# IELTS Word List

Vocabulary List

| Vocabulary and example | Write it |
|---|---|

**emission** n. /ɪˈmɪʃn/

gas or other substance sent out into the air

**Family:** emit (v.) **Use it with:** carbon emissions · reduce emissions **Tip:** Usually plural when talking about gases: “emissions from cars”.

The report compared vehicle **emissions** before and after the route change.

**renewable** adj. /rɪˈnjuːəbl/

(of energy) from a natural source that never runs out, such as sun or wind

**Family:** renewables (n.) **Use it with:** renewable energy · renewable sources

The town is considering **renewable** energy for its public buildings.

**conserve** v. /kənˈsɜːv/

to protect something or use it carefully so less is wasted

**Family:** conservation (n.) **Use it with:** conserve energy · wildlife conservation **Tip:** Conservative means careful about change; it is not about saving resources.

The hostel asks visitors to **conserve** water when washing dishes.

**biodiversity** n. /ˌbaɪəʊdaɪˈvɜːsɪti/

the variety of plants and animals living in an area

**Use it with:** loss of biodiversity · rich biodiversity

The project aims to protect the area’s **biodiversity**.

**habitat** n. /ˈhæbɪtæt/

the natural home of an animal or plant

**Use it with:** natural habitat · habitat loss

Removing the wetland would reduce **habitat** for the birds that feed there.



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**landfill** n. /ˈlændfɪl/

a place where rubbish is buried in the ground

**Use it with:** a landfill site · go to landfill

The council wants to send less household waste to **landfill**.

**reusable** adj. /riːˈjuːzəbl/

able to be used again instead of thrown away

**Family:** reuse (v.) **Use it with:** reusable bags · reusable cups **Tip:** Reusable (used again as it is) is not recyclable (made into new material).

The café sells **reusable** cups and provides a washing area.

**recyclable** adj. /ˌriːˈsaɪkləbl/

able to be processed and made into new material

**Family:** recycle (v.) · recycling (n.) **Use it with:** recyclable materials · recycling bins **Tip:** Recyclable does not mean it was actually recycled.

The package is **recyclable**, but local collection rules still need checking.

**consumption** n. /kənˈsʌmpʃn/

the amount of energy, food or goods that people use

**Family:** consume (v.) · consumer (n.) **Use it with:** energy consumption · reduce consumption

Electricity **consumption** was recorded in kilowatt-hours each month.

**deplete** v. /dɪˈpliːt/

to use so much of a resource that little is left

**Family:** depletion (n.) **Use it with:** deplete resources · ozone depletion

Overfishing has **depleted** fish stocks in many seas.

**climate change** phrase /ˈklaɪmət tʃeɪndʒ/

long-term changes in the Earth's weather, especially warming

**Use it with:** tackle climate change · the effects of climate change

**Climate change** is making storms stronger.



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**greenhouse gas** phrase /ˈgriːnhaʊs gæs/

a gas such as carbon dioxide that traps heat in the atmosphere

**Use it with:** greenhouse gas emissions · the greenhouse effect

Cows produce methane, a powerful **greenhouse gas**.

**carbon footprint** phrase /ˈkɑːbən ˈfʊtprɪnt/

the amount of carbon dioxide your activities produce

**Use it with:** reduce your carbon footprint

Flying less is the easiest way to cut your **carbon footprint**.

**fossil fuels** phrase /ˈfɒsl ˈfjuːəlz/

fuels such as coal, oil and gas formed from ancient plants and animals

**Use it with:** burn fossil fuels · dependence on fossil fuels

Most of the country's electricity still comes from **fossil fuels**.

**deforestation** n. /diːˌfɒrɪˈsteɪʃn/

cutting down forests over a large area

**Family:** deforest (v.) **Use it with:** tropical deforestation · stop deforestation

**Deforestation** destroys the homes of many animals.

**endangered species** phrase /enˈdeɪndʒəd ˈspiːsiːz/

a type of animal or plant that may soon disappear completely

**Use it with:** protect endangered species

The giant panda was once an **endangered species**.

**extinct** adj. /ekˈstɪŋkt/

(of a type of animal or plant) no longer existing

**Family:** extinction (n.) **Use it with:** become extinct · face extinction

Dinosaurs became **extinct** millions of years ago.



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**pollution** n. /pəˈluːʃn/

harmful substances in the air, water or soil

**Family:** pollute (v.) · pollutant (n.) **Use it with:** air pollution · water pollution · reduce pollution
**Tip:** Uncountable: “pollution”, not “pollutions”.

Air **pollution** is a major cause of breathing problems.

**drought** n. /draʊt/

a long period with little or no rain

**Use it with:** a severe drought · suffer from drought **Tip:** It rhymes with “out”: the gh is silent.

The **drought** destroyed most of the farmers’ crops.

**natural disaster** phrase /ˈnætʃərəl dɪˈzæstə/

a sudden event in nature, such as a flood or earthquake, that causes great damage

**Use it with:** a natural disaster strikes

Poor countries suffer most when a **natural disaster** strikes.

**solar power** phrase /ˈsəʊlə ˈpaʊə/

electricity produced from the energy of the sun

**Family:** solar panel (n.) **Use it with:** install solar panels

**Solar power** is now cheaper than coal in many places.

**wildlife** n. /ˈwaɪldlaɪf/

wild animals and plants living in their natural environment

**Use it with:** protect wildlife · a wildlife park

Plastic in the sea harms **wildlife**.

**ecosystem** n. /ˈiːkəʊsɪstəm/

all the living things in an area and how they affect each other

**Use it with:** a fragile ecosystem · damage the ecosystem

Coral reefs are fragile **ecosystems**.



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**contaminate** v. /kən'tæmɪneɪt/

to make something dirty or harmful by adding a dangerous substance

**Family:** contamination (n.) **Use it with:** contaminated water · contaminate the soil

Chemicals from the factory **contaminated** the river.

**single-use plastic** phrase /'sɪŋgl juːs 'plæstɪk/

plastic items made to be used once and then thrown away

**Use it with:** ban single-use plastics

Several countries have banned **single-use plastic** bags.

**carbon neutral** adj. /'kɑːbən 'njuːtrəl/

producing no more carbon dioxide than is removed from the air

**Family:** carbon neutrality (n.) **Use it with:** become carbon neutral

The city aims to be **carbon neutral** by 2050.

2050

**sea level** phrase /siː 'levl/

the average height of the sea's surface

**Use it with:** rising sea levels · above sea level

Rising **sea levels** threaten coastal cities.

**environmentally friendly** adj. /enˌvaɪrən'mentəli 'frendli/

not harmful to nature

**Family:** eco-friendly (adj.) **Use it with:** environmentally friendly products

Trains are a more **environmentally friendly** way to travel than planes.

**waste** n./v. /weɪst/

things that are no longer useful and are thrown away; or to use badly

**Family:** wasteful (adj.) **Use it with:** food waste · waste disposal · waste energy

Households produce tonnes of food **waste** every year.



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| --- | --- |
| **global warming** phrase /ˈgləʊbl ˈwɔːmɪŋ/<br>the rise in the Earth's temperature caused by greenhouse gases<br>**Use it with:** contribute to global warming<br>**Global warming** is melting the ice at the poles. | |



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