

Who Is Teaching You?

是谁在教你？

Passing a test measures your English. It does not measure your ability to teach it.

考过一场考试，测的是你的英语。它不测你教英语的能力。

Before anything else, my conflict of interest. I sell teaching and I sell books. A brief telling you to be careful about cheaper tutors obviously suits me, and you should discount it accordingly.

先说我的利益相关性。我卖课，也卖书。一份提醒你小心便宜老师的文件，显然对我有利。请相应地打个折来看它。

So I have written it so that you do not have to trust me. Every test in here is something **you can apply yourself**, in one conversation, before you pay anybody — including me.

所以我把它写成了不需要你相信我的样子。文中每一个检验方法，你都可以自己用，一次对话就够了——在你向任何人付钱之前，包括我。

And to be clear about what this is not: it is not about qualifications, and it is not a claim that a 7.5 candidate has nothing to offer you. Some of them have a great deal.

也请明确本文**不是**什么：它不是在谈资格证书，也不是说一个 7.5 分的考生对你毫无帮助。他们当中有些人能给你很多。

The short version 简短版本

A high scorer can tell you what **they** did. That is genuinely useful. What most cannot do is look at **your** work and say which of the four criteria is capping you, and why. That is a different skill, and it is the one you are actually paying for. This brief gives you five ways to find out which you are getting.

一个高分考生能告诉你**他**是怎么做的。这确实有用。但大多数人做不到的是：看着**你的**作品，说出四个评分项里是哪一个卡住了你，以及为什么。那是另一种能力，也正是你付钱买的东西。本文给你五个办法，分辨你买到的是哪一种。

PART ONE • 第一部分

What a high scorer genuinely can give you 高分考生真正能给你的东西

I want to be fair here, because the opposite of a bad claim is not the opposite claim.

这一节我想公平一点。一个错误说法的反面，不一定就是真理。

Recent, first-hand experience.

They sat the test this year. They know the room, the timing, the screen, and what it feels like. A teacher who last sat it in 2015 does not.

新鲜的一手经验。

他今年刚考过。他知道考场、节奏、屏幕，以及那种感觉。一个上次考试在 2015 年的老师，不知道。

Shared starting point.

They made the same mistakes you are making, in the same first language, and quite recently. That is real empathy, and it is motivating.

相同的起点。

他犯过你正在犯的错，同一个母语，而且就在不久前。那是真实的共情，而且能给人动力。

Practice partnership.

Somebody to speak with, four evenings a week, who will not let you skip it. That has genuine value, and it does not require a specialist.

练习伙伴。

一个每周四个晚上陪你说英语、并不让你偷懒的人。这有真实价值，而且不需要专家。

If that is what you need and what you are paying for, you may be getting good value. The problem is when it is sold as something else.

如果这正是你需要的、也是你付钱买的，那你可能买得很值。问题在于：它被当成另一种东西卖给你。

PART TWO • 第二部分

The thing that is genuinely hard

真正困难的那件事

Here is the specific limitation, and it is not about status. It is about what passing a test actually demonstrates.

下面是具体的局限。它无关身份，而关乎“考过一场考试”到底证明了什么。

1. **Passing measures your own English. Teaching requires diagnosing someone else's.** Those are separate abilities, and being excellent at the first tells you almost nothing about the second.

考过，测的是你自己的英语；教学，需要诊断别人的英语。这是两种能力，而前一种出色，几乎说明不了后一种。

2. A high scorer often cannot explain why they scored well, because they were not doing it consciously. Ask them why a sentence works and you may get “it just sounds better” — which is true, and useless to you.

高分考生往往说不清自己为什么得高分，因为他当时并不是有意识地在做。你问他这句为什么好，得到的可能是“就是听着更顺”——这是实话，但对你没用。

3. So they teach what they can articulate, which is usually **what worked for them**: their templates, their memorised openers, their phrases. That is the mechanism by which one person's lucky essay becomes fifty students' identical essay.

于是他只能教他说得出来的东西，而那通常就是**对他有效的那套**：他的模板、他背的开头、他的句子。一个人碰巧写好的一篇作文，就是这样变成五十个学生一模一样的作文的。

PART THREE • 第三部分

Five tests you can apply yourself

五个你自己就能做的检验

None of these requires you to know anything about teaching. All five work in a single conversation, and a good teacher will welcome every one of them.

这五条都不需要你懂教学。一次对话就能全部用上，而一个好老师会欢迎每一条。

1. Give them something you wrote and ask which criterion is capping you. The answer should name one of four — Task Response, Coherence and Cohesion, Lexical Resource, or Grammatical Range and Accuracy — and point at the evidence. “Your vocabulary needs work” is not an answer. “Lexical Resource, because these five collocations are not English” is.

1. 给他一篇你写的东西，问哪一项评分标准卡住了你。答案应该点名四项之一，并指出证据。“你词汇要加强”不是答案；“是词汇项，因为这五个搭配英语不这么说”才是。

2. Ask what you should fix this week — and how many things. A useful answer is one or two. A list of ten means they have not prioritised, and you will fix none of them.

2. 问他这周该改什么——以及改几个。有用的答案是一到两个。列出十个，说明他没有排序，而你一个也改不了。

3. Ask them to explain a rule, not to state it. Not “don’t use comma splices” — *why* do Chinese speakers write them? A teacher who knows the cause can fix the pattern. One who only knows the rule can only mark it.

3. 让他解释一条规则，而不是背一条规则。不是“不要用逗号连接句”，而是：中文母语者为什么会这么写？知道原因的老师能改掉整个模式；只知道规则的，只能给你标个错。

4. Ask how many students they have taught, and what happened to them. Not their own score — their students’. Somebody who has taught fifty people has seen fifty different problems. Somebody who has taken the test once has seen one.

4. 问他教过多少学生，结果如何。不是问他自己的分数，而是他学生的。教过五十个人的老师，见过五十种不同的问题；只考过一次试的人，只见过一种。

5. Ask what they would tell you not to do. Anyone can list techniques. Knowing what does *not* work — and being willing to say so when it costs them a sale — is the clearest signal you will get.

5. 问他会告诉你不要做什么。谁都能列出一堆技巧。知道什么没用——并且在这会让他少成一单时仍然肯说——是你能得到的最清楚的信号。

IN SHORT • 一句话总结

What to do with this 这份文件怎么用

Do not ask what score they got. Ask them to look at your work and tell you something you did not already know.

不要问他考了多少分。让他看你的作品，说出一件你自己不知道的事。

Cheap and honest is better than expensive and vague. A patient practice partner who says "I am not qualified to mark your writing" is worth more than a confident stranger who is wrong.

便宜而诚实，强过昂贵而笼统。一个肯说“我没有能力批改你的写作”的练习伙伴，比一个自信而错误的陌生人更有价值。

And use all five tests on me. I have told you what I sell. Now make me diagnose something.

这五条也全部用在我身上。我已经告诉你我卖什么了。现在，让我诊断点东西。

SOURCES • 参考来源

Check every one of these yourself

每一条都请你自己核对

Information correct as of 8 August 2026. And a declaration, repeated. I sell IELTS teaching and IELTS books, so I have a commercial interest in how you answer the question in the title. That is precisely why every test in Part Three is one you apply yourself, to anybody, without needing my judgement. Apply them to me. If I cannot pass my own five questions, do not buy anything from me either.

信息截至 2026 年 8 月 8 日。以及，再声明一次。我卖雅思课程与雅思图书，因此对标题里的那个问题有商业利益。这正是为什么第三部分的每一条检验，都是你自己可以对任何人使用的，不需要依赖我的判断。请用在我身上。如果我自己过不了这五关，也请不要买我的任何东西。

Cited in this brief

本文引用

- [1] IELTS Writing and Speaking Band Descriptors (public version) — the four criteria referred to throughout. Jointly published by the British Council, IDP: IELTS Australia and Cambridge English Language Assessment. Free to download.
- [2] British Council — “Ten don’ts for the IELTS speaking test”, on memorised answers and how examiners treat them. britishcouncil.org/voices-magazine/ten-donts-ielts-speaking-test

Where to verify anything else

其他信息核对处

- [3] IELTS Partners — test format and published band descriptors. ielts.org
- [4] 雅思考试中文官方网站. chinaielts.org

About the author. Deen Cox is an IELTS Specialist, author and curriculum developer based in Beijing. He has taught English since 2005 and IELTS specifically for over a decade, and is the author of the five-book Deen Cox IELTS Series. deencoxielts.com

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