

# Guide for test takers and agents



The English test available across the world for:

- 'family of a settled person' visas – UK
- indefinite leave to remain – UK
- citizenship – UK.

# Approved test of speaking and listening for UK visas and immigration

IELTS Life Skills is an English test for people who need to prove their speaking and listening skills at Levels A1 or B1 of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR).

The test is included on the UK Home Office's list of Secure English Language Tests (often referred to as SELT tests) and is available both in the UK and internationally.

IELTS Life Skills is offered by the three IELTS Test Partners – British Council, IDP: IELTS Australia and Cambridge English Language Assessment.

## Who is the test for?

IELTS Life Skills is specifically designed for people who are required by UK Visas and Immigration (UKVI) to prove their speaking and listening ability as part of an application.

It can be used by people applying for:

- **'Family of a settled person' visas**  
If you want to remain with a relative, spouse or partner already living in the UK permanently.
- **Indefinite leave to remain**  
If you are already living in the UK and want to make it your permanent home.
- **Citizenship**  
If you want to become a British citizen.

For all other visa categories the IELTS test can be used. To find out more about how you can use IELTS or IELTS Life Skills for UK visas and immigration, go to [www.ielts.org/uk](http://www.ielts.org/uk)

## Test levels

IELTS Life Skills is available at two levels:

- A1 Speaking and Listening – for 'family of a settled person' visas
- B1 Speaking and Listening – for indefinite leave to remain and citizenship.

## Test format

IELTS Life Skills is a face-to-face Speaking and Listening test. You will take your test with an examiner, and with one other candidate.



### Check if you need an English test

To find out if you need to take an English test for your visa application, visit the UKVI website at [www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk)

## Test focus

The tasks are designed to reflect everyday communication in an English-speaking country. You will take part in short discussions on everyday subjects including:

- personal details/experiences
- family and friends
- buying goods
- work
- health
- leisure
- education/training
- transport
- housing
- weather.

At each level, the test is designed to assess whether you can listen and respond, make your meaning clear and speak with other people.

|            | A1  | B1   |
|------------|---|--|
| Test focus | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• listen and respond to spoken language, including simple narratives, statements, questions and single-step instructions</li> <li>• basic information, feelings and opinions on familiar topics</li> <li>• talk with another person in a familiar situation about familiar topics.</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• listen and respond to spoken language, including straightforward information and narratives, and follow straightforward explanations and instructions</li> <li>• communicate information, feelings and opinions on familiar topics, using appropriate formality</li> <li>• talk with one or more people in a familiar situation, making relevant points and responding to what others say to reach a shared understanding about familiar topics.</li> </ul> |
| Tasks      | <p>Tasks may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• describing</li> <li>• giving opinions</li> <li>• giving personal information</li> <li>• stating preferences</li> <li>• commenting</li> <li>• asking for information or descriptions</li> <li>• agreeing and disagreeing</li> <li>• explaining, giving reasons or justifying</li> <li>• deciding</li> <li>• suggesting</li> <li>• selecting.</li> </ul> | <p>In addition to the A1 tasks shown on the left, the B1 tasks may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• comparing</li> <li>• showing contrast, cause, reason or purpose</li> <li>• prioritising</li> <li>• planning</li> <li>• persuading</li> <li>• narrating</li> <li>• asking about past or future events</li> <li>• expressing future certainty or possibility.</li> </ul>  |

## Next steps

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### 1 Register for your test

You can take IELTS Life Skills at test locations in the UK and throughout the world. To find your nearest IELTS Life Skills test centre go to [www.ielts.org/uk/findtest\\_ukvi](http://www.ielts.org/uk/findtest_ukvi)

### 2 Prepare for your test

To help you prepare for your test, download free sample tests from [www.ielts.org/uk/lifeskills](http://www.ielts.org/uk/lifeskills)

### 3 Your results

Your results will usually be available within seven days.

You will get one of two results:

- Pass
- Fail

A Fail result means that you have not been successful and your result cannot be used for immigration purposes.

To find out how you can use the IELTS test, instead of IELTS Life Skills, for 'family of a settled person' visas, indefinite leave to remain and citizenship, go to [www.ielts.org/uk/lifeskills](http://www.ielts.org/uk/lifeskills)

## Find out more at [www.ielts.org/uk/lifeskills](http://www.ielts.org/uk/lifeskills)

If you have a question about IELTS Life Skills that is not answered on the website, you can use the enquiry form at [www.ielts.org/contact\\_us](http://www.ielts.org/contact_us)

Get more information about applying for UK visas at [www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk)

 Join the conversation at [www.facebook.com/IELTSofficial](http://www.facebook.com/IELTSofficial)

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### Your privacy

The IELTS Test Partners recognise and support the right of genuine test candidates to privacy. For more information visit [www.ielts.org/privacy](http://www.ielts.org/privacy)

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