

Prepare for {IELTS}

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GRAMMAR FOR IELTS

Linking verbs

WITH WH-CLAUSES AND INFINITIVE CLAUSES

EXPLANATION

- Some important verbs such as **to be, to appear, to seem, to become, to feel** are called **LINKING VERBS** because the information after the verb refers back to the subject of the verb.
- When we use **ADJECTIVES** with verbs like **to be, to appear, to seem, to become, to feel**, we can follow those **ADJECTIVES** with different types of clause.
- Using these structures makes sentences more complex and impresses IELTS examiners.
- **LINKING VERBS** can be used with **wh-clauses** and **infinitive clauses**.

LINKING VERBS WITH WH-CLAUSES

Sometimes we can use a wh-clause (a clause which starts with a word like **who, where, when, what, why, whether or how**) after a linking verb and an adjective:

- Experts **are** not **sure/certain** **why** there has been a rise in the number of asthma cases reported.
- Poorer people **are** often **unsure/uncertain** **how** they will find money for the basic necessities.
- Many of us **are** **worried** **how** our species will survive if the predictions about climate change prove to be correct.
- We **are** not **sure** **how** long the conference will last **or** **how** many delegates will attend.

LINKING VERBS WITH WH-CLAUSES

Sometimes we can use a wh-clause (a clause which starts with a word like **who, where, when, what, why, whether or how**) after a linking verb and an adjective:

- I **am** not completely **sure** **what I will do** after finishing university.
- The person I spoke to on the phone **was** not **sure** **when the next train was due to arrive**.
- Although I have been offered a job by the company, I **am** still **unclear** about exactly **where I will be working** and **when I will start**.
- I **am/feel** quite **doubtful** **whether politicians will manage to find solutions to our major problems**.

LINKING VERBS WITH INFINITIVE CLAUSES

Sometimes we can use a to-infinitive clause (a clause which is based on an infinitive verb) after a linking verb and an adjective:

- Many of us **are** **curious/keen** to know more about astronomy.
- **Feel free** to call me whenever you want.
- Many employees **are** very **willing/happy** to do overtime. They **would be pleased/delighted** to receive more money.
- My boss **is/seems** **prepared** to let me have a two-week holiday if I can complete the project before I go.
- Many people **feel/seem** too **afraid** to get on a plane.

LINKING VERBS WITH INFINITIVE CLAUSES

Sometimes we can use a to-infinitive clause (a clause which is based on an infinitive verb) after a linking verb and an adjective:

- It **would be** crazy/stupid/ridiculous/ludicrous to leave such a well-paid job.
- It **would be** nice/comforting to know what will happen in the future.
- We need to **be** careful to avoid blaming other people. We need to accept responsibility when things go wrong.
- It **is/seems** difficult/impossible to understand complex mathematical equations.
- Even if you **feel inclined** to give up, you should carry on working.
- I didn't really **feel inclined** to go to the party.



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GRAMMAR FOR IELTS

Linking verbs

WITH THAT CLAUSES, -ING
CLAUSES AND IT

EXPLANATION

- Some important verbs such as **to be, to appear, to seem, to become, to feel** are called **LINKING VERBS** because the information after the verb refers back to the subject of the verb.
- When we use **ADJECTIVES** with verbs like **to be, to appear, to seem, to become, to feel**, we can follow those **ADJECTIVES** with different types of clause.
- Using these structures makes sentences more complex and impresses IELTS examiners.
- **LINKING VERBS** can be used with **that-clauses, -ing clauses** and **it**

LINKING VERBS WITH THAT CLAUSES

Sometimes we can use a that clause (a clause which starts with **that** and has a subject and a verb) after a linking verb and an adjective:

- I **feel** **annoyed/angry/furious/disappointed** that so many people fail to vote in elections.
- Even some scientists **are** **amazed** that researchers on the Cassini Mission have managed to find out so much about the planet Saturn.
- I **feel** **confident** that our future will be bright.
- Many environmentalists **have become** **worried** that ordinary people have stopped taking our planet's health seriously.

LINKING VERBS WITH THAT CLAUSES

Sometimes we can use a that clause (a clause which starts with **that** and has a subject and a verb) after a linking verb and an adjective:

- Many people **are** **unaware** that the amount of sugar they are consuming is far too high.
- We should **be** **scared/worried** that the number of effective antibiotics is falling rapidly.
- Some **have become** **upset** that the laws on gay marriage changed.
- I **feel** **guilty/terrible** that I didn't invite my sister over last weekend.
- I **am** **afraid** that I will be late.
- I **am** extremely **sorry/disappointed** that I wasn't able to attend the conference. (These clauses can be negative)

LINKING VERBS WITH **-ING CLAUSES**

Sometimes we can use an -ing clause (a clause which usually begins with a verb in the **-ing** form) after a linking verb and an adjective:

- I **feel terrible** asking you to help me with my presentation when you are so busy with your own work.
- I **felt stupid/silly** sitting in the restaurant on my own for two hours.
- Unfortunately, she **is busy** sorting out some work-related issues and will not be able to take your call.
- It **felt right** working for a company with strong ethical values.
- It **feels wrong** eating meat when animals clearly suffer.

LINKING VERBS WITH **-ING CLAUSES**

Sometimes we can use an -ing clause (a clause which usually begins with a verb in the **-ing** form) after a linking verb and an adjective:

- It **feels wrong** asking people to lie.
- It **is ridiculous/ludicrous** discussing how to deal with problems which have not even arisen yet.
- It **is** probably **pointless** trying to persuade right-wing politicians to be more socially aware.
- I **felt guilty** not offering to drive you to the airport, but I simply didn't have time. (These clauses can be negative)

LINKING VERBS WITH IT

Sometimes we can use an **it + linking verb + adjective + infinitive clause** when the infinitive clause is the subject:

- **It is easy to understand** the difficulties migrants face when they first move to a new country.
- **It is difficult to appreciate** how much abuse and discrimination overweight people have to deal with, unless you have experienced it yourself.
- **It was** quite **hard to follow** what the Chief Executive was saying, as she used some extremely complicated terms.
- **It is reasonable to expect** politicians to tell the truth when interviewed by journalists.

LINKING VERBS WITH IT

Sometimes we can use an **it + linking verb + adjective + infinitive clause** when the infinitive clause is the subject:

- **It would be wonderful to be able to read** other people's thoughts.
- **It has always been interesting to study** what motivates humans to behave in certain ways.
- **It is disgusting/awful/atrocious to think** that we care so little about our fellow-humans.
- **Although some people believe it is simple to pass** the IELTS exam, the truth is that most candidates struggle.



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PREPARE for IELTS: Grammar Exercises

Match items in LIST A with items in LIST B to form complete sentences:

LIST A

1. Experts are not completely sure
2. Many of us are worried about
3. I am not completely sure
4. I am a bit doubtful
5. We are not completely sure

LIST B

1. how vulnerable species will react to rising global temperatures.
2. whether he will remember to come.
3. where we will live when we move to Berlin.
4. why we dream.
5. what I will do after I leave university.

ANSWERS

1. Experts are not completely sure why we dream.
2. Many of us are worried about how vulnerable species will react to rising global temperatures.
3. I am not completely sure what I will do after I leave university.
4. I am a bit doubtful whether he will remember to come.
5. We are not completely sure where we will live when we move to Berlin.

PREPARE for IELTS: Grammar Exercises

Match items in LIST A with items in LIST B to form complete sentences:

LIST A

1. I am really curious
2. Feel free
3. Many people seem too afraid
4. It would be amazing
5. I feel inclined

LIST B

1. to have such a well-paid job.
2. to give me a call whenever you want.
3. to give up.
4. to know more about astrology.
5. to resign from their job and start their own business.

ANSWERS

1. I am really curious to know more about astrology.
2. Feel free to give me a call whenever you want.
3. Many people seem too afraid to resign from their job and start their own business.
4. It would be amazing to have such a well-paid job.
5. I feel inclined to give up.

PREPARE for IELTS: Grammar Exercises

Match items in LIST A with items in LIST B to form complete sentences:

LIST A

1. I feel angry
2. I feel quite confident
3. I am absolutely amazed
4. Many people are unaware
5. I am sorry

LIST B

1. that they are consuming far too much sugar.
2. that the future will be bright
3. that so many people came to the party.
4. that so many people throw litter on the street instead of putting it in the bin.
5. that I forgot your birthday

ANSWERS

1. I feel angry that so many people throw litter on the street instead of putting it in the bin.
2. I feel quite confident that the future will be bright.
3. I am absolutely amazed that so many people came to the party.
4. Many people are unaware that they are consuming far too much sugar.
5. I am sorry that I forgot your birthday.

PREPARE for IELTS: Grammar Exercises

Match items in LIST A with items in LIST B to form complete sentences:

LIST A

1. I feel terrible
2. I felt stupid
3. It feels wrong
4. It is pointless
5. It feels wrong

LIST B

1. sitting there in shorts and a t-shirt with all the other candidates in dresses and suits.
2. asking people to lie.
3. trying to persuade communists that capitalism is the best way forward.
4. earning so much money when there are people living on the streets.
5. asking you to help me when you are so busy.

ANSWERS

1. I feel terrible asking you to help me when you are so busy.
2. I felt stupid sitting there in shorts and a t-shirt with all the other candidates in dresses and suits.
3. It feels wrong asking people to lie.
4. It is pointless trying to persuade communists that capitalism is the best way forward.
5. It feels wrong earning so much money when there are people living on the streets.

PREPARE for IELTS: Grammar Exercises

Look at the following sentences. Re-write them so that they begin with **it**:

EXAMPLE: To work in a factory is hard.

ANSWER: **It is hard to work in a factory.**

1. To know that you have supportive friends is very comforting.
2. To complete the course was difficult.
3. To get to the meeting will be quite easy.
4. To have to pay more tax would be very annoying.
5. To pass the IELTS exam is not as simple as some people think.

ANSWERS

1. It is very comforting to know that you have supportive friends.
2. It was difficult to complete the course.
3. It will be quite easy to get to the meeting.
4. It would be very annoying to have to pay more tax.
5. It is not as simple as some people think to pass the IELTS exam.