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**Female Voice:** You are now listening to the IELTS Podcast. Learn from tutors and ex-examiners who are masters of IELTS preparation. Your host, Ben Worthington.

[Music]

**Ben:** Hello there IELTS students. In this tutorial, we are talking to Parambir and he's going to be telling us about his amazing IELTS results and his amazing IELTS experience. So, how are you doing today, Parambir?

**Parambir:** I'm very good and I'm so happy to hear you since I have already-- only listened to you on the videos on the tutorials, but this is my first time to be with you.

**Ben:** Yes, yes. So, you've been completing the course and who was correcting your essays, Parambir?



**Parambir:** Ellen was my teacher. She was correcting me in my writings and I think it was Daphne who took my speaking course.

**Ben:** Beautiful. Okay. All right. Well, good. It's just like the whole team were involved in your success which is super. So, before we jump into it, could you tell us where you're from and why you are taking the IELTS exam, please?

**Parambir:** I'm from India. To be very specific, I come from Punjab State and I have taken IELTS just to be able to immigrate to a different country; an English-speaking country. It is Canada for me. So, they required 8777 as their requirement in IELTS. This is why I took IELTS.

**Ben:** Right and why did you choose Canada?

**Parambir:** It is more convenient and we can settle there in less time than in other countries. For example, Australia takes around two years just to be very clarified that what are the requirements and we met those criteria.



**Ben:** I see and did you consider the UK? Did you consider my homeland?

**Parambir:** Actually, no. This is because they don't provide enough opportunities to the immigrants to stay there for a longer period. My plan was to go and not worry about every other things like applying again and again for work permits like that. So, that kind of facility is not available in the UK.

**Ben:** Okay. So, you were looking for like the most straightforward process to get settled down and the least bureaucratic and Canada seem to win out on that. Is that right?

**Parambir:** Correct. It is the reason.

**Ben:** Very interesting and what is your line of work?



**Parambir:** I'm a legal professional. I have worked as a lawyer for three years almost now as well as I was pursuing some international laws as well, but I think in a developed country I would have more opportunities to showcase my skills with whatever I have learned so far.

**Ben:** Interesting. Interesting. I've always considered the legal profession country-specific. So, if somebody becomes a lawyer in India or the UK, I always thought that if they moved to another country they're going to have-- they will have different laws. How does that work? Can you practice law in Canada eventually I guess?

**Parambir:** Yes. It is possible. Obviously, the laws are somewhat different in other countries. For example, in my country India and in the UK, we have different laws on some minor purposes like for internet services, for IT laws like that, but there are similarities unless it is a completely different country where the laws are very rigid and not very flexible. For example, laws in India and in the U.S. they don't match much, but if we consider the UK and the Canada there is much



similarity. So, eventually we have to get a license first of all if we want to be a practitioner there. It's a long process, but it is possible.

**Ben:** Very interesting. Very interesting. I would have thought that it would be common law countries where the transfer is easiest which is what you said, but it's like common law but within the Commonwealth where the transfer is the easiest. Is that right?

**Parambir:** Yes, correct.

**Ben:** Right.

**Parambir:** You put it very correctly.

**Ben:** Yes, it's always fascinated me the differences between common law and coded law. So, I guess if you wanted to go to a country that practiced coded or codified I think it's called, it would be a different story altogether. Is that right?



**Parambir:** Yes, correct.

**Ben:** Interesting. Okay. Anyway back to the IELTS Podcast. The legal podcast has finished and let's just-- so let's jump into it. So, could you tell us what problems you were looking to solve with regards to joining our IELTS course? What problem did you need to solve?

**Parambir:** Actually, I didn't think that I had any problem in my language. I always thought that my language was okay, good to go and nobody up till Ellen corrected me on anything. This is why I had some confidence that my English was good, but it was not the case when I appeared for IELTS again and again. I took three attempts before I contacted this IELTS Podcast.

**Ben:** Right.

**Parambir:** I was not successful and was stuck at 6.5 score. I was not sure what to do next. I was disheartened actually that this is not a fair test I thought. Then I did some feed on the YouTube that what to do next. There are ample material to go through, but I was not interested at all. So,



specifically I wanted to score higher in writing. I seem to have some-- I thought I don't know what they demand-- the examiners demand and this is where IELTS Podcast has helped me.

**Ben:** Right. So, you're stuck at 6.5 and you-- well, before the IELTS test you were rather confident in your English and you were basically unaware of some of the challenges and also unaware of what the IELTS test was actually requesting from you, right?

**Parambir:** Yes.

**Ben:** Interesting and then once you started getting feedback, you were improving, but before we get to that, Ellen was helping you with your essays but before Ellen what other solutions did you try? I know you briefly mentioned it before. Could you just mention it again what other options or solutions did you look at before?

**Parambir:** Actually, it was my brother who suggested another website. They were costing much. I was not ready to pay for whole courses because that was not my requirement at all. I was



okay with the other modules. Only the writing module I was lacking. This is why I want to focus just on writing first of all. This is why I started surfing at the internet that what to do with the writing. Then I come across one of your video where you correct on the YouTube that how does a 9 band score essay look like. You have described everything that how collocations work and how we can have that kind of material in our writing and score higher. This is how I came to know about IELTS Podcast and when I visited the website it was dry. It was not too much marketing which I was seeking. That was my preference. So, with less marketing and only the correction part that you were offering that kind of interested me-- got me interested. This is how I thought it would be a good idea.

**Ben:** Okay.

**Parambir:** So, just yes.



**Ben:** Okay. Yes. I don't know if I'm pleased or upset that you called my website dry, but it doesn't matter.

**Parambir:** Not in the sense that-- it is actually dry, but it is not giving me very loud expressions. For example, other websites would use bright colors and you are bombarded with marketing facilities that this is our student, this is our student, but you didn't do any of that.

**Ben:** Got you. Got you.

**Parambir:** You gave me just in simple words what we are offering and how it will help and that actually-- you stood by your statement.

**Ben:** Okay. Thank you.

**Parambir:** I loved about that.

**Ben:** Yes, I'm just joking.



**Parambir:** I was most attracted by your website design even though it was not the one which aspirants might be looking, but it got me interested.

**Ben:** Got you. Okay. It did its job. It did its job. I'm just joking, Parambir. Yes, I know what you mean. We're not as aggressive as other sites and it can come across rather dry, but yes, I'm only joking with you. The website--

**Parambir:** I'll start joking now. Okay. Proceed.

**Ben:** Yes, yes let's proceed. So, we finished the legal podcast. We finished the design podcast. Now we're starting the IELTS Podcast. So, let's see. Could you tell us at what specific moment you realized that working with Ellen was helping you?

**Parambir:** Actually, before I purchased the whole package, I gave out my single correction just for \$5. I thought it was worth it. What is there to send \$5 or give away \$5, but when she corrected me and spent almost 20-30 minutes just on single correction, it got me an idea that they



are really interested for my result not because they want to earn money. They want themselves to be known to the people. This is how I got interested and when I received the correction, she told me how I was wrong at many different dimensions. This is how I thought that these are the persons who can guide me and correct me.

**Ben:** Excellent. Okay, that's fantastic. Yes. Just for the listeners, we are offering a \$5 essay correction just as a special offer and you can get that when you sign up or when you go to our site and when you go to our dry site, you will see that there. I'm just joking, but when you go there, you can get a sample and basically as Parambir said \$5 is rather inexpensive and the idea more than anything is just to see if we are a good fit for working with each other and it totally worked for Parambir. He started getting his feedback. He started getting-- he discovered his errors. Do you remember off the top of your head what Ellen shared with you in your first correction or from any of the corrections? What was your biggest takeaway?



**Parambir:** When I was writing, she pointed out I was too much loaded with the content. I had so much to write as well I had different kind of vocabulary to be used in that writing. It was not relevant at all, but I did not know until she pointed out.

She told me everything that how I was not attempting the task as it was demanding. I was irrelevantly writing on which I was thinking was appropriate, but it was not. So, she told me in simple words that how I was so wrong. This is because I was writing not to impress somebody, but just to express that what is-- if I can describe the matter in simple English and this was a very big change which came in my writing.

Earlier, I was writing to show off that I know this much, I know this also, but after she corrected me and gave me a suitable advice, it got me a very different kind of what we say amusement that I was wrong at all. I was not writing correctly as per the demand. This is how I got interested that



to know how I can improve more and more and she kept on giving me her pieces of advice; what to do and what not to do.

**Ben:** Interesting.

**Parambir:** I think this was the story.

**Ben:** Interesting. So, just to summarize, you were writing to show off your knowledge, to show your sort of like your use of the language and basically, the language became the focus rather than the actual communication. Would that be an accurate description-- a fair description?

**Parambir:** Correct.

**Ben:** Interesting. So, what Ellen did was kind of guide you towards writing for communication and to write for clarity rather than to impress the examiner. Would that be fair?

**Parambir:** Yes, it is absolutely clear what you are saying.



**Ben:** Interesting. Yes, yes. Just for the listeners, I see this day in day out and I will see essays full of lovely flowery phrases and really we have to remember-- I say this a million times-- I've said this a million times that the IELTS exam is more about-- it's a language exam. What is language? Language is communication and it's not the quality of your ideas. It's the quality that you communicate them.

So, it's often I say this all the time but I'll say to a student that look, go for simple ideas that are easy to communicate rather than complex flowery elaborate eloquent beautiful ideas that could solve world peace, but will be an absolute nightmare to communicate on the IELTS exam especially in exam conditions.

So, Parambir just to backtrack, you said you'd taken the exam a couple of times. How many times had you taken it before your final scores?

IELTS SUCCESS

L8.5 R9 W7 S7 -  
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**Parambir:** I took two exams before I contacted you and then after I had this exam on 19<sup>th</sup> January. I was not sure that what would be my score, but I thought-- because I had to go to a restroom break in the reading time. I did not want to mess my writing, so I took it in the reading time. I was quite sure that I might not be getting a 7 band score in reading module, but I was quite confident in writing, but unfortunately I got 6.5 again and I was not sure why.

I contacted your website and they were prompt to offer me another free package to keep myself correcting on essays and I filled up another exam right after that. I took the next date which was available and this time I applied for the computer-based exam, not the paper one. I thought this was a change for me. I was quite afraid to shift to the computer-based exam as I was not very good at typing speed, but I had to push for it because the paper-based exam was dates away. I wanted to be quick.



She offered me to correct and send your essays as fast as I could. I sent single day two essays and she gave me the corrected version in 6-7 hours. That was quite impressive by her side, yes.

**Ben:** Yes, definitely. Wow!

**Parambir:** Another--

**Ben:** Yes?

**Parambir:** Another point where I was lacking she said that I was not too quick at writing. She told me that-- I asked her that I was writing more than 400 words for Task 2 and I asked her if I can make it shorter. She said it was fully developed essay and I did not have to cut it short. So, what I need was to improve my speed. So, in that one week, I just worked on my speed. I wrote three essays on single day. One with one listening and reading and then as the exam says-- as the exam pattern and after that writing.



Then after I would take a 15-minute break and then attempt two essays-- two back-to-back essays Task 2 Task 1 and these kind of four essays actually in total. So, that helped me to improve my speed.

**Ben:** Very interesting. So, let me just backtrack a little bit. So, you got 6.5 and then you got back in contact with us and we offered you more corrections to carry on working with us until you got that 7 and then with Ellen, you got some corrections back very quickly to help you keep moving forward. And also, in this time you did like a full-- well, Ellen recognized through the email communication-- email support she recognized that the essay length wasn't a problem. It was 400 words, but it was the amount of time that you said that you had taken. So, to solve this problem what you did is you did an entire IELTS exam test in the order of the exam, but then after that exam you took a 15-minute break and did some more essay writing. Is that right?

**Parambir:** Correct. Absolutely.



**Ben:** Beautiful. Wow! Wow! That is hardcore and how often did you do this? Were you doing it every day for a week or longer or less?

**Parambir:** Yes, every day. Every day.

**Ben:** Wow! How many days?

**Parambir:** 6-7 days. Six days to be precise. I don't know. On the seventh day I had my exam.

**Ben:** Wow! Wow! That is complete IELTS immersion. That is fantastic. Well done there, Parambir and it obviously worked and also just one last thing, although you were writing four or five essays every single day, you also did the IELTS on computer. Did you find it faster or slower on the computer?

**Parambir:** I think it was faster because earlier I think I had that anxiety that I may not be able to write my essays quickly. In paper-based, what we can have the advantage is if we are running



short of time, we can write very quickly as we have already in the exam world. We can write whatever we think it is appropriate, but this is not possible if we are typing. We have to be very precise what should we write and what not. This is how I needed to have 2-3 minutes spare that I completed my essays in time because it was not the option in the computer-based exams that I could write while holding my examiner to stay and let me write. So, this is how I had to work more, but I think it was worth it.

**Ben:** Absolutely, yes. Yes. Fantastic. And what scores did you get in the end for each section? Actually, no. Before we get to your final scores, tell us what happened with the speaking. You got some coaching on your speaking as well.

**Parambir:** Yes. Daphne corrected my speakings. Firstly, it was a free speaking-- one speaking was free with the package. I sent my recording to her. She corrected me and gave me the act advices that how I was swaying away with my ideas and not being on the point what was asked,



but when she told me to add more adjectives, I thought that why risk it? Let's join her too so that she can guide me further.

Then she kept on telling me that what kind of language should be used while speaking to, how I could communicate my language or my ideas using complex sentences, for example, the conditional ones. Then she told me to be a very sophisticated person while speaking. For example, using the approximation while communicating the ideas and discarding the absolute statements which we do when we talk to anybody actually.

**Ben:** Very interesting. Sorry carry on. I interrupted you.

**Parambir:** She told me all that. In the first exam which I took on 19<sup>th</sup> December last year which was paper-based exam I got 8 band score in speakings. I was not expecting that at all apart from-- yes but this time I was more in the frame of writing mode. I want to be sure that I do not



miss 7 score in the writing. This is how I let my speaking go. I think I did not practice as much as I was doing for the first time.

**Ben:** I see. Yes, this often happens. This often happens, but I mean although you did as you said let's just leave speaking go, it did seem worthwhile because what you needed at the time was your--

**Parambir:** The writing score.

**Ben:** The writing. Exactly. Exactly. Yes. Wow! But 8.-- did you say 8.5 in the speaking?

**Parambir:** No, no. 8.0.

**Ben:** 8.0 sorry. Got you. Got you, but that's still really good. That is fantastic and what results did you get on your latest test? I'm really interested to hear this.

**Parambir:** Latest in my listening score I got 8.5.



**Ben:** Wow!

**Parambir:** And in my readings I got full marks 9.0.

**Ben:** Wow!

**Parambir:** And in my writing and speaking I got 7s-- band score 7 each.

**Ben:** Wow! Those are fantastic scores, Parambir. Well done. That is amazing. Fantastic.

**Parambir:** That is all thanks to you. I told it to Ellen too I did not have the confidence that I could make it, but it is her who didn't lose heart on me. It is bit emotional to share this kind of emotions on the podcast, but I think she really helped me a lot.

**Ben:** Yes, that is amazing. I'm going to definitely tell her. That's fantastic. Yes. I'm so happy for you. I'm so happy and yes, it was thanks to Ellen, my dry website, and Daphne who helped you with the speaking.



**Parambir:** And thanks to you also.

**Ben:** Yes, yes.

**Parambir:** Big thanks to-- because without you, this communication is not worthwhile. You work on the background; all the modules that you provide us particularly the written template which you have provided in your package. I don't think it has any flaw.

**Ben:** Thank you so much.

**Parambir:** Yes. It covers all the risk which can be there for the IELTS examiner. You have covered all of it.

**Ben:** Thank you very much.

**Parambir:** I can say this now because I have if not 100 I got from 50 at least websites and tutorials who have shared that lastly that you must add a development of your essay which is



proceeding from the ideas which you have described in the body paragraphs. You have suggested us to write it is predicted that by phrasing that and we have to add information based on that what we are writing. So, that was really amazing.

**Ben:** Thank you. Thank you very much, Parambir and yes, I'd say it's the whole team here as well and there's the operations girl as well. She's also a star. She's pulling it all together. What we just enjoy doing is getting results and just helping students progress and get the success that you deserve, but all the work as well, Parambir, you put in. It cannot go and should not go amiss because you put in a hell of a lot of work there and I'm very proud of you as well. So, those are amazing results and we're all happy that you're going to be going to Canada and practicing law there.

So, before we finish, do you have anything else that you would like to share for the listeners who might be struggling at 6.5 at the moment?



**Parambir:** For them I have the only single piece of advice not to lose heart and find the right people to have you guided. This is the key thing that they can look for other than that I don't think it is the hard work which is keeping them. That everyone does who is aspiring to score higher. They will be working hard, but the lackness is we don't get the right advice-- right feedback which is where you people fall in. I thank God that you are there. It is a bit emotional, but I think this is the right description which I have for you people; all the team.

**Ben:** Yes, thank you so much. Yes, I totally agree with you there. The feedback is invaluable and we can only give feedback as well if we've got hard-working, determined, ambitious, success orientated students like yourself as well, So, it really is like a symbiosis. So, really we need two components; hard work from you and we can guide you there. So, that is a great point you've mentioned there, Parambir. So, that's everything from us today. Thank you very much for listening and if you need any advice, please come to our website and sign up and you can get the



special offers and we'll be more than happy to help you. So, have a fantastic day. And thank you very much, Parambir. It's been a pleasure talking with you.

**Parambir:** It was a pleasure as well. Thank you so much.

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