# 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.

12

**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.



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**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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**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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**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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**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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**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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**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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**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.