

Academic Writing Task 1 week

Day 1 a) Make sure you know exactly what the Writing Test (Tasks 1 and 2) is like. Go to <https://www.ielts.org/about-the-test/test-format> and read the information carefully.
b) Go to <https://takeielts.britishcouncil.org/take-ielts/prepare/free-ielts-practice-tests/writing/academic/task-1> and read this information carefully too. Then do the practice task. Type your answer to this question on your computer. Put the English spellchecker on and make a note of those words you have spelt wrongly. Keep your Task 1 report and try this task again after your study week.

b) Go to https://takeielts.britishcouncil.org/sites/default/files/ielts_task_1_writing_band_descriptors.pdf and download the public descriptors for task 1. These give you a good idea of what the examiner is looking for at each Band level for Task Achievement (how well you answer the question), coherence and cohesion (how well you organise your essay and how well you link your ideas), lexical resource (your vocabulary), and grammatical range and accuracy (how well you can use grammar). Look at the descriptors for the band level you need.

Day 2 Writing Task 1 consists of writing a description of data. This data can come in the form of line graphs, bar charts, pie charts, tables, flow and process diagrams, and maps/plans. It is recommended that you spend 20 minutes on this task, and you should write a minimum of 150 words in order to do this task satisfactorily. Write a clear introduction that rephrases what the diagram is and the **overview**. It is very important that you write a clear overview in your introduction, that is, you say what the most important trend(s) or change(s) are, or for a process diagram the number of steps/stages in the process.

a) Go to Road to IELTS https://rtiac.roadtoielts.com/?utm_source=RTI.com&utm_medium=try_freeversion&utm_campaign=RTI.com#prefix=TD and work through this series of exercises that will help you with dealing with charts, numbers, choosing the correct tense. There is a practice activity at the end. Write this report in 20 minutes. Then look at the sample answer. Did you:

- have the same overview?
- describe the data in the same order?
- describe the same data?

b) you are usually asked to make comparisons in this task. Go to the IELTS Prep App <https://takeielts.britishcouncil.org/take-ielts/prepare/free-apps>, click on <Writing> and then <More prep>. Select <Grammar> then <Comparisons>. Do the exercise. Make notes of the different ways to make comparisons.

c) Find out your CEFR level (A1, A2, B1, B2, C1, C2) by doing an online test at <https://learnenglish.britishcouncil.org/online-english-level-test> Then do the appropriate grammar practice below:

Further practice of comparisons for B1-B2

<https://learnenglish.britishcouncil.org/grammar/intermediate-to-upper-intermediate/modifying-comparisons>

Practice of adjectives and prepositions for A1-A2

<https://learnenglish.britishcouncil.org/grammar/beginner-to-pre-intermediate/adjectives-and-prepositions>

d) Do a practice test of a line graph. Go to <https://www.ielts.org/-/media/pdfs/writing-sample-tests/academic-writing-sample-task-1b.ashx?la=en> Compare your answer with 2 sample answers at Bands 6 and 7. <https://www.ielts.org/-/media/pdfs/writing-sample-tests/ac-writing-sample-materials-and-examiner-comments.ashx?la=en> Read the examiner's comments to help you improve next time.

Day 3 Sometimes you may be asked to describe a process, for example how something is made or manufactured. To do this task well, you will need to use the passive voice.

a) Go to the IELTS Prep App <https://takeielts.britishcouncil.org/take-ielts/prepare/free-apps>, click on <Writing> and then <More prep>. Select <Grammar> then <**Passive voice**>. Do the exercise.

b) Go to <https://learnenglish.britishcouncil.org/grammar/intermediate-to-upper-intermediate/passives> for further practice.

c) Try writing a description of a process. Remember to write the overview (the number of steps/stages) in your introductory paragraph.

<https://www.ielts.org/-/media/pdfs/writing-sample-tests/academic-writing-sample-task-1c.ashx?la=en>

Compare your answer with 2 sample answers at Bands 5 and 7. <https://www.ielts.org/-/media/pdfs/writing-sample-tests/ac-writing-sample-materials-and-examiner-comments.ashx?la=en>

Day 4 Sometimes you may be asked to describe a map or compare 2 maps. Sometimes you are asked to compare a place in the past and now, or now and in the future. So, you will need to use different verb forms, for example, the past simple, the present simple, the present perfect, and describe the future.

a) Go to the IELTS Prep App <https://takeielts.britishcouncil.org/take-ielts/prepare/free-apps>, click on <Writing> and then <More prep>. Select <Grammar> then <**Past simple**>. Do the exercise.

b) Go to the IELTS Prep App <https://takeielts.britishcouncil.org/take-ielts/prepare/free-apps>, click on <Writing> and then <More prep>. Select <Grammar> then <**Present Perfect**>. Do the exercise.

c) Go to the IELTS Prep App <https://takeielts.britishcouncil.org/take-ielts/prepare/free-apps>, click on <Writing> and then <More prep>. Select <Grammar> then <**Predicting the future**>. Do the exercise.

Day 5 Now, try 4 different practice tests.

a) Describing a line graph Go to the IELTS Prep App <https://takeielts.britishcouncil.org/take-ielts/prepare/free-apps>, click on <Writing>, then <Practice tests> and do Test 1

b) Describing a bar chart Go to the IELTS Prep App <https://takeielts.britishcouncil.org/take-ielts/prepare/free-apps>, click on <Writing>, then <Practice tests> and do Test 2

c) Describing a process diagram Go to the IELTS Prep App <https://takeielts.britishcouncil.org/take-ielts/prepare/free-apps>, click on <Writing>, then <Practice tests> and do Test 3

d) Finally, repeat the test you did at the very beginning of the study programme. Go to <https://takeielts.britishcouncil.org/take-ielts/prepare/free-ielts-practice-tests/writing/academic/task-1> Compare this description with the one you did before. What has improved?

e) After each practice test, complete the following checklist:

Did I write the description in 20 minutes?

Did I write at least 150 words?

Did I write an introduction with a clear overview?

Did I use the simple past in Tests 1 and 2, and in the Road to IELTS test?

Did I use the passive voice in Test 3?

f) Now, use the English spellchecker to highlight any spelling mistakes. Make a note of the correct spelling of the words you misspelt.