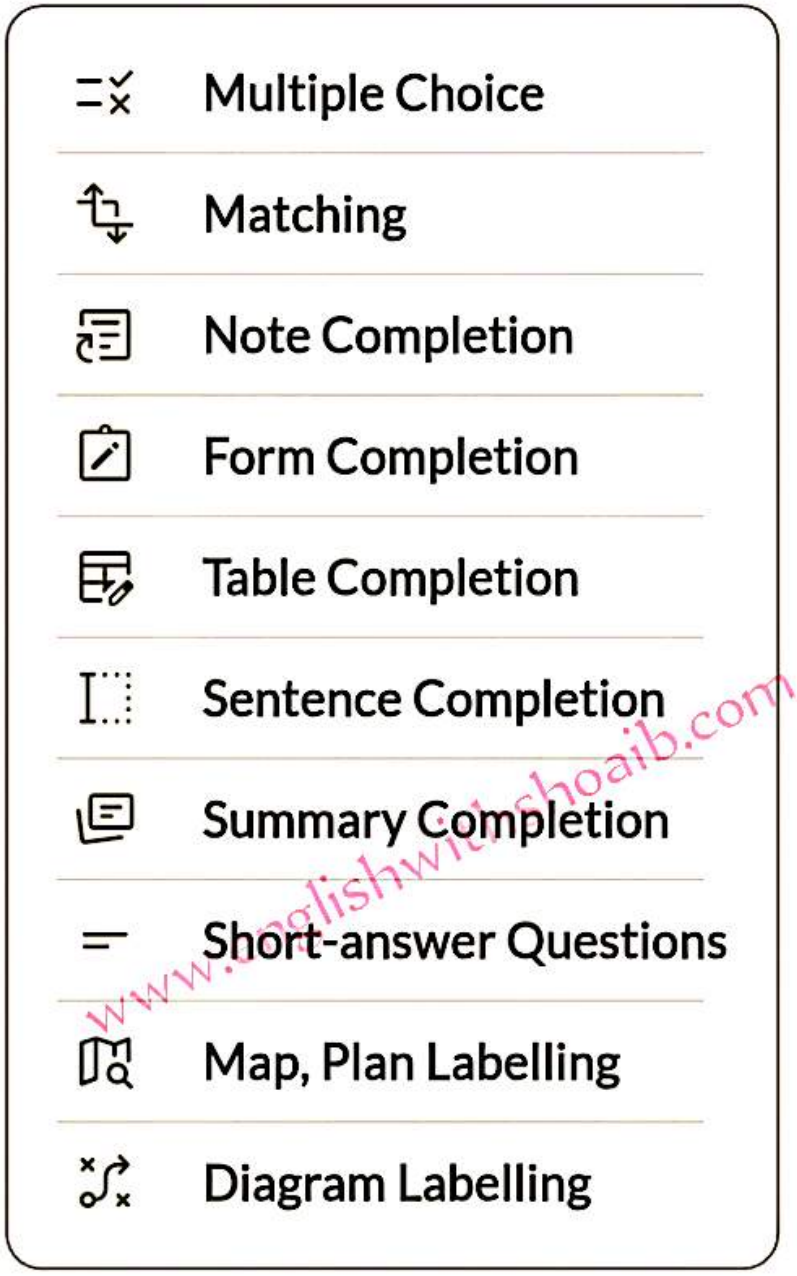
www.englishwithshoaib.com

2. Question types

The next part of this first IELTS Listening strategy concerns question types.

CamScanner

Lesson
Answering Strategies



www.englishwithshoaib.com

You must be able to quickly identify what types of questions you are required to answer. Sometimes the introduction will tell you or it will be obvious, e.g. *it's a plan or map that requires labels.* Other times, you will have to look more closely to decide.

CamScanner

As with everything, you will master this with practice.

3. **What sort of information do you need to listen for?**

   Knowing the type of question will help you to predict the sort of information you need to listen out for.

www.englishwithshoaib.com

Answer prediction

To predict an answer is to say what type of word you think it will be based on the evidence you have. That evidence will be in the question clues we have just been talking about and the information in the questions.

Here are some things you may be able to predict:

CamScanner

Here are some things you may be able to predict:

- The type of information required, e.g. *name, date, phone number, percentage, price, place name.*
- The type of word required, e.g. *noun, adjective, verb.*
- Synonyms or paraphrasing that might be used, e.g. *a half* for *50%*, *located in the countryside* for *is in a rural area.*

www.englishwithshoaib.com

Sometimes, you will be able to predict the *actual word.*

Here is a *Form completion* sample question to illustrate the strategy of prediction.

CamScanner

question to illustrate the strategy of prediction.

SECTION 1

Questions 1 – 8

Complete the form below.

*Write **NO MORE THAN THREE WORDS AND/OR A NUMBER** for each answer.*

PACKHAM'S SHIPPING AGENCY – customer quotation form

Example

Country of destination: Kenya....

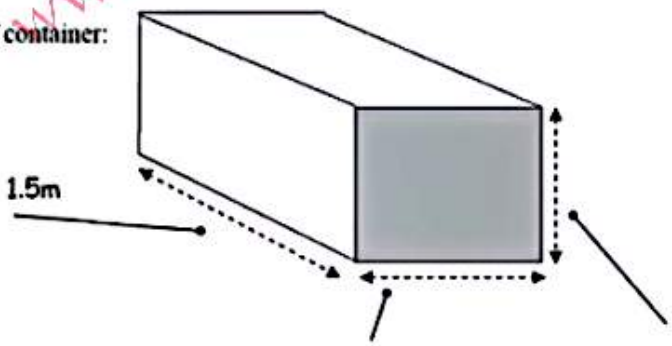
Name: Jacob 1 .....

Address to be collected from: 2 ..... College, Downlands Rd

Town: Bristol

Postcode: 3 .....

Size of container:



Length: 1.5m

Width: 4 .....

Height: 5 .....

Contents: clothes

6 .....

7 .....

Total estimated value: 8 £.....

Official IELTS website www.ieltsessentials.com

www.englishwithshoaib.com

CamScanner

Lesson
Answering Strategies

These are the answer predictions we can make:

1. a surname
2. the college name
3. a postcode made up of letters and numbers
4. numbers of measurement
5. numbers of measurement
6. noun (item in the box)
7. noun (item in the box)
8. numbers written as a price

www.englishwithshoaib.com

Answers 1 and 2 will be *proper nouns* so you must write them starting with a capital letter. This is another little clue that will ensure you get your answer exactly right.

CamScanner

🎯 To sum up prediction, it is one of the **most valuable** of IELTS Listening strategies because it identifies the type of information you will need to listen out for in the recording.

Keyword clues

This IELTS Listening strategy is also to do with prediction but particularly relevant for questions containing a lot of text as opposed to a *diagram, map, plan* or *table*.

www.englishwithshoaib.com

The technique is to identify the *key words* or *phrases* in the question. Why? Because the answers will very likely be *synonyms* or *paraphrasing* of these.

It is well illustrated with a sample question about hotels that requires you to match information.

CamScanner

Lesson
Answering Strategies

SECTION 1

Questions 1 – 4

Which hotel matches each description?

*Choose your answers from the box and write the correct letter **A-E** next to questions 1-4.*

A	The Bridge Hotel
B	Carlton House
C	The Imperial
D	The Majestic
E	The Royal Oak

1 is in a rural area .....

2 only opened recently .....

3 offers facilities for business functions .....

4 has an indoor swimming pool .....

www.englishwithshoaib.com

Official IELTS website www.ieltsessentials.com

Step 1 is to underline the key words in the answers, e.g.

1. is in a <u>rural area</u>
2. only <u>opened recently</u>
3. offers facilities for <u>business functions</u>

CamScanner

Step 2 is to quickly think of some possible *synonyms (s)* and *related (r)* words to listen out for in the audio.

Here are some that immediately come to mind:

1. **rural area** – country or countryside *(s)*
2. **opened recently** – new *(s)*, refurbished *(r)*
3. **business functions** – events *(s)*, conferences *(r)*, meetings *(r)*

www.englishwithshoaib.com

Spending 30 seconds doing this will *focus your mind* on some key vocabulary to listen out for.

Here Is an extract from the recording for this question. Some of these words have indeed been used.

CamScanner

Transcription:

If you want something with a bit of character, Carlton House is quite unusual – it's a very old building that was originally a large private house. It was bought by the Vannis chain and they completely **refurbished** it – they took their first guests just a few months ago but it's already got an excellent reputation. That's a five star hotel. Or there's the Imperial, which is a much more modern building. That also has its own gym and it also has internet connection **meetings** rooms – it's used for **conferences** and corporate **events** as well as private guests. That's five star as well.

www.englishwithshoaib.com

Hearing the key word *synonyms* and *related words* will help you to follow and understand the information in the audio text and more easily identify the answers.

Now, for practice, open the Answer Sheet below and answer the question

CamScanner

Lesson
Answering Strategies

Which hotel matches each description?

A The Bridge Hotel

B Carlton House

C The Imperial

D The Majestic

E The Royal Oak

Write the correct letter, **A-E**, next to questions 1-4.

www.englishwithshoaib.com

CamScanner

1 is in a rural area Choose

2 only opened recently Choose

3 offers facilities for business functions Choose

4 has an indoor swimming pool Choose

www.englishwithshoaib.com

CamScanner