

Vocabulary and text types

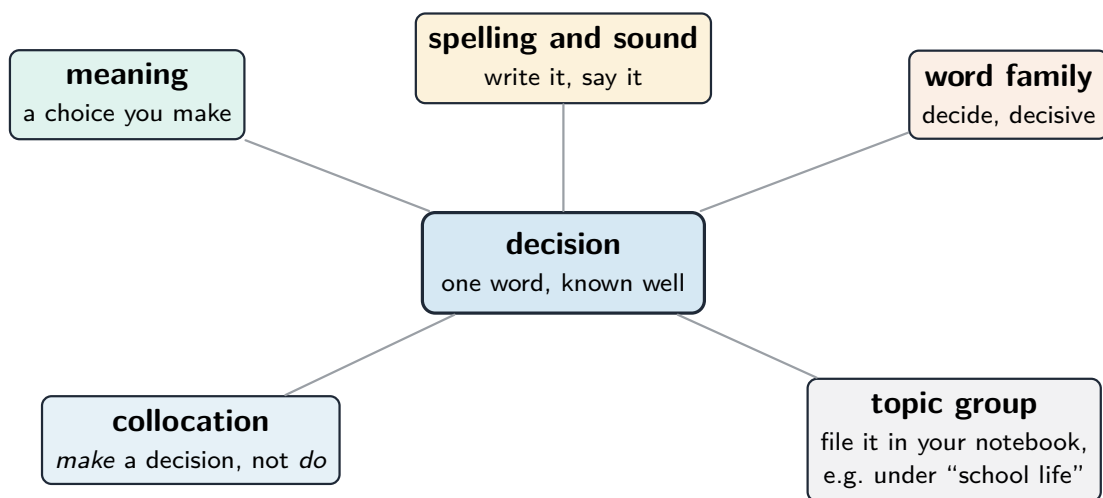
IGCSE English

Growing your vocabulary

A wide **vocabulary** 词汇 helps you in every part of the exam.

Learn words well

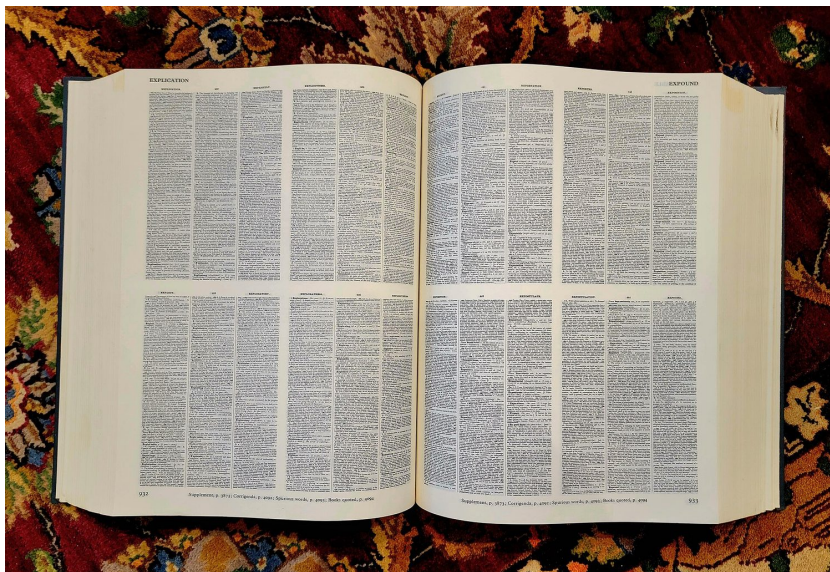
- Learn a new word with its meaning, its spelling, and how it sounds.
- Keep a vocabulary notebook. Group words by topic, such as travel or health.



Knowing a word well means knowing all of this

Use natural phrases

- Learn words that go together. These are called **collocations** 词语搭配, like "make a decision" or "heavy rain".
- Learn **set phrases** 固定短语 and common **phrasal verbs** 短语动词, like "give up" or "look after".
- Using natural phrases makes your English sound **fluent** 流利.



Growing vocabulary: notice useful words in every text type and practise them in your own writing

Knowing your text types

Each writing task is a **text type** 文本类型 with its own rules.

Common text types

- An email is a message to one person; an **article** 文章 is for many readers; a **report** 报告 gives facts to a person in charge.
- A **blog** 博客 is a personal, informal online post –like an article but more personal and casual, so it sits near the **informal** end of the formality scale.
- A **review** 评论 gives an opinion about something you tried; an **essay** 议论文 argues a point of view.
- A **notice** 通知 and a **leaflet** 传单 give short, clear information.

Match style to type

- Each text type has its own purpose, reader and tone.
- Before you write, ask: what is this text type, and what style does it need?



Every text type sits somewhere on the line from informal to formal

A vocabulary routine

Turn new words into words you truly own with four steps:

1. **Meet it** —when you find a new word, write it down with one example sentence.
2. **File it** —put it in your notebook under a topic group (travel, health, school).
3. **Test it** —cover the meaning and try to recall it the next day, then again a week later. This **spaced review** 间隔复习 fixes words in your memory far better than reading a list once.
4. **Use it** —put the word into your own writing or speaking within a few days, before you forget it.

Five words learned this way each day is over a thousand a year.

Exam tips

- Learn words in families, one family per text type: email openers, report verbs, review adjectives.
- In the writing exam, put the text type's fixed parts down first: greeting, title or headings. They are the easiest marks on the paper.
- Keep a personal word list. Five new words a day beats fifty words once a month.
- When a new word appears in the reading paper, guess it from the context and keep moving; never freeze on one word.