

CONTENTS

Introduction	1
Vocabulary and the IELTS	1
IELTS Study Contract	2
Self-Study Activities	3
How to Use This Book	7
 Unit 1: The Natural World	 9
Environmental Impacts of Logging	9
Bird Migration	18
Plant Life In the Taklimakan Desert	27
 Unit 2: Leisure Time	 37
Peripheral Vision in Sports	37
History of the Circus	45
Uses of Leisure Time	55
 Unit 3: Transportation	 65
First Headlamps	65
Major Subways of Europe	73
Electric Cars Around the Globe	83
 Unit 4: Culture	 93
Origins of Writing	93
Hula Dancing In Hawaiian Culture	102
The Art of Mime	111
 Unit 5: Health	 121
Nurse Migration	121
Aerobic Exercise and Brain Health	130
How Drugs Are Studied	140

Unit 6: Tourism	149
Hiking the Inca Trail	149
What Is Ecotourism?	158
Learning Vacations	168
Unit 7: Business	177
What Makes a Small Business Successful?	177
Brand Loyalty	186
Global Outsourcing	195
Unit 8: Society	205
Social Networking	205
Why Are Women Leaving Science Careers?	214
Wheelchair-Accessibility Issues	223
Unit 9: Education	233
Learning Styles	233
The Homeschool Option	242
Educating the Gifted	251
Unit 10: Technology/Inventions	261
The Development of the Lightbulb	261
The Invention of Variable-Pitch Propellers	271
The Transatlantic Cable	280
Appendix	289
Answer Key	289
Audioscripts	342

Introduction

Barron's Essential Words for the IELTS will help familiarize you with the vocabulary you will find on the reading and listening sections of the IELTS exam (International English Language Testing System). As the number of words you understand when you are reading and listening increases, your speaking and writing vocabulary will improve as well.

VOCABULARY AND THE IELTS

Vocabulary is not tested directly on the IELTS. There are no questions on the IELTS that ask specifically for the meaning of a word. However, comprehension is tested. Can you understand what you read? Can you understand what you hear? The more words you know, the more you will understand. The more words you know, the more fluently you will be able to speak and write.

Essential Words for the IELTS will teach you 600 words that you might find on the exam in reading and listening and that you might use in writing and speaking. You will also learn skills that will help you learn new words easily.

- *Essential Words for the IELTS* will teach you how to use context clues. The context provides clues to the meaning of a word. These clues may be in the same sentence or in the same paragraph. You will learn to look for definitions, synonyms, or paraphrases within the text.
- Punctuation is another context clue. A definition or a synonym is often set apart by parentheses, commas, dashes, or a colon. You will learn to recognize these clues.
- Analyzing a word also helps you determine the meaning of a word. Compound words, prefixes, and suffixes are other context clues. You will learn to recognize common prefixes and suffixes and how words are joined together.
- If context clues cannot help you determine the meaning of a word, you can use a dictionary designed for learners of English. You will learn dictionary skills to help you choose the correct definition of a word.
- You will also learn about word families. These are the different parts of speech—noun, verb, adjective, and adverb—that share a similar meaning. The book presents charts with example sentences for each part of speech. The word-family charts include the most common forms as well as multiple forms.

ESSENTIAL WORDS FOR THE IELTS

In *Essential Words for the IELTS* you will practice one very effective vocabulary strategy that will improve your comprehension. This effective strategy is to use a word four ways: **Read** the word, **write** the word, **listen** to the word, and **speak** the word. Every activity in each chapter will help you develop this skill.

When you learn a new word, you should practice the same strategy. If you hear a new word, write the new word in a sentence. Read the sentence to yourself. Say the sentence aloud. Every chance you get, review the words you are learning. Say them, write them, read them, and listen to them.

IELTS STUDY CONTRACT

You must make a commitment to study English. Sign a contract with yourself. You should never break a contract—especially a contract with yourself.

- Print your name below on line 1.
- Write the time you will spend each week studying English on lines 4–8. Think about how much time you have to study every day and every week, and make your schedule realistic.
- Sign your name and date the contract on the last line.
- At the end of each week, add up your hours. Did you meet the requirements of your contract?

MY IELTS STUDY CONTRACT

I, _____, promise to study for the IELTS. I will begin my study with *Barron's Essential Words for the IELTS*, and I will also study English on my own.

I understand that to improve my English I need to spend time on English.

I promise to study English _____ a week. I promise to learn _____ new words every day.

I will spend _____ hours a week listening to English.

I will spend _____ hours a week writing English.

I will spend _____ hours a week speaking English.

I will spend _____ hours a week reading English.

This is a contract with myself. I promise to fulfill the terms of this contract.

Signed _____

Date _____

SELF-STUDY ACTIVITIES

Here are some ways you can improve your English vocabulary on your own. Check the ones you plan to try. Add some of your own ideas.

Internet-Based Self-Study Activities:

LISTENING

- ☐ Podcasts on the Internet
- ☐ News websites: CNN, BBC, NBC, ABC, CBS
- ☐ Movies in English
- ☐ YouTube

SPEAKING

- ☐ Use Skype to talk to English speakers (<http://www.skype.com>)

WRITING

- ☐ Write e-mails to website contacts
- ☐ Write a blog
- ☐ Leave comments on blogs
- ☐ Post messages in a chat room
- ☐ Use Facebook and MySpace

READING

- ☐ Read news and magazine articles online
- ☐ Do web research on topics that interest you
- ☐ Follow blogs that interest you

Other Self-Study Activities

LISTENING

- ☐ Listen to CNN and BBC on the radio
- ☐ Watch movies and TV in English
- ☐ Listen to music in English

ESSENTIAL WORDS FOR THE IELTS

SPEAKING

- ___ Describe what you see and do out loud
- ___ Practice speaking with a conversation buddy

WRITING

- ___ Write a daily journal
- ___ Write a letter to an English speaker
- ___ Make lists of the things you see every day
- ___ Write descriptions of your family and friends

READING

- ___ Read newspapers and magazines in English
- ___ Read books in English

Suggestions for Self-Study Activities

Whether you read an article in a newspaper or on a website, you can use that article in a variety of ways to improve your vocabulary while you practice reading, writing, speaking, and listening in English.

- Read about it.
- Paraphrase and write about it.
- Give a talk or presentation about it.
- Record or make a video of your presentation.
- Listen to or watch what you recorded. Write down your presentation.
- Correct your mistakes.
- Do it all again.

PLAN A TRIP

- Go to www.concierge.com.
- Choose a city, choose a hotel, go to that hotel's website and choose a room, and then choose some sites to visit (*reading*).
- Write a report about the city. Tell why you want to go there. Describe the hotel and the room you will reserve. Tell what sites you plan to visit and when. Where will you eat? How will you get around? Now write a letter to someone recommending this place (*writing*).

- Pretend you have to give a lecture on your planned trip (*speaking*). Make a video of yourself talking about this place. Then watch the video and write down what you said (*listening*). Correct any mistakes you made and record the presentation again. Then choose another city and do this again.

SHOP FOR AN ELECTRONIC PRODUCT

- Go to www.cnet.com.
- Choose an electronic product and read about it (*reading*).
- Write a report about the product. Tell why you want to buy one. Describe its features. Now write a letter to someone recommending this product (*writing*).
- Pretend you have to give a talk about this product (*speaking*). Make a video of yourself talking about this product. Then watch the video and write down what you said (*listening*). Correct any mistakes you made and record the presentation again. Then choose another product and do this again.

DISCUSS A BOOK OR A CD

- Go to www.amazon.com.
- Choose a book or CD or any product. Read the product description and reviews (*reading*).
- Write a report about the product. Tell why you want to buy one or why it is interesting to you. Describe its features. Now write a letter to someone and recommend this product (*writing*).
- Pretend you have to give a talk about this product (*speaking*). Make a video of yourself talking about this product. Then watch the video and write down what you said (*listening*). Correct any mistakes you made and record the presentation again. Then choose another product and do this again.

DISCUSS ANY SUBJECT

- Go to http://simple.wikipedia.org/wiki/Main_Page. This website is written in simple English.
- Pick any subject and read the entry (*reading*).
- Write a short essay about the topic (*writing*).
- Give a presentation about it (*speaking*). Record the presentation. Then watch the video and write down what you said (*listening*). Correct any mistakes you made and record the presentation again. Choose another topic and do this again.

FOLLOW THE NEWS

- Go to <http://news.google.com>. Google News has a variety of links.
- Pick one event and read the articles about it (*reading*).
- Listen to an English-language news report on the radio or watch a news program on TV about the same event (*listening*). Take notes as you listen.
- Write a summary of what you read and heard. Then write a short essay about the event (*writing*).
- Pretend you are a news reporter. Use the information from your notes to report the news (*speaking*). Record the presentation. Then watch the video and write down what you said (*listening*). Correct any mistakes you made and record the presentation again. Then choose another event and do this again.

EXPRESS AN OPINION

- Read a letter to the editor in the newspaper (*reading*). You can read sample letters to the editor at www.publishaletter.com.
- Write a letter in response in which you say whether or not you agree with the opinion expressed in the first letter. Explain why (*writing*).
- Pretend you have to give a talk explaining your opinion (*speaking*). Record yourself giving the talk. Then watch the video and write down what you said (*listening*). Correct any mistakes you made and record the presentation again. Then read another letter to the editor and do this again.

REVIEW A BOOK OR MOVIE

- Read a book (*reading*). Think about your opinion of the book. What did you like about it? What didn't you like about it? Who would you recommend it to and why?
- Pretend you are a book reviewer for a newspaper. Write a review of the book with your opinion and recommendations (*writing*). You can find examples of book reviews at www.powells.com/review.
- Give an oral presentation about the book. Explain what the book is about and what your opinion is (*speaking*). Record yourself giving the presentation. Then watch the video and write down what you said (*listening*). Correct any mistakes you made and record the presentation again. Then read another book and do this again.
- You can do this same activity after watching a movie (*listening*). You can find links to movie reviews to use as models at www.mrqe.com.

SUMMARIZE A TV SHOW

- Watch a TV show in English (*listening*). Take notes as you listen.
- After watching, write a summary of the show (*writing*).
- Use your notes to give an oral summary of the show. Explain the characters, setting, and plot (*speaking*). Record yourself speaking. Then watch the video and write down what you said (*listening*). Correct any mistakes you made and record the presentation again. Then watch another TV show and do this again.

HOW TO USE THIS BOOK

The book is divided into ten units, each one focusing on a different theme. There are three topics per unit, and each introduces twenty new vocabulary words in the context of the unit theme. You will practice these vocabulary words by doing exercises that look just like the questions on the IELTS. You can use this book in conjunction with *Barron's IELTS* and *Barron's IELTS Practice Exams* to reinforce the skills practiced in those books and improve your performance on the practice tests.

You can study the units in any order you like. Many of the words introduced in earlier units are repeated in later units. For this reason, you may find it helpful to study the units in order, but it isn't necessary.

NOTE

The book includes many footnotes to show you the British English equivalents of American English words. You will also hear a variety of accents on the audio so that you can become more comfortable with the variations in English. Both British English and American English spelling are acceptable on the exam.

Each unit follows the same format:

Words and Definitions

Each lesson begins with a list of twenty vocabulary words and a separate list of twenty definitions, followed by a reading passage. You will look for the vocabulary words as you read the passage and use the context to help you match each word with its correct definition.

Reading Comprehension

The reading passage is followed by IELTS-style reading comprehension questions that focus on the vocabulary words of the unit. There are a variety of question types throughout the book so you will have an opportunity to practice most of the types of reading comprehension questions that appear on the IELTS.

ESSENTIAL WORDS FOR THE IELTS

Word Families

Next you will find word family charts—noun, verb, adjective, and adverb forms of five or six words selected from the unit vocabulary list. You will practice these words in an exercise that asks you to select the correct form of a word to complete each sentence.

Dictionary Skill/Word Skill

This section uses one or two words from the vocabulary list to help you practice using a dictionary or analyzing a word to determine its meaning.

Listening

You will listen to a talk or conversation and answer IELTS-style listening comprehension questions that focus on words from the unit vocabulary list. The different types of talks and conversations and the different question types found in the four listening sections of the IELTS are distributed throughout the book, so you will get practice with listening comprehension from all four sections of the IELTS listening test.

Writing

You will write in response to an IELTS-style writing task that uses words from the unit vocabulary list. This is also an opportunity for you to use some of the vocabulary words in your response. IELTS Task 1– and Task 2–type writing tasks are evenly distributed throughout the book.

Speaking

You will practice speaking in response to two or three IELTS-style speaking questions that use words from the unit vocabulary list. This is also an opportunity for you to use some of the vocabulary words in your response.