IELTS Word List

Vocabulary List

Vocabulary and example	Write it
offender n. /əˈfendə/ a person who has broken the law **Family:** offence (n.) · offend (v.) **Use it with:** young offenders · repeat offenders Young **offenders** need education as well as punishment.	
victim n. /ˈvɪktɪm/ a person who is harmed by a crime or accident **Use it with:** crime victims · fall victim to **Victims** of crime should receive support.	
sentence n./v. /ˈsentəns/ the punishment a judge gives; or to give this punishment **Use it with:** a prison sentence · be sentenced to **Tip:** Also the grammar meaning: a group of words. He received a two-year prison **sentence**.	
imprisonment n. /ɪmˈprɪzənmənt/ being kept in prison as a punishment **Family:** imprison (v.) · prison (n.) **Use it with:** life imprisonment The crime carries a penalty of five years' **imprisonment**.	
rehabilitation n. /rɪˌhæbɪlɪˈteɪʃn/ helping a criminal to live a normal, law-abiding life again **Family:** rehabilitate (v.) **Use it with:** rehabilitation programmes Prisons should focus on **rehabilitation**, not only punishment.	
deterrent n. /dɪˈtɜːrənt/ something that makes people decide not to do something **Family:** deter (v.) **Use it with:** act as a deterrent · deter crime Some argue that long prison sentences are an effective **deterrent**.	

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reoffend v. /rɪəˈfend/

to commit another crime after being punished

Family: reoffending (n.) **Use it with:** the reoffending rate

Prisoners who learn a trade are less likely to **reoffend**.

punishment n. /ˈpʌnɪʃmənt/

something done to a person because they broke a rule or law

Family: punish (v.) **Use it with:** harsh punishment · capital punishment

The **punishment** should match the crime.

capital punishment phrase /ˈkæpɪtl ˈpʌnɪʃmənt/

killing a person as the legal penalty for a serious crime

Family: death penalty (n.) **Use it with:** abolish capital punishment

Capital punishment has been abolished in most of Europe.

fine n./v. /faɪn/

money you must pay as a punishment

Use it with: pay a fine · be fined for

Drivers who park here will get a **fine** of £100.

£100

community service phrase /kəˈmjuːnɪti ˈsɜːvɪs/

unpaid work that an offender must do instead of prison

Use it with: do community service

Instead of prison, he was given 200 hours of **community service**.

200

theft n. /θeft/

the crime of stealing

Family: thief (n.) · thieves (pl.) **Use it with:** car theft · identity theft

Bicycle **theft** is common in university towns.

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burglary n. /ˈbɜːgləri/

entering a building illegally to steal things

Family: burglar (n.) **Use it with:** a rise in burglary

Burglary rates fall when neighbours watch each other's homes.

fraud n. /frɔːd/

the crime of getting money by tricking people

Family: fraudulent (adj.) **Use it with:** credit card fraud · commit fraud

Online **fraud** costs banks millions every year.

vandalism n. /ˈvændəlɪzəm/

the crime of damaging public or private property on purpose

Family: vandal (n.) **Use it with:** acts of vandalism

Vandalism of bus shelters costs the city a lot of money.

cybercrime n. /ˈsaɪbəkraɪm/

crime done using computers or the internet

Use it with: fight cybercrime

Cybercrime is growing faster than street crime.

law-abiding adj. /lɔː əˈbaɪdɪŋ/

obeying the law

Use it with: law-abiding citizens

Most citizens are **law-abiding**.

crime rate phrase /kraɪm reɪt/

the number of crimes in a place compared to its population

Use it with: a high crime rate · reduce the crime rate

The **crime rate** fell by 10% after more street lights were added.

10%

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Vocabulary and example	Write it

surveillance n. /sə'veɪləns/

watching people carefully, often with cameras

Use it with: CCTV surveillance · under surveillance

Surveillance cameras help police identify suspects.

witness n./v. /'wɪtnəs/

a person who sees a crime or accident; or to see it

Use it with: a key witness · witness a crime

Two **witnesses** described the driver to the police.

trial n. /'traɪəl/

a formal meeting in a court to decide whether someone is guilty

Use it with: go on trial · stand trial

The **trial** lasted three weeks.

verdict n. /'vɜːdɪkt/

the decision of a court about whether someone is guilty

Use it with: reach a verdict · a guilty verdict

The jury reached a **verdict** of not guilty.

suspect n./v. /'sʌspekt/

a person thought to have done a crime; or to think this is likely

Family: suspicious (adj.) · suspicion (n.) **Use it with:** a murder suspect · suspect that…

Police arrested two **suspects** yesterday.

petty crime phrase /'peti kraɪm/

crimes that are not very serious, such as stealing small things

Use it with: commit petty crime

Petty crime is often linked to poverty.

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Vocabulary and example	Write it

juvenile adj. /ˈdʒuːvənaɪl/

relating to young people below the adult age

Family: juvenile (n.) **Use it with:** juvenile crime · juvenile offenders

Juvenile crime has fallen in the last ten years.

drug abuse phrase /drʌg əˈbjuːs/

using illegal drugs or using medicines in a harmful way

Use it with: prevent drug abuse

Drug abuse is a cause of crime in many cities.

law enforcement phrase /lɔː enˈfɔːsmənt/

the work of making sure people obey the law, mainly by the police

Use it with: law enforcement officers

Law enforcement agencies share information across borders.

penalty n. /ˈpenəlti/

a punishment for breaking a rule or law

Use it with: a heavy penalty · the death penalty

The **penalty** for dropping litter is a fine.

arrest v./n. /əˈrest/

(of police) to take a person away because they may have done a crime

Use it with: be under arrest · make an arrest

Police **arrested** a man near the bank.

innocent adj. /ˈɪnəsənt/

not guilty of a crime

Family: innocence (n.) **Use it with:** prove someone innocent **Tip:** Opposite: guilty.

Everyone is **innocent** until proven guilty.

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