IELTS Word List

Vocabulary List

Vocabulary and example	Write it

adapt v. /əˈdæpt/

to change to suit a new situation

Family: adaptation (n.) · adaptable (adj.) **Use it with:** adapt to · adapt quickly

Animals must **adapt** to changes in the climate.

adult n./adj. /ˈædʌlt/

a person who is fully grown

Family: adulthood (n.) **Use it with:** adult education · young adults

More **adults** are going back to university.

advocate v./n. /ˈædvəkeɪt/

to publicly support an idea; or a person who does this

Family: advocacy (n.) **Use it with:** advocate for · a strong advocate of

Doctors **advocate** a diet rich in vegetables.

aid n./v. /eɪd/

help, especially money or food sent to people in need

Use it with: foreign aid · a hearing aid

Rich countries send **aid** to areas hit by disasters.

channel n./v. /ˈtʃænl/

a TV station; or a way of sending information or money

Use it with: a TV channel · channel money into

Social media has become the main **channel** for news.

chemical n./adj. /ˈkemɪkl/

a substance made by chemistry

Family: chemistry (n.) · chemist (n.) **Use it with:** harmful chemicals · chemical waste

Farmers use fewer **chemicals** on organic farms.

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classic adj./n. /ˈklæsɪk/

very good and lasting a long time; or a typical example

Family: classical (adj.) **Use it with:** a classic example · classical music

This is a **classic** example of poor planning.

comprehensive adj. /ˌkɒmprɪˈhensɪv/

including everything or almost everything

Family: comprehensively (adv.) **Use it with:** a comprehensive guide · comprehensive school

The guide gives a **comprehensive** list of hotels.

comprise v. /kəmˈpraɪz/

to have as parts; to consist of

Use it with: be comprised of **Tip:** Correct: “The test comprises four parts.” “Comprises of” is wrong.

The panel **comprises** five teachers and two parents.

confirm v. /kənˈfɜːm/

to say or show that something is definitely true

Family: confirmation (n.) **Use it with:** confirm a booking · confirm that…

Please **confirm** your booking by email.

contrary adj./n. /ˈkɒntrəri/

completely different or opposite

Use it with: contrary to · on the contrary

Contrary to popular belief, the city is very safe.

convert v. /kənˈvɜːt/

to change something into a different form or use

Family: conversion (n.) **Use it with:** convert into · convert energy

The old church was **converted** into a library.

Vocabulary and example	Write it

couple n. /ˈkʌpl/

two people in a relationship; or two or a few things

Use it with: a married couple · a couple of

Many young **couples** cannot afford to buy a home.

decade n. /ˈdekeɪd/

a period of ten years

Use it with: over the past decade · for decades **Tip:** Task 1: “over the decade from 2000 to 2010”.

The population has doubled in the last **decade**.

definitely adv. /ˈdefɪnətli/

certainly, without any doubt

Family: definite (adj.) **Use it with:** definitely not · a definite answer **Tip:** Common spelling mistake: definately is wrong.

I would **definitely** recommend this course.

deny v. /dɪˈnaɪ/

to say that something is not true; or to refuse to give

Family: denial (n.) **Use it with:** deny that… · deny access

The company **denied** that it had polluted the river.

differentiate v. /ˌdɪfəˈrenʃɪeɪt/

to see or show the difference between things

Family: differentiation (n.) **Use it with:** differentiate between X and Y

Young children cannot always **differentiate** between ads and programmes.

disposal n. /dɪˈspəʊzl/

the act of getting rid of something

Family: dispose of (v.) · disposable (adj.) **Use it with:** waste disposal · disposable cups **Tip:** Dispose of something: “dispose of rubbish”.

Safe **disposal** of batteries protects the soil.

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Vocabulary and example	Write it

dynamic adj. /daɪˈnæmɪk/

full of energy and new ideas; or always changing

Use it with: a dynamic economy · dynamic leader

Shanghai is a **dynamic** city.

eliminate v. /ɪˈlɪmɪneɪt/

to remove completely

Family: elimination (n.) **Use it with:** eliminate poverty · eliminate the risk

Vaccines have almost **eliminated** some diseases.

empirical adj. /emˈpɪrɪkl/

based on observation or experiment, not theory

Use it with: empirical evidence · empirical research

There is little **empirical** evidence for this claim.

equipment n. /ɪˈkwɪpmənt/

the tools and machines you need for an activity

Family: equip (v.) **Use it with:** sports equipment · well equipped **Tip:** Uncountable: “some equipment”, not “equipments”.

Schools need modern sports **equipment**.

extract v./n. /ˈekstrækt/

to take something out; or a short part of a text

Family: extraction (n.) **Use it with:** extract oil · an extract from a book

Oil is **extracted** from under the sea.

file n./v. /faɪl/

a set of papers or data stored together

Use it with: a computer file · file a complaint

Save the **file** before you close the program.

Vocabulary and example	Write it

finite adj. /'faɪnaɪt/

having a limit or an end

Family: infinite (adj.) **Use it with:** finite resources · a finite number

Oil and gas are **finite** resources.

foundation n. /faʊn'deɪʃn/

the base of a building; or the basic idea; or an organisation

Family: found (v.) **Use it with:** the foundation of · a charity foundation **Tip:** Found = start an organisation: "The school was founded in 1900."

Reading is the **foundation** of all learning.

global adj. /'gləʊbl/

relating to the whole world

Family: globe (n.) · globalisation (n.) **Use it with:** global warming · on a global scale

Global warming affects every country.

grade n./v. /ˌdʒi: ɑ: eɪ di: 'i:/

a mark for school work; or a level of quality

Use it with: good grades · grade A

She got top **grades** in all her exams.

guarantee v./n. /ˌgærən'ti:/

to promise that something will happen

Use it with: guarantee that… · there is no guarantee

A degree does not **guarantee** a good job.

hierarchy n. /'haɪərɑ:ki/

a system where people are organised in levels of importance

Family: hierarchical (adj.) **Use it with:** a social hierarchy · a strict hierarchy

The company has a strict **hierarchy**.

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Vocabulary and example	Write it

identical adj. /aɪ'dentɪkl/

exactly the same

Family: identically (adv.) **Use it with:** identical to · identical twins

The two figures are almost **identical**.

ideology n. /ˌaɪdɪ'ɒlədʒi/

a set of beliefs, especially about politics

Family: ideological (adj.) **Use it with:** political ideology

The two parties have very different **ideologies**.

infer v. /ɪn'fɜ:/

to work out something from the facts you have

Family: inference (n.) **Use it with:** infer that… · infer from **Tip:** Reading: Not Given answers often come from what you cannot infer.

From the graph, we can **infer** that demand will keep rising.

innovation n. /ˌɪnə'veɪʃn/

a new idea or method, or the use of one

Family: innovate (v.) · innovative (adj.) **Use it with:** technological innovation · an innovative idea

Innovation in medicine has helped people live longer.

insert v. /'ɪnsɜ:t/

to put something into something else

Family: insertion (n.) **Use it with:** insert a coin · insert into

Insert your card and enter your PIN.
PIN

intervention n. /ˌɪntə'venʃn/

action taken to improve a difficult situation

Family: intervene (v.) **Use it with:** government intervention · intervene in

Early **intervention** can help children with reading problems.

Vocabulary and example	Write it

isolated adj. /ˈaɪsəleɪtɪd/

far from other places or people; or alone

Family: isolate (v.) · isolation (n.) **Use it with:** socially isolated · an isolated village

Many older people feel **isolated** and lonely.

media n. /ˈmiːdiːə/

newspapers, TV, radio and the internet as a group

Use it with: social media · the mass media **Tip:** Can be singular or plural: "the media is/are".

The **media** have a strong influence on public opinion.

mode n. /məʊd/

a way of doing something; a type

Use it with: a mode of transport · in learning mode

The bicycle is the cheapest **mode** of transport.

paradigm n. /ˈpærədaɪm/

a typical example or model of how something is done

Use it with: a new paradigm · a paradigm shift

The internet created a new **paradigm** for business.

phenomenon n. /fɪˈnɒmɪnən/

something that happens and can be seen or studied

Family: phenomena (pl.) **Use it with:** a natural phenomenon · a social phenomenon **Tip:** One phenomenon, two phenomena.

Online shopping is a recent **phenomenon** in some countries.

priority n. /praɪˈɒrɪti/

something more important than other things

Family: prioritise (v.) **Use it with:** top priority · give priority to

Safety is our first **priority**.

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Vocabulary and example	Write it

prohibit v. /prəˈhɪbɪt/

to officially stop something by law or rule

Family: prohibition (n.) **Use it with:** strictly prohibited · prohibit from

Smoking is **prohibited** in all public buildings.

publication n. /ˌpʌblɪˈkeɪʃn/

a book, magazine or report; or the act of printing it

Family: publish (v.) **Use it with:** academic publications · since publication

The **publication** of the report caused a public debate.

quote v./n. /kwəʊt/

to repeat someone's exact words

Family: quotation (n.) **Use it with:** quote from · a famous quotation

The article **quoted** a local doctor.

release v./n. /rɪˈliːs/

to let someone or something go free; or to make public

Use it with: release information · release from prison

Factories **release** smoke into the air.

reverse v./adj./n. /rɪˈvɜːs/

to change to the opposite direction or result

Family: reversal (n.) · reversible (adj.) **Use it with:** reverse a trend · in reverse order **Tip:** Task 1: "This trend reversed after 2010."

The new government **reversed** the decision.

simulation n. /ˌsɪmjʊˈleɪʃn/

a model of a real situation, often made by a computer

Family: simulate (v.) **Use it with:** a computer simulation

Pilots train using flight **simulations**.

Vocabulary and example	Write it

solely adv. /ˈsəʊlli/

only; not involving anything else

Family: sole (adj.) **Use it with:** solely responsible · the sole reason

Success does not depend **solely** on talent.

somewhat adv. /ˈsʌmwɒt/

a little; to some degree

Use it with: somewhat higher · somewhat surprising **Tip:** Good for careful Task 1 language: "somewhat lower".

Prices rose **somewhat** in the second half of the year.

submit v. /səbˈmɪt/

to give a document to someone so they can decide or judge it

Family: submission (n.) **Use it with:** submit an application · submit a report **Tip:** Double the t: submitted, submitting.

Essays must be **submitted** by Friday.

successor n. /səkˈsesə/

a person or thing that comes after another

Family: succession (n.) · successive (adj.) **Use it with:** a successor to · in succession · three successive years

When the head teacher retired, her deputy became her **successor**.

survive v. /səˈvaɪv/

to continue to live or exist after a difficult time

Family: survival (n.) · survivor (n.) **Use it with:** survive a crisis · struggle to survive

Only a few small shops **survived** the economic crisis.

thesis n. /ˈθiːsɪs/

a long piece of writing for a university degree; or a main argument

Family: theses (pl.) **Use it with:** a PhD thesis · thesis statement **Tip:** Your essay's thesis statement says your position in the introduction.

She wrote her **thesis** on urban transport.

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Vocabulary and example	Write it

topic n. /ˈtɒpɪk/

a subject that people talk or write about

Family: topical (adj.) **Use it with:** a topic sentence · a hot topic **Tip:** Start body paragraphs with a clear topic sentence.

Choose a **topic** you know well for your presentation.

transmit v. /trænˈsmɪt/

to send or pass something from one place or person to another

Family: transmission (n.) **Use it with:** transmit a disease · transmit data

Mosquitoes can **transmit** diseases.

ultimately adv. /ˈʌltɪmətli/

in the end; finally

Family: ultimate (adj.) **Use it with:** ultimately responsible · the ultimate goal

Ultimately, the decision belongs to the parents.

unique adj. /juːˈniːk/

being the only one of its kind; very special

Family: uniquely (adv.) **Use it with:** unique to · a unique opportunity **Tip:** Avoid "very unique": unique already means only one.

Each city has its own **unique** character.

visible adj. /ˈvɪzɪbl/

able to be seen

Family: visibility (n.) · invisible (adj.) **Use it with:** clearly visible · highly visible

The mountains are **visible** from the city on clear days.

voluntary adj. /ˈvɒləntəri/

done because you want to, without pay

Family: volunteer (n./v.) · voluntarily (adv.) **Use it with:** voluntary work · volunteer at

She does **voluntary** work at an animal shelter.