

## Teacher support

### Getting to know Road to IELTS

*Before you use a new program with your students, it is essential that you know both the contents and the way the program works. Try this short exercise which has been designed to help teachers get to know Road to IELTS.*

#### First look at the functionality.

1. How do you start Road to IELTS on the computers in your institution? Provide instructions for students.

For example: 'Log in to the school website and click on the link on the academic skills page.'  
Or, 'Click on the icon on the Desktop.' Obviously, it is important to be able to direct learners clearly and accurately.

2. Click into Unit 1, Leisure & Entertainment. How do you get back to the main unit menu?

Click on the Home icon in the top right corner of the screen.

3. Find a reading passage. At the top of the screen, in the middle, you will see an icon that looks like a plus sign [+]. What is the function of this icon?

Clicking on this icon in an exercise brings up exam tips. These provide help on how to tackle individual questions in the exercise. They are not present for every exercise.

4. Do the videos in the Speaking sections and the audios in the Listening sections have controls that allow you to pause and go back?

The videos have controls which appear in the top right corner of the screen when you start the video. The listening activities mimic the exams and do not allow learners to pause, stop or go back.

5. You cannot access progress records from every screen. Where can you access these records, and what does the icon look like?

Learners can access their progress records from the section screens. The icon is in the top right corner of the screen and is an arrow pointing upwards and to the right.

6. Go to Unit 2, Language & Communication. How can you quickly see the objectives of each section?

Mouse over each of the sections and a brief description appears below the dotted line.

7. What is the Scratch Pad?

The Scratch Pad is an electronic notepad that students can use to make notes, write essays or jot down questions they want to ask the teacher. If a learner is logged in, the contents of the Scratch Pad are automatically saved.

#### Now investigate the content.

8. What is the purpose of the first section in each unit?

The first section in each unit is called 'Words'. The purpose of this section is to pre-teach vocabulary that will appear in the unit, and also to help the learner develop their vocabulary in the topic area.

9. Go to Unit 1, Listening, Short answer questions. Where is 'The Cellar'?

In Park Road

## Teacher support

**10.** Go to Unit 7, Words, Match the disease. (a) Describe how this exercise works. (b) What is the woman in question 9 suffering from?

(a) Students click on the audio icon next to each question. They listen to an audio clip in which someone describes how they are feeling. They then drag down the appropriate disease from the panel at the top and drop it next to the question number.

(b) The woman is suffering from laryngitis.

**11.** Where can students get advice on dealing with the question types (eg summary completion, multiple selection) they will find in the Reading and Listening modules of the IELTS exam?

They can go to the Introduction of the Reading and Listening sections and click on the links, which are usually at the bottom of the screen.

**12.** Go to Unit 12, Speaking. How many candidates do you see? What does Alexandra describe as 'a necessity'?

You see three candidates in this section. Alexandra says a computer is 'a necessity nowadays'.

**13.** Where can you find transcripts of the listening activities in Road to IELTS?

[www.ClaritySupport.com](http://www.ClaritySupport.com)

**14.** How will you use Road to IELTS with your students? Make notes.

This is a useful prompt for teachers to discuss the practical integration of Road to IELTS into the wider curriculum.