



## VOCABULARY FOR SPEAKING

Having a wide range of vocabulary at your finger tips and being able to use it accurately and appropriately allow you to communicate freely, spontaneously, effectively and fluently.

When building your vocabulary it is not only important to organise it in a meaningful way according to topics but also to look at how the words are used. There is more to a word than just its meaning.

There are different component parts of a word. Using a wide range and having a command of word forms are what is referred to as your **lexical resource**, one of the criteria by which your speech is assessed.

It is important to know and learn the different ways words are used.

When setting up a vocabulary notebook for yourself you should include the following aspects of a word.

- word forms and stress
- word associations
- collocations
- register
- idioms and fixed expressions

### Word forms and stress

Words function differently when they are used as adjectives, nouns, verbs or adverbs.

Knowing the various forms gives you flexibility in the way you can express yourself.

Be careful though the stress may change when using a different word form.

Some examples are on the following page:

### IELTS Tip

Build your vocabulary around topic areas such as health, the environment, media, society, technology, education and others.

Demonstrate your range of topic vocabulary by using a variety of word forms, synonyms and opposites.

Don't forget to include collocations and less common words and expressions, such as idioms.

# STUDY ENGLISH

IELTS PREPARATION

adjective	noun		verb	adverb
	thing	person		
environ'mental	en'vironment	environ'mentalist		environ'mentally
in'dustrial in'dustrialised/ in'dustrialized in'dustrious	'industry industriali'sation	in'dustrialist	in'dustrialise/ in'dustrialize	in'dustrially
tra'ditional	tra'dition	tra'ditionalist		tra'ditionally
cre'ative	cre'ation crea'tivity	cre'ator	cre'ate	cre'atively
long 'lengthy	length		'lengthen	'lengthwise
de'cided de'cisive	de'cision		de'cide	de'cidedly de'cisively
'peaceful 'peaceable	peace	'peacemaker	'pacify	'peacefully

### Word associations

Knowing the way words are associated with each other helps to learn the meaning of words more easily and provides the opportunity when demonstrating your speaking ability to use a wider range of vocabulary. Using synonyms, opposites and other related words allows you to extend your talk or response with more detail and express yourself more eloquently.

There are various ways that words are related. Some of the more common relationships include:

- synonyms
- opposites
- hyponyms

### Synonyms

These are words that have the same meaning, or are similar in meaning. Be careful that some words, even though they may be similar or slightly different in meaning, may be more appropriate in one particular context than in another. Grammar can also make a difference in the choice you make.

It is important to take these aspects into account when building your vocabulary notebook and include a reference to the meaning to which the group of synonyms belongs.

On the following page are some groups of synonyms for the word **advance** used as noun and verb, including a reference to the intended meaning.

# STUDY ENGLISH

IELTS PREPARATION

advance	
noun	synonyms
bringing progress	development, improvement, growth, headway
verb	
move forward	proceed, move on, progress, make headway
benefit	promote, benefit, assist
time	bring forward

### Opposites

These are words that are opposite in meaning. Similarly, as with synonyms it is important to be aware that appropriate use depends on context and grammar. Here are some groups of opposites for **advance**.

advance	
noun	
making progress	decline, deterioration
verb	
move forward	withdraw, retreat
benefit	hold back, delay
time	move back

### Hyponymy

This describes the relationship between types of something, for example colours or weather.

Colours	
black	jet black, charcoal
brown	chocolate, mahogany, khaki, tan, taupe
blue	indigo, navy blue, sky blue, royal blue
green	aquamarine, emerald, jade, turquoise, teal
red	ruby, scarlet, cherry, crimson, burgundy
yellow	canary yellow, gold, cream, lemon yellow
white	off-white, snow-white

Weather	
rain	drizzle, downpour, deluge, shower, hail, torrential
storm	thunder, lightning, electrical storm, tropical storm
sun and warm	sunny, Indian summer, balmy, scorcher
snow and ice	blizzard, frost, slush, snowstorm, snowdrift, hoar frost, snowfall
wind	breeze, gale, cyclone, trade winds, typhoon

### Collocations

Collocation refers to the way words combine together. Using word combinations appropriately and accurately is important because it will make your speech sound more natural and native-like. For example, in English you can say **Happy Birthday** and **Merry Christmas** but it is incorrect to **Merry Birthday**.

Here are some of the kinds of combination and examples using the noun **peace** and verb **explain**.

Type	Example
<b>peace</b> – noun	
adjective + noun	lasting peace, world peace, inner peace
noun + noun	peace movement, peace agreement, peace talks
noun + verb	peace prevails
preposition + noun	at peace (with); in peace
verb + noun	bring about peace, make peace (with)
fixed expressions	peace and quiet, peace and tranquillity, piece of mind, rest in peace
<b>explain</b> – verb	
verb + adverb	explain clearly, explain satisfactorily
verb + verb	be able to explain, try to explain
verb + preposition	explain about, explain to
phrase	explain away, explain everything

## Register

Register refers to the use of formal and informal language. In the interview you will be required to speak on a variety of different topics that range from the general and personal to the more abstract, and to use both formal and informal language appropriately. While slang is considered a form of very informal language it is inappropriate to use it in the speaking test.

There are scales of formality. Here are some examples of formal and informal word choices:

less formal	← neutral →	more formal
mum/mom and dad, the old folks	mother and father	parents
kids	children	offspring
bike		bicycle
advert, ad		advertisement
uni		university
place	home, house	dwelling
paper, daily rag		newspaper
mate		friend
to be sorry		to regret
to buy		to purchase
to be mad, cranky	to be angry	to be annoyed
to find out*		to learn
to get rid of*		to dispose of
to get into* (uni)		to be accepted into
to put up with* (something)		to tolerate something
to fight	to argue	to contest
to quit		to resign
to recap		to recapitulate
to swap		to exchange

\* Phrasal verbs are less formal



### Idioms and fixed expressions

An idiom is a phrase or fixed expression whose meaning is not clear or obvious from the meanings of the words that form the expression. For example, the expression **to start the ball rolling** is an idiom which means “to get some activity started”. It’s not immediately obvious what is meant by the expression but the context will usually shed some light on the meaning.

Here are some common idiomatic expressions:

Idiom	Meaning
<b>from A to Z</b> Example: He knew the history of his country <b>from A to Z</b> .	knowing everything there is to know about something
<b>all eyes</b> Example: <b>All eyes</b> were on John to be sure he did the right thing.	everybody is looking at someone in particular
<b>up in arms</b> Example: Ticket holders were <b>up in arms</b> when the last concert was cancelled.	to protest angrily
<b>in black and white</b> Example: I'd like to see that agreement <b>in black and white</b> .	to have something in writing
<b>break the ice</b> Example: Wait till Jill arrives. She'll <b>break the ice</b> with her jokes.	to remove the shyness in people
<b>blow your own trumpet</b> Example: Didn't I warn you John would be <b>blowing his own horn</b> at the party.	to talk about or praise yourself
<b>go Dutch</b> Example: I'll go out with you only on the condition that we <b>go Dutch</b> .	to pay for oneself, usually at a restaurant
<b>a golden opportunity</b> Example: Getting that posting overseas is <b>a golden opportunity</b> to see Europe.	an excellent opportunity
<b>in a nutshell</b> Example: Well, <b>in a nutshell</b> , that's what I'll be doing next year.	to sum something up
<b>play it by ear</b> Example: I don't know what kind of mood she'll be in, so let's wait and <b>play it by ear</b> .	to deal with a situation as it develops