IELTS Word List

Vocabulary List

Vocabulary and example	Write it

tuition n. /tjuːˈɪʃn/

teaching, especially by a teacher to one person or a small group

Use it with: private tuition · tuition fees **Tip:** Tuition fees is the price; tuition itself is the teaching. Usually uncountable.

The programme offers extra **tuition** in academic writing.

curriculum n. /kəˈrɪkjələm/

the subjects and content taught in a school or course

Family: curricula (pl.) **Use it with:** the school curriculum · on the curriculum **Tip:** The curriculum is what is taught; the timetable says when.

The **curriculum** includes research skills as well as subject knowledge.

assessment n. /əˈsesmənt/

judging a learner's knowledge or work against clear standards

Family: assess (v.) **Use it with:** continuous assessment · formal assessment

The final **assessment** includes a report and a presentation.

feedback n. /ˈfiːdbæk/

comments on your work that help you improve

Use it with: give feedback · useful feedback **Tip:** Uncountable: "some feedback", not "a feedback".

The tutor's **feedback** explained which examples needed stronger support.

attendance n. /əˈtendəns/

being present at school or an event; or how many people come

Family: attend (v.) **Use it with:** school attendance · poor attendance **Tip:** Being there is not the same as taking part.

Attendance increased after the workshop moved to a larger room.

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participation n. /pɑːˌtɪsɪˈpeɪʃn/

taking part in an activity, not only being there

Family: participate (v.) **Use it with:** active participation · participation in

Small-group discussion encouraged **participation** from quieter students.

independent adj. /ˌɪndɪˈpendənt/

able to work or decide without needing help for every step

Family: independence (n.) · independently (adv.) **Use it with:** independent study · independent of

Independent learners check a source before asking someone to confirm it.

qualification n. /ˌkwɒlɪfɪˈkeɪʃn/

an official result showing you completed a course or exam

Family: qualify (v.) · qualified (adj.) **Use it with:** academic qualifications · gain a qualification

The job requires a relevant **qualification** and some practical experience.

compulsory adj. /kəmˈpʌlsəri/

that must be done because of a rule or law

Use it with: compulsory subjects · compulsory education **Tip:** Opposite: optional.

Education is **compulsory** until the age of sixteen in many countries.

literacy n. /ˈlɪtərəsi/

the ability to read and write

Family: literate (adj.) · illiterate (adj.) **Use it with:** literacy rates · computer literacy

Adult **literacy** classes are free at the library.

numeracy n. /ˈnjuːmərəsi/

the ability to work with numbers

Family: numerate (adj.) **Use it with:** basic numeracy · literacy and numeracy

Good **numeracy** helps people manage their money.

Vocabulary and example	Write it

vocational adj. /vəʊˈkeɪʃənl/

teaching the skills needed for a particular job

Use it with: vocational training · vocational education

Vocational courses train students to become electricians and cooks.

tertiary education phrase /ˈtɜːʃəri ˌedʒuːˈkeɪʃn/

education at a college or university, after school

Use it with: go on to tertiary education **Tip:** Primary → secondary → tertiary.

More women than men now enter **tertiary education** in many countries.

undergraduate n./adj. /ˌʌndəˈgrædjuːət/

a student studying for a first university degree

Family: postgraduate (n./adj.) **Use it with:** undergraduate course · a postgraduate degree **Tip:** A postgraduate has already finished a first degree.

Most **undergraduates** live on campus in their first year.

scholarship n. /ˈskɒləʃɪp/

money given to a student to help pay for their studies

Use it with: win a scholarship · a full scholarship

She won a **scholarship** to study medicine in Edinburgh.

drop out v. /drɒp aʊt/

to leave school or a course before you finish it

Family: dropout (n.) **Use it with:** drop out of school · the dropout rate

Some students **drop out** of university because of money problems.

extracurricular adj. /ˌekstrəkəˈrɪkjʊlə/

done at school but outside normal lessons

Use it with: extracurricular activities

Extracurricular activities such as drama build confidence.

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Vocabulary and example	Write it

plagiarism n. /ˈpleɪdʒərɪzəm/

using someone else's words or ideas as if they were your own

Family: plagiarise (v.) **Use it with:** accused of plagiarism · avoid plagiarism

Plagiarism can lead to a student failing the course.

rote learning phrase /rəʊt ˈlɜːnɪŋ/

learning by repeating facts until you remember them, without understanding

Use it with: rely on rote learning · learn by rote

Rote learning helps with times tables but not with problem solving.

critical thinking phrase /ˈkrɪtɪkl ˈθɪŋkɪŋ/

judging ideas and evidence carefully before accepting them

Family: think critically (v.) **Use it with:** develop critical thinking skills

Universities expect students to show **critical thinking** in essays.

distance learning phrase /ˈdɪstəns ˈlɜːnɪŋ/

studying at home using online lessons instead of going to a college

Use it with: online distance learning · a distance learning course

Distance learning suits adults who work full-time.

enrol v. /enˈrəʊl/

to officially join a course or school

Family: enrolment (n.) **Use it with:** enrol on a course · enrolment numbers **Tip:** British: enrol, enrolled; American: enroll.

Over 2,000 students **enrolled** in the online course.
2,000

graduate v./n. /ˈgrædjuːət/

to finish a university degree; or a person who has done this

Family: graduation (n.) **Use it with:** graduate from · a university graduate **Tip:** Graduate from university, not graduate university.

She **graduated** with a degree in engineering.

Vocabulary and example	Write it

discipline n. /ˈdɪsɪplɪn/

control of behaviour using rules; or a subject of study

Family: disciplined (adj.) **Use it with:** school discipline · self-discipline

Strict **discipline** in schools has both supporters and critics.

peer pressure phrase /pɪə ˈpreʃə/

the influence that people of your own age have on how you behave

Family: peers (n.) **Use it with:** resist peer pressure · under peer pressure

Peer pressure can push teenagers to start smoking.

gifted adj. /ˈgɪftɪd/

having a natural ability that is much higher than usual

Use it with: gifted students · gifted and talented

Gifted children may get bored in ordinary classes.

mixed-ability adj. /mɪkst əˈbɪlətɪ/

containing students who learn at different levels

Use it with: mixed-ability classes · mixed-ability groups

Teaching **mixed-ability** classes needs careful planning.

lifelong learning phrase /ˈlaɪflɒŋ ˈlɜːnɪŋ/

continuing to learn new skills throughout your life

Use it with: promote lifelong learning

Lifelong learning helps older workers keep up with technology.

single-sex school phrase /ˈsɪŋgl seks skuːl/

a school only for boys or only for girls

Family: co-educational (adj.) **Use it with:** attend a single-sex school **Tip:** A school for both boys and girls is co-educational (mixed).

Some parents believe a **single-sex school** helps girls focus.

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Vocabulary and example	Write it

tutor n. /ˈtjuːtə/

a teacher who teaches one student or a small group

Family: tutorial (n.) **Use it with:** a private tutor · a personal tutor

Many families pay a private **tutor** before exams.

boarding school phrase /ˈbɔːdɪŋ skuːl/

a school where students live during the term

Family: boarder (n.) **Use it with:** go to boarding school · a boarding school pupil

At **boarding school**, children learn to look after themselves.

homeschooling n. /ˈhəʊmskuːlɪŋ/

parents teaching their children at home instead of sending them to school

Family: homeschool (v.) **Tip:** Also written home-schooling.

Homeschooling gives families more control over what children learn.