

**Ben:** Hello there, IELTS students. Welcome to IELTS podcast. You no longer have to worry, fret, or panic about IELTS because we are here to guide you through this test jungle. Enjoy these IELTS tutorials and if you need more help or want to access the famous online course, you can visit us at [ieltpodcast.com](http://ieltpodcast.com).

Hello there, IELTS students. In this episode, we'll be speaking with Shahla. Did I pronounce that right, Shahla?

**Shahla:** Yes, that's perfect.

**Ben:** Good, good. I was practicing beforehand well with Shahla. I keep wanting to say Shala, but that's wrong, isn't it? Shala.

**Shahla:** Yes, Shahla is fine.

**Ben:** Okay, Shahla. Right. She has taken the IELTS exam a few times and in this tutorial, she is going to share with us how she passed and what she did to pass. So, before we jump into this, can you tell us about yourself, why are you taking the IELTS exam, and where you're from?

**Shahla:** Yes, sure. Thank you, Ben. So, I'm Shahla from Dhaka, Bangladesh and I have been taking IELTS for immigration purpose, so I'll be applying for skilled express entry to Canada. So, that's why I need a particular band to get the desired point. So, that's why I was taking IELTS.

**Ben:** Interesting. Where about in Canada do you want to go?

**Shahla:** Oh, Vancouver hopefully.

**Ben:** Really? Why Vancouver?

**Shahla:** Because actually I'm working in film industry in Bangladesh and Vancouver would be ideal to get jobs in my profession. So, that's why I was hoping to try my luck there at the beginning.

**Ben:** Interesting. You're working in film. Is it connected to Bollywood at all or is that more Indian?

**Shahla:** No. Bollywood is based in India. So, I'm working in the film industry in Dhaka. So, mostly we make films and TV commercials.

**Ben:** Yes. Is that for the Bangladesh market?

**Shahla:** Yes, this is for Bangladesh market.

**Ben:** Right. How would-- sorry, we're going to get a bit off-topic, but then don't worry, listeners. We're going to give back to IELTS. I'm just curious. So, your experience is with the Bangladeshi market. What is it exactly that you do in film production?

**Shahla:** So, I work as assistant director, so mostly I coordinate with different departments like cinematography or art and other like casting. So, I mostly help the director to work with other teams.

**Ben:** I see and when you get to Vancouver-- we're not going to say if. We're going to say when you get to Vancouver, you will be looking for a similar position.

**Shahla:** Yes. I'll go there and I'll look for other work opportunities as well, but I'll do film and media sectors and I'll see how the industry works there. So, I will not only look for work as assistant director, but I'll be open for other opportunities as well as long as it is close to film and media.

**Ben:** Interesting, interesting. Very good. Well, I wish you the best of luck with that.

**Shahla:** Thank you.

**Ben:** You're welcome. So, let's jump into your IELTS preparation. What issues were you having when you were-- because you've taken the test a few times, what issues were you having?

**Shahla:** So, I was facing difficulties with the writing section. Actually, I appeared for IELTS for the first time in 2015 when I was trying to go to UK for masters and at that time, I did all the preparation by myself and I got the band I needed at that time.

So, in 2000-- I think 2017 yes, end of 2017 when I started preparing for general training this time, I was pretty confident that I'll be fine by myself because I just need 7 in writing, reading, and speaking and 8 in listening. So, I was pretty confident, but then when I gave my first exam, then I saw that no, I'm just not as good as-- I'm not--

**Ben:** Not as good as you--

**Shahla:** --getting the marks I needed. Yes.

**Ben:** Got you, got you. So, in the period from when you first took the test and then you tried again, your grades had gotten worse. Is that right?

**Shahla:** It didn't actually improve because that time I took academic-- you were saying about the general training or?

**Ben:** No, because you said in 2015 you applied to go to a British university and you had to take IELTS and then you took the IELTS again a few years later and you didn't get the grade you wanted. So, I was asking in that period, had your English deteriorated?

**Shahla:** Actually, it was almost similar because in 2015, I got 6 in writing. In 2017 also, I got 6 in writing, but that was not what I was expecting because in the meantime I did Masters and I was in UK for one and half year so I thought my English improved especially the writing section

because I had to write many assignments, do research and all, but then actually it was not the case.

**Ben:** Got you, got you. So, it wasn't that your English had deteriorated. It had actually stayed the same, probably improved. However, the goal posts had changed. The requirement had gotten higher. Is that right?

**Shahla:** Yes, I guess so.

**Ben:** I see. I see. Wow! Whereabouts in England did you go or Britain-- sorry?

**Shahla:** I was studying in University of Kent--

**Ben:** Kent!

**Shahla:** --so it was in Canterbury. Yes.

**Ben:** Wow! Did you enjoy it?

**Shahla:** Yes, yes, so much.

**Ben:** What did you study in your masters?

**Shahla:** I did Masters in Film Studies.

**Ben:** Interesting. Wow! Did you like the food in England?

**Shahla:** Yes, but in South Asia, our taste is a bit different than the British people. So, it's like mixed. Sometimes yes, sometimes no, not that much.

**Ben:** Okay, that's a very diplomatic answer, but what did you think of the curry there in England? We've got amazing curries like Bangladeshi curry, Indian curry, Pakistani curry, we've got all of them I think.

**Shahla:** Yes. Yes, yes, that's true.

**Ben:** Were they as good as home?

**Shahla:** Actually, in England, Indian restaurants are more available than Bangladeshi restaurants and Indian cuisine is a little bit different than Bangladeshi cuisine. So, it was good, very good. I was very happy and actually, when I was studying in Kent, I was working in an Indian restaurant. So, I used to eat lots of good food. So, yes, that's good.

**Ben:** Yes, I've done the same. We're going to just digress just for a second then we're going to get back to IELTS. When I was in Spain, I worked in a restaurant, too and there's so many advantages for working in a restaurant like I never went to the supermarket. I was just always fed by the restaurant and fair enough, I couldn't go out that much like to socialize, but that

meant that I wasn't spending money and I was just socializing in the restaurant with friends and customers and so the money was just-- it was stacking up. I think hospitality is a good industry for a certain amount of time because you can quickly get burnt out I found. Okay then--

**Shahla:** Yes, true.

**Ben:** So, you touched on the writing before. Am I right writing was the obstacle that you needed to overcome? Is that right? Sorry about that, Shahla.

**Shahla:** Sorry, Ben. My friend was calling so somehow the call dropped.

**Ben:** Okay, no worries, no worries. I was just going to say writing was the biggest hurdle you had. Is that right?

**Shahla:** Yes, that's right.

**Ben:** Got you and what were the pain points of not having a solution to this problem?

**Shahla:** Actually, I didn't have the proper guidance I need at the beginning, so I was trying to improve my writing quality, but it was not improving because I didn't know how to improve it. So, I was just looking at different essays I can find online or I was just looking for YouTube videos, but the presentations I was collecting from those sources those were not specific or not what I needed to hear or know about my writings.

So, I think that's the main problem I had and also as a student or as a writer, I write very slowly like from my school and when I was in universities, in the exams, I was always the last one to finish writing. So, I always have that problem. So, in the IELTS when I have to gather ideas in 40 minutes for one essay and then I have to complete it, it was difficult for me.

Also, I used to make spelling errors and I didn't know that it was a big mistake. I thought that we always use computers or mobiles and we have the autocorrect option. So, I thought it's not as important as the other parts. So, I kept making spelling mistakes I think for the first three exams and I didn't know it is an important thing.

**Ben:** Wow! Wow! That's a shame, isn't it? Because you can lose points for each word that you misspell. So, just going back a bit, when you were looking online and looking at different essays, were you making any progress with that because I imagine that I would look at some videos and look at some other videos and almost get a little bit confused. Was it the same for you?

**Shahla:** Yes. It was the same for me and actually, like when I'm writing the essay, every essay is different. So, it doesn't matter what I'm hearing from the YouTube video. I cannot actually implement it in every different essays. That's what I face. Like I don't know like specially when I--

Okay. So, after my first exam, I took one coaching classes from my center here in Dhaka and at that time I realized that I was not able to generate ideas. My first two lines of each paragraph like for introduction and also body paragraph one and two was not specific to the question. The answer was not as specific; I was answering something else. I was maybe-- I was just rephrasing what the question is saying or something else, but because it's not answering the question so I'm not actually getting marks because I'm saying something else.

**Ben:** Got you. So, your answers-- you found videos, but they didn't really correspond. They might have worked for some questions or for some essays, but for others, they didn't. Is that right?

**Shahla:** Yes. They helped me like I know how to end a letter or how to begin it or how many paragraphs I need, but they didn't help me to point out what I'm missing out or what I need to write inside each paragraph. So, I was not very clear about that.

**Ben:** Got you. Got you. Interesting. Very interesting. Before we get on to how you solved that, I just want to mention the other point. You said that you're very slow at writing both in your own language and in English.

**Shahla:** Yes.

**Ben:** How is your handwriting? Is it beautiful? Is it normal? Is it legible or is it chicken scratch as we say in the UK?

**Shahla:** No, my writing is not so bad. You can understand it and also, I don't-- it's easy to read and some of my friends even say that my English handwriting is beautiful, but it doesn't help me as you know if I don't complete the essay, they are not going to give me any marks because it's a beautiful handwriting.

**Ben:** No. Unfortunately, they don't, not yet. Not at the moment, no, but I thought this, Shahla, because when you said it takes you a long time to write, I was thinking I bet it's pretty good handwriting because to write quickly unless you've got a lot of experience, you usually have to sacrifice something and usually what it looks like is what gets sacrificed.

So, let's just go back to the content of the paragraphs. This was an issue. What options did you look at before you joined the course? How did you consider solving this problem? How did you even know that this was the problem? Was it just like the frustration or?

**Shahla:** I was very frustrated, to be honest. After the first exam, I took coaching and then I took the second exam, but I got 6. So, I understood that nothing improved and then I took the third exam actually without any preparation. I was very angry or something that why am I still getting a 6? So, I didn't tell anyone. I just booked online the computer-delivered and I just secretly gave

the third exam. I got the same marks and then I thought okay I'll have to calm down. I'll have to take proper preparation before I appear for the fourth time.

**Ben:** Wow!

**Shahla:** So, I did some research online because I didn't have any faith on the coaching center at that time because it didn't actually help me. They said to me that my writing is not good enough or I'm not answering the question that is asked, but how I can answer to the point, that was not suggested by the teachers. So, I was not ready to try any other coaching center or to go to anyone else.

Then I also joined some Facebook and WhatsApp group dedicated for IELTS students and then I found a template for answering different types of essays like discussion type or problem-solution type. So, on the template, there was answer for-- solution for each type of essay, so it was very easy for me. I was just following that template and writing essays every day.

**Ben:** Wow!

**Shahla:** So, that was very helpful for me and also I was trying to learn new vocabularies. At that time in front of my table there was a board. I was taking papers with vocabularies and I was writing if it is C1 word or C2 word and everything--

**Ben:** Beautiful.

**Shahla:** --but I think that time I was-- my preparation was too much. I was using new vocabularies, but I didn't actually know that if the native English speaker will use those words as I am using it. I think it's called collocation or...

**Ben:** Yes, yes, yes, yes, you can use collocations. That's a group of words more commonly found together than other words, for example. That's interesting, Shahla.

**Shahla:** Yes, I was not learning collocations. I was just learning the vocabulary.

**Ben:** Oh, right. Now I understand.

**Shahla:** I didn't have anyone to check my essays so I didn't know that those-- what kind of mistakes; if it's a big mistake or not. So, I appeared fourth time and I got 6 again.

**Ben:** That hurts, doesn't it? I imagine after all this preparation.

**Shahla:** Yes, because on the sixth time-- right and on the fourth time, I had the template, so I knew that I'm answering to the point and at that time, I didn't have to struggle a lot to organize

my thoughts. The ideas was very easy to get and I was able to complete the writing on time as well, but somehow I think I was making some mistakes on the fourth time and I don't know why.

When I was doing the research before fourth time, I didn't know about IELTS podcast or somehow it didn't appear on the Google search or I didn't know the kind of service you provide. So, after fourth time, I was doing research on the phone and I remember that I saw you have a page where you offer trial essay check.

**Ben:** Yes, yes, we do. We do. Hold on though before we jump into this.

**Shahla:** Okay.

**Ben:** Just to summarize, you had the trainer-- you tried the training services, the coach in your city, but you didn't get any improvement from that, so you were kind of frustrated and disappointed. So, then you jumped online-- after another test, you jumped online. You started looking at the Facebook groups and doing more research and you found some templates to use and you started researching vocabulary.

Then you took the test again, but unfortunately, you were still stuck at 6 and in between that, you secretly took a test, but you didn't tell anybody, but they might find out now, by the way.

**Shahla:** Yes.

**Ben:** Anyway and you had all the vocabulary, but you had this inclination, you had this sneaky suspicion that you were probably or possibly using the vocabulary incorrectly and just one thing I remembered now. You had it listed into C1, C2, B1, B2. Is that correct? You were grading them.

**Shahla:** Yes.

**Ben:** How did you know to do that?

**Shahla:** I was reading so many things online, so maybe from somewhere I learned that in the Cambridge online dictionary, you can find if it is a basic-level word or it's a high-level word. So, I was trying to learn like C1 and C2 vocabularies.

**Ben:** Excellent. That's a great idea. Great decision there. Wow! Okay. So, back to your situation. You got a trial essay correction and was it Ellen who did the correction? Do you remember?

**Shahla:** Yes.

**Ben:** It was Ellen; super. Got you and then what did you realize after that?

**Shahla:** I was very impressed because I sent my writing and in one day, I got the video feedback and I was not expecting for something like that because on the website, there was a few

sentence and how you marked it with red, green and I found it very interesting and that's why I took the trial session, but I didn't know that you will be sending me video feedback.

So, when I saw that the feedback is very well developed and Ellen is providing me feedback on each and every sentence, I knew what are the mistakes I was making and because Ellen is also a native English speaker, she was able to tell me that this is not native would say that word or how we can rephrase the same sentence in a different way. So, it was very helpful.

**Ben:** That is fantastic. I think you hit the nail on the head when you said because she's a native speaker she can easily tell which phrases can be used in which situations, which is a problem that you highlighted before when you said that you were learning lots of vocabulary, but because they were quite new and they weren't learned sort of like in collocations or possibly taken out of context, it was difficult to know if you were using them correctly when you were writing.

So, what happened after the trial though? Ellen sent you back the correction-- the video correction so you could hear her thoughts and her suggestions as she's going through your work.

**Shahla:** Yes.

**Ben:** Okay and then what happen-- by the way, what were you doing with the other areas? How were you preparing for those; for the reading, listening, speaking?

**Shahla:** So, for reading and listening, I was following the Cambridge book and also for both sectors, I was also following online site. So, we can give online exams on that website, so I was just doing that. On that online site, the questions is harder than the Cambridge book, so it helped me a lot because I was prepared to face harder questions then general training question would be.

**Ben:** Interesting and that was the IELTS test online. Was it a practice--

**Shahla:** IELTS online test, yes.

**Ben:** Got you. Got you. Super. Super. So, you were just doing one practice test a week or what frequency were you-- how many were you doing?

**Shahla:** Actually, during my first attempt, second and third, fourth attempt, I was doing that a lot like regularly, but before the fourth exam and also before the fifth exam, I didn't-- I did some tests, but I was confident, so I tried to focus on writing more than reading and listening, but I solved almost all the Cambridge and also the all the reading and listening test in IELTS online. So, I have solved all of those exams.

**Ben:** Wow! So, you worked through them all.

**Shahla:** I think I repeated the Cambridge exam.

**Ben:** Wow! Did you buy the books?

**Shahla:** I bought a few like a couple of books from Cambridge and other like in YouTube we can practice listening actually.

**Ben:** Yes, that's true. That's true. Okay. When you said hmm I thought you were going to say you downloaded a load online at some site, but that's good. That's good and you were right. You're right. They are available on YouTube the listening test. So, yes, that's a good point.

Now then, after you got your trial essay correction back, you saw all your mistakes. You saw where you were going wrong. You saw what you were doing right and then what happened? What was the next step you took?

**Shahla:** So, after that I contacted to take a package like you have eight essay correction pack. So, I tried that one because I knew that I need to improve my English, but what happened is it was I think sometime in June or July or August when I started practicing-- I started sending my essays, but after sending three or four essays, then I became very busy with my work, so I couldn't continue my preparation.

Then I think in December, I started. I emailed you and then Nadyne-- I think Nadyne replied that I can still send the essays because I taked four essays and I had four or five left.

**Ben:** Right, right. Okay. And just for the benefit of the other students, did it impact your progression by stopping for a few months and then jumping back into it?

**Shahla:** It didn't-- actually, when I had to stop sending the essays, then I feel that it will it will have a negative impact on my preparation, but then when I started sending the essays again, then I realized that no actually because I have all the previous videos with me, so I can go back to the videos and I can play and I can revise what are the feedbacks I received. So actually, it didn't hampered so much, but if you ask me I would suggest everyone to complete the essay check and just appear on the IELTS test and not to take any break in between because mentally, it is very frustrating and I was also depressed for a long time when I had to take the exams again and again.

**Ben:** Right, yes. I totally understand. So, although you took a break, when you got back into it, did you review all your previous essays like the feedback?

**Shahla:** Yes, I did.

**Ben:** Good, good, good and then that kind of like brought you up to speed and then when you started submitting them again, it wasn't as if you were starting from zero because you had the

videos there online which you can consult anytime you want. Super. Super. Okay. So, you jump back into it and you started getting-- you finished all the corrections and then you took the test again. Is that right?

**Shahla:** Yes, that's right.

**Ben:** Excellent. Just before we go into the results of what happened in your final test or the latest test, how did your essays improve once you started getting feedback?

**Shahla:** After receiving the feedbacks, I was more-- how do you say it-- I was more mindful or I was more conscious when I was writing it because I know what are the feedbacks I was receiving from Ellen and this time I'm not just writing for myself, but there is a teacher who is going to check it. So, I'll have to be careful that I don't make the same mistakes.

So, it helped me and also I was trying to make less spelling mistakes and also I received some feedbacks regarding the grammar so I was being careful. Also, I received a very good feedback on the first essay check that was a problem-solution essay and you know I had the templates before, so I knew what I am writing, but in the problem-solution essays, Ellen suggested me that I'm writing more about the problem and when I'm giving the answer for the solution, I'm just writing maybe two sentence when I need to develop the solution part as much as I did for the problem. So, that was something new I learned.

**Ben:** That's very interesting. Very interesting. What I like about the answer you just gave was or the response was when you were in the test, you were very aware. It was almost like a teacher was over your shoulder-- looking over your shoulder and you were aware that they would be an examiner reading this.

By the way, when you were getting your corrections back, what did you do? Did you make a list of the mistakes or how did you use these corrections Ellen was giving you?

**Shahla:** Okay. So, when I started sending the essays again, then I-- in the laptop, we can stick a notepad, right? It calls notepad. Yes. So, I was writing the spelling mistake or vocabulary or collocation errors I'm making. So, those were on my laptop. So, whenever I was turning on the laptop, I used to see the words and I thought that I'll make the practice to look at those words every day in the morning or whenever I'm working in laptop, but I couldn't do it every day, but it was on my laptop screen so I used to see the words that I was making mistakes with.

**Ben:** Got you. Got you. So, even though you were--

**Shahla:** And also--

**Ben:** Yes, go on.

**Shahla:** Yes, also with every essay check, Ellen used to send me some word suggestion or collocation suggestion like six or seven words. So, that helped me, too.

**Ben:** That's super, yes. Yes. So, you just reminded me-- and these collocations were related to the actual next question.

**Shahla:** Okay.

**Ben:** Yes, they were. Okay, got you. Yes, I'm pretty certain that when-- for example, if we send an essay question about medicine or health, then we'll usually send a list of collocations or suggested collocations that you can incorporate into your essay to help you improve your score.

**Shahla:** Yes, it was very helpful for me because when I was doing the online research, I tried to find such words, but it is very difficult to find those words because in most of the cases, I'll have to read or I'll have to listen to YouTube videos, but all the time I'll have to put so much effort, but when Ellen was sending me the word list, I was able to-- every word list was seven or eight words at least, so I was able to pick the words that are easy for me to use.

**Ben:** Fantastic. Yes, fantastic. This is what we thought when we were sending back the questions. If we could include a list, then it just speeds things up because at the end of the day, you need to learn vocabulary quickly for the test and having to search for that vocabulary

yourself is not the best use of your time when you could be using that time to actually use the vocabulary in your essay.

Yes, yes. Okay. So, is there anything else about working with Ellen that we haven't covered yet that you'd like to share? Have we covered everything?

**Shahla:** No. Yes, and I really liked that I was able to receive feedback like in one or two days. It is before I forgot what I wrote I was able to hear the feedback so I was able to improve myself. Also, there was one online site that I used to send my essays for check, but they used to-- they give feedback at the same time. It's just a computerized check I guess, but that is not as same as checking with IELTS podcast because here I can hear the human feedback.

**Ben:** That's a good point, yes. About the fast response, I think this is so important because like you just said, not only do you have the essay fresh in your mind, it's like in your active memory and it's still present but also it's going to help you keep momentum. If it takes a week to get your essay back, it's quite easy to get distracted and jump into another side project maybe working on your listening or doing something completely non-IELTS related and then seven days later, you get the essay back and you've got to jump back into your IELTS preparation. I think it just makes it even more of a challenge. That was my experience.

**Shahla:** True.

**Ben:** So, what would you say to any student who's considering about getting their essays corrected or who is stuck at a 6 or a 6.5? What would you say to them?

**Shahla:** I would say that I was very stupid that I gave exam 5 times because it's not as difficult as I thought. In the last exam, I thought I'll not get my desired score, but I received it. So, I suggest everyone to take IELTS podcast course or the essay check so they can receive the desired band because it's not so difficult. It's just we are trying in the wrong way or we are not receiving the feedback we need.

**Ben:** Good point there. Good point.

**Shahla:** Sorry, I'm not good at giving suggestion.

**Ben:** No, no, no. That was fantastic. It was really good, Shahla. It was good. It was good. Don't apologize for that and I'd just like to add two things. Just to summarize there what Shahla said just getting the feedback can speed up the improvement process so much. I think a lot of students misunderstand or guess incorrectly or estimate incorrectly how close they are and that with some feedback, we can get you back on track and get you to where you should be and to get you the scores you deserve.

One thing really important, probably more important, Shahla, is you said I was really stupid. I would disagree because you-- and I think we should just not beat ourselves up about taking

tests so many times or whatever. We shouldn't beat ourselves up especially-- you should definitely not beat yourself up about this because in the end, you got the solution. In the end, you did pass the exam and you got there in the end. You didn't give up and it's quite easy to beat ourselves up once we're looking at it with hindsight, once we're looking back on it, but the important thing to focus on is just like hey, actually, I did get the results. I did get what I wanted.

We all make a mess. We've all been there and we all sort of like realize oh, I was so silly or whatever, but the important thing I think to focus on is like hey, I did find a solution and now I know the next time I'm facing something challenging, I'm going to look for help. I think the important thing is there is a very important valuable lesson there. We all beat ourselves up, but you found a solution, so yes. That's the important part.

**Shahla:** Yes, I'm very happy that I took the course because otherwise I don't know how many times I would have needed to give the exam. So, I really recommend everyone to take the course before it's too late because you know like most of us we are trying for immigration purpose and day by day, it is becoming more competitive. So--

**Ben:** This is so true.

**Shahla:** --we need to act fast here.

**Ben:** Yes, and it's so time consuming as well, isn't it? Not only the time preparation you need. Maybe going to an academic center you've got a commute there if you're going with a coach, but the time and the stress involved in booking a test and going to the test center, reappearing for the test, all the mental energy tied up with this. And as you said, it can take its toll on your mental health and it seemed like you touched on very slightly. It got you down. It gets you down. So, well done for pushing through, Shahla.

**Shahla:** Thank you.

**Ben:** You should be really proud of your results and I imagine you are.

**Shahla:** Yes, I am.

**Ben:** So, in the end what were your scores? Tell us.

**Shahla:** Okay. So in the end, it was 7, 7, 7, and 8 in listening.

**Ben:** Wow! You're a superstar. Well done.

**Shahla:** Thank you.

**Ben:** But you said--

**Shahla:** The reading was really difficult this time.

**Ben:** Got you, okay.

**Shahla:** Like from 31 to 40, I was not able to follow the paragraphs at all, but luckily I managed 7, so I'm really grateful.

**Ben:** Wow! Well done. Well done again there. Just before we finish, I had a very important question. I just realized you said that Dhaka is the capital of Bangladesh, isn't it?

**Shahla:** Yes.

**Ben:** Yes and I just remembered-- well, I had a flashback. Tadka dal is a curry as well, isn't it?

**Shahla:** Dal?

**Ben:** Dal. Tadka dal is like a really garlicky creamy lentil curry.

**Shahla:** Yes, yes.

**Ben:** I just realized it's from the capital of Bangladesh then, isn't it? I think.

**Shahla:** Yes, it is.

**Ben:** Got you.

**Shahla:** Okay.

**Ben:** It's very much related to IELTS. No, I really wanted to--

**Shahla:** Where did you have it?

**Ben:** Yes, I used to have it a lot actually. They had it as a special every Wednesday at this Indian restaurant I used to go to a lot in Warsaw and it was my special. My Indian friend and me we used to go every Wednesday because he really liked it as well and the penny dropped when you said you're from Dhaka. Actually, you pronounced it tadka, didn't you?

**Shahla:** No, it's Dhaka.

**Ben:** Dhaka, okay.

**Shahla:** Dhaka.

**Ben:** Dhaka.

**Shahla:** Yes.

**Ben:** Okay, got you and then the penny drop does like I heard that then I remembered tadka dal on Wednesdays. Anyway, this isn't a podcast about curry and Indian food or Bangladeshi food. That's the next episode. But anyway, Shahla, thank you very much for doing this interview and



you will be a massive inspiration for all the other students who are taking IELTS. So, I want to thank you--

**Shahla:** Thank you.

**Ben:** --on behalf of them and I wish you all the best for Vancouver.

**Shahla:** Thank you so much, Ben. I wish you all the best, too and I have heard about your other projects with IELTS and that sounds really good. All the best.

**Ben:** Thank you. Yes, thank you for that. You've just reminded me actually. I'll just say this to the listeners that we will have a speaking bot-- voice-speaking bot launching in a month or two. I really do hope and if anybody is interested in helping me test this, then please get in contact. When you sign up to IELTS podcast, you can get our email and you'll also get the offer for the lower-priced essay corrections and-- sorry, Shahla, what did you say?

**Shahla:** Oh, no. I didn't say anything.

**Ben:** Okay. Sorry, you just broke up. So, that's everything from Shahla and myself and good luck with your IELTS exams.

[Music]



**Female Voice:** Thanks for listening to [ieltspodcast.com](http://ieltspodcast.com)



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