

## Glossary

If you feel confused about some of the language used in this course, this glossary of some key IELTS-related names and terms may be useful for you.

**band score:** when you take an IELTS test, you are given a score from 0 (non-user) to 9 (expert user). It is also possible to get a half band score, e.g. 6.5. You receive an overall band score, as well as a band score for each of the four skills, Listening, Reading, Writing and Speaking.

**candidate:** a person who takes a test is called a candidate.

**cohesion and coherence:** in writing, cohesion refers to how you connect your ideas at the sentence level and at the paragraph level. Coherence refers to how easy it is to understand the text; whether it makes sense.

**cohesive device:** a cohesive device, which can also be called a linker, or a connector, is used to connect ideas. An example of a cohesive device is “On the other hand,”.

**complex sentence:** a complex sentence consists of at least one independent clause and one dependent clause. In the IELTS speaking and writing modules, candidates should try to show that they can use a range of simple, compound, and complex sentences.

**compound sentence:** a compound sentence contains two or more independent clauses which are joined by a conjunction, such as ‘and’.

**criteria:** in the writing and speaking modules of the IELTS test, your performance is assessed by an examiner using criteria. You can download the public versions of these criteria from the IELTS website.

**essay:** an extended and logically organised written answer to a prompt, or question. It contains a point of view and an argument consisting of information or ideas relevant to the essay topic. It is organised into paragraphs, with an introduction, a body, and a conclusion.

**examiner:** in the IELTS test, an examiner assesses your writing and speaking. In the speaking test, the examiner asks the questions and guides you through the test.

**fluency and coherence:** in speaking, fluency is the ability to maintain a flow of language without unnatural pauses, hesitation, or overly slow speech. Coherence is the logical organization, development and connection of your ideas.

**IELTS:** International English Language Testing System, a globally-recognised test of English language proficiency. There are two versions of the test, Academic and General Training. The IELTSx course focuses on the IELTS Academic Test.

**lexical resource:** This is the range of words or vocabulary that a person has in order to listen, read, speak or write in a language.

**lexis:** the words or vocabulary in the language.

**module:** The IELTS test is divided into four sub-tests for Listening, Reading, Speaking and Writing, called modules.

**part:** in the IELTS Speaking test, there are three parts, Part 1 The Interview, Part 2 The Individual Long Turn, and Part 3 The Discussion.

**paraphrase:** use different words to give the same idea given in a text

**passage:** the texts in the IELTS Reading test are also called passages.

**referencing:** this is used to help text cohesion. It involves avoiding repetition by using pronouns in the place of nouns.

**section:** in the IELTS Listening test, there are four sections, and in the IELTS Reading test, there are three sections.

**simple sentence:** a simple sentence has an independent clause but no dependent clauses.

**skimming and scanning:** when you read, it's useful to be able to skim and scan. Skimming refers to reading a text quickly to find the main ideas, while scanning means reading a text quickly to find specific information, such as names or dates.

**task:** in the IELTS Writing module, there are two tasks. In the IELTS Academic Writing Test, Task 1 is a report, while Task 2 is an essay.

**task achievement:** This is the name given to the criterion which assesses how appropriately, accurately and relevantly a candidate completes Task 1 of the Writing Test.

**task response:** This is the name given to the criterion which assesses how well a candidate can make and develop an argument and support a position in Task 2 of the Writing Test.

**tense:** a grammatical category in which the form of the verb is used to show when an action happened. Common verb tenses include Present, Past, and Continuous tenses.

**text:** the written words (not pictures) of a book, article or other piece of writing.

**TESOL:** Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages.

**visuals:** any type of visual representation (eg. a graph, a diagram or a map) given in Task 1 of the Writing Test.