IELTS Word List

Vocabulary List

Vocabulary and example	Write it

accommodation n. /əˌkɒməˈdeɪʃn/

a place where someone can stay or live

Family: accommodate (v.) **Use it with:** student accommodation · find accommodation **Tip:** Spell it with double c and double m. In British English it is usually uncountable.

The college offers **accommodation** near its main teaching building.

analogy n. /əˈnælədʒi/

a comparison that explains one thing by showing how it is like another

Family: analogous (adj.) **Use it with:** draw an analogy · by analogy

The teacher used the **analogy** of a pump to explain the heart.

anticipate v. /ænˈtɪsɪpeɪt/

to expect something and prepare for it

Family: anticipation (n.) **Use it with:** anticipate problems · anticipate demand

Organisers **anticipate** a large crowd at the festival.

assure v. /əˈʃʊə/

to tell someone that something is true so they stop worrying

Family: assurance (n.) **Use it with:** assure someone that… · rest assured

The pilot **assured** passengers that the plane was safe.

attain v. /əˈteɪn/

to reach or achieve something, usually after effort

Family: attainment (n.) · attainable (adj.) **Use it with:** attain a goal · educational attainment

Few students **attain** a perfect score.

on behalf of phrase /ɒn bɪˈhɑːf ɒv/

for someone, or as their representative

Use it with: act on behalf of **Tip:** Useful in Task 1 letters (General Training).

I am writing **on behalf of** the student council.

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Vocabulary and example	Write it

bulk n. /bʌlk/

the main part of something; or a large amount

Family: bulky (adj.) **Use it with:** the bulk of · buy in bulk

The **bulk** of the budget goes on salaries.

cease v. /siːs/

to stop

Family: ceaseless (adj.) **Use it with:** cease to exist · cease operations **Tip:** Formal.

The factory **ceased** production in 2010.
2010

coherent adj. /kəʊˈhɪərənt/

clear and logical, with parts that connect well

Family: coherence (n.) **Use it with:** coherent argument · coherence and cohesion **Tip:** Coherence and cohesion is an IELTS Writing criterion.

A **coherent** essay has ideas in a logical order.

coincide v. /ˌkəʊɪnˈsaɪd/

to happen at the same time

Family: coincidence (n.) **Use it with:** coincide with · by coincidence

The festival **coincides** with the school holidays.

commence v. /kəˈmens/

to begin

Family: commencement (n.) **Use it with:** commence work **Tip:** Formal; “start” or “begin” is fine in most writing.

The ceremony will **commence** at ten o’clock.

compatible adj. /kəmˈpætɪbl/

able to exist or work together without problems

Family: compatibility (n.) **Use it with:** compatible with

This charger is not **compatible** with older phones.

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Vocabulary and example	Write it

concurrent adj. /kən'kʌrənt/

happening at the same time

Family: concurrently (adv.) **Use it with:** concurrent events

The two courses run **concurrently**, so you cannot take both.

confined adj. /kən'faɪnd/

small and closed in; or limited to something

Family: confine (v.) **Use it with:** confined to · a confined space

The problem is not **confined** to big cities.

controversy n. /'kɒntrəvɜːsi/

a lot of public disagreement about something

Family: controversial (adj.) **Use it with:** cause controversy · a controversial issue

The new airport caused great **controversy**.

conversely adv. /kən'vɜːsli/

in the opposite way

Family: converse (adj./n.) **Use it with:** conversely, … **Tip:** Formal contrast word.

Some people prefer cities; **conversely**, others love the countryside.

device n. /dɪ'vaɪs/

a machine or tool made for a purpose

Use it with: electronic devices · a mobile device

Students should not use electronic **devices** during the exam.

devote v. /dɪ'vəʊt/

to give time, energy or money to something

Family: devotion (n.) · devoted (adj.) **Use it with:** devote time to

She **devotes** two hours a day to studying.

Vocabulary and example	Write it

diminish v. /dɪˈmɪnɪʃ/

to become or make smaller or less important

Use it with: diminish in value · diminishing returns

The importance of handwriting has **diminished**.

distort v. /dɪˈstɔːt/

to change something so it is no longer true or accurate

Family: distortion (n.) **Use it with:** distort the truth · distort the picture

The headline **distorted** the facts of the story.

duration n. /djʊəˈreɪʃn/

the length of time something lasts

Use it with: the duration of · short duration

Phones must be switched off for the **duration** of the test.

erode v. /ɪˈrəʊd/

to slowly destroy the surface of something; or to make weaker

Family: erosion (n.) **Use it with:** soil erosion · erode trust

The sea is **eroding** the cliffs.

ethical adj. /ˈeθɪkl/

relating to what is morally right

Family: ethics (n.) · ethic (n.) · unethical (adj.) **Use it with:** ethical issues · work ethic

Is it **ethical** to test medicines on animals?

format n. /ˈfɔːmæt/

the way something is arranged or organised

Use it with: the format of · digital format

The test **format** is the same for all students.

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Vocabulary and example	Write it

found v. /faʊnd/

to start an organisation or a town

Family: founder (n.) **Use it with:** found a company · founding member **Tip:** Found, founded, founded (not "find").

The company was **founded** in 1998.
1998

inherent adj. /ɪnˈhɪərənt/

being a natural, basic part of something

Family: inherently (adv.) **Use it with:** inherent risks · inherent in

Every sport has **inherent** risks.

insight n. /ˈɪnsaɪt/

a clear, deep understanding of something

Family: insightful (adj.) **Use it with:** gain insight into · a valuable insight

The book gives an **insight** into life in ancient Rome.

integral adj. /ˈɪntɪgrəl/

necessary and important as part of a whole

Use it with: an integral part of

Music is an **integral** part of the school day.

intermediate adj. /ˌɪntəˈmiːdɪət/

in the middle level between beginner and advanced

Use it with: intermediate level · an intermediate stage

She is taking an **intermediate** English course.

manual adj./n. /ˈmænjuːəl/

done by hand; or a book of instructions

Family: manually (adv.) **Use it with:** manual labour · a user manual

Manual jobs are often replaced by machines.

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Vocabulary and example	Write it

mature adj./v. /məˈtʃʊə/

fully grown or developed; or behaving like a sensible adult

Family: maturity (n.) · immature (adj.) **Use it with:** mature students · emotional maturity

She is very **mature** for a fifteen-year-old.

mediate v. /ˈmiːdɪeɪt/

to try to help two sides end a disagreement

Family: mediation (n.) · mediator (n.) **Use it with:** mediate between · mediate a dispute

A teacher **mediated** between the two students.

medium n./adj. /ˈmiːdɪəm/

a way of communicating; or middle size

Family: media (pl.) **Use it with:** a medium of communication · medium-sized

Television is still a powerful **medium**.

military adj./n. /ˈmɪlɪtəri/

relating to soldiers and the army

Use it with: military service · military spending

Military spending has increased in many countries.

minimal adj. /ˈmɪnɪml/

very small in amount

Family: minimally (adv.) **Use it with:** minimal effort · minimal cost

The storm caused only **minimal** damage.

mutual adj. /ˈmjuːtʃuːəl/

felt or done equally by two or more people

Family: mutually (adv.) **Use it with:** mutual respect · mutual benefit

The partnership is based on **mutual** respect.

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Vocabulary and example	Write it

norm n. /nɔːm/

what is usual or expected in a society

Use it with: social norms · the norm

Working from home has become the **norm** for many.

overlap v./n. /ˌəʊvəˈlæp/

to cover part of the same area or subject

Use it with: overlap with · some overlap

The two courses **overlap**, so take only one.

passive adj. /ˈpæsɪv/

accepting what happens without trying to change it

Family: passively (adv.) **Use it with:** passive learning · the passive voice **Tip:** The passive voice is common in Task 1 process diagrams.

Watching TV is a **passive** activity.

portion n. /ˈpɔːʃn/

a part or share of something

Use it with: a portion of · large portions

A large **portion** of the budget goes on health care.

preliminary adj. /prɪˈlɪmɪnəri/

coming before the main part; first

Use it with: preliminary results · a preliminary study

Preliminary results show a fall in crime.

protocol n. /ˈprəʊtəkɒl/

a set of rules for how to do something, especially officially

Use it with: follow protocol · safety protocols

Hospitals follow strict safety **protocols**.

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Vocabulary and example	Write it

qualitative adj. /ˈkwɒlɪteɪtɪv/

about quality, not numbers

Family: qualitatively (adv.) **Use it with:** qualitative research **Tip:** Opposite: quantitative (about numbers).

The study collected **qualitative** data through interviews.

refine v. /rɪˈfaɪn/

to make small changes to improve something

Family: refinement (n.) **Use it with:** refine a design · refine your ideas

Engineers **refined** the design to save energy.

relax v. /rɪˈlæks/

to rest and become calm

Family: relaxation (n.) **Use it with:** relax after work · relaxation techniques

Many people **relax** by listening to music.

restrain v. /rɪˈstreɪn/

to stop someone or something from doing something

Family: restraint (n.) **Use it with:** restrain yourself · show restraint

Police had to **restrain** the angry fans.

revolution n. /ˌrevəˈluːʃn/

a complete change in methods or ideas; or a forced change of government

Family: revolutionary (adj.) **Use it with:** the Industrial Revolution · a digital revolution

The internet caused a **revolution** in communication.

rigid adj. /ˈrɪdʒɪd/

not able to bend or change

Family: rigidly (adv.) **Use it with:** rigid rules · a rigid structure

The school's **rigid** rules leave no room for creativity.

Vocabulary and example	Write it

route n. /ruːt/

the way from one place to another

Use it with: a bus route · the main route **Tip:** A route says where a service goes; a timetable says when.

The bus **route** connects the station with three housing areas.

scenario n. /səˈnɑːriəʊ/

a possible situation in the future

Use it with: worst-case scenario · a likely scenario

In the worst **scenario**, the river will flood the town.

sphere n. /sfɪə/

an area of activity or interest; or a ball shape

Family: spherical (adj.) **Use it with:** the public sphere · sphere of influence

Women are more active in the political **sphere** than before.

subordinate adj./n. /səˈbɔːdɪnət/

less important; or a person with a lower position at work

Use it with: subordinate to · a subordinate clause

A good manager listens to **subordinates**.

supplement n./v. /ˈsʌplɪmənt/

something added to improve or complete something

Family: supplementary (adj.) **Use it with:** vitamin supplements · supplement income

Many students work to **supplement** their income.

suspend v. /səˈspend/

to stop something for a time; or to hang

Family: suspension (n.) **Use it with:** suspend a service · be suspended from school

The train service was **suspended** because of the snow.

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Vocabulary and example	Write it

team n. /tiːm/

a group of people who work or play together

Family: teamwork (n.) **Use it with:** team sports · work as a team

Team sports teach children to cooperate.

temporary adj. /ˈtemprəri/

lasting for only a short time

Family: temporarily (adv.) **Use it with:** a temporary job · temporarily closed **Tip:** Opposite: permanent.

Many young people have **temporary** jobs.

trigger v./n. /ˈtrɪgə/

to cause something to start

Use it with: trigger a reaction · a trigger for

Stress can **trigger** headaches.

unify v. /ˈjuːnɪfaɪ/

to join parts together to make one

Family: unification (n.) **Use it with:** unify a country

Sport can **unify** a divided country.

violate v. /ˈvaɪəleɪt/

to break a law, rule or agreement

Family: violation (n.) **Use it with:** violate the law · human rights violations

The company **violated** safety rules.

vision n. /ˈvɪʒn/

the ability to see; or an idea of the future

Family: visionary (adj.) **Use it with:** a clear vision · blurred vision

The mayor has a **vision** of a car-free city centre.

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