🩹 IELTS LISTENING FIRST AID KIT

10 Ways to Stop Losing Marks

Most marks in Listening are not lost because you didn't understand. They are lost to small mistakes on the answer sheet and to traps in the recording.

✅ 10 Points to Check

1. **Read ahead.** Use every pause to read the next questions and underline the keywords. ☐
2. **Predict the answer.** Before you listen, decide: a number, a name, a noun or a verb? ☐
3. **Wait for the final answer.** Speakers change their minds: *Tuesday... no, actually Thursday.* ☐
4. **Answers come in order.** If you miss one, let it go and listen for the next question. ☐
5. **Check the word limit.** *NO MORE THAN TWO WORDS* means two words or fewer. ☐
6. **Spell it correctly.** A misspelt word is a wrong answer: *accommodation*, *Wednesday*. ☐
7. **Singular or plural?** If you hear *rooms*, write *rooms*. Check the grammar of the sentence. ☐
8. **Write numbers as figures.** Write *15*, not *fifteen*. Listen carefully for *13* and *30*, *14* and *40*. ☐
9. **Know the alphabet.** Practise letters that sound alike: *A, E, I* • *G, J* • *double S*. ☐
10. **Transfer carefully.** On paper, you have 10 minutes to copy your answers. On computer, you have 2 minutes to check. ☐

⚡ Quick Practice

Each answer breaks one rule. Write the correct answer.

1. *NO MORE THAN TWO WORDS*. You hear: *"...a large blue bag."* Answer: **a large blue bag**
2. You hear: *"It's on the fourteenth of July."* Answer: **40 July**
3. Notes: *There are three meeting _____*. You hear: *"...three meeting rooms."* Answer: **room**
4. You hear: *"The class is on Monday – sorry, I mean Wednesday."* Answer: **Monday**
5. You hear: *"...the student accommodation office."* Answer: **accomodation**

🩹 LISTENING FIRST AID KIT – ANSWERS

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✔️ Answers

1 **blue bag**

Two words only. *large blue bag* is three words, so it is wrong.

2 **14 July**

Fourteen has the stress at the end: four**TEEN**. *Forty* has it at the start.

3 **rooms**

three needs a plural noun. Always check the grammar.

4 **Wednesday**

The speaker corrects himself. Wait for the final answer.

5 **accommodation**

Double *c*, double *m*. Spelling must be correct.

My score: ____ / 5

🚑 Your 1-Minute Check

Before you finish, read your answers once, looking only for **spelling**, **plurals** and the **word limit**.

Never leave a blank. A guess costs nothing, and it might be right.

🎯 **Want more practice?** Find full listening, speaking and grammar lessons – many of them free – at **startielts.co.uk**.

Created by Kevin Hardwicke, English language teacher and IELTS materials writer

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