

IELTS PROGRESSIVE PRACTICE

Level 2 — Elementary

Approx. IELTS 4.0–4.5

Focus: Understand paragraph purpose, comparisons and everyday explanations.

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: Cycling to Work

Cycling has changed from a weekend activity into a practical way to travel to work. Rising transport costs encourage some commuters to leave their cars at home, while others want exercise as part of their daily routine. Protected cycle lanes can also make journeys feel safer, especially for people who are uncomfortable riding beside heavy traffic.

A bicycle usually costs less to maintain than a car, and riders avoid fuel and parking fees. Some commuters say they arrive feeling more awake after spending time outdoors. However, the benefits depend on the route, the weather and whether there is a safe place to leave a bicycle.

Obstacles remain. Cycle lanes sometimes end at busy junctions, bad weather can make a ride unpleasant, and long journeys may be impractical. Employers can help by providing secure storage, showers and flexible arrival times. Cycling is most likely to become a habit when towns combine safe infrastructure with practical support.

Questions

1. Give two reasons people cycle to work.
2. Name two costs cyclists may avoid.
3. Why might cycling improve how people feel?
4. Give two obstacles.
5. What helps cycling become a regular habit?

Reading 2: A More Welcoming Museum

The Riverside Museum used to attract mostly tourists and school groups. Its director asked local residents what would make it more useful. Parents wanted a place where children could explore, older residents asked for comfortable seating and clearer signs, and teenagers said the displays seemed unrelated to their lives.

The museum introduced evening events with local musicians, food stalls and short talks. It created a hands-on science room and rewrote labels in simpler language. Volunteers now lead tours in three languages, and residents receive free entry on the first Saturday of each month.

Attendance increased, but the director says visitor numbers are not the only measure of success. Teachers report that students ask more questions, and community groups use the meeting room. The next challenge is improving wheelchair access without damaging the historic building. The museum plans to consult disability organisations before choosing a design.

Questions

1. Who was asked for suggestions?
2. What did teenagers say?
3. What happens at evening events?
4. How many languages are used on tours?
5. What is the next challenge?

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: Train Announcement

Questions

1. Which platform should passengers use?
2. What time will the train leave?
3. Name one stop.
4. Where do airport passengers change?
5. What should passengers do before boarding?

Reader script / text-to-speech

Passengers for Northport: the 9:18 train will leave from platform four today, not platform two. It will depart at 9:25, seven minutes late, and stop at Hill Road, Central Market and Northport. Airport passengers should change at Central Market for the airport express. Please keep luggage clear of the doors and allow passengers to leave before boarding.

Listening 2: A Talk About Sleep

Questions

1. What does the brain do during sleep?
2. How much sleep do most adults need?
3. What is a problem with studying all night?
4. What should people do with phones before bed?
5. What is better than catching up at weekends?

Reader script / text-to-speech

Sleep helps the brain organise information gathered during the day. This can support memory for vocabulary, facts and skills. Most adults need around seven to nine hours, although individual needs differ and teenagers often need more.

Studying late into the night may create extra study time, but it can reduce concentration the next morning. A better plan is to review material in short sessions over several days and then get enough sleep. Putting phones away before bedtime may help people relax. A regular sleep schedule is often more useful than trying to catch up with a very long sleep at the weekend.

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: Cycling to Work

1. Lower transport costs and exercise (or safety/environment).
2. Fuel and parking.
3. Outdoor exercise may help them feel more awake.
4. Unsafe junctions, bad weather, long distances or lack of storage (any two).
5. Safe infrastructure and practical support.

Reading 2: A More Welcoming Museum

1. Local residents.
2. The displays felt unrelated to their lives.
3. Music, food stalls and short talks.
4. Three.
5. Improve wheelchair access while protecting the historic building.

Listening answers

Listening 1: Train Announcement

1. Platform four.
2. 9:25.
3. Hill Road or Central Market.
4. Central Market.
5. Let passengers leave first.

Listening 2: A Talk About Sleep

1. It organises information.
2. About seven to nine hours.
3. Poorer concentration the next morning.
4. Put them away.
5. Keep a regular schedule.