IELTS Word List

Vocabulary List

Vocabulary and example	Write it

abstract adj./n. /ˈæbstrækt/

based on ideas, not real things; or a short summary of a paper

Family: abstraction (n.) **Use it with:** an abstract idea · abstract art

Young children find **abstract** ideas such as time hard to understand.

accurate adj. /ˈækjʊrət/

correct in every detail

Family: accuracy (n.) · accurately (adv.) **Use it with:** accurate information · grammatical accuracy
Tip: Grammatical range and accuracy is one of the IELTS marking criteria.

Your Task 1 report must be **accurate**: check every number.

Task 1

acknowledge v. /əkˈnɒlɪdʒ/

to accept or admit that something is true

Family: acknowledgement (n.) **Use it with:** acknowledge that… · widely acknowledged

The government **acknowledged** that mistakes had been made.

aggregate adj./n. /ˈægrɪgeɪt/

a total made by adding several amounts together

Use it with: on aggregate · aggregate demand

The team with the highest **aggregate** score wins.

allocate v. /ˈæləkeɪt/

to give an amount of money, time or space for a purpose

Family: allocation (n.) **Use it with:** allocate funds · allocate time

The city **allocated** more money to public parks.

assignment n. /əˈsaɪnmənt/

a piece of work given to a student or worker

Family: assign (v.) **Use it with:** a written assignment · complete an assignment

Students must hand in two written **assignments** each term.

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attach v. /əˈtætʃ/

to fasten or join one thing to another

Family: attachment (n.) **Use it with:** attach to · an email attachment

Please **attach** a copy of your passport to the form.

author n. /ˈɔːθə/

a person who writes a book or article

Family: authorship (n.) **Use it with:** the author argues · a best-selling author **Tip:** Reading: "the author's opinion" questions ask what the writer thinks.

The **author** argues that cities should ban cars.

bond n. /bɒnd/

a close connection between people

Use it with: a strong bond · bond with

Sharing meals helps build strong family **bonds**.

brief adj. /briːf/

short in time or length

Family: briefly (adv.) **Use it with:** a brief summary · in brief

Give a **brief** summary of the main points.

capable adj. /ˈkeɪpəbl/

having the ability or skill to do something

Family: capability (n.) · incapable (adj.) **Use it with:** capable of doing · highly capable **Tip:** Capable of + -ing.

Teenagers are **capable** of making their own decisions.

cite v. /saɪt/

to mention something as an example or proof

Family: citation (n.) **Use it with:** cite an example · cite a source

The report **cites** three studies to support its claim.

Vocabulary and example	Write it

cooperation n. /kəʊˈɒpəreɪʃn/

working together to achieve something

Family: cooperate (v.) · cooperative (adj.) **Use it with:** international cooperation · cooperate with

International **cooperation** is needed to protect the oceans.

discrimination n. /dɪˌskrɪmɪˈneɪʃn/

treating people unfairly because of their race, sex, age and so on

Family: discriminate (v.) **Use it with:** discriminate against · racial discrimination

Age **discrimination** makes it hard for older people to find work.

display v./n. /dɪˈspleɪ/

to show something so people can see it

Use it with: on display · display information

The museum **displays** objects from the Tang dynasty.

diverse adj. /daɪˈvɜːs/

very different from each other; varied

Family: diversity (n.) · diversify (v.) **Use it with:** a diverse population · cultural diversity

London is one of the most **diverse** cities in the world.

domain n. /dəˈmeɪn/

an area of knowledge or activity

Use it with: the public domain · a domain name

Medical decisions are in the **domain** of doctors, not politicians.

edit v. /ˈedɪt/

to correct and improve a piece of writing or a film

Family: editor (n.) · edition (n.) **Use it with:** edit a text · the latest edition

Leave five minutes to **edit** your essay.

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Vocabulary and example	Write it

enhance v. /enˈhæns/

to improve the quality or value of something

Family: enhancement (n.) **Use it with:** enhance performance · enhance quality

Music can **enhance** a child's memory.

estate n. /ɪˈsteɪt/

an area of land with houses or buildings; or a person's property

Use it with: a housing estate · real estate

They live on a large housing **estate** outside the city.

exceed v. /ekˈsiːd/

to be more than a number or limit

Family: excess (n.) · excessive (adj.) **Use it with:** exceed the limit · exceed expectations **Tip:** Task 1: "exceeded 50% in 2010".

The number of visitors **exceeded** one million for the first time.

100

expert n./adj. /ˈekspɜːt/

a person with special knowledge or skill

Family: expertise (n.) **Use it with:** an expert in/on · expert advice

Experts warn that sea levels will continue to rise.

explicit adj. /ekˈsplɪsɪt/

clear and direct, with nothing hidden

Family: explicitly (adv.) **Use it with:** explicit instructions · explicitly state

The rules must be **explicit** so that everyone understands them.

federal adj. /ˈfedərəl/

relating to the central government of a country made of states

Use it with: federal law · federal government

The **federal** government funds most major roads in the USA.

Vocabulary and example	Write it

fee n. /fiː/

money you pay for a service

Use it with: tuition fees · pay a fee

University tuition **fees** have risen sharply.

flexible adj. /ˈfleksɪbl/

able to change easily to suit new situations

Family: flexibility (n.) **Use it with:** flexible hours · a flexible approach **Tip:** Flexible hours give choice; they do not always mean fewer hours.

Flexible working hours help parents collect their children from school.

furthermore adv. /ˌfɜːðəˈmɔː/

in addition; also (used to add a point)

Use it with: furthermore, … **Tip:** Formal. Use it to add a second point, not to compare.

The plan is expensive. **Furthermore**, it will take ten years.

gender n. /ˈdʒendə/

being male or female, especially in society and culture

Use it with: gender equality · the gender gap

Pay should not depend on **gender**.

ignorance n. /ˈɪgnərəns/

lack of knowledge or information about something

Family: ignorant (adj.) · ignore (v.) **Use it with:** ignorance of · out of ignorance

Many accidents are caused by **ignorance** of basic safety rules.

incentive n. /ɪnˈsentɪv/

something that encourages a person to do something

Use it with: an incentive to do · financial incentives

Lower taxes are an **incentive** for companies to invest.

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incidence n. /ˈɪnsɪdəns/

how often something happens, especially something bad

Family: incident (n.) **Use it with:** a high incidence of · a serious incident

The **incidence** of heart disease is higher among smokers.

incorporate v. /ɪnˈkɔːpəreɪt/

to include something as part of something larger

Use it with: incorporate into · incorporate ideas

The new design **incorporates** solar panels into the roof.

index n. /ˈɪndeks/

a list at the back of a book; or a number showing changes

Family: indices / indexes (pl.) **Use it with:** the price index · an index of

Look up the topic in the **index**.

inhibit v. /ɪnˈhɪbɪt/

to slow down or prevent something

Family: inhibition (n.) **Use it with:** inhibit growth · inhibit someone from

Fear of mistakes can **inhibit** students from speaking.

initiative n. /ɪˈnɪʃiətɪv/

a new plan to solve a problem; or the ability to act without being told

Family: initiate (v.) · initial (adj.) **Use it with:** launch an initiative · take the initiative

The city launched an **initiative** to plant 10,000 trees.

10,000

input n. /ˈɪnpʊt/

ideas, money or effort put into something

Use it with: input into · valuable input

Students had **input** into the new school rules.

Vocabulary and example	Write it

instructions n. /ɪn'strʌkʃnz/

words that tell you how to do something

Family: instruct (v.) · instructor (n.) **Use it with:** follow instructions · clear instructions

Read the **instructions** carefully before you begin.

intelligence n. /ɪn'telɪdʒəns/

the ability to learn, understand and think

Family: intelligent (adj.) **Use it with:** artificial intelligence · high intelligence

Artificial **intelligence** is changing many jobs.

interval n. /'ɪntəvl/

a period of time between two events

Use it with: at regular intervals · a short interval

Buses run at ten-minute **intervals**.

lecture n./v. /'lektʃə/

a talk given to students on a subject

Family: lecturer (n.) **Use it with:** give a lecture · attend a lecture

The first **lecture** starts at nine o'clock.

migration n. /maɪ'greɪʃn/

moving from one place to live in another

Family: migrate (v.) · migrant (n.) **Use it with:** mass migration · migrant workers

Rural-to-urban **migration** has grown quickly in many countries.

minimum n./adj. /'mɪnɪməm/

the smallest amount possible or allowed

Family: minimal (adj.) · minimise (v.) **Use it with:** a minimum wage · a minimum of **Tip:** Task 1: "reached a minimum of 5% in 2003".

The **minimum** age for driving is 18.

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Vocabulary and example	Write it

ministry n. /'mɪnɪstri/

a government department

Family: minister (n.) **Use it with:** the Ministry of Health · a government minister

The **Ministry** of Education sets the national curriculum.

motivation n. /ˌməʊtɪ'veɪʃn/

the reason or wish to do something

Family: motive (n.) · motivate (v.) **Use it with:** lack motivation · a strong motive

Good teachers increase students' **motivation**.

neutral adj. /'nju:trəl/

not supporting either side

Family: neutrality (n.) **Use it with:** remain neutral · a neutral position

Journalists should stay **neutral** when reporting elections.

nevertheless adv. /ˌnevəðə'les/

despite what has just been said

Use it with: nevertheless, … **Tip:** Formal linking word for contrast at the start of a sentence.

The test was difficult. **Nevertheless**, most students passed.

overseas adj./adv. /ˌəʊvə'si:z/

in or to a foreign country, across the sea

Use it with: study overseas · overseas students **Tip:** No "to" after go: "go overseas", not "go to overseas".

More Chinese students now study **overseas**.

precede v. /prɪ'si:d/

to happen or come before something

Family: preceding (adj.) · precedent (n.) **Use it with:** in the preceding year · set a precedent

A short video **precedes** each lesson.

Vocabulary and example	Write it

presume v. /prɪˈzjuːm/

to believe something is true without being sure

Family: presumably (adv.) · presumption (n.) **Use it with:** presume that… **Tip:** Presume is close to assume.

I **presume** the meeting has been cancelled.

rational adj. /ˈræʃənl/

based on reason, not emotion

Family: rationally (adv.) · irrational (adj.) **Use it with:** a rational decision · rational thinking

We need a **rational** discussion about nuclear energy.

recover v. /rɪˈkʌvə/

to get better after an illness; or to return to a normal level

Family: recovery (n.) **Use it with:** recover from · a slow recovery **Tip:** Task 1: "Sales recovered in 2015."

The economy **recovered** slowly after 2009.

2009

reveal v. /rɪˈviːl/

to make something known that was secret or hidden

Family: revelation (n.) **Use it with:** reveal that… · reveal the truth

The survey **revealed** that most people sleep less than seven hours.

scope n. /skəʊp/

the range of things that something deals with

Use it with: the scope of · within the scope

This question is outside the **scope** of the study.

subsidy n. /ˈsʌbsɪdi/

money a government pays to make something cheaper

Family: subsidise (v.) **Use it with:** government subsidies · subsidised housing

Farmers receive **subsidies** for growing rice.

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Vocabulary and example	Write it

tape n./v. /teɪp/

a long thin strip for sticking things; or to record sound or video

Use it with: tape-record · sticky tape

The interviews were **taped** and later written down.

trace v./n. /treɪs/

to find the origin of something; or a very small amount

Use it with: trace back to · without a trace

Scientists **traced** the disease to a single farm.

transform v. /trænsˈfɔːm/

to change something completely

Family: transformation (n.) **Use it with:** completely transform · transform into

The internet has **transformed** the way we shop.

transport n./v. /ˈtrænspɔːt/

a system for carrying people or goods

Family: transportation (n.) **Use it with:** public transport · means of transport **Tip:** British: public transport; American: public transportation.

Cities should invest more in public **transport**.

underlying adj. /ˌʌndəˈlaɪɪŋ/

real and basic, but not easy to see

Family: underlie (v.) **Use it with:** the underlying cause · underlying problems

The **underlying** cause of the problem is poverty.

utilise v. /ˈjuːtəlaɪz/

to use something for a purpose

Family: utilisation (n.) **Use it with:** utilise resources **Tip:** Formal; "use" is usually better in your own writing.

The old factory was **utilised** as a museum.