IELTS Word List

Vocabulary List

Vocabulary and example	Write it

analyse v. /ˈænəlaɪz/

to look at something closely to understand it

Family: analysis (n.) · analyst (n.) · analytical (adj.) **Use it with:** analyse data · a detailed analysis **Tip:** British spelling: analyse; American: analyze. The plural of analysis is analyses.

The students **analysed** the survey results before writing their report.

approach n./v. /əˈprəʊtʃ/

a way of dealing with something; or to come nearer

Family: approachable (adj.) **Use it with:** a different approach · approach a problem **Tip:** Say "an approach to a problem", not "an approach of".

The school tried a new **approach** to teaching reading.

area n. /ˈeərɪə/

a part of a place, or a subject of study

Use it with: urban areas · a key area of research

Many people in rural **areas** travel long distances to see a doctor.

assess v. /əˈses/

to judge how good, large or serious something is

Family: assessment (n.) **Use it with:** assess the impact · assess students **Tip:** Assess means judge carefully; it is more formal than check.

Teachers **assess** each student's writing at the end of the term.

assume v. /əˈsjuːm/

to believe something is true without proof

Family: assumption (n.) **Use it with:** assume that… · make an assumption **Tip:** Strong writers question assumptions instead of repeating them.

Many people **assume** that older drivers are less safe, but the data do not show this.

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authority n. /əˈθɒrɪti/

the power to make decisions, or an official organisation

Family: authorities (pl.) · authoritative (adj.) · authorise (v.) **Use it with:** local authorities · have the authority to

The local **authority** decided to close two libraries.

available adj. /əˈveɪləbl/

ready to use, buy or take part in

Family: availability (n.) **Use it with:** widely available · available to the public

Free tickets are **available** to students on Mondays.

benefit n./v. /ˈbenɪfɪt/

a good result or advantage; or to be helped by something

Family: beneficial (adj.) **Use it with:** the main benefit · benefit from something **Tip:** Use "benefit from": "Children benefit from exercise."

One **benefit** of cycling to work is better fitness.

concept n. /ˈkɒnsept/

an idea or a principle

Family: conceptual (adj.) **Use it with:** a basic concept · the concept of…

The **concept** of working from home was rare twenty years ago.

consist of v. /kənˈsɪst ɒv/

to be made up of parts or things

Family: consistent (adj.) · consistently (adv.) **Use it with:** consist of three parts · consist mainly of **Tip:** Never use it in the passive: "is consisted of" is wrong.

The test **consists of** four parts: listening, reading, writing and speaking.

constitute v. /ˈkɒnstɪtjuːt/

to be or form something; to make up a whole

Family: constitution (n.) · constituent (n.) **Use it with:** constitute a risk · constitute the majority

Women **constitute** about half of the workforce.

Vocabulary and example	Write it

context n. /ˈkɒntekst/

the situation around something that helps you understand it

Family: contextual (adj.) **Use it with:** in this context · the social context

Guess the meaning of a new word from its **context**.

contract n. /ˈkɒntrækt/

a written legal agreement, for example for work

Family: contractor (n.) **Use it with:** sign a contract · a short-term contract

She signed a two-year **contract** with a software company.

create v. /kriːˈeɪt/

to make something new exist

Family: creation (n.) · creative (adj.) · creativity (n.) **Use it with:** create jobs · create problems

The new factory will **create** 500 jobs.
500

data n. /ˈdeɪtə/

facts and numbers collected to study something

Use it with: collect data · the data show **Tip:** In academic writing, data is often plural: “the data show”.

The **data** show a steady rise in online shopping.

define v. /dɪˈfaɪn/

to say exactly what a word or idea means

Family: definition (n.) · definite (adj.) **Use it with:** clearly defined · a broad definition

It is hard to **define** happiness in one sentence.

derive v. /dɪˈraɪv/

to get something from a source

Family: derivation (n.) **Use it with:** derive from · derive pleasure from

Many English words are **derived** from Latin.

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distribute v. /ˈdɪstrɪbjuːt/

to give, send or spread something among several people or places

Family: distribution (n.) **Use it with:** distribute information · uneven distribution

Volunteers **distributed** food to families after the flood.

economy n. /ɪˈkɒnəmi/

the system of money, trade and jobs in a country

Family: economic (adj.) · economical (adj.) · economist (n.) **Use it with:** the global economy · economic growth **Tip:** Economic = about the economy; economical = not wasting money.

Tourism is a large part of the island’s **economy**.

environment n. /enˈvaɪrənmənt/

the natural world, or the conditions around you

Family: environmental (adj.) · environmentally (adv.) **Use it with:** protect the environment · a safe working environment

Plastic waste is a serious threat to the **environment**.

establish v. /ɪˈstæblɪʃ/

to start an organisation, or to show that something is true

Family: establishment (n.) **Use it with:** establish a company · establish a link

The university was **established** in 1920.
1920

estimate v./n. /ˈestɪmət/

to guess an amount using the facts you have

Family: estimation (n.) · underestimate (v.) **Use it with:** a rough estimate · it is estimated that… **Tip:** In Task 1, use it for numbers that are not exact.

Experts **estimate** that the city will have two million people by 2040.
2040

evidence n. /ˈevɪdəns/

facts or signs that show something is true

Family: evident (adj.) · evidently (adv.) **Use it with:** strong evidence · evidence suggests **Tip:** Evidence is uncountable: “a piece of evidence”, not “an evidence”.

There is strong **evidence** that sleep helps memory.

Vocabulary and example	Write it

export v./n. /'ekspɔ:t/

to sell goods to another country

Family: exporter (n.) **Use it with:** export goods · the main exports

Brazil **exports** large amounts of coffee.

factor n. /'fæktə/

one of the things that cause or affect a result

Use it with: a key factor · factors such as…

Cost is the main **factor** when families choose a school.

finance n./v. /'faɪnæns/

the management of money, or to pay for something

Family: financial (adj.) · financially (adv.) **Use it with:** financial support · finance a project

The new hospital was **financed** by the government.

formula n. /'fɔ:mjʊlə/

a fixed rule or method, often written in numbers or symbols

Family: formulas / formulae (pl.) · formulate (v.) **Use it with:** a formula for success · formulate a plan

There is no simple **formula** for a happy life.

function n./v. /'fʌŋkʃn/

the purpose or job of something; or to work

Family: functional (adj.) **Use it with:** perform a function · function well

The main **function** of a museum is to protect and share history.

identify v. /aɪ'dentɪfaɪ/

to recognise or name someone or something

Family: identification (n.) · identity (n.) **Use it with:** identify the problem · identify the causes

The report **identifies** three causes of traffic accidents.

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income n. /'ɪŋkʌm/

money that a person or country earns

Use it with: a high income · low-income families

Families on low **incomes** spend more of their money on food.

indicate v. /'ɪndɪkeɪt/

to show that something is true or likely

Family: indication (n.) · indicator (n.) **Use it with:** indicate that… · a clear indication **Tip:** Good for Task 1: "The chart indicates that…"

The figures **indicate** a fall in sales after June.

6

individual n./adj. /ˌɪndɪ'vɪdʒu:əl/

one person; or relating to one person or thing

Family: individually (adv.) · individuality (n.) **Use it with:** individual needs · each individual

Each **individual** has the right to a fair trial.

interpret v. /ɪn'tɜ:prɪt/

to explain the meaning of something

Family: interpretation (n.) · interpreter (n.) **Use it with:** interpret the data · a different interpretation

The same results can be **interpreted** in different ways.

involve v. /ɪn'vɒlv/

to include something as a necessary part

Family: involvement (n.) **Use it with:** involve doing something · be involved in **Tip:** Use a noun or -ing after it: "involves travelling".

The job **involves** a lot of travel.

issue n. /'ɪʃu:/

an important problem or subject people discuss

Use it with: a serious issue · raise an issue

Climate change is a global **issue**.

labour n. /'leɪbə/

work, especially hard physical work; or workers

Family: labourer (n.) **Use it with:** cheap labour · the labour market **Tip:** American spelling: labor.

The farm needs more **labour** at harvest time.

legal adj. /'liːgl/

allowed by the law, or about the law

Family: illegal (adj.) · legally (adv.) **Use it with:** legal advice · illegal parking

Is it **legal** to ride an electric scooter on the pavement?

legislation n. /ˌledʒɪ'sleɪʃn/

laws made by a government

Family: legislate (v.) · legislative (adj.) **Use it with:** introduce legislation · strict legislation **Tip:** Legislation is uncountable: "a piece of legislation".

New **legislation** bans smoking in all public buildings.

major adj. /'meɪdʒə/

very large or important

Family: majority (n.) **Use it with:** a major problem · play a major role

Traffic is a **major** cause of air pollution in cities.

method n. /'meθəd/

a way of doing something

Family: methodology (n.) **Use it with:** a teaching method · an effective method

Online learning is a popular **method** of studying for adults.

occur v. /ə'kɜː/

to happen

Family: occurrence (n.) **Use it with:** occur frequently · occur naturally **Tip:** Double the r: occurred, occurring.

Most accidents **occur** close to home.

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percentage n. /pə'sentɪdʒ/

an amount shown as part of 100

Family: per cent (n./adv.) **Use it with:** a high percentage · the percentage of… **Tip:** Use "per cent" after a number (35 per cent), "percentage" without one.

A small **percentage** of students live on campus.

period n. /'pɪərɪəd/

a length of time

Family: periodic (adj.) **Use it with:** over a period of · a short period **Tip:** Task 1: "over the period from 2000 to 2020".

Sales rose steadily over the **period** shown.

policy n. /'pɒlɪsi/

a plan of action agreed by a government or organisation

Family: policies (pl.) **Use it with:** government policy · introduce a policy

The government has a **policy** of free school meals.

principle n. /'prɪnsɪpl/

a basic rule or belief

Family: principled (adj.) **Use it with:** in principle · a basic principle **Tip:** Do not confuse with principal (main, or a head teacher).

Equal pay is an important **principle**.

procedure n. /prə'siːdʒə/

the official or usual way of doing something

Family: proceed (v.) · process (n.) **Use it with:** follow a procedure · a simple procedure

The safety **procedure** is explained on the first day.

process n./v. /'prəʊses/

a series of actions that lead to a result

Family: processing (n.) **Use it with:** the process of · a simple process **Tip:** Task 1 process diagrams: "The process begins with…"

Applying for a visa can be a slow **process**.

Vocabulary and example	Write it

require v. /rɪ'kwaɪə/

to need, or to make someone do something

Family: requirement (n.) **Use it with:** be required to · entry requirements

Most universities **require** an IELTS score of 6.5.

6.5

research n./v. /rɪ'sɜːtʃ/

careful study to find new facts

Family: researcher (n.) **Use it with:** carry out research · research into **Tip:** Research is uncountable: "some research", not "researches".

Research shows that exercise improves mood.

response n. /rɪ'spɒns/

an answer or reaction

Family: respond (v.) · responsive (adj.) **Use it with:** in response to · respond to **Tip:** Respond to something: "respond to the question".

The plan received a positive **response** from residents.

role n. /rəʊl/

the job or purpose of a person or thing

Use it with: play a role in · a key role

Parents play an important **role** in a child's education.

section n. /'sekʃn/

one of the parts of something

Use it with: the first section · a section of

The reading test has three **sections**.

sector n. /'sektə/

one part of a country's economy or society

Use it with: the private sector · the public sector

The service **sector** employs most workers in the city.

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significant adj. /sɪg'nɪfɪkənt/

large or important enough to notice

Family: significance (n.) · significantly (adv.) **Use it with:** a significant rise · significantly higher **Tip:** Useful in Task 1 instead of big: "a significant drop".

There was a **significant** increase in tourists after 2010.

2010

similar adj. /'sɪmɪlə/

almost the same

Family: similarity (n.) · similarly (adv.) **Use it with:** similar to · a similar trend **Tip:** Similar to, not similar with.

The two charts show a **similar** pattern.

source n. /sɔːs/

where something comes from

Use it with: a source of income · a reliable source

Wind is a clean **source** of energy.

specific adj. /spə'sɪfɪk/

exact and clear, or only about one thing

Family: specify (v.) · specifically (adv.) **Use it with:** a specific example · specific needs

Give a **specific** example to support your idea.

structure n./v. /'strʌktʃə/

the way parts are arranged or organised

Family: structural (adj.) **Use it with:** the structure of · well structured

A clear essay **structure** helps the reader follow your ideas.

theory n. /'θɪəri/

an idea that tries to explain something

Family: theoretical (adj.) · theorist (n.) **Use it with:** in theory · a theory of

Darwin's **theory** explains how animals change over time.

Vocabulary and example	Write it

vary v. /ˈveəri/

to be different, or to change

Family: variation (n.) · variety (n.) · various (adj.) **Use it with:** vary widely · vary from… to…

Prices **vary** from one shop to another.

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