IELTS Word List

Vocabulary List

Vocabulary and example	Write it

access n./v. /ˈækses/

the chance or right to reach, get or use something

Family: accessible (adj.) · accessibility (n.) **Use it with:** access to · internet access **Tip:** The noun takes "to" (access to services); the verb does not (access a file).

Residents want better **access** to local health services.

adequate adj. /ˈædɪkwət/

enough, or good enough, for a need

Family: adequately (adv.) · inadequate (adj.) **Use it with:** adequate funding · inadequate housing

Many older people do not have **adequate** heating in winter.

annual adj. /ˈænjuːəl/

happening once a year, or for one year

Family: annually (adv.) **Use it with:** an annual report · annual income

The festival is an **annual** event held every June.

apparent adj. /əˈpærənt/

easy to see or understand; or seeming true

Family: apparently (adv.) **Use it with:** become apparent · for no apparent reason

It soon became **apparent** that the plan would fail.

approximately adv. /əˈprɒksɪmətli/

close to an exact number but not exactly

Family: approximate (adj.) · approximation (n.) **Use it with:** approximately half · an approximate figure **Tip:** Very useful in Task 1 when a value sits between grid lines.

Approximately 40% of visitors came from abroad.

40%

attitude n. /ˈætɪtjuːd/

what you think and feel about something

Use it with: a positive attitude · attitude to/towards

Public **attitudes** towards recycling have changed.

Vocabulary and example	Write it

attribute v./n. /ˈætrɪbjuːt/

to say that something is caused by something; or a quality

Use it with: attribute X to Y · personal attributes

Doctors **attribute** the rise in diabetes to poor diet.

civil adj. /ˈsɪvl/

relating to the people of a country, not the army or church

Use it with: civil rights · civil war

Civil servants work for the government.

code n. /kəʊd/

a set of rules; or a system of signs or numbers

Use it with: a dress code · a code of conduct

The school has a strict dress **code**.

commit v. /kəˈmɪt/

to do something wrong; or to promise to give time or effort

Family: commitment (n.) · committee (n.) **Use it with:** commit a crime · a strong commitment **Tip:** Double the t: committed, committing.

Young people who **commit** crimes need support, not only punishment.

communicate v. /kəˈmjuːnɪkeɪt/

to share information or feelings with others

Family: communication (n.) · communicative (adj.) **Use it with:** communicate with · communication skills

Teenagers often **communicate** through messaging apps.

concentrate v. /ˈkɒnsəntreɪt/

to give all your attention to something

Family: concentration (n.) **Use it with:** concentrate on · lose concentration

It is hard to **concentrate** in a noisy classroom.

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conference n. /ˈkɒnfrəns/

a large formal meeting where people discuss a subject

Family: confer (v.) **Use it with:** attend a conference · a press conference

She presented her research at an international **conference**.

contrast n./v. /ˈkɒntræst/

a clear difference between two things

Family: contrasting (adj.) **Use it with:** in contrast · by contrast · contrast with **Tip:** Task 1 and essays: "In contrast, …" to compare two groups.

In **contrast**, sales of e-books fell slightly.

cycle n. /ˈsaɪkl/

a series of events that repeat in the same order

Family: cyclical (adj.) **Use it with:** the life cycle · a vicious cycle

The diagram shows the life **cycle** of a frog.

debate n./v. /dɪˈbeɪt/

a discussion about a subject people disagree on

Use it with: a heated debate · debate whether

There is a lot of **debate** about the age at which children should get phones.

despite prep. /dɪˈspaɪt/

without being stopped by something

Use it with: despite the fact that… **Tip:** Despite + noun or -ing; never "despite of".

Despite the rain, thousands of people came to the concert.

dimension n. /daɪˈmenʃn/

a size or measurement; or one part of a situation

Family: dimensional (adj.) **Use it with:** a new dimension · the dimensions of

Climate change has an economic **dimension** as well as an environmental one.

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Vocabulary and example	Write it

domestic adj. /dəˈmestɪk/

relating to one country, or to the home

Use it with: domestic flights · domestic tasks

Domestic flights are cheaper than international ones.

emerge v. /ɪˈmɜːdʒ/

to come out, or to become known

Family: emergence (n.) · emerging (adj.) **Use it with:** emerge from · emerging markets

New problems **emerged** during the second year of the project.

error n. /ˈerə/

a mistake

Family: erroneous (adj.) **Use it with:** make an error · human error

Check your essay for spelling **errors**.

ethnic adj. /ˈeθnɪk/

relating to a group with a shared culture or race

Family: ethnicity (n.) **Use it with:** ethnic groups · ethnic minorities

The city has a large **ethnic** Chinese community.

goal n. /gəʊl/

something you hope to achieve

Use it with: achieve a goal · a long-term goal

My **goal** is to get a band 7 by June.

6 7

grant n./v. /grænt/

money given by a government or organisation for a purpose

Use it with: a research grant · take for granted **Tip:** Take for granted = not value something because you always have it.

She received a **grant** to study abroad.

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Vocabulary and example	Write it

hence adv. /hens/

for this reason; therefore

Use it with: hence the delay **Tip:** Formal. In essays, “therefore” or “as a result” is often safer.

The roads were icy, **hence** the delay.

hypothesis n. /haɪˈpɒθəsɪs/

an idea that is tested by experiments

Family: hypotheses (pl.) · hypothetical (adj.) **Use it with:** test a hypothesis · a hypothetical situation

The results supported the researchers’ **hypothesis**.

implement v. /ˈɪmplɪmənt/

to start using a plan or system

Family: implementation (n.) **Use it with:** implement a policy · implement changes

The school **implemented** a no-phone policy last year.

implication n. /ˌɪmplɪˈkeɪʃn/

a possible effect or result of something

Family: implicate (v.) **Use it with:** have implications for · the implications of

The new law has serious **implications** for small businesses.

impose v. /ɪmˈpəʊz/

to introduce a rule, tax or punishment that people must accept

Family: imposition (n.) **Use it with:** impose a tax · impose restrictions on

The government **imposed** a tax on sugary drinks.

integrate v. /ˈɪntɪgreɪt/

to combine things or people so they work together

Family: integration (n.) · integrated (adj.) **Use it with:** integrate into · social integration

Schools should help new arrivals **integrate** into the community.

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Vocabulary and example	Write it

internal adj. /ɪn'tɜːnl/

inside a person, building, country or organisation

Family: internally (adv.) **Use it with:** internal affairs · internal organs

The company held an **internal** review of the accident.

investigate v. /ɪn'vestɪgeɪt/

to try to find out the facts about something

Family: investigation (n.) · investigator (n.) **Use it with:** investigate the cause · an investigation into

Police are **investigating** the cause of the fire.

job n. /dʒɒb/

the regular work you do to earn money

Use it with: create jobs · job satisfaction **Tip:** Job is countable (a job); work is uncountable (some work).

Automation may replace some **jobs** in factories.

label n./v. /'leɪbl/

a piece of paper or a word describing something

Use it with: food labels · label as

Always read the **label** before taking medicine.

mechanism n. /'mekənɪzəm/

a part of a machine, or a way of making something happen

Use it with: a mechanism for · a defence mechanism

The body has natural **mechanisms** to fight infection.

obvious adj. /'ɒbvɪəs/

easy to see or understand

Family: obviously (adv.) **Use it with:** an obvious reason · fairly obvious

The **obvious** solution is to build more houses.

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Vocabulary and example	Write it

occupation n. /ˌɒkjʊˈpeɪʃn/

a job or profession

Family: occupy (v.) · occupational (adj.) **Use it with:** occupation: teacher · occupy a space

Please write your name and **occupation** on the form.

option n. /ˈɒpʃn/

something you can choose

Family: optional (adj.) **Use it with:** have the option of · an optional course

Online courses are a good **option** for busy adults.

output n. /ˈaʊtpʊt/

the amount of something produced

Use it with: industrial output · total output

Factory **output** rose by 10% last year.

10%

overall adj./adv. /ˌəʊvəˈrɔːl/

considering everything; in general

Use it with: overall trend · overall, … **Tip:** Start your Task 1 overview with "Overall, …".

Overall, the number of tourists increased over the period.

parallel adj./n. /ˈpærəlel/

very similar; or happening at the same time

Use it with: draw a parallel · in parallel

There are clear **parallels** between the two cases.

parameter n. /pəˈræmɪtə/

a limit that controls how something can be done

Use it with: within the parameters · set parameters

The project must stay within the **parameters** of the budget.

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Vocabulary and example	Write it

phase n. /feɪz/

a stage in a process

Use it with: the first phase · phase out **Tip:** Phase out = stop using something gradually.

The first **phase** of the building work is complete.

predict v. /prɪˈdɪkt/

to say what will happen in the future

Family: prediction (n.) · predictable (adj.) **Use it with:** predict that… · it is predicted that… **Tip:** Task 1 future data: "Sales are predicted to rise."

Experts **predict** that oil use will fall after 2030.

2030

principal adj./n. /ˈprɪnsɪpl/

most important; or the head of a school

Family: principally (adv.) **Use it with:** the principal cause · school principal **Tip:** Do not confuse with principle (a rule or belief).

The **principal** reason for the delay was bad weather.

prior adj. /ˈpraɪə/

happening before something else

Family: priority (n.) **Use it with:** prior to · prior knowledge **Tip:** Prior to = before (formal).

No **prior** experience is needed for this job.

professional adj./n. /prəˈfeʃənl/

relating to a job that needs training; or skilled

Family: profession (n.) · professionally (adv.) **Use it with:** professional advice · a health professional

Doctors and lawyers are **professionals**.

project n. /ˈprɒdʒekt/

a planned piece of work

Use it with: a research project · carry out a project

The **project** aims to plant one million trees.

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Vocabulary and example	Write it

promote v. /prəˈməʊt/

to help something grow or become popular; or to move to a higher job

Family: promotion (n.) **Use it with:** promote tourism · get a promotion

Governments should **promote** healthy eating.

regime n. /reɪˈʒiːm/

a government, or a strict system of rules

Use it with: a training regime · a military regime

He follows a strict exercise **regime**.

resolve v. /rɪˈzɒlv/

to find an answer to a problem

Family: resolution (n.) **Use it with:** resolve a problem · resolve a conflict

The two sides **resolved** their disagreement peacefully.

retain v. /rɪˈteɪn/

to keep something, including information in memory

Family: retention (n.) **Use it with:** retain information · retain staff

Students **retain** new words better when they use them in sentences.

series n. /ˈsɪəriːz/

several things of the same kind that come one after another

Use it with: a series of · a TV series **Tip:** Series is the same in the singular and plural.

The museum is holding a **series** of talks on local history.

statistics n. /stəˈtɪstɪks/

numbers that show facts about something

Family: statistic (n.) · statistical (adj.) **Use it with:** official statistics · statistical data

Government **statistics** show that unemployment is falling.

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status n. /ˈsteɪtəs/

social or legal position; or the situation at a moment

Use it with: social status · a status symbol

Owning a car is still a **status** symbol in some countries.

stress n./v. /stres/

worry caused by difficulties; or to give special importance

Family: stressful (adj.) **Use it with:** under stress · stress the importance of

Exams cause a lot of **stress** for teenagers.

subsequent adj. /ˈsʌbsɪkwənt/

coming after something else

Family: subsequently (adv.) **Use it with:** in subsequent years · subsequently rose **Tip:** Task 1: "…and subsequently fell to 10%."

The fire and the **subsequent** investigation closed the factory for months.

sum n. /sʌm/

an amount of money; or the total of numbers added

Family: summation (n.) **Use it with:** a large sum of money · sum up

The council spent a large **sum** on the new bridge.

summary n. /ˈsʌmərɪ/

a short statement of the main points

Family: summarise (v.) **Use it with:** in summary · a brief summary

Write a **summary** of the article in 100 words.

100

undertake v. /ˌʌndəˈteɪk/

to agree to do a task, or to start doing it

Use it with: undertake research · undertake a task **Tip:** Past forms: undertook, undertaken.

The university **undertook** a study of student housing.

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