IELTS Word List

Vocabulary List

Vocabulary and example	Write it

abandon v. /əˈbændn/

to leave something or someone and not come back; or to stop a plan

Family: abandonment (n.) **Use it with:** abandon a plan · abandoned buildings

The village was **abandoned** after the mine closed.

accompany v. /əˈkʌmpəni/

to go somewhere with someone; or to happen together with

Use it with: accompanied by

Children under 12 must be **accompanied** by an adult.

accumulate v. /əˈkjuːmjʊleɪt/

to collect or increase gradually over time

Family: accumulation (n.) **Use it with:** accumulate wealth · accumulate over time

Plastic waste **accumulates** on beaches.

ambiguous adj. /æmˈbɪgjuːəs/

having more than one possible meaning

Family: ambiguity (n.) **Use it with:** an ambiguous answer · deliberately ambiguous

The question was **ambiguous**, so students answered it in different ways.

appendix n. /əˈpendɪks/

a section of extra information at the end of a book or report

Family: append (v.) · appendices (pl.) **Use it with:** see the appendix

The full survey questions are in the **appendix**.

appreciate v. /əˈpriːʃɪeɪt/

to value something; or to be thankful for it

Family: appreciation (n.) **Use it with:** appreciate the value · greatly appreciate

I really **appreciate** your help.

Vocabulary and example	Write it

arbitrary adj. /ˈɑːbɪtrəri/

based on chance or personal choice, not reason

Family: arbitrarily (adv.) **Use it with:** an arbitrary decision · arbitrary rules

The age limit seems **arbitrary**.

automate v. /ˈɔːtəmeɪt/

to make a process work by machine, with less human work

Family: automation (n.) · automatic (adj.) **Use it with:** highly automated · automation of jobs **Tip:** Automation does not mean no people are needed to check the system.

The bank plans to **automate** most of its routine tasks.

bias n. /ˈbaɪəs/

an unfair preference for or against something

Family: biased (adj.) **Use it with:** gender bias · a biased opinion

News reports should be free from political **bias**.

chart n. /tʃɑːt/

a picture that shows information as bars, lines or a circle

Use it with: a bar chart · a pie chart **Tip:** Task 1: "The pie charts show…"

The bar **chart** compares the number of visitors in four cities.

clarify v. /ˈklærɪfaɪ/

to make something easier to understand

Family: clarification (n.) · clarity (n.) **Use it with:** clarify a point · ask for clarification

Could you **clarify** what you mean?

commodity n. /kəˈmɒdɪti/

a product that can be bought and sold, such as oil or coffee

Family: commodities (pl.) **Use it with:** a valuable commodity · commodity prices

Water is becoming a valuable **commodity**.

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Vocabulary and example	Write it

complement v./n. /ˈkɒmplɪmənt/

to go well with something and make it better

Family: complementary (adj.) **Use it with:** complement each other **Tip:** Don't confuse with compliment (to praise).

Online lessons **complement** classroom teaching.

conform v. /kənˈfɔːm/

to follow rules or what most people do

Family: conformity (n.) **Use it with:** conform to · pressure to conform

Teenagers feel pressure to **conform** to their friends.

contemporary adj. /kənˈtempərəri/

belonging to the present time; modern

Use it with: contemporary art · contemporary society

The gallery shows **contemporary** art.

contradict v. /ˌkɒntrəˈdɪkt/

to say the opposite; or to be different from something

Family: contradiction (n.) · contradictory (adj.) **Use it with:** contradict each other · a contradiction

The two reports **contradict** each other.

crucial adj. /ˈkruːʃl/

extremely important

Family: crucially (adv.) **Use it with:** crucial to/for · play a crucial role

Sleep is **crucial** for learning.

currency n. /ˈkʌrənsi/

the money used in a country

Use it with: foreign currency · a strong currency

The euro is the **currency** of many European countries.

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denote v. /dɪˈnəʊt/

to be a sign of; to mean

Use it with: denote that…

In the chart, the red line **denotes** sales in Asia.

detect v. /dɪˈtekt/

to notice or discover something that is hard to see

Family: detection (n.) · detector (n.) **Use it with:** detect a problem · early detection

The test can **detect** the disease early.

deviate v. /ˈdiːvɪeɪt/

to move away from what is normal or planned

Family: deviation (n.) **Use it with:** deviate from · a deviation from

The plane **deviated** from its usual route because of a storm.

displace v. /dɪˈspleɪs/

to force people to leave their homes; or to take the place of

Family: displacement (n.) **Use it with:** displaced people · displace workers

Thousands of people were **displaced** by the floods.

dramatically adv. /drəˈmætɪkli/

suddenly and by a very large amount

Family: dramatic (adj.) · drama (n.) **Use it with:** rise dramatically · a dramatic fall **Tip:** A strong Task 1 adverb for big changes.

House prices rose **dramatically** after 2015.
2015

eventually adv. /ɪˈventʃuːəli/

in the end, after a long time

Family: eventual (adj.) **Use it with:** eventually lead to **Tip:** Not the same as “possibly”.

After many delays, the bridge **eventually** opened in 2019.
2019

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exhibit v./n. /eg'zɪbɪt/

to show objects in public, such as in a museum

Family: exhibition (n.) **Use it with:** an art exhibition · exhibit work

Her paintings are **exhibited** in the city gallery.

exploit v. /'eksplɔɪt/

to use something well; or to treat people unfairly to gain from them

Family: exploitation (n.) **Use it with:** exploit resources · exploit workers

Some companies **exploit** workers by paying very low wages.

fluctuate v. /'flʌktʃueɪt/

to rise and fall again and again

Family: fluctuation (n.) **Use it with:** fluctuate between · wild fluctuations

Tip: Use it only when the line goes up and down; a smooth climb is an increase.

Visitor numbers **fluctuated** between 2014 and 2018 before a steady rise began.

2014 2018

guideline n. /'gaɪdlaɪn/

advice on how to do something

Use it with: government guidelines · follow guidelines

Follow the **guidelines** on healthy eating.

highlight v./n. /'haɪlaɪt/

to show that something is important

Use it with: highlight the need · the highlight of

The report **highlights** the need for more nurses.

implicit adj. /ɪm'plɪsɪt/

suggested but not said directly

Family: implicitly (adv.) **Use it with:** an implicit message

There was an **implicit** criticism in her comment.

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Vocabulary and example	Write it

induce v. /ɪn'djuːs/

to cause something to happen, or to persuade

Family: inducement (n.) **Use it with:** induce sleep · induce someone to

Some medicines can **induce** sleep.

inevitable adj. /ɪ'nevɪtəbl/

certain to happen and impossible to avoid

Family: inevitably (adv.) **Use it with:** it is inevitable that… · almost inevitable

Some job losses are **inevitable** as technology changes.

infrastructure n. /'ɪnfrəstrʌktʃə/

basic systems a country or city needs, such as roads, power and water

Use it with: transport infrastructure · invest in infrastructure **Tip:** Usually uncountable.

Good **infrastructure** attracts foreign companies.

inspect v. /ɪn'spekt/

to look at something carefully to check it

Family: inspection (n.) · inspector (n.) **Use it with:** inspect closely · a safety inspection

Officials **inspect** restaurants for hygiene.

intense adj. /ɪn'tens/

very strong or extreme

Family: intensity (n.) · intensive (adj.) **Use it with:** intense pressure · intensive course

There is **intense** competition for university places.

manipulate v. /mə'nɪpjʊleɪt/

to control or influence someone or something in a clever, often unfair way

Family: manipulation (n.) **Use it with:** manipulate people · manipulate data

Advertisements can **manipulate** children's wishes.

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Vocabulary and example	Write it

minimise v. /ˈmɪnɪmaɪz/

to reduce something to the smallest possible amount

Family: minimal (adj.) · minimum (n.) **Use it with:** minimise the risk · minimise costs

Wear a helmet to **minimise** the risk of injury.

nuclear adj. /ˈnjuːklɪə/

relating to the energy released when atoms are split

Use it with: nuclear power · nuclear energy

Some countries are building new **nuclear** power stations.

offset v. /ˈɒfset/

to balance one effect with an opposite one

Use it with: offset the cost · offset emissions

Planting trees can help **offset** carbon emissions.

paragraph n. /ˈpærəgræf/

a section of writing that starts on a new line and has one main idea

Use it with: a body paragraph · the opening paragraph

Each body **paragraph** should develop one main idea.

plus prep./n. /plʌs/

and also; added to

Use it with: plus tax · a big plus

The ticket costs £20, **plus** a booking fee.

£20

practitioner n. /prækˈtɪʃənə/

a person who works in a profession, especially medicine or law

Family: practice (n.) · practise (v.) **Use it with:** a general practitioner (GP) · health practitioners

A medical **practitioner** must be registered.

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Vocabulary and example	Write it

predominantly adv. /prɪˈdɒmɪnəntli/

mostly; mainly

Family: predominant (adj.) **Use it with:** predominantly male · the predominant view **Tip:** Useful for Task 1 overviews.

The workforce is **predominantly** female.

prospect n. /ˈprɒspekt/

the possibility of something happening in the future

Family: prospective (adj.) **Use it with:** job prospects · prospective students

Graduates face good job **prospects** in engineering.

radical adj. /ˈrædɪkl/

very new and different; or extreme

Family: radically (adv.) **Use it with:** radical change · a radical idea

The city needs a **radical** solution to its traffic problem.

random adj. /ˈrændəm/

chosen or happening without a pattern

Family: randomly (adv.) **Use it with:** at random · a random sample

The researchers chose 200 people at **random**.

200

reinforce v. /ˌriːɪnˈfɔːs/

to make something stronger

Family: reinforcement (n.) **Use it with:** reinforce a message · reinforce stereotypes

The film **reinforces** the idea that girls are not good at maths.

restore v. /rɪˈstɔː/

to bring something back to a good condition

Family: restoration (n.) **Use it with:** restore a building · restore trust

The old theatre was **restored** at great cost.

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Vocabulary and example	Write it

revise v. /rɪˈvaɪz/

to study again before an exam; or to change something to improve it

Family: revision (n.) **Use it with:** revise for an exam · revise a draft **Tip:** Revise for an exam means study again; "revise a draft" means edit it.

Before submitting the essay, Mei **revised** its unclear final paragraph.

schedule n./v. /ˈʃedjuːl/

a plan of times when things will happen

Use it with: on schedule · behind schedule · a busy schedule

The train arrived on **schedule**.

tension n. /ˈtenʃn/

a feeling of worry or of possible conflict between people

Family: tense (adj.) **Use it with:** ease tension · rising tension

There is growing **tension** between the two neighbours.

terminate v. /ˈtɜːmɪneɪt/

to end something

Family: termination (n.) **Use it with:** terminate a contract

The contract was **terminated** after six months.

theme n. /θiːm/

the main subject or idea

Family: thematic (adj.) **Use it with:** a common theme · the main theme

The **theme** of this year's festival is the ocean.

thereby adv. /ðeəˈbaɪ/

as a result of this action

Use it with: thereby reducing… **Tip:** Formal. Often followed by an -ing form.

Cities can build more bike lanes, **thereby** reducing traffic.

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Vocabulary and example	Write it

uniform n./adj. /ˈjuːnɪfɔːm/

special clothes worn by members of a group; or the same everywhere

Family: uniformity (n.) **Use it with:** school uniform · uniform in size

Many schools require students to wear a **uniform**.

vehicle n. /ˈvɪəkl/

a machine for carrying people or goods, such as a car or bus

Use it with: electric vehicles · private vehicles

Electric **vehicles** produce no exhaust fumes.

via prep. /ˈvaɪə/

through a place; or by using something

Use it with: via email · travel via

We flew to London **via** Dubai.

virtual adj. /ˈvɜːtʃuːəl/

made by computers to seem real; or almost complete

Family: virtually (adv.) **Use it with:** virtual reality · virtually impossible **Tip:** Virtually also means "almost": "virtually everyone".

Virtual classrooms became common during the pandemic.

visual adj. /ˈvɪʒuːəl/

relating to seeing

Family: visualise (v.) · visually (adv.) **Use it with:** visual aids · visual information

Many students learn better with **visual** aids such as diagrams.

widespread adj. /ˈwaɪdspred/

happening in many places or among many people

Use it with: widespread use · widespread belief

There is **widespread** support for the new law.

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