

Listening and Reading Materials for IELTS

Topics

- 1. Work**
- 2. Cities**
- 3. Food**
- 4. Technology**
- 5. Travel**
- 6. Art**
- 7. Hobbies**
- 8. News**
- 9. Shopping**
- 10. Weather**

How to use these materials

These materials will expose you to a wide a range of language and accents. Most of the material is authentic, meaning it is aimed at native-speakers rather than English students. You will see lots of real language as it used in real life. Don't worry if you don't understand everything. The goal is to get immersed in natural English as much as possible!

Listen to videos once through to get used to listening to, and following longer pieces of language.

Many videos have **subtitles** or **captions** - use these when listening a second time to help find useful language.

Read the articles once once through to get used to reading and following longer pieces of language. Try to identify the main idea of each paragraph. Find useful phrases and make a note of them.

A good **online dictionary** is

<https://www.collinsdictionary.com>

If you read an interesting word of expression, and you want to **hear it in context**, then use this website to get several Youtube video samples using that word.

<https://youglish.com>

1. Work

TED talks - Lots of talks to get ideas and inspiration.

<https://www.ted.com/topics/work>

Mihaly Csikszentmihalyi on how '**flow**' can make your work and life happier.

https://www.ted.com/talks/mihaly_csikszentmihalyi_on_flow

Tim Urban and why we **procrastinate** https://www.ted.com/talks/tim_urban_inside_the_mind_of_a_master_procrastinator

[tim_urban_inside_the_mind_of_a_master_procrastinator](https://www.ted.com/talks/tim_urban_inside_the_mind_of_a_master_procrastinator)

BBC Podcast - Thinking Allowed Programme - Lots of Podcasts to listen to.

Should **Business schools** be shut down?

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b0b48r9v>

The Greater Good Science Magazine some ideas about **happiness** at work. [https://ggsc.berkeley.edu/what we do/online courses tools/the science of happiness at work](https://ggsc.berkeley.edu/what_we_do/online_courses_tools/the_science_of_happiness_at_work)

Networking and **conversation skills** at work from **The Muse**

<https://www.themuse.com/advice/9-great-conversation-starters-for-9-common-situations-youll-encounter-in-your-career>

Ideas about **Work-Life balance** from **The Conversation**

<https://theconversation.com/business-owners-control-of-their-work-life-balance-is-the-fine-line-between-hard-work-and-hell-100762>

2. Cities

An article about what makes a city a '**smart**' city.

<https://newsela.com/read/smart-cities/id/17374/>

Video about '**Smart**' ideas for Kansas City <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YJvF574xVSQ>

BBCPodcast - Smart Cities

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b0bbr3zn>

Video of the challenges facing big cities - in this case New York City.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mBtVhNxef0s>

Video of the 'new capital' of **Egypt**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kZNSEnSkEp8>

Article on Smart Cities

<https://www.twi-global.com/technical-knowledge/faqs/what-is-a-smart-city>

3. Food

TED talks - Lots of talks to get ideas and inspiration

<https://www.ted.com/topics/food>

Jamie Oliver on Food and Education

https://www.ted.com/talks/jamie_oliver

Jennifer 8 Lee on American and Chinese Food

https://www.ted.com/talks/jennifer_8_lee_looks_for_general_tso/up-next

BBC Food Programme - lots of Podcasts to listen to.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b006qnx3>

Getting Medical Students **Cooking**

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b09wr9q9>

Importance of **Families** eating together

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b099w3v4>

4. Technology

Newsela has many articles where you can change the reading level of each.

This article is about **Artificial Intelligence**.

<https://newsela.com/read/ibm-robot-debate/id/44453/>

Phrasal Verbs and Technology: Some useful phrasal verbs from Youtube.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mm7ppzHCeOc>

The Artificial Human A podcast series from the BBC all about technology and humans.

How green is your AI?

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m00208g4>

Amazon and the Internet of Things: News article on how Amazon is expanding the Internet of Things.

<https://newsela.com/read/Amazons-Alexa-is-coming-for-your-microwave/id/46303/>

BBC's 6 Minute English is a great series of short audios

This episode is all about **technology**.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/learningenglish/english/features/6-minute-english/ep-180719>

Voice of America

<https://learningenglish.voanews.com/a/facebooks-birthday-fundraiser-feature-lets-users-raise-money-for-charities/4586687.html>

5. Travel

Article on **Ecotourism**.

<https://greenerideal.com/news/1001-rise-of-the-eco-tourist/>

Interesting **TED Talk** about traveling and why it is all worth it.

https://www.ted.com/talks/ben_saunders_why_bother_leaving_the_house

A couple (a British man and an American woman) talking about **travel and their holidays**.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bb08nFwfoxA>

The future of **Self-driving cars**

<http://fortune.com/2018/09/25/brainstorm-reinvent-volvo-ford-gm/>

Australian Conversations - this conversation with an Alpine Climber <http://www.abc.net.au/radio/programs/conversations/conversations-simon-mccartney-rpt/10254892>

This American Life - great stories for advanced students. These stories on vacations gone wrong.

<https://www.thisamericanlife.org/4/vacations>

6. Art

<https://www.esolcourses.com/ielts/vocabulary/museums-and-galleries.html>

An article about how **technology** is influencing **art** in Japan.

<https://newsela.com/read/elem-interactive-art-museum-tokyo/id/44748/>

A beginner's guide to **Modern ART** from the **Khan Academy**

<https://www.khanacademy.org/humanities/art-1010/beginners-guide-20th-c-art>

Listen A Minute! Some quick listening activities - this one on **Art**.

<https://www.listenaminute.com/a/art.html>

Free **ESOL courses** - this lesson is on Art Galleries in the UK

<https://www.esolcourses.com/ielts/vocabulary/museums-and-galleries.html>

What's on at the **Tate Art Gallery**

<https://www.tate.org.uk/whats-on>

Art **vocabulary** for art lovers

<https://www.tate.org.uk/art/art-terms>

7. Hobbies

British Council videos on British Lifestyle

<https://learnenglish.britishcouncil.org/en/britain-great>

If shopping is a hobby of yours, this one will be interesting to watch. <https://learnenglish.britishcouncil.org/en/shopping-great/shopping-great-part-2>

Conversation between a British and American person about **hobbies**.

<https://www.englishacrossthepond.com/episodes/2>

BBC Podcast - Just a minute

Celebrities have to talk for ONE minute on a given topic, and with hardly any time to prepare.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b0bd7yl6>

8. News

HardTalk is a hard-hitting interview programme; challenging interviews with people in high places.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p004t1s0/episodes/downloads>

Any Questions? Any Answers?

Great panel discussion programme with lots of topical debate. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p02nrtn5/episodes/downloads>

The News Quiz

The BBC's light-hearted show looking at the news each week. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b006r9yq/episodes/player>

English across the Pond

This podcast episode is about news and social media

<https://www.englishacrossthepond.com/episodes/23>

Weekly **News** Quizzes from **ESOL Courses**

<https://www.esolcourses.com/topics/topical-news-quizzes.html>

9. Shopping

American and British conversation about **shopping**
<https://www.englishacrossthepond.com/episodes/41>

Article and Video from **Fortune** about **Online and In-store shopping** <http://fortune.com/2018/09/26/retail-industry-apocalypse/>

Audio podcast to learn language of **shopping**
<https://reallifeglobal.com/goshopping/>

Listen A Minute! Some quick listening activities - this one on Shopping
<https://www.listenaminute.com/s/shopping.html>

BBC Shop Smart documentary on Supermarkets and psychology
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VGPQoN8VJyY>

10. Weather

English Podcast about the weather and small talk
<https://www.englishacrossthepond.com/episodes/6>

Voice of America; articles with audio
<https://learningenglish.voanews.com/a/hurricane-florence-threatens-us-east-coast/4567457.html>

Some interesting **TED talks** about the weather
https://www.ted.com/playlists/142/the_forecast_calls_for

Read and listen about **Climate warming**
https://www.listenaminute.com/c/climate_change.html

Article and Video from **Fortune** on **Global Warming**
<http://fortune.com/2018/09/27/un-climate-change-report/>