

The L1 Transfer Self-Check

母语迁移自查表 · 四个层次录音自测

A four-layer recording audit for Chinese-speaking candidates.

First-language interference is not one problem — it operates at four distinct layers, and most study material only ever addresses the third. Record yourself answering three Part 1 questions and one Part 2 cue card, play the recording back, and tick every item you actually hear. Do not tick from memory.

母语迁移不是单一问题，它有四个层次，而大多数备考资料只讲第三层。请录下三个 Part 1 回答和一个 Part 2 长回答，回放录音，听到什么就勾什么 —— 不要凭记忆勾选。

Layer 1 Sound 语音层 —— 同音字

他, 她 and 它 are written differently but pronounced identically. Under pressure the tongue reaches for whichever comes first.

- ☐ I said “he” for a woman, or “she” for a man.
我把 she 说成了 he, 或者反过来。
- ☐ I did not notice the error at the moment I made it.
说的时候完全没有察觉。
- ☐ It happened more than once in five minutes.
五分钟内出现了不止一次。

Layer 2 Grammar 语法层 —— 结构性缺失

Mandarin links a subject straight to an adjective. Carried into English, the verb “be” disappears.

- ☐ I dropped the verb “be” — “She very tired”, “I interested in music”.
漏掉了 be 动词。
- ☐ I used present tense for something that already happened.
已经发生的事没有用过去时。
- ☐ I left out “a”, “an” or “the” where English requires one.
漏掉了冠词 a / an / the。
- ☐ I used a singular noun where English needs a plural.
该用复数的地方用了单数。

Layer 3 Lexis 词汇层 —— 直译与易混词

The layer almost every course teaches — and the easiest of the four to fix.

- ☐ I translated a Chinese collocation directly — “open the light”, “play my phone”.
直接把中文搭配翻译成了英文。
- ☐ I said “very delicious”, “I very like it”, or “learn knowledge”.
用了「very delicious」「I very like it」这类说法。
- ☐ I confused bored / boring, or interested / interesting.
混淆了 bored 和 boring, 或 interested 和 interesting。
- ☐ I opened with a memorised phrase — “With the development of society...”.
用了背诵式开头, 例如「With the development of society...」。

Layer 4 Rhetoric 修辞层 —— 论述顺序

The deepest layer, and the one candidates almost never hear about. Chinese rhetoric builds toward its conclusion; English states the point first.

- ☐ I gave background before stating my position.
先铺垫，后表态。
- ☐ My Part 3 answer never landed a clear opinion.
Part 3 的回答始终没有给出明确观点。
- ☐ I expected the listener to work out my point for themselves.
我默认听者会自己推断出我的观点。
- ☐ I circled back to the same idea instead of developing it.
反复绕回同一个点，而不是展开论述。

THE CORRECTIONS 四个层次分别怎么改

What each layer needs

Ticking a box tells you where the problem is. These are the corrections that follow.

勾中一项，说明问题在哪一层。下面是对应的改法。

LAYER 层次

WHAT TO DO 怎么改

1 • Sound

语音层

Not a knowledge gap — a habit. Fix the gender in your notes before you speak, and monitor every “he” and “she” consciously. Drill it for one week.

2 • Grammar

语法层

One rule covers most of it: every English clause needs a verb. No action verb means you need a form of “be”. Check articles and plurals in the same pass.

3 • Lexis

词汇层

Learn confusable words as pairs, not as single words. Replace every memorised opener with specific, natural language. Never translate a Chinese collocation directly.

4 • Rhetoric

修辞层

State your position in the first sentence, then explain, then give evidence, then link back. Practise answering the question before you supply any background.

Any tick in Layer 4 outweighs several in Layer 3. Coherence is scored on whether the examiner can follow your point — not on how many words you know.

第四层勾中一项，比第三层勾中几项更严重。Coherence 评的是考官能否跟上你的观点，而不是你认识多少词。

METHOD 怎么用这张表

How to use this sheet

Record

录音

Three Part 1 answers and one Part 2 long turn. A phone recorder is fine.

Play back

回放

Tick only what you actually hear. What you remember saying is not evidence.

Count

统计

Most candidates tick in three or four places, not everywhere. Those are your patterns.

Repeat

复测

Re-record in two weeks and compare. Fix one layer at a time, deepest first.

Adapted from Chapter 12, *IELTS Speaking Mastery: The Complete Band 7+ Guide*. The full evidence briefing on first-language transfer — including the seven highest-impact Writing fixes — is at deencoxielts.com/briefing.html. No score is promised anywhere in this material; what a self-check offers is a way to find your own patterns.