IELTS Word List

Vocabulary List

Vocabulary and example	Write it
academic adj./n. /ˌækəˈdemɪk/ relating to schools, universities and study **Family:** academy (n.) · academically (adv.) **Use it with:** academic writing · academic performance IELTS **Academic** is for people who want to study at university. IELTS	
adjust v. /əˈdʒʌst/ to change something a little to make it better or fit **Family:** adjustment (n.) **Use it with:** adjust to · make adjustments It takes time to **adjust** to life in a new country.	
alter v. /ˈɒltə/ to change something, usually a little **Family:** alteration (n.) **Use it with:** alter the plan · alter the shape The city **altered** its bus routes after complaints.	
amend v. /əˈmend/ to make small changes to a law or document **Family:** amendment (n.) **Use it with:** amend a law · make an amendment Parliament **amended** the law to protect online shoppers.	
aware adj. /əˈweə/ knowing that something exists or is happening **Family:** awareness (n.) **Use it with:** be aware of · raise awareness Most people are **aware** of the dangers of smoking.	
capacity n. /kəˈpæsɪti/ the amount something can hold or produce; or ability **Use it with:** full capacity · the capacity to The stadium has a **capacity** of 60,000 people. 60,000	

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challenge n./v. /ˈtʃælɪndʒ/

something difficult that tests your ability

Family: challenging (adj.) **Use it with:** face a challenge · a major challenge

Finding cheap housing is a big **challenge** for young people.

clause n. /klɔːz/

one part of a contract or law; or part of a sentence

Use it with: a contract clause · a relative clause

A **clause** in the contract says you cannot leave before a year.

compound n./adj. /ˈkɒmpaʊnd/

something made of two or more parts

Use it with: a chemical compound · a compound noun

Water is a **compound** of hydrogen and oxygen.

conflict n. /ˈkɒnflɪkt/

a serious disagreement or fight

Family: conflicting (adj.) **Use it with:** come into conflict · conflicting views

The two neighbours were in **conflict** over the fence.

consult v. /kənˈsʌlt/

to ask an expert or look in a book for advice or information

Family: consultant (n.) · consultation (n.) **Use it with:** consult a doctor · public consultation

Consult a doctor before starting a new diet.

contact n./v. /ˈkɒntækt/

communication with someone; or to phone, write or meet

Use it with: keep in contact · contact details **Tip:** Contact someone, not contact with someone (as a verb).

Please **contact** us if you have any questions.

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decline n./v. /dɪˈklaɪn/

a fall in amount or quality; or to become less

Use it with: a sharp decline · decline steadily **Tip:** Task 1: “declined steadily” or “a slight decline”.

The **decline** in coal use was steeper after 2016 than before it.
2016

discrete adj. /dɪˈskriːt/

separate and different from others

Use it with: discrete parts · discrete categories **Tip:** Do not confuse with discreet (careful not to cause attention).

The course is divided into six **discrete** units.

draft n./v. /dræft/

an early version of a piece of writing

Use it with: a first draft · draft a letter

Write a quick **draft** first, then improve it.

enable v. /eˈneɪbl/

to make it possible for someone to do something

Use it with: enable someone to do **Tip:** Enable + person + to + verb.

The internet **enables** people to work from anywhere.

energy n. /ˈenədʒi/

power used to make machines work or give heat and light; or strength

Family: energetic (adj.) **Use it with:** renewable energy · energy consumption

Solar **energy** is becoming cheaper every year.

enforce v. /enˈfɔːs/

to make people obey a law or rule

Family: enforcement (n.) **Use it with:** enforce a law · law enforcement

The police must **enforce** the speed limit.

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entity n. /ˈentɪti/

something that exists separately, such as a company

Use it with: a separate entity · a legal entity

The two schools now operate as one **entity**.

equivalent adj./n. /ɪˈkwɪvələnt/

equal in amount, value or meaning

Family: equivalence (n.) **Use it with:** equivalent to · the equivalent of

A gap year is not **equivalent** to a year at university.

evolve v. /ɪˈvɒlv/

to develop slowly over time

Family: evolution (n.) · evolutionary (adj.) **Use it with:** evolve into · evolve over time

Mobile phones have **evolved** into small computers.

expand v. /ekˈspænd/

to become larger, or make something larger

Family: expansion (n.) **Use it with:** expand rapidly · rapid expansion

The company plans to **expand** into Asia.

expose v. /ekˈspəʊz/

to put someone in contact with something, often harmful

Family: exposure (n.) **Use it with:** be exposed to · exposure to

Workers were **exposed** to dangerous chemicals.

external adj. /ekˈstɜːnl/

outside a person, building or organisation

Family: externally (adv.) **Use it with:** external factors · external pressure

An **external** examiner checks the marks.

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facilitate v. /fəˈsɪlɪteɪt/

to make something easier to happen

Family: facility (n.) · facilitator (n.) **Use it with:** facilitate communication · sports facilities

Good lighting **facilitates** learning.

fundamental adj. /ˌfʌndəˈmentl/

basic and very important

Family: fundamentally (adv.) **Use it with:** a fundamental right · fundamental changes

Education is a **fundamental** human right.

generate v. /ˈdʒenəreɪt/

to produce or create something

Family: generation (n.) · generator (n.) **Use it with:** generate income · generate electricity

Wind farms **generate** electricity without burning fuel.

generation n. /ˌdʒenəˈreɪʃn/

all the people born around the same time

Family: generational (adj.) **Use it with:** future generations · the younger generation

The younger **generation** uses social media more than older people.

image n. /ˈɪmɪdʒ/

a picture; or the way people see someone or something

Use it with: a positive image · public image

The city wants to improve its **image** to attract tourists.

liberal adj. /ˈlɪbərəl/

open to new ideas and accepting of different behaviour

Family: liberty (n.) · liberate (v.) **Use it with:** liberal attitudes · liberal views

The country has **liberal** laws on free speech.

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licence n. /ˈlaɪsəns/

an official paper that gives permission

Family: license (v.) **Use it with:** a driving licence · issue a licence **Tip:** British: licence (noun), license (verb). American: license for both.

You need a **licence** to drive a car.

logic n. /ˈlɒdʒɪk/

a way of thinking based on clear reasons

Family: logical (adj.) · logically (adv.) **Use it with:** the logic behind · a logical order

Each paragraph should follow a clear **logic**.

margin n. /ˈmɑːdʒɪn/

the empty space at the side of a page; or a small difference

Family: marginal (adj.) **Use it with:** a narrow margin · by a wide margin

The team won by a narrow **margin**.

medical adj. /ˈmedɪkl/

relating to medicine and treating illness

Family: medicine (n.) **Use it with:** medical treatment · medical research

Everyone should have access to **medical** care.

mental adj. /ˈmentl/

relating to the mind

Family: mentally (adv.) · mentality (n.) **Use it with:** mental health · mental illness

Regular exercise is good for **mental** health.

modify v. /ˈmɒdɪfaɪ/

to change something slightly to improve it

Family: modification (n.) **Use it with:** slightly modified · genetically modified

The car was **modified** to use less fuel.

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monitor v./n. /ˈmɒnɪtə/

to watch or check something over time

Use it with: closely monitor · monitor progress

Doctors **monitor** patients' heart rates after surgery.

network n. /ˈnetwɜːk/

a system of connected lines, people or computers

Family: networking (n.) **Use it with:** a transport network · social network

The city has a large underground rail **network**.

notion n. /ˈnəʊʃn/

an idea or belief

Use it with: the notion that… · a vague notion

The **notion** that money brings happiness is too simple.

objective n./adj. /ɒbˈdʒektɪv/

an aim; or based on facts, not feelings

Family: objectively (adv.) · objectivity (n.) **Use it with:** the main objective · objective evidence

Newspapers should give an **objective** account of events.

oriented adj. /ˈɔːrɪəntɪd/

aimed at or focused on a certain thing

Family: orient (v.) · orientation (n.) **Use it with:** family-oriented · career-oriented · orientation week

The course is very career-**oriented**.

perspective n. /pəˈspektɪv/

a way of thinking about something

Use it with: from my perspective · a different perspective **Tip:** Essays: "From an economic perspective, …".

Travel gives you a new **perspective** on your own country.

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precise adj. /prɪˈsaɪs/

exact and accurate

Family: precisely (adv.) · precision (n.) **Use it with:** precise details · to be precise

Give **precise** figures in your report.

prime adj. /praɪm/

main or most important; or of the best quality

Use it with: prime importance · a prime location

Location is the **prime** reason for the high rent.

psychology n. /saɪˈkɒlədʒi/

the study of the mind and how people behave

Family: psychological (adj.) · psychologist (n.) **Use it with:** child psychology · psychological effects

She is studying child **psychology**.

pursue v. /pəˈsjuː/

to try to achieve something over a long time

Family: pursuit (n.) **Use it with:** pursue a career · pursue a goal

Many graduates **pursue** a career in finance.

ratio n. /ˈreɪʃɪəʊ/

the relationship between two amounts, shown as two numbers

Use it with: a ratio of 1:20 · the ratio of X to Y

The teacher-to-student **ratio** is one to twenty.

reject v. /rɪˈdʒekt/

to refuse to accept something

Family: rejection (n.) **Use it with:** reject an offer · reject an idea

The council **rejected** the plan for a new shopping centre.

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revenue n. /ˈrevənjuː/

money that a business or government receives

Use it with: tax revenue · generate revenue

Tourism brings in a lot of **revenue** for the island.

stable adj. /ˈsteɪbl/

not changing much; firm

Family: stability (n.) · stabilise (v.) **Use it with:** remain stable · a stable job **Tip:** Task 1: use it only when the figure really stays close.

The share of rail travel remained **stable** at about 12 per cent.

12%

style n. /staɪl/

a way of doing something; or a fashion

Family: stylish (adj.) **Use it with:** a teaching style · a writing style

Each teacher has a different **style**.

substitute n./v. /ˈsʌbstɪtjuːt/

something used instead of another thing

Family: substitution (n.) **Use it with:** a substitute for · substitute X for Y

There is no **substitute** for hard work.

sustainable adj. /səˈsteɪnəbl/

able to continue without harming the environment

Family: sustain (v.) · sustainability (n.) **Use it with:** sustainable development · sustainable energy

We need more **sustainable** ways of producing food.

symbol n. /ˈsɪmbl/

a sign or object that stands for something

Family: symbolic (adj.) · symbolise (v.) **Use it with:** a symbol of · a status symbol

The dove is a **symbol** of peace.

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target n./v. /ˈtɑːgɪt/

a result you try to achieve; or to aim at a group

Use it with: set a target · meet a target · target young people

The government has set a **target** of zero emissions by 2060.
2060

transition n. /trænˈsɪʃn/

a change from one state or stage to another

Family: transit (n.) · transitional (adj.) **Use it with:** the transition from… to… · public transit

The **transition** from school to university can be difficult.

trend n. /trend/

a general direction in which something changes

Use it with: an upward trend · a downward trend · the overall trend **Tip:** Task 1 overview: "The overall trend was upward."

The chart shows an upward **trend** in online sales.

version n. /ˈvɜːʃn/

one form of something that is a little different from others

Use it with: the latest version · an updated version

The film is a modern **version** of an old story.

welfare n. /ˈwelfeə/

health, happiness and safety; or government help for people in need

Use it with: animal welfare · the welfare state

Animal **welfare** groups want stricter laws on farming.

whereas conj. /ˈweəræz/

used to compare two different facts

Use it with: X rose, whereas Y fell **Tip:** Task 1 comparisons: "X rose, whereas Y fell."

Men preferred football, **whereas** women preferred tennis.

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