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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Vocabulary and example	Write it

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.

Vocabulary and example	Write it

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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Vocabulary and example	Write it

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**.

Vocabulary and example	Write it

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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Vocabulary and example	Write it

global warming phrase /'gləʊbl 'wɔːmɪŋ/

the rise in the Earth's temperature caused by greenhouse gases

Use it with: contribute to global warming

Global warming is melting the ice at the poles.