

IELTS Vocabulary Prep

A structured vocabulary reference for IELTS preparation.

Organised by category — add new sections or entries below as you discover new words.

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Section 1 — Modern English: Environment & Lifestyle

Word	Meaning	Example Sentence
Climate breakdown	Harmful, potentially irreversible climate trends from unchecked global warming.	—
Climate emergency	A situation requiring urgent action to reduce or halt climate change.	—
Eco-anxiety	Anxiety caused by concerns about the potential impacts of climate change.	—
Eco-chic	A style or product that is both fashionable and eco-friendly.	—
Energy poverty	Lack of adequate access to safe, affordable electricity or fuel.	—
Microplastic	Small plastic pieces less than five millimetres long; harmful to aquatic life.	—
Rewild	To return to a more natural or wild state, increasing biodiversity and restoring ecosystems.	—
Slow fashion	A movement promoting eco-friendly, well-made clothing and reducing new clothing consumption.	—
Skin streaming	Using very few but effective skincare products.	—

Word	Meaning	Example Sentence
Sound bath	Listening to pleasant sounds from bowls, bells, and chimes for relaxation or meditation.	—

Section 2 — Modern English: Technology & Society

Word	Meaning	Example Sentence
Al desko	Eating at one's desk in the office.	—
Binge-watch	Watching multiple episodes of a TV series in one sitting.	—
Blamestorming	Group discussion that assigns blame for a problem rather than solving it.	—
Clickbait	Online content designed to attract clicks and views.	—
Crowdfunding	Raising small amounts of money from a large number of people, typically via the Internet.	—
Deepfake	Fake video or audio recordings that appear real, created using AI.	—
Doomscrolling	Continuously scrolling through negative news, especially on social media.	—
Fitspiration	Inspiration for fitness, often from people or social media posts.	—
Gig economy	A labour market characterised by short-term contracts or freelance work.	—
Glamping	Glamorous camping; luxurious camping accommodations.	—
Hackathon	An event where programmers collaborate intensively on software projects.	—
Hangry	Irritable or angry due to hunger.	—
JOMO	Joy of Missing Out — enjoyment of personal time and solitude, contrasted with FOMO.	—
Microaggression	Subtle, often unintentional, discrimination or offensive comments.	—
Nomophobia	The fear or worry of being without a mobile phone or unable to use it.	—

Word	Meaning	Example Sentence
Parasocial	A one-sided, unreciprocated relationship felt by fans towards a prominent figure.	—
Post-truth	Situations where emotions and beliefs influence public opinion more than objective facts.	—
Sharenting	The overuse of social media by parents to share content about their children.	—
Snowflake	A person who is overly sensitive to criticism or perceived slights.	—
Swole	Extremely muscular or well-built.	—
Woke	Being aware of and actively attentive to societal issues, especially those related to social justice.	—

Section 3 — Trending Words (2025)

Word	Meaning	Origin / Notes
Rizz	The ability to charm or attract someone with charisma.	Derived from the middle part of "charisma".
Life admin	Mundane but necessary tasks that keep our lives running smoothly, like sorting emails or scheduling appointments.	—
Eco-chic	A style or product that is both fashionable and environmentally friendly.	Emphasises sustainability in design.
Shacket	A hybrid garment combining a shirt and jacket, worn over other clothing.	Blend of "shirt" + "jacket".
Buzzed	Describes a feeling of excitement.	<i>"He was buzzed to hear the news."</i>
Fitspiration	People or content that motivates others to pursue fitness goals.	Blend of "fitness" + "inspiration".
Girl dinner	A collection of snacks requiring little preparation, considered sufficient as a meal.	Highlights a minimalist approach to meals.
Pretty privilege	Unearned societal advantages from fitting into the beauty standards of one's culture.	—

Section 4 — IELTS Strategy: Using Vocabulary Effectively

4.1 Why New Vocabulary Matters

A broad vocabulary helps across all four IELTS sections:

Section	How Vocabulary Helps
Listening	Recognising varied words improves comprehension.
Reading	Rich vocabulary aids understanding of complex texts.
Writing	Wide vocabulary improves the Lexical Resource score.
Speaking	Diverse, natural vocabulary boosts the speaking score.

4.2 Key Language Skills to Develop

- **Contextual understanding** — Learn how words are used in different situations to interpret meaning accurately.
- **Synonyms & paraphrasing** — Crucial for Writing and Speaking; also helps in Reading and Listening where questions paraphrase the source text.
- **Collocations** — Words that naturally go together (e.g., *make a decision, take a break*) make language sound fluent and coherent.
- **Idiomatic expressions** — Improve natural language use in both spoken and written English.
- **Reading speed** — A strong vocabulary reduces time spent on unknown words, which is critical in timed sections.

Section 5 — Tips to Build Your Vocabulary

5.1 Daily Practice & Exposure

- **Read widely** — Newspapers, magazines, academic journals, and novels expose you to varied contexts.
- **Keep a vocabulary notebook** — Record new words with meanings, example sentences, and synonyms.
- **Set a daily goal** — Learn a set number of new words per day and review them regularly.

5.2 Contextual Learning

- **Use words in context** — Form sentences using new words rather than just memorising definitions.
- **Practice with IELTS materials** — Use sample papers from the official IELTS website to see vocabulary used in exam contexts.

5.3 Deepen Understanding

- **Learn synonyms and antonyms** — Expands vocabulary and prevents repetition in writing.
- **Study word forms** — Learn noun, verb, adjective, and adverb forms of each word to use them flexibly.

5.4 Engage with Media

- **Watch English movies and shows** — Notice how words are used and try to mimic natural usage.
- **Listen to podcasts and news** — Builds vocabulary alongside pronunciation and real-world usage.

5.5 Writing Practice

- **Write regularly** — Essays, letters, and reports. Deliberately use newly learned words.
- **Get feedback** — Ask someone to review your writing with a focus on vocabulary use.

5.6 Advanced Techniques

- **Learn collocations** — Understanding which words naturally pair together is key to natural-sounding English.
- **Study word roots, prefixes, and suffixes** — Helps decode unfamiliar words and expand vocabulary faster.

My Word Bank

Add words you personally encounter here. Fill in the example sentence column as you practice.

Word	Meaning	Source / Context	Example Sentence

Last updated: May 2020 Add new sections below as your preparation progresses.

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