IELTS Word List

Vocabulary List

Vocabulary and example	Write it

the arts n. /ðɪ ɑːts/

painting, music, theatre, dance and literature as a group

Family: artistic (adj.) · artist (n.) **Use it with:** funding for the arts · arts education

Governments should spend more on **the arts**.

performing arts phrase /pəˈfɔːmɪŋ ɑːts/

arts such as music, dance and drama that are performed for an audience

Use it with: a performing arts centre

She studied **performing arts** at college.

masterpiece n. /ˈmæstəpiːs/

an excellent work of art, often the best by an artist

Use it with: a true masterpiece

The Mona Lisa is a famous **masterpiece**.

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custom n. /ˈkʌstəm/

a traditional way of behaving in a society

Family: customs (pl.) · customary (adj.) **Use it with:** local customs · an ancient custom **Tip:** Customs at an airport is a different meaning.

It is a local **custom** to take off your shoes before entering a home.

festival n. /ˈfestɪvl/

a special time or event when people celebrate something

Family: festive (adj.) **Use it with:** a music festival · a traditional festival

The Mid-Autumn **Festival** is celebrated with mooncakes.

cultural identity phrase /ˈkʌltʃərəl aɪˈdentɪti/

the feeling of belonging to a group with a shared culture

Use it with: lose your cultural identity · preserve cultural identity

Language is a key part of **cultural identity**.

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preserve v. /prɪˈzɜːv/

to keep something as it is, protecting it from harm or loss

Family: preservation (n.) **Use it with:** preserve traditions · preserve old buildings

Museums help **preserve** the past for future generations.

handicraft n. /ˈhændɪkrɑːft/

a skill such as weaving or pottery done by hand, or the things made

Family: craft (n.) · craftsman (n.) **Use it with:** traditional handicrafts

The market sells local **handicrafts**.

folk adj. /fəʊk/

traditional and belonging to ordinary people of a country

Use it with: folk music · folk tales

They danced to **folk** music.

spectator n. /spekˈteɪtə/

a person who watches a sports event

Use it with: spectator sports

Over 80,000 **spectators** watched the final.

80,000

athlete n. /ˈæθliːt/

a person who is good at sports, especially running and jumping

Family: athletic (adj.) **Use it with:** a professional athlete · Olympic athletes

Professional **athletes** train for hours every day.

amateur adj./n. /ˈæmətə/

doing something for pleasure, not as a paid job

Use it with: amateur sport **Tip:** Opposite: professional.

He plays in an **amateur** football league.

Vocabulary and example	Write it

competitive adj. /kəmˈpetɪtɪv/

wanting to win; or involving competition

Family: competition (n.) · compete (v.) **Use it with:** highly competitive · competitive sport

Some children enjoy **competitive** sports; others do not.

sportsmanship n. /ˈspɔːtsmənʃɪp/

fair and polite behaviour in sport, even when losing

Use it with: good sportsmanship

The coach praised the team's **sportsmanship**.

doping n. /ˈdəʊpɪŋ/

using illegal drugs to perform better in sport

Use it with: a doping scandal · anti-doping tests

The cyclist was banned for **doping**.

team spirit phrase /tiːm ˈspɪrɪt/

a feeling of loyalty and support among members of a group

Use it with: a strong team spirit

Group projects build **team spirit**.

minority language phrase /maɪˈnɒrɪti ˈlæŋgwɪdʒ/

a language spoken by a small group of people in a country

Use it with: protect minority languages

Schools can help keep **minority languages** alive.

gallery n. /ˈgæləri/

a building or room where art is shown

Use it with: an art gallery

The national **gallery** is free to visit.

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Vocabulary and example	Write it

literature n. /ˈlɪtrɪtʃə/

books, plays and poems, especially those that are well written

Family: literary (adj.) **Use it with:** modern literature · study literature

She loves classic English **literature**.

museum n. /mjuːˈzɪəm/

a building where important objects are kept and shown to the public

Use it with: a science museum · museum entry fees

The **museum** has a new exhibition on ancient China.

sculpture n. /ˈskʌlptʃə/

a work of art made by shaping stone, wood or metal

Family: sculptor (n.) **Use it with:** a modern sculpture

A bronze **sculpture** stands in the city square.

creativity n. /kriːˌeɪˈtɪvɪti/

the ability to produce new and original ideas

Family: creative (adj.) · create (v.) **Use it with:** encourage creativity

Art lessons develop children's **creativity**.

entertainment n. /ˌentəˈteɪnmənt/

films, music and shows that people enjoy

Family: entertain (v.) **Use it with:** home entertainment · the entertainment industry

Online games are a popular form of **entertainment**.

cultural diversity phrase /ˈkʌltʃərəl daɪˈvɜːsɪti/

the existence of many different cultures in one place

Use it with: celebrate cultural diversity

Cultural diversity makes cities more interesting.

Vocabulary and example	Write it

leisure n. /ˈleʒə/

free time when you are not working

Family: leisurely (adj.) **Use it with:** leisure activities · leisure time **Tip:** In British English the first part sounds like “lezh”.

People now have more **leisure** time than before.

grassroots adj. /ˈgræsruːts/

relating to ordinary people, not leaders; in sport, local and amateur level

Use it with: grassroots sport · grassroots movements

Money for **grassroots** football helps young players.

physical education phrase /ˈfɪzɪkl ˌedʒuːˈkeɪʃn/

school lessons in sport and exercise

Family: PE (abbr.) **Use it with:** PE lessons

Physical education is compulsory in most schools.

heritage site phrase /ˈherɪtɪdʒ saɪt/

a place protected because of its historical or cultural value

Use it with: a UNESCO heritage site

The temple is a protected **heritage site**.

admission n. /ədˈmɪʃn/

the right to enter a place; or the price paid to enter

Family: admit (v.) **Use it with:** free admission · admission fees

Admission to the museum is free on Sundays.

audience n. /ˈɔːdiəns/

the people who watch or listen to a performance

Use it with: a live audience · a wide audience

The **audience** clapped for five minutes.

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