

## Cultural events: avoiding distracting information

By the end of the lesson I will be able to:

- deal with distracting information.
- answer table completion questions.
- recognise weak forms.



### INTRODUCTION

1. Look at the information below. Which event would you most like to attend?

.....  
Major League Gaming Tournament (MLG)  
*Saturday 16 August*  
The best gamers in the business are coming  
to town for the annual national competition.

.....  
Sinbad the Musical  
*12–17 September*  
Transport yourself to ancient Baghdad for an  
all-singing, all-dancing retelling of adventures  
from the Arabian Nights.

.....  
Life of Pi  
*Saturday 16 October*  
A special open-air showing of this 2012 movie  
classic, based on the novel by Yann Martel.  
Bring your own seat!



### IELTS SKILLS

2. Complete the notes below by underlining the correct options.

#### Distracting information

When you answer questions in the IELTS Listening test, before you hear the information that you need, you might hear similar information that is 1. *useful/not useful*. This is called distracting information. While distracting information is often given using 2. *simple/difficult* words, the information that you need is often given using 3. *ordinary/unusual* words that you may not expect to hear. The information you need may also be given in two different places in the recording.

3. Imagine you have asked someone where the MLG event from activity 1 is. Underline the distracting information in this reply.

'Well, due to the event's popularity, the MLG tournament isn't at the theatre this year, as it usually is. Instead you have to head towards the famous Two Bridges Conference Centre. Next to the off Bristol Road, you'll find Central Hall, which is a lot larger than the theatre. That's the venue. Use the conference centre carpark.'

4.  Listen and answer the questions.

1. On what day can you see an afternoon performance of *Sinbad the Musical*? \_\_\_\_\_
2. How much must students pay to see *Life of Pi*? \_\_\_\_\_



## USEFUL LANGUAGE FOR IELTS

5.  Listen and write down the words you hear. Underline the weak vowel sounds in the words.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_
7. \_\_\_\_\_
8. \_\_\_\_\_
9. \_\_\_\_\_
10. \_\_\_\_\_

6. Add the words from activity 5 to the table below.

| Noun              | The arts                                                                    | Sport                                                                        |
|-------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Profession        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• artist</li> <li>• _____</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• athlete</li> <li>• _____</li> </ul> |
| Event             | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• _____</li> <li>• _____</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• _____</li> </ul>                    |
| People who attend | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• _____</li> </ul>                   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• _____</li> </ul>                    |
| Place             | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• _____</li> <li>• _____</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• _____</li> </ul>                    |



## TASK FOCUS

7. Look at the table in activity 9. Add the headings below to the correct columns.

1. Date/time
2. Event
3. Details
4. Performers

8. Look at the table in activity 9. In which gaps could the following information go?

- |                  |       |                  |       |
|------------------|-------|------------------|-------|
| A. local schools | _____ | D. a celebration | _____ |
| B. unknown       | _____ | E. night         | _____ |
| C. summer        | _____ | F. famous        | _____ |



## IELTS PRACTICE

### 9. Listen and answer the questions.

Complete the table below.

Write NO MORE THAN THREE WORDS for each answer.

|                         |                                     |                                    |                                 |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| A. _____                | B. _____                            | C. _____                           | D. _____                        |
| Pool Tournament         | Wednesday of<br>1. _____<br>holiday | Young people from<br>2. _____      | Includes celebrity<br>players   |
| Schubert Concert        | Sunday<br>3. _____                  | John Ridgeway<br>Chamber Orchestra | Famous and<br>4. _____<br>works |
| 5. _____<br>of Laughter | First week of March                 | 6. _____<br>comedy talent          | Book in advance                 |

### 10. Listen and answer the questions.

Choose the correct letter, A, B or C.

- |                                                                                                                                                           |                                                                                                                                                                 |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>1. Why is the performance popular?</p> <p>A. it has a beautiful stage design</p> <p>B. the actors are famous</p> <p>C. it is taking place outdoors</p> | <p>3. Why should people buy tickets for the event?</p> <p>A. it is a unique opportunity</p> <p>B. it is a chance to become famous</p> <p>C. money is needed</p> |
| <p>2. What special event is happening next weekend?</p> <p>A. a chance to meet all the actors</p> <p>B. a meal</p> <p>C. a concert</p>                    | <p>4. When can people buy tickets?</p> <p>A. at the end of the month</p> <p>B. before the end of the play</p> <p>C. tomorrow night</p>                          |

### 11. Discuss these questions in pairs.

- What are the benefits of taking part in cultural events?
- Are there any cultural events that you would like to take part in?



## SELF-STUDY

Answer the questions in Section 2 of this IELTS Listening test.

<http://tinyurl.com/jwgvkp7>

## Friendship: identifying reasons and examples

By the end of the lesson I will be able to:

- identify main ideas and supporting details.
- identify reasons and examples.
- understand and use vocabulary to talk about relationships.



### INTRODUCTION

1. Write down the names of three friends from different times in your life. Tell your partner two things about each friend.
2. Discuss with your partner why people become friends.



### IELTS SKILLS

3.  Listen to part of a lecture on friendship and select the main idea.
  1. People can form friendships with animals.
  2. Several studies have shown friendships between elephants.
  3. Animals from different species can form friendships.
4.  Listen again. Identify one reason and two examples from the sentences below that are used to support the main idea.
  1. Cute videos don't always show friendship between animals because they do not always demonstrate a long-lasting relationship.
  2. Research has shown friendships forming between animals from different species, such as chimpanzees, horses, elephants and dolphins.
  3. One example was a study in Kenya that recorded a friendship between a turtle and a hippopotamus.
  4. These friendships probably form due to benefits for participants such as improved health and reduced stress.
5. Underline words and phrases from the sentences in activity 4 that are used to introduce examples and reasons.



## TASK FOCUS

6. Look at activity 8. What results and reasons should you listen for when you answer these questions?
7. Underline the key words in activity 8. Then think of synonyms for the words you selected.



## IELTS PRACTICE

8.  Listen and answer the questions.

Questions 1 and 2

Choose *TWO* letters, A–E.

Which *TWO* benefits of friendship are mentioned by the speaker?

- A. We become stronger emotionally.
- B. We get a better understanding of other's feelings.
- C. Our brains work more effectively.
- D. Our diet and lifestyle are improved.
- E. We have a better chance of getting a good job.

Questions 3 and 4

Choose *TWO* letters, A–E.

Which *TWO* reasons for pressure on friendships are mentioned by the speaker?

- A. The time required
- B. Not understanding how a friend will react to something
- C. The relationships our friends have with others
- D. Financial problems
- E. The things people post on social media

9.  Listen and answer the questions.

Complete the notes below.

Write **NO MORE THAN TWO WORDS AND/OR A NUMBER** for each answer.

### Technology and friendship

Dunbar argued that people are only able to have approximately **1.** \_\_\_\_\_ meaningful relationships at once. Many people nowadays have more connections than this. Too many online connections may have a harmful effect on **2.** \_\_\_\_\_. However the internet solves problems that result from **3.** \_\_\_\_\_ and lack of time.

### Love and friendship

Falling in love can reduce the size of people's friendship groups. This may mean spending less time with a **4.** \_\_\_\_\_ or friend. Marriage may have a positive effect on men's **5.** \_\_\_\_\_. On the other hand, marriage may not be so good for women as it may cause higher amounts of **6.** \_\_\_\_\_.



## USEFUL LANGUAGE FOR IELTS

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### 10. Match the words to the definitions.

- |                   |                                                              |
|-------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. Colleague      | A. Someone you study with at school                          |
| 2. Friendship     | B. Someone you work with                                     |
| 3. Close friend   | C. The most important friend in your life                    |
| 4. Partner        | D. A friend you get on with very well                        |
| 5. Connection     | E. The group of people you are connected to                  |
| 6. Best mate      | F. Someone you have contact with, sometimes mainly online    |
| 7. Social network | G. The key person in your life, such as your husband or wife |
| 8. Classmate      | H. A relationship between people who are friends             |

### 11. Complete the sentences with words from activity 10. Change the form if necessary.

- \_\_\_\_\_ are important to me. I work hard to keep them strong.
- People with a \_\_\_\_\_ usually know more people because they become close to their husband or wife's friends.
- I have good relations with my \_\_\_\_\_ at work but we're not close friends.
- \_\_\_\_\_ can affect how you feel at school. Poor relationships can make things difficult at this time of life.
- Although I have a large \_\_\_\_\_, I don't see most of these people very often.
- I have hundreds of \_\_\_\_\_ online but most are not close friends.
- I don't really have one \_\_\_\_\_ but lots of \_\_\_\_\_ that I spend time with. I think this is normal as you grow older.

### 12. Look at the sentences in activity 12. Discuss them with a partner and say whether you agree with them or not.

### 13. Discuss these questions with a partner.

- Why do people sometimes lose contact with their friends? Has this ever happened to you?
- Some scientists argue that friendships can be good for our health. Do you agree or disagree with this idea?



## SELF-STUDY

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Watch the video on the IELTS Listening test. Make a note of any new information that the video gives you.

<http://tinyurl.com/jbgmlwu>

## A city tour: understanding descriptions of locations

By the end of the lesson I will be able to:

- understand language used to describe locations.
- follow descriptions of maps.
- complete map labelling tasks confidently.



### INTRODUCTION

1. These were the world's most visited cities in 2015. Which one of these places would you most like to visit?

- |            |             |
|------------|-------------|
| 1. London  | 4. Dubai    |
| 2. Bangkok | 5. Istanbul |
| 3. Paris   | 6. New York |



### USEFUL LANGUAGE FOR IELTS

2. What is the difference between each pair of phrases?

- |                                  |                                   |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1a. On Main Road                 | 1b. Off Main Road                 |
| 2a. Right in the middle          | 2b. To the right of the middle    |
| 3a. Along the road               | 3b. Two roads along               |
| 4a. In the north of the town     | 4b. To the north of the town      |
| 5a. Beyond the traffic lights    | 5b. By the traffic lights         |
| 6a. To the left of the people    | 6b. To the people's left          |
| 7a. The opposite end of the road | 7b. The opposite side of the road |
| 8a. The museum next door         | 8b. The museum nearby             |

### 3. What is there in the following places?

1. Next door to your home \_\_\_\_\_
2. To the north of your town \_\_\_\_\_
3. By the town hall \_\_\_\_\_
4. Right in the middle of your country \_\_\_\_\_
5. In the east of your town \_\_\_\_\_
6. To your right \_\_\_\_\_
7. On the opposite side of the world \_\_\_\_\_
8. Off the main square in your town \_\_\_\_\_



## IELTS SKILLS

4. Listen to sentences 1–10. Then write down in the diagram what the shops in the Royal Arcade sell. The first answer has been done for you.

Royal Arcade shops:

|               |          |          |            |          |          |
|---------------|----------|----------|------------|----------|----------|
| West entrance | A. _____ | B. _____ | C. _____   | D. _____ | E. _____ |
|               | F. _____ | G. _____ | H. candles | I. _____ | J. _____ |



## TASK FOCUS

5. Look at the map in activity 7. Think of two different ways to describe the locations A–I. Two examples have been done for you.

A is to the north west of the square above the meeting point

- B. \_\_\_\_\_
- C. \_\_\_\_\_
- D. \_\_\_\_\_
- E. \_\_\_\_\_
- F. \_\_\_\_\_
- G. \_\_\_\_\_
- H. \_\_\_\_\_
- I. \_\_\_\_\_

6. Look at the list of places numbered 1–5 in activity 7. Then answer the questions below.

1. Which buildings on the map look like they could be a stage?
2. Where in the map could the ATMs be located?
3. In your experience, where are markets usually located?
4. Do you think NGV Australia is the name of a large building or a small building?

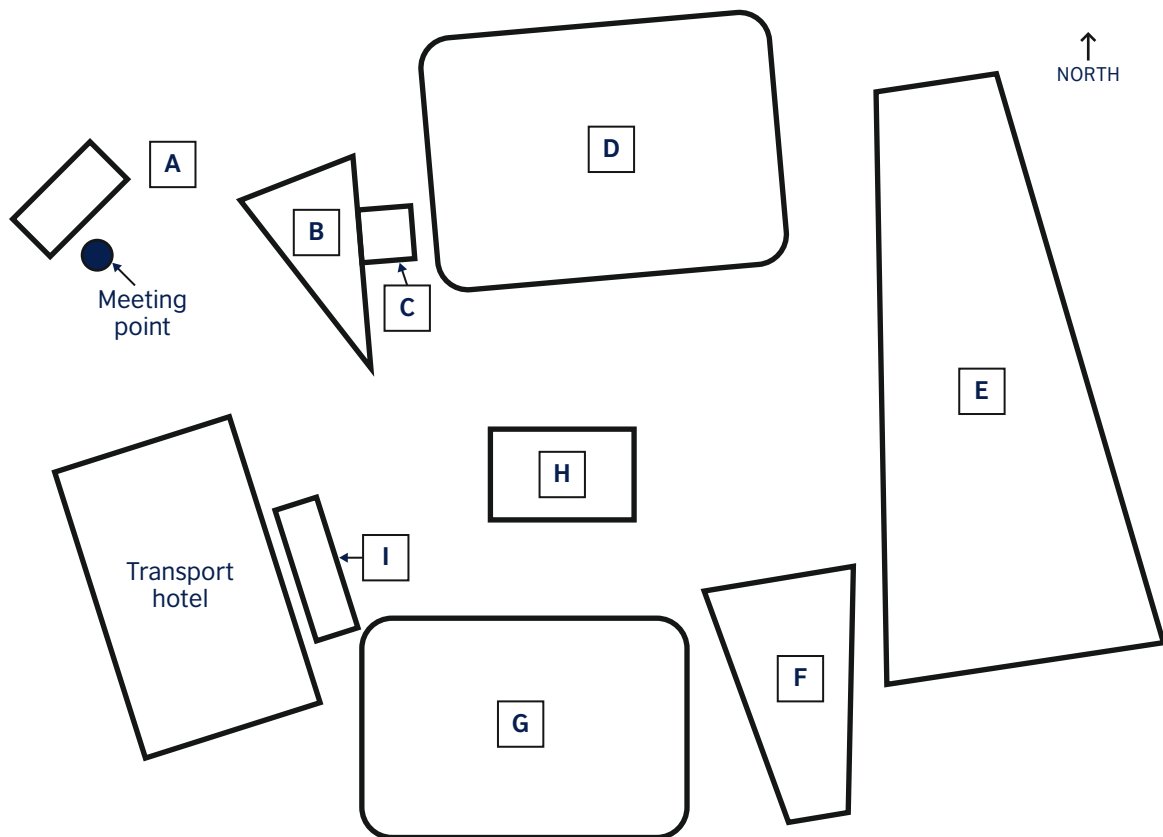


## IELTS PRACTICE

7. Listen and answer the questions.

Label the map below.

Write the correct letter, A–I next to questions 1–5.



1. ACMI \_\_\_\_\_
2. NGV Australia \_\_\_\_\_
3. Stage \_\_\_\_\_
4. Book market \_\_\_\_\_
5. ATMs \_\_\_\_\_

**8. 🎧 Listen and answer the questions.**

*Complete the notes below.*

*Write NO MORE THAN TWO WORDS for each answer.*

**Flinders Station**

Notice the lovely 1. \_\_\_\_\_

You get a message when you go into 2. \_\_\_\_\_

**Lanes**

Old workshops, 3. \_\_\_\_\_ and cottages (now shops and restaurants)

Opportunity to try some 4. \_\_\_\_\_

**Buildings**

Ned Kelly prison

Theatre with a 5. \_\_\_\_\_

**9. If you had to plan a tour of your town or city, which five places would you take people to?**



**SELF-STUDY**

Do the Practice activities for Section 1 of the Listening test.

<http://tinyurl.com/6qe39d5>