

IELTS PROGRESSIVE PRACTICE

Level 1 — Foundation

Approx. IELTS 3.0–4.0

Focus: Find key facts, names, times and main ideas.

How to use this booklet

Complete questions before checking the key. For listening, read the questions first and ask a partner to read the script aloud without showing it to you, or use text-to-speech. Underline evidence and keep a record of mistakes.

Important: These are original IELTS-style materials, not official IELTS questions. Listening scripts are text only; audio recordings are not included.

READING PRACTICE

Reading 1: A Community Garden

An empty piece of land stood between Brookfield Library and a row of houses. The ground was dry and rubbish had collected beside the fence. In March, a local teacher, Anna, suggested turning the land into a community garden. She believed neighbours could grow vegetables and learn from one another.

The council lent the land to volunteers for one year. They cleared rubbish, repaired the fence and brought in fresh soil. Some planted tomatoes and beans; others grew mint and parsley. Children made labels, while older residents explained how to care for seedlings.

By July, families visited after school and neighbours who had never spoken began sharing tools and recipes. The garden did not feed the whole town, but it supplied fresh vegetables and gave people a reason to spend time outside. Anna hopes the council will extend the project for another year.

Questions

1. What was the land like before the project?
2. Who suggested the garden?
3. How long was the first agreement?
4. Name two plants mentioned.
5. What does Anna hope will happen?

Reading 2: The New Bus Service

Brookfield introduced a new bus service last September. Previously, people outside the centre had only two buses in the morning and two in the evening. Now buses run every thirty minutes from 7 a.m. until 8 p.m. on weekdays. On Saturdays they run hourly, but there is no Sunday service.

The route connects the railway station, hospital, shopping street and sports centre. An adult ticket costs two pounds. Students and older passengers pay half price, and children under five travel free with an adult. Tickets can be bought from the driver, but the mobile app helps passengers board more quickly.

The first month was difficult because roadworks caused delays. The transport manager says the timetable has improved since the road reopened. The council will review passenger numbers in December. If enough people use the service, a Sunday route may be added next year.

Questions

1. When did the service begin?
2. How often do buses run on weekdays?
3. Name two places on the route.
4. What does a student pay?
5. What may be added next year?

LISTENING PRACTICE

Have a partner read each script once or twice at a natural pace. Do not look at the script while answering.

Listening 1: Library Announcement

Questions

1. Why will the library close early?
2. What time does the club begin?
3. What should new members bring?
4. Where can books be returned after closing?

Reader script / text-to-speech

Good morning. Brookfield Library will close at five o'clock this Friday because staff are attending training. Please return books before closing or use the book box beside the main entrance. The children's reading club will meet on Saturday at ten thirty, not eleven as usual. New members should arrive ten minutes early and bring their library cards.

Listening 2: English Course Phone Call

Questions

1. When does the course begin?
2. How long is it?
3. Which days are classes?
4. What is the price?
5. What should the caller bring?

Reader script / text-to-speech

Receptionist: Westside Learning Centre. How can I help?

Caller: I'm asking about the evening English course.

Receptionist: It begins on 12 May and lasts six weeks.

Caller: Which days?

Receptionist: Tuesdays and Thursdays, from 6:30 to 8 p.m.

Caller: How much is it?

Receptionist: Ninety pounds, including the book. No test is needed, but please attend a short interview on Monday afternoon and bring identification.

Caller: I can come at three o'clock.

WRITING & SPEAKING

Writing task

Write 150–250 words: explain a change that could improve a community, workplace or public service. Present a clear position, two supporting reasons and a relevant example. For higher levels, acknowledge one limitation or opposing view.

Speaking practice

1. Describe a useful skill you learned and how you learned it. 2. Explain a change in society that has affected daily life. 3. Discuss whether governments should prioritise efficiency or fairness when making public decisions.

Self-review

Check task coverage, paragraphing, examples, linking phrases, sentence variety, verb forms, articles and punctuation.

TIMED PRACTICE & ANSWER KEY

Mini-test plan

Suggested time: 30 minutes. Complete both reading sets and one listening set without checking answers. Record your score and review every incorrect response.

Score record: Reading ____ / 10 Listening ____ / 5 Writing completed: Yes / No Speaking completed: Yes / No

Reflection: What was hardest? Which answer needs stronger evidence? What will you practise next?

Reading answers

Reading 1: A Community Garden

1. Dry and untidy, with rubbish beside the fence.
2. Anna, a local teacher.
3. One year.
4. Tomatoes, beans, mint or parsley (any two).
5. The council will extend the project.

Reading 2: The New Bus Service

1. Last September.
2. Every thirty minutes.
3. Railway station, hospital, shopping street or sports centre (any two).
4. One pound.
5. A Sunday route.

Listening answers

Listening 1: Library Announcement

1. Staff training.
2. 10:30 a.m.
3. Library cards.
4. The book box by the main entrance.

Listening 2: English Course Phone Call

1. 12 May.
2. Six weeks.
3. Tuesday and Thursday.
4. £90.
5. Identification.