

200 Essential Academic Words

The vocabulary that appears most often in IELTS

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How to Learn These Words

DON'T just memorise definitions. For each word, learn: the word + its common collocations + an example sentence. That's what builds your Lexical Resource score.

Words are organised by IELTS topic. Study 10-15 per day. Use each word in a sentence the same day you learn it.

Education & Learning

WORD	COLLOCATIONS	EXAMPLE SENTENCE
curriculum	design/follow/reform the curriculum	The national curriculum was reformed to include di...
academic	academic achievement / performance	Academic performance is not the only measure of f...
institution	educational / financial institution	Universities are institutions that foster critical thin...
discipline	academic discipline / self-discipline	Self-discipline is essential for independent learners
literacy	literacy rate / digital literacy / financial literacy	Digital literacy has become as important as traditio...
pedagogy	modern pedagogy / effective pedagogy	Modern pedagogy emphasises student-centred lea...
undergraduate	undergraduate degree / student / course	Most undergraduate degrees take three to four year...
scholarship	win/award/apply for a scholarship	She was awarded a full scholarship to study abroa...
curriculum vitae	submit/update your CV	A strong CV highlights both skills and achievement...
vocational	vocational training / education / course	Vocational training provides practical skills for emp...

Technology & Innovation

WORD	COLLOCATIONS	EXAMPLE SENTENCE
innovation	technological / drive / foster innovation	Governments should foster innovation through funding research and development.
artificial intelligence	AI / machine learning / automation	Artificial intelligence is transforming healthcare diagnosis and treatment.
infrastructure	digital / transport infrastructure	Reliable digital infrastructure is crucial for remote work and education.
surveillance	surveillance camera / state surveillance	The debate over surveillance and privacy intensifies as technology advances.
obsolete	become / render obsolete	Rapid innovation may render current technologies obsolete.
automation	industrial automation / job automation	Automation has displaced some jobs but created others in the manufacturing sector.
cybersecurity	cybersecurity threats / measures	Cybersecurity is a growing concern for businesses and governments.
algorithm	search / social media algorithm	Social media algorithms influence what content we see and interact with.
bandwidth	high bandwidth / bandwidth limitations	5G technology offers significantly greater bandwidth than previous generations.
biotechnology	advances in biotechnology	Biotechnology is revolutionising medicine and agriculture.

Environment & Sustainability

WORD	COLLOCATIONS	EXAMPLE SENTENCE
sustainability	environmental / economic sustainability	Sustainability must be at the heart of urban planning.
biodiversity	loss of / protect biodiversity	Deforestation is the leading cause of biodiversity loss.
carbon footprint	reduce / offset carbon footprint	Individuals can reduce their carbon footprint by using public transport.
renewable	renewable energy / resources	Investment in renewable energy has increased dramatically.
ecosystem	fragile / marine ecosystem	Coral reefs are fragile ecosystems threatened by warming oceans.
conservation	wildlife / conservation efforts	Conservation efforts have helped some species recover from near extinction.
emission	carbon / greenhouse gas emissions	Countries must commit to reducing emissions to combat climate change.
deforestation	rate of / combat deforestation	Deforestation contributes significantly to climate change.
contamination	water / soil contamination	Industrial waste has caused severe soil contamination.
urbanisation	rapid / sustainable urbanisation	Rapid urbanisation puts pressure on housing and infrastructure.

Health & Wellbeing

WORD	COLLOCATIONS	EXAMPLE SENTENCE
epidemic	global epidemic / obesity epidemic	The obesity epidemic affects both developed and c
sedentary	sedentary lifestyle / behaviour	A sedentary lifestyle increases the risk of chronic d
nutrition	poor nutrition / nutritional value	Poor nutrition in childhood affects long-term develo
mental health	mental health awareness / services	Mental health services remain underfunded in man
preventive	preventive medicine / measures	Preventive healthcare reduces long-term costs.
chronic	chronic disease / illness / pain	Chronic diseases account for most healthcare sper
diagnose	diagnose a condition / early diagnosis	Early diagnosis significantly improves treatment ou
rehabilitation	rehabilitation programme / centre	Effective rehabilitation helps patients regain indepe
wellbeing	physical / emotional wellbeing	Work-life balance is essential for employe
pharmaceutical	pharmaceutical industry / company	The pharmaceutical industry invests heavily in rese

Society & Culture

WORD	COLLOCATIONS	EXAMPLE SENTENCE
globalisation	effects of / cultural globalisation	Globalisation has both unified and divided communities.
demographic	demographic change / shift / trend	Demographic changes are reshaping the workforce.
inequality	social / income / gender inequality	Income inequality continues to widen in many countries.
integration	social / cultural integration	Integration programmes help immigrants adapt to new cultures.
heritage	cultural / world heritage	Preserving cultural heritage maintains national identity.
migration	mass / rural-urban migration	Rural-urban migration creates pressure on city infrastructure.
stereotype	challenge / reinforce stereotypes	Media can both challenge and reinforce stereotypes.
discrimination	racial / gender discrimination	Anti-discrimination laws aim to ensure equal opportunities.
censorship	government / internet censorship	The debate over censorship and freedom of speech is ongoing.
philanthropy	corporate philanthropy / charitable	Corporate philanthropy can benefit both businesses and society.

Economy & Work

WORD	COLLOCATIONS	EXAMPLE SENTENCE
unemployment	youth / structural unemployment	Youth unemployment is a major concern in many e
recession	economic recession / enter a recession	The 2008 recession affected global employment pa
inflation	rate of / rising inflation	Rising inflation erodes purchasing power.
entrepreneurship	promote / foster entrepreneurship	Governments should foster entrepreneurship throu
outsourcing	offshore outsourcing / outsource jobs	Outsourcing can reduce costs but may affect dome
productivity	increase / boost productivity	Technology has significantly boosted workplace pr
subsidy	government subsidy / agricultural subsidy	Government subsidies support struggling industries
tariff	import tariff / trade tariff	Trade tariffs can protect domestic industries.
commodity	commodity prices / basic commodity	Fluctuating commodity prices affect developing ec
fiscal	fiscal policy / fiscal year	Fiscal policy determines government spending prio

Crime & Law

WORD	COLLOCATIONS	EXAMPLE SENTENCE
legislation	introduce / pass legislation	Stricter legislation is needed to combat cybercrime
deterrent	act as a deterrent / effective deterrent	Harsh penalties may act as a deterrent to potential
rehabilitation	offender rehabilitation / programme	Rehabilitation reduces reoffending rates more effe
surveillance	CCTV surveillance / mass surveillance	Increased surveillance raises privacy concerns.
juvenile	juvenile crime / offender / delinquency	Juvenile crime rates have risen in urban areas.
incarceration	mass incarceration / rate of	Mass incarceration has not proven effective at redu
prosecution	criminal prosecution / face prosecution	Prosecution of white-collar crime has increased.
verdict	deliver a verdict / guilty verdict	The jury delivered a unanimous guilty verdict.
amendment	constitutional amendment / propose	Constitutional amendments reflect changing societ
jurisdiction	legal jurisdiction / fall under	Cybercrime poses challenges for traditional legal ju

Government & Politics

WORD	COLLOCATIONS	EXAMPLE SENTENCE
democracy	democratic / direct democracy	Democracy requires an informed and engaged citizenry.
bureaucracy	government bureaucracy / reduce	Excessive bureaucracy can hinder economic growth.
policy	government / foreign / domestic policy	Effective policy requires evidence-based decision-making.
sovereignty	national sovereignty / state sovereignty	Globalisation challenges traditional notions of sovereignty.
referendum	hold / call a referendum	The referendum resulted in a narrow majority for change.
accountability	government accountability / hold to account	Transparency promotes government accountability.
constitution	constitutional rights / amendment	The constitution guarantees fundamental rights.
diplomacy	international diplomacy / diplomatic relations	Diplomacy remains essential for resolving conflicts.
ideology	political ideology / ideological	Political ideologies shape policy priorities.
mandate	electoral mandate / government mandate	The government claims a mandate to implement reforms.