

# IELTS Listening

## Map Vocabulary

**5 sets of IELTS Listening map vocabulary with maps, plans and sample sentences to help you learn.**

To do well in map and plan questions, you need to understand the language of location, especially prepositions of place, and direction.

Here are definitions of these two types of vocabulary to make sure that you understand the difference between them, and a few examples of each type.

- **Location – where something is in relation to another object or place.**
- **Direction – the position towards which someone moves or faces.**

Common vocabulary of location:

**near, in front of, next to, beside, across from, between**

Common vocabulary of direction:

**turn right, turn left, go straight on, travel northwest, go past**

Below, you'll find lists of vocabulary commonly used in map and plan questions, along with sample sentences to show the words and phrases used in context. Each set of sentences describes or gives directions on a map or plan to give you some practice at visualising the information as you'll have to do in your test.

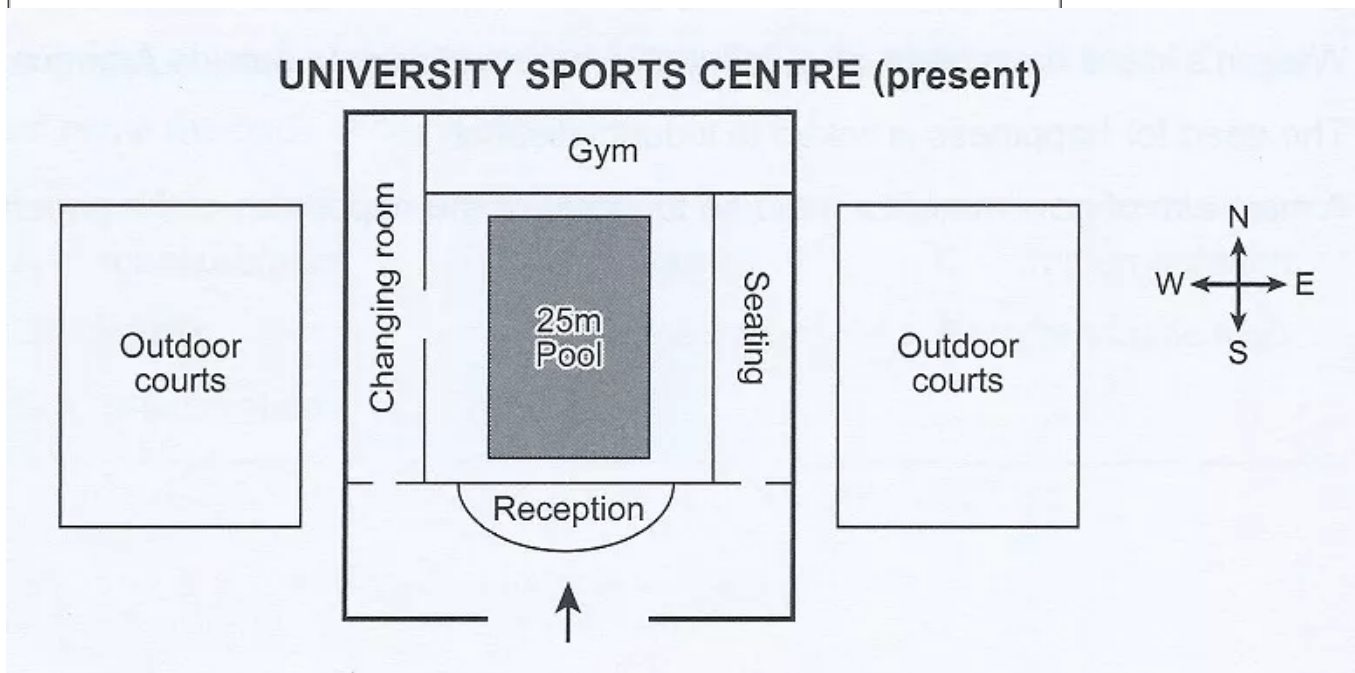
We'll start with some simple prepositions of place.

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### IELTS Listening Map Vocabulary – Set 1

- **facing**
- **in the middle / centre of**

- **behind**
- **between**
- **next to / by**
- **in front of**



Source: Cambridge English past paper

The entrance is **in front of** the reception desk.

The reception desk is **facing** the entrance.

The pool is **in the centre of** / **in the middle of** the sport's centre.

The gym is **behind** the swimming pool.

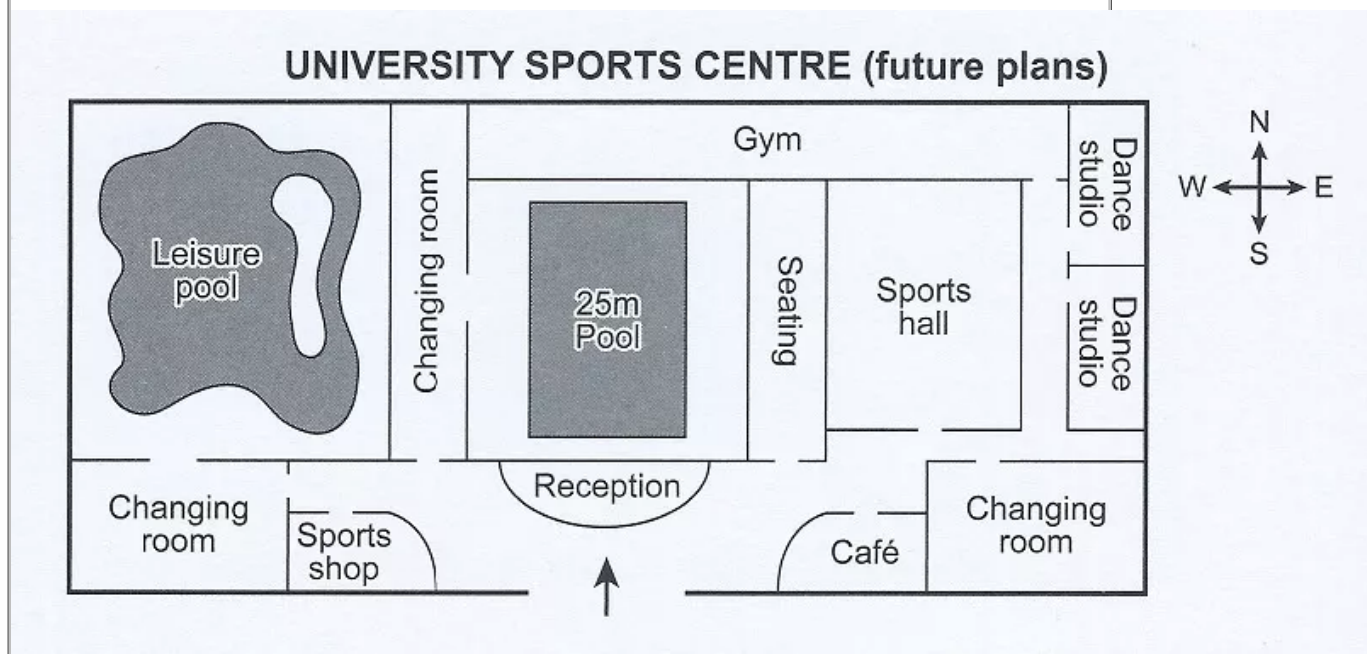
The pool is **between** the reception and the gym.

The seating area is **next to** / **by** the pool.

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## IELTS Listening Map Vocabulary – Set 2

- left-hand side
- right-hand side
- turn right
- to your right
- pass through
- on the other side
- beyond
- along
- corner
- go straight
- beside



Source: Cambridge English past paper

The sports shop is on the **left-hand side** as you enter the sports centre.

To the **right-hand side** of the entrance, there's a café.

**Pass through** the entrance, **turn right** and the café is immediately **in front of** you.

The leisure pool is **on the other side** of the sports centre to the dance studios.

There is a large changing room just **beyond** the café.

Walk **along** the side of the sports hall and you'll find the second dance studio in the far **corner** of the building

**Go straight** along the corridor **beside** the sports hall and **to your right**, you'll see two dance studios.

## IELTS Listening Map Vocabulary – Set 3

Maps nearly always have compass points shown. You need to know the 8 points of the compass as these are often used in the recording to describe position. The 8 points are:

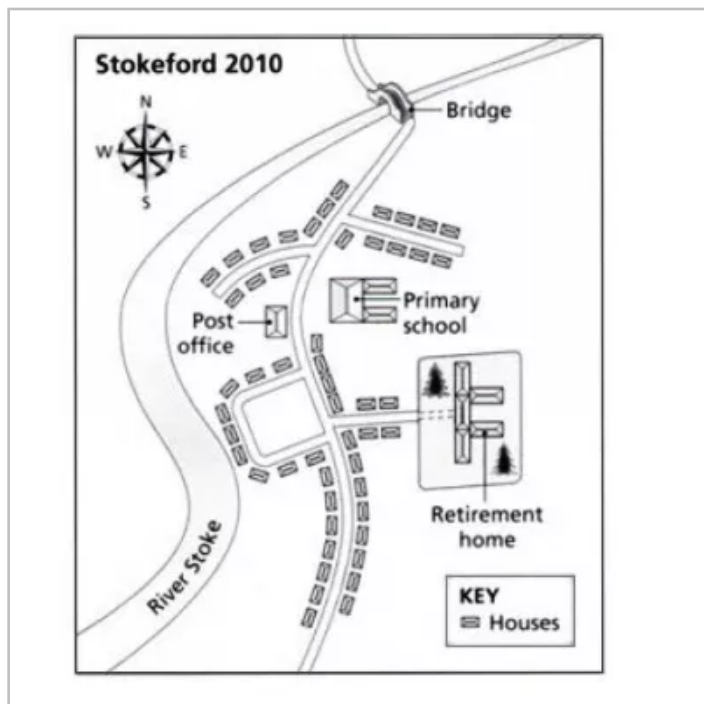
- **north**
- **south**
- **east**
- **west**
- **northeast**
- **northwest**
- **southeast**
- **southwest**

There are several different ways you might hear them used.

- **to the north / to the south ...**
- **in the northeast / in the southwest ...**
- **north side / east side / west side / south side**
- **heading east**
- **slightly west of**
- **just southeast of**

Other vocabulary:

- **near**
- **first / second turning**
- **on the left**
- **straight ahead**



Source: Cambridge English past paper

The houses immediately **to the north** and **south** of the Post Office are very **near** the river.

The bridge is just beyond the final row of houses **heading north**.

After crossing the bridge, take the **second turning on the left** and you'll see the retirement home **straight ahead**.

The retirement home is **just southeast** of the primary school.

The post office is **to the northwest** of the retirement home.

The village of Stokeford is **slightly east** of the River Stoke.

There is a housing estate to the **west side** of the retirement home.

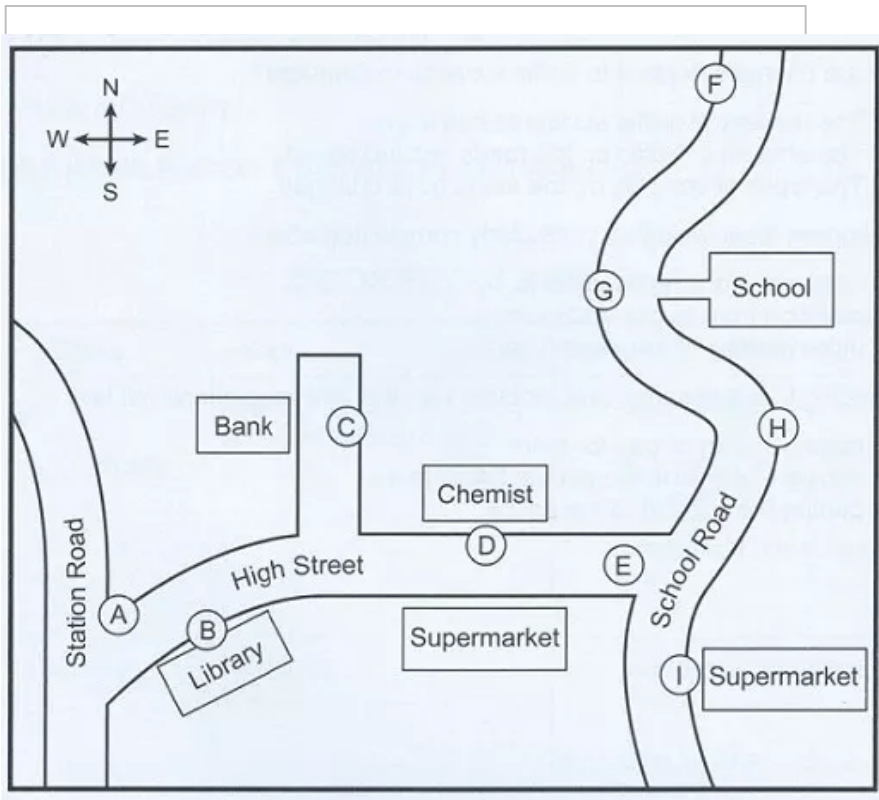
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## IELTS Listening Map Vocabulary – Set 4

- opposite
- across the road
- same side

**before you get to**

- **junction**
- **dead end**
- **leads off**



Source: Cambridge English past paper

The chemist is **opposite** a supermarket.

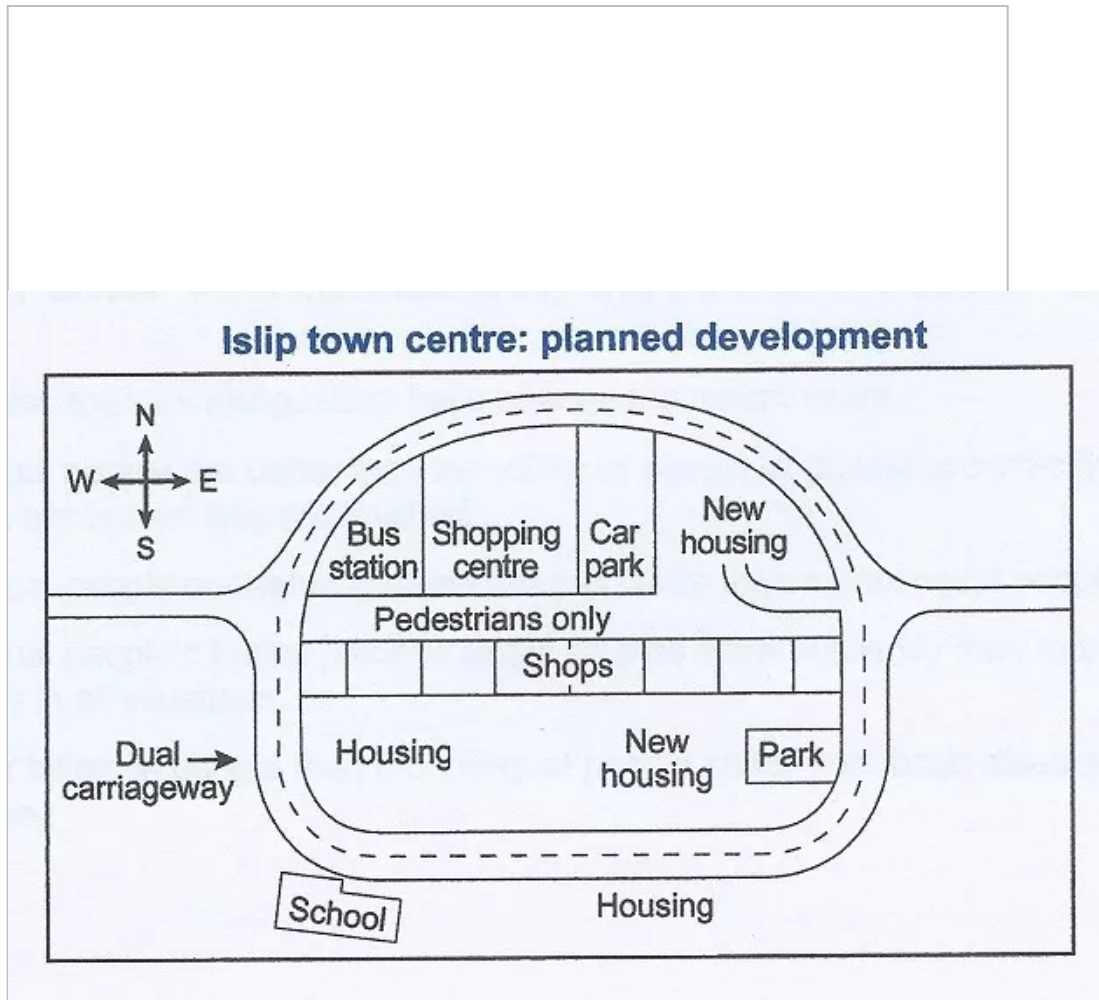
They are going to build new houses **across the road** from the school at point G.

There is a supermarket on the **same side** of the road as the library.

Walk west along High Street and you'll pass the library **before you get to** the **junction** with Station Road.

The bank is on a **dead end** road that **leads off** the High Street.

- bend
  - just past
  - alongside
- 
- adjoining
  - carry straight on



Source: Cambridge English past paper

The school is situated on a **bend** in the dual carriageway.

The bus station is on the right **just past** the shopping centre.

The town centre has a pedestrian walkway running **alongside** a row of **adjoining** shops.

After passing the school on your right, **carry straight on** and you'll see the park on your left around the next bend.



Practice using this vocabulary to describe places you know and it will soon become familiar.