IELTS Word List

Vocabulary List

Vocabulary and example	Write it

experiment n./v. /ekˈsperɪmənt/

a scientific test to find out what happens

Family: experimental (adj.) **Use it with:** carry out an experiment · experiment with

Students did an **experiment** to see how fast ice melts.

laboratory n. /ləˈbɒrətri/

a room or building for scientific tests

Family: lab (n.) **Use it with:** a research laboratory · in the lab **Tip:** British stress: la-BOR-a-tory.

The samples were tested in a **laboratory**.

discovery n. /dɪˈskʌvəri/

finding something that was not known before

Family: discover (v.) **Use it with:** make a discovery · a major discovery

The **discovery** of penicillin saved millions of lives.

breakthrough n. /ˈbreɪkθruː/

an important new discovery or development

Use it with: a major breakthrough · a medical breakthrough

Scientists have made a **breakthrough** in cancer treatment.

scientific method phrase /saɪənˈtɪfɪk ˈmeθəd/

testing ideas with careful observation and experiments

Use it with: follow the scientific method

The **scientific method** begins with a question and a hypothesis.

sample n. /ˈsæmpl/

a small amount or group that shows what the whole is like

Use it with: a random sample · a blood sample · sample size

The survey used a **sample** of 1,000 adults.

1,000

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variable n. /ˈveərɪəbl/

a factor that can change in an experiment

Use it with: control variables · a key variable

Keep every **variable** the same except the one you are testing.

peer review phrase /pɪə rɪˈvjuː/

checking of a research paper by other experts before it is published

Family: peer-reviewed (adj.) **Use it with:** a peer-reviewed journal

All articles go through **peer review**.

clinical trial phrase /ˈklɪnɪkl ˈtraɪəl/

a test of a new medicine on patients

Use it with: take part in a clinical trial

The drug is now in **clinical trials**.

genetic engineering phrase /dʒɪˈnetɪk ˌendʒɪˈnɪərɪŋ/

changing the genes of a living thing

Family: genetically modified (adj.) **Use it with:** genetically modified food

Genetic engineering can make crops resist disease.

space exploration phrase /speɪs eksplɔːˈreɪʃn/

travelling into space to learn about it

Use it with: fund space exploration

Some say **space exploration** is a waste of money.

telescope n. /ˈtelɪskəʊp/

an instrument that makes distant objects look nearer and larger

Use it with: a powerful telescope

Through the **telescope**, we could see the rings of Saturn.

Vocabulary and example	Write it

animal testing phrase /ˈænɪml ˈtestɪŋ/

using animals in experiments, for example to check if medicines are safe

Use it with: ban animal testing

Many cosmetics companies have stopped **animal testing**.

observation n. /ɒbzəˈveɪʃn/

watching something carefully to learn about it

Family: observe (v.) **Use it with:** careful observation · make observations

The study is based on **observation** of 50 families.

50

measurement n. /ˈmeʒəmənt/

finding the size, amount or speed of something

Family: measure (v./n.) **Use it with:** take measurements

Accurate **measurements** are essential in science.

evidence-based adj. /ˈevɪdəns beɪst/

based on facts from research

Use it with: evidence-based medicine

Doctors should use **evidence-based** treatments.

invention n. /ɪnˈvenʃn/

something new that has been designed or made

Family: invent (v.) · inventor (n.) **Use it with:** a great invention

The printing press was a world-changing **invention**.

patent n. /ˈpeɪtənt/

an official right to be the only one to make or sell an invention

Use it with: apply for a patent · hold a patent

The company holds a **patent** on the new battery.

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prototype n. /ˈprəʊtəʊtaɪp/

the first model of something, made to test the design

Use it with: build a prototype

Engineers tested a **prototype** of the electric bus.

cloning n. /ˈkləʊnɪŋ/

making an exact genetic copy of a plant or animal

Family: clone (n./v.) **Use it with:** animal cloning

Cloning raises difficult ethical questions.

gene n. /dʒiːn/

a part of a cell that controls features passed from parents to children

Family: genetic (adj.) · genetics (n.) **Use it with:** genetic disease

Eye colour is controlled by **genes**.

findings n. /ˈfaɪndɪŋz/

the information discovered by a study

Family: find (v.) **Use it with:** research findings · the findings show

The **findings** suggest that older drivers are safer than young ones.

scientist n. /ˈsaɪəntɪst/

a person who studies or works in science

Family: scientific (adj.) **Use it with:** a leading scientist

Scientists warn that the ice is melting faster than expected.

laboratory conditions phrase /ləˈbɒrətri kənˈdɪʃnz/

carefully controlled conditions, unlike real life

Use it with: under laboratory conditions

Results from **laboratory conditions** may not match the real world.

Vocabulary and example	Write it

correlation n. /ˌkɒrɪ'leɪʃn/

a connection between two things where one changes with the other

Family: correlate (v.) **Use it with:** a strong correlation · correlation between **Tip:** Correlation is not causation.

There is a **correlation** between income and health, but it does not prove one causes the other.

cause and effect phrase /kɔ:z ænd ɪ'fekt/

the link between something that happens and its result

Family: causal (adj.) **Use it with:** a cause-and-effect relationship

The study cannot prove **cause and effect**.

astronomy n. /ə'strɒnəmi/

the scientific study of stars, planets and space

Family: astronomer (n.) **Use it with:** study astronomy

She became interested in **astronomy** as a child.

fieldwork n. /'fi:ldwɜ:k/

research done in the real world, not in a laboratory or library

Use it with: do fieldwork · fieldwork data

The geography students did **fieldwork** along the river.

scientific advance phrase /saɪən'tɪfɪk əd'væns/

progress in science that improves knowledge or technology

Use it with: rapid scientific advances

Scientific advances have doubled life expectancy.

specimen n. /'spesɪmən/

one example of a plant, animal or material kept for study

Use it with: a rare specimen

The museum has over a million insect **specimens**.

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