

## **What do I know about IELTS?**

The International English Language Testing System is a difficult English test from the UK mainly for people seeking to study at an English speaking university. The Americans have a similar system called TOEFL . I taught IELTS for two years in London and business English and ESOL for five years in Asia, I also taught TOEFL for a few months in Asia.

I studied a distance learning Dip TEFL in the late nineties and a PGCE specializing in ESOL in 2002/03 at the University of Greenwich. Sadly for me my PGCE was not really recognized in the EFL community and despite my three years of teaching in FE I was only ever offered part time work from 2009 and not sure if you know the housing problems in London but even at £23 per hour in 2009 it wouldn't have been possible to have anything more than a flat share and in my late thirties I wanted more than that so I never took up those offers although I would have very much liked to have.

So, IELTS then: Reading three articles, and answering 40 questions, lots of skimming and scanning. Two written essays, one short and one slightly longer, speaking and finally listening. Grades from 1 to 9 and most people heading for university looking for anything from a 5.5 to a 6.5. They recommend a year per point for improvement and I know from my own experience that many people need IELTS and try very hard but that one point per year is holding them back from their goals which I always felt sympathy about but in all honesty I tried to make the process as simple as possible which is how I made these powerpoint presentations just some of the stuff I recollected from my teaching time mainly in London and written about two years later. I hope in a small way that it helps.

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