



**English Language Exams
by Doing Business In English**

IELTS

VOCABULARY GUIDE

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IELTS Vocabulary

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This booklet aims to provide support for IELTS candidates, it is not a replacement for working with a qualified tutor. IELTS is managed and examined by the British Council that has many office around the world that can provide more specialist guidance.

Further resources on English language exams, working in English, job search and business development can be found on the Doing Business LinkedIn, Facebook, Instagram, Threads, Bluesky, Mastodon pages, YouTube channel and website.



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How Vocabulary Impacts on The Tests

Vocabulary makes up 25% of your mark for the Writing and Speaking parts of the IELTS exam. Knowing a broad range of words is also essential for scoring well in the Listening and Reading tests. However, vocabulary is far more important than this. It is, in fact, the most important skill area you need to master when learning English.

Why?

Because vocabulary is what spoken and written language is. That's all language is.

Spoken and written language is: words used in a structured way to communicate meaning.

Vocabulary To Focus On

Focus on

- Correct and appropriate use of vocabulary used in everyday language about common topics.

Do not focus on

- Academic and complex vocabulary.

Building a strong vocabulary takes time, it simply cannot be done in a hurry, do not wait until the last minute. Creating a routine in which vocabulary learning features works even if for just 20 mins per day. Be careful to study vocabulary that could be useful rather than simply complex / impressive, remember if vocabulary is not used it is normally forgotten.



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Types of Vocabulary

- **Common words, key words** that are part of common communication in conversations, social media, newspapers and apps plus magazines. This will be the vocabulary that you hear and see most regularly as you study English.
- **Versatile words**, these are words that can be useful in many situations and tests! It makes sense in terms of probability to learn these words given there are up to a million words in the English language. Notice these words and create a record of them, there are many types, adjectives such as ‘elaborate, formidable, immense’, adverbs such as ‘effortlessly, frankly, meticulously’ and phrasal verbs ‘come about, cut back, give in’ are C1 vocabulary and can often be worked into answers. Learning and practicing applying versatile words is a particularly effective way of improving vocabulary scores.
- **Topic-related words**, in Part 1 of the Speaking test and sometimes in Essay 2 of the Writing Test there are common topics that often come up in the test. There is no guarantee there will be questions on these topics but again from a probability perspective time spent here is more likely to be useful than time spent on random topics.
- **Chunks of language**, there is a lot of idiomatic language in English, these are groups of words that have a different meaning when used together, e.g. ‘show them the ropes’ does not mean literally show someone some ropes, instead it means show someone how something is done correctly.
- **Synonyms**, words that mean exactly or nearly the same as a given word, e.g. true - accurate, correct and factual. These words are particularly useful in paraphrasing which is a key skill that is assessed in all parts of speaking and writing tests.
- **Antonyms**, words that means the opposite to a given word, e.g. happy – fed up, miserable and sad.



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Ways of Learning Vocabulary

Buy a notebook, many candidates find that writing things down by hand helps them remember vocabulary more effectively than typing it digitally. An effective method is to write the word on its own and then write it within a sentence as most candidates find it easier to remember a new word if it is part of a sentence. Possibly the most effective method is to use a notebook plus also create a digital record as well, the advantage of a digital version is that it is easier to group and regroup words (e.g. adjectives, adverbs, nouns, verbs etc.).

For each word write/type the form of word (adjective, adverb, noun, verb) along with its other forms (e.g. negotiate, negotiations, negotiated, a negotiation).

Some candidates use learner dictionaries, these use language that is very clear for learners to understand. Some candidates write down the word in their notebook and digital record, then its definition from the learner directory and a sentence including the word. These dictionaries provide examples of common mistakes to be aware of and avoid.

The Longman Online Learner Dictionary is free of charge and worth trying, a link to it follows plus a review of others that are available.

[Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English | LDOCE](#)

5 Top English Learner Dictionaries

Find tools that can help with pronunciation, in most dictionaries there is a [ˈ] placed before the syllable that should be stressed, in the vocabulary notebook a line can be added under the stressed syllable. There are a number of online apps that can help, links for a few are below.

<https://howjsay.com/>

[English pronunciation dictionary](#)

<https://www.howtopronounce.com/>



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Watch out for and learn spelling patterns, e.g. negotiate – negotiation, mediate – mediation follow a more regular pattern, there are also irregular patterns e.g. long – length – lengthen, strong – strength – strengthen.

It is advisable to learn about prefixes and their meanings, details are in the following links.

[36 Common Prefixes in English](#)

[60 Most Common Prefixes List - with Meanings - College Transitions](#)

Mind maps can be used to help learn English vocabulary, details are in the following links.

[Mind Maps for Vocabulary: A Visual Way to Improve Significantly | IELTSMaterial.com](#)

[Enhancing English Vocabulary with Mind Maps - 5 Minute English](#)

Flashcards are another way of learning vocabulary, details are in the following links.

[How to Learn English Vocabulary with Flashcards: A Comprehensive Guide - Learn English Online](#)

<https://games4esl.com/printables/flashcards/>

[2,348 Flashcards English ESL worksheets pdf & doc](#)

[Quizlet: Study Tools & Learning Resources for Students and Teachers | Quizlet](#)

Some candidates use Frayer Four-Square Charts to learn vocabulary. They include the word, its definition, translation to native language, examples of how to use and clarification of what it is not / can be confused with.

[Frayer Model \(Four-Square Adaptation\) - CTL - Collaborative for Teaching and Learning](#)

[Free Printable Frayer Model Templates \[Word, PDF\] Editable Vocabulary](#)

Recording the vocabulary, you would like to memorize can help, firstly listen to the pronunciation of words on an online dictionary and then record words on your phone such that you can play them back later.



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Read high-quality newspapers to see new vocabulary, good newspapers such as The Guardian are free and have a range of vocabulary.

[The Guardian - Live World News on the App Store](#)

Many candidates benefit from practicing with someone else who is doing the test as long as they are of a similar level and commitment. Using new words in both conversation and writing works and by working with a partner and sharing resources candidates can increase their exposure to new vocabulary more quickly.

Cohesive devices

Reason to Use	Options
Result	As a result, therefore, so, because & thus
Contrast	Conversely, instead, in comparison, in contrast & on the contrary
Highlighting	Especially, mainly, particularly, above all & in particular
Qualifying	However, but, unless, although & except
Comparison	Likewise, compared with, also, equally & similarly
Addition	Furthermore, too, what is more, and & also
Exemplification	For instance, for example, namely & such as
Sequencing	Firstly, secondly, thirdly, lastly, finally, next, then & after
Transition	With regard to, turning to, as far is & with regard to



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High scoring tips

[IELTS Vocabulary for higher band scores \(ielts-mentor.com\)](#)

[IELTS Vocabulary Mastery: Essential Words, Tips & Techniques \(ieltsadvantage.com\)](#)

<https://www.ieltsupdatesandrecentexams.com/2020/11/vocabulary-for-ielts-band-8-or-9-words.html>

[IELTS Speaking Band 7 to 9 Vocabulary \(PDF\) \(cictalks.com\)](#)

[IELTS Vocabulary for higher band scores \(ielts-mentor.com\)](#)

[IELTS Vocabulary for High Band Score \(edubenchmark.com\)](#)

[Most Band 9 Students Use These 20 Words \(youtube.com\)](#)

[7 Words to Say in IELTS Speaking for Band 7+ \(youtube.com\)](#)

[Band 9 IELTS Speaking Vocabulary \(youtube.com\)](#)

[80 Most Commonly Used Band 9 Linking Words in IELTS Writing Task 2 \(youtube.com\)](#)

[3 Hours of C1 and C2 Cambridge Advanced Vocabulary for IELTS, TOEFL, and PTE \(youtube.com\)](#)

[IELTS Speaking Score 9 High Band Vocabulary - YouTube](#)

[Complete IELTS Vocabulary Course: Boost Your Score in 2024 \(youtube.com\)](#)

[Vocabulary For IELTS: Band 8 or 9, Words Lists, Topic Vocab | IELTS Vocabulary PDF - IELTS Updates And Recent Exams](#)



English Language Exams by Doing Business In English

Video Resources

English Vocabulary for IELTS: Common Popular

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-H3_H5YjuXY

Common Uncountable Word List

<https://ieltsliz.com/uncountable-nouns-word-list/>

IELTS & TOEFL Listening Practice: Academic Vocabulary

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m54Vfvt_QD4

IELTS vocabulary: vocabulary lists, exercises and free resources

[IELTS Vocabulary list: Lexical Resource, and topic specific vocabulary \(ieltspodcast.com\)](https://ieltsliz.com/ielts-vocabulary-list-lexical-resource-and-topic-specific-vocabulary-ieltspodcast.com)

IELTS Line Graph Vocabulary

<https://ieltsliz.com/ielts-line-graph-vocabulary/>

IELTS Map Vocabulary and Sentence Structure

<https://ieltsliz.com/ielts-maps-vocabulary/>

Linking Words

<https://ieltsliz.com/ielts-writing-task-2-practice-with-linking-words/>

Vocabulary

<https://ieltsliz.com/academic-vocabulary/>



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IELTS Vocabulary Mini-Course Lesson 2: What Does Band 7 Vocabulary Look Like?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lhDpoCYmnNQ>

Common Names

<https://ieltsliz.com/common-english-names-for-boys/>

<https://ieltsliz.com/common-girls-names/>

LEARN 400 adjectives and synonyms & PRONOUNCE in 40 minutes

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HD3IBffy6Z4>

List of top 100 Synonyms in the IELTS Test

<https://ieltspracticeonline.com/list-of-top-100-synonyms-in-the-ielts-test/>

180 Useful Synonyms Words List | IELTS Vocabulary

<https://loveenglish.org/synonyms-words-for-ielts/>

Synonyms Words For IELTS

<https://englishstudyhere.com/vocabulary/synonym-words-for-ielts/>

1 Hour Vocabulary Course

[1 Hour Full IELTS Vocabulary Course \(youtube.com\)](#)



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Website Resources

[Vocabulary for IELTS: Word Lists, Exercises & Pronunciation \(ieltsliz.com\)](#)

[List of 300+ IELTS Vocabulary Words: New and Difficult Words - GeeksforGeeks](#)

[IELTS Vocabulary: Academic Words, Topic Related, Idioms \(ieltsbuddy.com\)](#)

[IELTS Vocabulary Mastery: Essential Words, Tips & Techniques \(ieltsadvantage.com\)](#)

[IELTS Vocabulary | IELTS Material](#)

[Ultimate IELTS academic wordlist \(ielts-up.com\)](#)

[IELTS Speaking vocabulary by topics - IELTS-up](#)

<https://ted-ielts.com/ielts-vocabulary/>

[10 of the best places to find IELTS Vocabulary Resources \(ieltsetc.com\)](#)

[IELTS Writing Vocabulary 2024: Download FREE New Writing Vocabulary PDF \(leapscholar.com\)](#)

[Essential IELTS Vocabulary Tips | Top Universities](#)

[Vocabulary For IELTS – Top Tips on Learning Vocabulary – IELTS Jacky](#)

[IELTS 2024 Vocabulary Guide: Key Words and Phrases \(edysor.in\)](#)

[Mastering Vocabulary for IELTS: Boost Your Score \(britishcouncil.org\)](#)

[350+ Vocabulary words for IELTS: Meaning, Difficult & New English words list for 2024 \(leapscholar.com\)](#)

App Resources

[Free IELTS Vocabulary Flashcards - Magoosh IELTS](#)

[IELTS Vocabulary Builder - Apps on Google Play](#)

[The 13 Best English Vocabulary Apps \[Updated for 2024\] | FluentU Language Learning](#)

[11 Best Vocabulary Apps to Learn New Words \(2024 Reviewed\) \(scorebeyond.com\)](#)



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Tests

[Free IELTS Vocabulary Practice Test \(ielts-testpro.com\)](https://ielts-testpro.com)

[IELTS Vocabulary Quizzes Online \(examword.com\)](https://examword.com)

[Mochi Test - IELTS Vocabulary Test 02 \(mochidemy.com\)](https://mochidemy.com)

[IELTS® Vocabulary Practice | Quizlet](#)

[Free IELTS Vocabulary Flashcards - Magoosh IELTS](#)