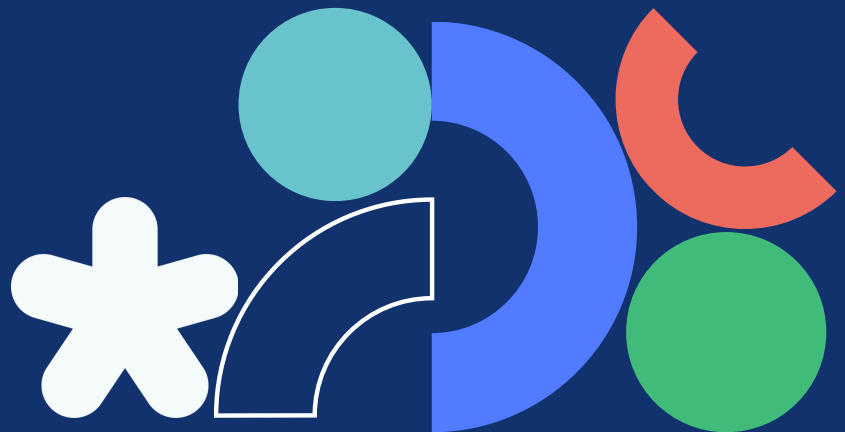


The 60-Day One Skill Retake Planner

By Bailey with E2.





Start here: the three gates

Three questions. All three have to be yes.

Work through these in order. If you hit a STOP, you have just saved yourself a booking fee.

GATE 1: Will they accept it?

- ☐ I have contacted the university, employer or immigration authority receiving my score.
- ☐ They have confirmed they accept an IELTS One Skill Retake result.
- ☐ I have that confirmation in writing, by email or as a screenshot of their published policy.
- ☐ If this is for professional registration: I have asked how they treat a One Skill Retake result, including any rules on combining results from more than one sitting.

Who I contacted: _____ Date: _____ Answer: _____

If any box is unticked: STOP. Do not book yet.

GATE 2: Am I eligible?

- ☐ My original test was IELTS on computer. Not paper, not IELTS Online.
- ☐ My original test was not taken in the USA.
- ☐ My test centre offers One Skill Retake.
- ☐ My retake date falls within 60 days of my original test date.
- ☐ This is my first retake for this test.
- ☐ My retake is booked in the same delivery mode as my original: typed, or Writing on Paper.

If any box is unticked: STOP. A full retake is your route.



Start here: the three gates

GATE 3: Can I close the gap?

My score in the skill I want to retake: _____ The score I need: _____ The gap: _____

- ☐ 0.5 band. Realistic in this window.
- ☐ 1.0 band. Possible with focused work and feedback on what you produce.
- ☐ 1.5 bands or more: A full retake with a longer runway is usually the better decision.



Your real deadline

Sixty days is not sixty days of preparation.

Fill this in the day your results arrive. The number at the bottom is usually a shock, and that is the point.

A. My original test date: _____

B. My results date, usually 3 to 5 days after A: _____

C. Am I requesting a remark? ☐ No ☐ Yes

If yes, request it by (within about 2 weeks of B): _____

A remark outcome can take up to 21 days. Expected outcome date:

Note: the 60-day retake clock does not stop while you wait for a remark.

D. Latest possible retake date, A plus 60 days: _____

E. The retake date I have actually booked: _____

F. My real preparation window, E minus B (or E minus the remark outcome date): _____ days, which is _____ weeks.

G. My retake results date, E plus 5 days: _____

H. My actual application deadline: _____

If G falls after H, your retake date is too late. Move E earlier.

Reality check

- F is under 21 days: you are already in taper territory. Work on timing and technique, not new material.
- F is 21 to 42 days: this is the normal window. Use the 60-day shape on page 6.
- F is over 42 days: you have booked well. Do not waste the first fortnight deciding.



Which skill actually let you down?

Your lowest score is not always your real problem.

Answer honestly. Tick every statement that sounds like your test day.

My score in this skill: _____ The score I need: _____ The gap: _____

Research published by IELTS found that people starting from a lower band improved more than people already scoring high. So 6 to 6.5 is a different job from 7.5 to 8. Be honest about which one you're doing.

- ☐ 1. I ran out of time before I finished.
- ☐ 2. I understood the material but could not get my answer out in the format required.
- ☐ 3. I knew my answer was thin, but I could not think of anything else to say or write.
- ☐ 4. I lost marks on instructions: word limits, spelling, the wrong number of items.
- ☐ 5. I could not keep up with the speed of the audio or the length of the passage.
- ☐ 6. I felt fine walking out, and the score still came back low.



Which skill actually let you down?

What your answers mean

- Mostly 1, 4 and 5: your gap is technique and timing. Technique responds to knowing exactly how each question type behaves, so this is the most fixable kind of gap in a short window.
- Mostly 2 and 3: your gap is production. You need feedback on what you actually produce, not more practice tests.
- Number 6 on its own: Number 6 on its own: a remark may be worth considering before a retake. Note that IELTS automatically re-marks scores that are markedly out of line with your Listening and Reading, so it's more of a long shot than most people expect. See page 4.

The skill I am retaking: ☐ Listening ☐ Reading ☐ Writing ☐ Speaking

- Technique gap (mostly 1, 4 and 5)? Get the IELTS eBook for the section you're retaking. Every question type, worked examples, model answers. One skill, one book.
- Production gap (mostly 2 and 3)? You can't mark your own habits. Get your Writing or Speaking assessed by someone who works with the band descriptors. That's what we do at E2Language.com.



Remark or retake, and in what order?

You can do both. You cannot do them at once.

The sequence:



Five questions

1. Was the score a genuine surprise? ☐ Yes ☐ No
2. Did the low score sit well below your other three? ☐ Yes ☐ No
3. Did you finish everything you were asked to do? ☐ Yes ☐ No
4. Did you run out of time? ☐ Yes ☐ No
5. Do you have more than 40 days left on your 60-day clock? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Reading your answers

- Yes to 1, 2, 3 and 5: a remark is worth considering first.
- Yes to 4, or No to 5: skip the remark. Protect your window and prepare for the retake.
- The six-week deadline can carry a **9am cut-off** on the deadline date at some centres, brought forward to the preceding Friday if it falls on a weekend or holiday.
- **A test can only be re-marked once.**

**Remember: the remark fee is refunded if your band goes up.
The 60-day clock keeps running either way.**



Questions to ask your test centre

Print this. Ask all eight. Write the answers down.

Centre: _____ Contacted on: _____ Spoke to: _____

- 1. Do you offer IELTS One Skill Retake at this centre? _____
- 2. Is it available for the test type I am booking: Academic, General Training or UKVI? _____
- 3. Based on my original test date of _____, what is the last date I can sit my retake? _____
- 4. What retake dates do you currently have available for my skill?

- 5. If I choose Writing on Paper for my original test, can I retake Writing in that same mode here? _____
- 6. How do I book the retake: through the test taker portal, or through you? _____
- 7. If I request a remark first, how does that affect my retake booking?

- 8. What is the fee? _____

! Ask questions 1, 2 and 5 before you book your original test. Once your results are out, it is too late to change centre.



Your 60-day grid and week 1 diagnostic

One weakness per week. Write it in before you start.

Week	Focus/Goal	Target Dates	Key Milestone
1	Diagnose	_____ to _____	Full timed section sat on _____
2	Fix _____	_____ to _____	
3	Fix _____	_____ to _____	
4	Fix _____	_____ to _____	
5	Full, timed sections	_____ to _____	
6	Full, timed sections	_____ to _____	
7	Taper (No new material)	_____ to _____	
Retake date: _____			

Week 1 diagnostic sheet

Section sat: _____ Date: _____

Timed? ☐ Yes ☐ No Delivery mode: ☐ Typed ☐ Handwritten

Where did the marks actually go? Five blank rows:

Question type or task: _____ What went wrong: _____

The one thing I will fix in week 2: _____

How I will know it is fixed: _____

Who is reading this and telling me what capped it? _____

(This should be someone who knows the band descriptors.)