IELTS Word List

Vocabulary List

Vocabulary and example	Write it
achieve v. /əˈtʃiːv/ to succeed in doing or getting something after effort **Family:** achievement (n.) **Use it with:** achieve a goal · a great achievement She **achieved** a band 7 after six months of practice.	
acquire v. /əˈkwaɪə/ to get or gain something, such as a skill or a company **Family:** acquisition (n.) **Use it with:** acquire skills · language acquisition Children **acquire** a second language faster when they use it every day.	
administration n. /ədˌmɪnɪˈstreɪʃn/ the work of managing a business, school or government office **Family:** administrate (v.) · administrative (adj.) · administrator (n.) **Use it with:** administrative staff · the city administration The school spends too much time on **administration** and not enough on teaching.	
affect v. /əˈfekt/ to change or influence something **Use it with:** seriously affect · be affected by **Tip:** Affect is the verb; effect is usually the noun: “It affects us. It has an effect on us.” Lack of sleep can **affect** your concentration.	
appropriate adj. /əˈprəʊpriət/ suitable or right for a situation **Family:** inappropriate (adj.) · appropriately (adv.) **Use it with:** appropriate for · appropriate action Jeans are not **appropriate** for a job interview.	

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aspect n. /ˈæspekt/

one part or feature of a situation or problem

Use it with: every aspect of · an important aspect

Cost is only one **aspect** of the problem.

assist v. /əˈsɪst/

to help someone

Family: assistance (n.) · assistant (n.) **Use it with:** assist with · financial assistance **Tip:** Assist is more formal than help.

Volunteers **assist** older people with their shopping.

category n. /ˈkætɪgəri/

a group of things or people with the same qualities

Family: categorise (v.) **Use it with:** fall into a category · the largest category

The chart divides spending into five **categories**.

chapter n. /ˈtʃæptə/

one of the main parts of a book

Use it with: the final chapter · in chapter three

The first **chapter** describes the history of the city.

commission n./v. /kəˈmɪʃn/

an official group asked to study something; or to ask someone to make something

Family: commissioner (n.) **Use it with:** set up a commission · commission a report

The government set up a **commission** to study road safety.

community n. /kəˈmjuːnɪti/

the people living in one area, or a group with shared interests

Family: communities (pl.) **Use it with:** the local community · a sense of community

The new park is popular with the local **community**.

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Vocabulary and example	Write it

complex adj. /ˈkɒmpleks/

having many parts and difficult to understand

Family: complexity (n.) **Use it with:** a complex problem · highly complex **Tip:** Not the same as complicated in every case, but close in meaning.

The causes of poverty are **complex**.

compute v. /kəmˈpjuːt/

to calculate a number or amount

Family: computer (n.) · computing (n.) · computation (n.) **Use it with:** compute the cost · cloud computing

The app **computes** how many calories you burn on a run.

conclude v. /kənˈkluːd/

to decide something after thinking; or to finish

Family: conclusion (n.) · conclusive (adj.) **Use it with:** conclude that… · in conclusion **Tip:** Essays: end with "In conclusion,…" once, not in every paragraph.

The researchers **concluded** that the drug was safe.

conduct v. /ˈkɒndʌkt/

to organise and carry out an activity

Family: conductor (n.) **Use it with:** conduct research · conduct an experiment

The team **conducted** a survey of 2,000 shoppers.

2,000

consequence n. /ˈkɒnsɪkwəns/

a result of something, often a bad one

Family: consequent (adj.) · consequently (adv.) **Use it with:** serious consequences · as a consequence **Tip:** Consequently is a useful linking word: "Consequently, prices rose."

One **consequence** of the drought was higher food prices.

construction n. /kənˈstrʌkʃn/

the work of building houses, roads or bridges

Family: construct (v.) · constructive (adj.) **Use it with:** under construction · the construction industry **Tip:** Constructive criticism means helpful comments.

Construction of the new airport will take five years.

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Vocabulary and example	Write it

consume v. /kənˈsjuːm/

to use energy, fuel or time; or to eat or drink

Family: consumer (n.) · consumption (n.) **Use it with:** consume energy · consumer goods

Older cars **consume** more fuel than new ones.

credit n. /ˈkredɪt/

an arrangement to buy now and pay later; or praise for something

Family: creditor (n.) **Use it with:** a credit card · take credit for

Many young people buy phones on **credit**.

culture n. /ˈkʌltʃə/

the customs, art and ideas of a group of people

Family: cultural (adj.) **Use it with:** local culture · cultural differences

Travel helps us understand other **cultures**.

design n./v. /dɪˈzaɪn/

a plan or drawing showing how something will look or work

Family: designer (n.) **Use it with:** a modern design · be designed to

The **design** of the new library allows lots of natural light.

distinct adj. /dɪˈstɪŋkt/

clearly different or clearly noticed

Family: distinction (n.) · distinctive (adj.) **Use it with:** a distinct difference · clearly distinct

There is a **distinct** difference between the two age groups.

element n. /ˈelɪmənt/

one part of something

Family: elementary (adj.) **Use it with:** a key element · an element of risk

Trust is a key **element** of a good team.

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equate v. /ɪ'kweɪt/

to treat two things as if they were the same

Family: equation (n.) **Use it with:** equate X with Y · a simple equation

Many people **equate** money with happiness.

evaluate v. /ɪ'vælju:eɪt/

to judge how good or useful something is

Family: evaluation (n.) **Use it with:** evaluate evidence · a careful evaluation

It is important to **evaluate** online sources before you use them.

feature n./v. /'fi:tʃə/

an important or typical part of something

Use it with: a key feature · feature in **Tip:** Task 1 overview: "The most striking feature is…"

The main **feature** of the chart is the sharp rise in 2015.

2015

final adj. /'faɪnl/

last, coming at the end

Family: finally (adv.) · finalise (v.) **Use it with:** the final stage · a final decision

The **final** stage of the process is packaging.

focus v./n. /'fəʊkəs/

to give most attention to one thing

Use it with: focus on · the main focus **Tip:** Focus on, not focus in.

Schools should **focus** more on practical skills.

impact n. /'ɪmpækt/

a strong effect on something or someone

Use it with: have an impact on · a negative impact **Tip:** Have an impact on: the preposition is on.

Social media has a huge **impact** on young people.

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injury n. /ˈɪndʒəri/

physical harm to a person's body

Family: injure (v.) · injured (adj.) **Use it with:** a serious injury · prevent injuries

Wearing a helmet reduces the risk of head **injury**.

institution n. /ˌɪnstɪˈtjuːʃn/

a large, important organisation such as a university or bank

Family: institute (n.) · institutional (adj.) **Use it with:** financial institutions · an educational institution

Universities are respected **institutions** in most countries.

invest v. /ɪnˈvest/

to put money or time into something to get a benefit later

Family: investment (n.) · investor (n.) **Use it with:** invest in · a good investment

The government should **invest** more in public transport.

item n. /ˈaɪtəm/

one thing in a list or group

Use it with: an item of clothing · household items

The most expensive **item** on the list was rent.

journal n. /ˈdʒɜːnl/

a serious magazine about a subject, or a diary

Family: journalist (n.) · journalism (n.) **Use it with:** an academic journal · keep a journal

The study was published in a medical **journal**.

maintain v. /meɪnˈteɪn/

to keep something in good condition or at the same level

Family: maintenance (n.) **Use it with:** maintain a level · maintain contact **Tip:** The noun is maintenance, not maintainance.

It is expensive to **maintain** old buildings.

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Vocabulary and example	Write it

normal adj. /ˈnɔːml/

usual or ordinary

Family: normally (adv.) · abnormal (adj.) **Use it with:** back to normal · perfectly normal

It is **normal** to feel nervous before an exam.

obtain v. /ɒbˈteɪn/

to get something, often with effort

Use it with: obtain permission · obtain information **Tip:** More formal than get.

You need to **obtain** a visa before you travel.

participate v. /pɑːˈtɪsɪpeɪt/

to take part in an activity

Family: participation (n.) · participant (n.) **Use it with:** participate in · active participation **Tip:** Participate in, not participate to.

All students are expected to **participate** in class discussions.

perceive v. /pəˈsiːv/

to notice or understand something in a certain way

Family: perception (n.) **Use it with:** perceive as · public perception

Teenagers often **perceive** rules as unfair.

positive adj. /ˈpɒzɪtɪv/

good, hopeful or helpful

Family: positively (adv.) **Use it with:** a positive effect · positive feedback

Volunteering has a **positive** effect on mental health.

potential adj./n. /pəˈtenʃl/

possible in the future; or qualities that may develop

Family: potentially (adv.) **Use it with:** potential risks · reach your potential

Solar power has huge **potential** in sunny countries.

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previous adj. /ˈpriːvɪəs/

happening or existing before

Family: previously (adv.) **Use it with:** the previous year · previous experience

Sales were higher than in the **previous** year.

primary adj. /ˈpraɪməri/

main or most important; or for young children's education

Family: primarily (adv.) **Use it with:** primary school · the primary cause

The **primary** reason for moving to the city is work.

purchase v./n. /ˈpɜːtʃɪs/

to buy something; or a thing you buy

Use it with: make a purchase · purchase online **Tip:** More formal than buy.

Most tickets are now **purchased** online.

range n. /reɪndʒ/

a group of different things of the same type, or limits

Use it with: a wide range of · range from… to… **Tip:** Task 1: "Prices ranged from $5 to $50."

The shop sells a wide **range** of sports equipment.

region n. /ˈriːdʒn/

a large area of a country or the world

Family: regional (adj.) **Use it with:** the coastal region · regional differences

Rainfall is highest in the northern **region**.

regulate v. /ˈregjʊleɪt/

to control something with rules

Family: regulation (n.) · regulatory (adj.) **Use it with:** strict regulations · regulate the industry

The government **regulates** the price of electricity.

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relevant adj. /ˈrelɪvənt/

closely connected to the subject

Family: relevance (n.) · irrelevant (adj.) **Use it with:** relevant to · highly relevant

Only include **relevant** information in your summary.

resident n. /ˈrezɪdənt/

a person who lives in a place

Family: reside (v.) · residence (n.) · residential (adj.) **Use it with:** local residents · a residential area

Local **residents** complained about the noise from the airport.

resource n. /rɪˈzɔːs/

something useful such as money, oil, water or skills

Family: resourceful (adj.) **Use it with:** natural resources · limited resources

Water is a precious natural **resource**.

restrict v. /rɪˈstrɪkt/

to limit or control something

Family: restriction (n.) · restrictive (adj.) **Use it with:** restrict access · strict restrictions

Some cities **restrict** the number of cars entering the centre.

secure adj./v. /sɪˈkjʊə/

safe, or certain not to be lost; or to get something

Family: security (n.) · securely (adv.) **Use it with:** job security · secure funding

Many graduates struggle to find **secure** jobs.

seek v. /siːk/

to try to find or get something

Use it with: seek advice · seek help **Tip:** Past form: sought.

More young people are **seeking** help for stress.

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Vocabulary and example	Write it

select v. /sɪˈlekt/

to choose carefully from a group

Family: selection (n.) · selective (adj.) **Use it with:** carefully selected · a wide selection

Only ten students were **selected** for the course.

site n. /saɪt/

a place where something is, was or will be built

Use it with: a building site · a historic site **Tip:** Don't confuse with sight (seeing).

The old factory **site** will become a park.

strategy n. /ˈstrætədʒi/

a careful plan to achieve a goal

Family: strategic (adj.) **Use it with:** a long-term strategy · develop a strategy

Reading the questions first is a useful **strategy** in the test.

survey n./v. /ˈsɜːveɪ/

a set of questions asked to many people

Use it with: carry out a survey · a survey of **Tip:** Task 1: "according to the survey…"

A **survey** of 500 parents found that most supported the plan.

500

text n. /tekst/

written words in a book, article or message

Family: textual (adj.) **Use it with:** a short text · the main text

Read the **text** quickly to find the main idea.

tradition n. /trəˈdɪʃn/

a belief or custom passed down over many years

Family: traditional (adj.) · traditionally (adv.) **Use it with:** a long tradition · traditional values

Giving red envelopes is a Chinese New Year **tradition**.

Vocabulary and example	Write it

transfer v./n. /ˈtrænsfɜː/

to move someone or something from one place to another

Use it with: transfer money · a bank transfer **Tip:** Double the r: transferred, transferring.

Patients were **transferred** to a larger hospital.

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