

**Band 6–9**

**IELTS**

**Academic Vocabulary Mastery**



# IELTS Academic Vocabulary Mastery

## 200 High-Scoring Words from Band 6 to Band 9

Welcome to a focused vocabulary guide built for IELTS candidates who want real improvement—not random word lists.

This book contains 200 carefully selected academic words, organised by IELTS band level (Band 6 to Band 9). The goal is simple: help you write and speak with clearer academic control, stronger precision, and more natural formal tone.

Every entry includes: the word + part of speech, an IELTS-friendly definition, a model sentence suitable for Writing Task 2, and a short usage note explaining how the word can raise your score.

How to use this book: study one band at a time, write one original sentence for each word, and recycle the vocabulary across common IELTS themes (education, environment, technology, health, society, and government). Consistent accurate use matters more than memorising complex words you cannot control.

By the end, you will have a structured set of high-value vocabulary you can confidently apply in IELTS Writing and Speaking.

# Band 6

## Band 6 Academic Vocabulary (50 Words)

Each entry includes a definition, a Writing Task 2 model sentence, and a usage note.

### 1. allocate (verb)

**Definition:** distribute resources for a specific purpose.

**Example:** Governments should allocate more funding to public healthcare.

**Usage note:** Use in policy and budget arguments.

### 2. deteriorate (verb)

**Definition:** become worse over time.

**Example:** Air quality tends to deteriorate when traffic increases.

**Usage note:** Strong for cause–effect writing.

### 3. implement (verb)

**Definition:** put a plan or rule into action.

**Example:** Schools should implement clear rules to reduce bullying.

**Usage note:** Common in solutions paragraphs.

### 4. justify (verb)

**Definition:** give a convincing reason for something.

**Example:** It is hard to justify cutting education budgets.

**Usage note:** Useful when evaluating decisions.

### 5. significant (adj)

**Definition:** important or noticeable.

**Example:** There has been a significant rise in remote work.

**Usage note:** Great for describing trends.

### 6. sustainable (adj)

**Definition:** able to continue without causing harm.

**Example:** Sustainable transport can reduce urban pollution.

**Usage note:** High-value environment word.

### 7. inevitable (adj)

**Definition:** certain to happen.

**Example:** Automation is inevitable in many industries.

**Usage note:** Adds strength to predictions.

**8. enhance** (verb)

**Definition:** improve the quality or value of something.

**Example:** Exercise can enhance both physical and mental health.

**Usage note:** Formal alternative to “improve.”

**9. restrict** (verb)

**Definition:** limit or control.

**Example:** Some countries restrict advertising aimed at children.

**Usage note:** Good for law and regulation topics.

**10. regulate** (verb)

**Definition:** control using rules.

**Example:** Authorities should regulate food labeling more strictly.

**Usage note:** Fits government responsibility essays.

**11. impact** (noun)

**Definition:** a strong effect on something.

**Example:** Social media has a major impact on communication styles.

**Usage note:** Flexible for many topics.

**12. decline** (noun/verb)

**Definition:** a gradual decrease.

**Example:** There has been a decline in smoking rates in some regions.

**Usage note:** Helpful in data commentary.

**13. contribute** (verb)

**Definition:** help to cause or achieve something.

**Example:** Poor diets can contribute to obesity.

**Usage note:** Reliable for cause–effect.

**14. concern** (noun)

**Definition:** something that worries people.

**Example:** Privacy is a growing concern for internet users.

**Usage note:** Useful in introductions.

**15. demand** (noun)

**Definition:** the need or desire for something.

**Example:** There is strong demand for skilled workers in technology.

**Usage note:** Good for economy topics.

**16. factor** (noun)

**Definition:** an element that influences an outcome.

**Example:** Cost is a key factor in choosing a university.

**Usage note:** Adds analytical tone.

**17. evidence** (noun)

**Definition:** information that shows something is true.

**Example:** There is evidence that sleep affects memory.

**Usage note:** Improves academic credibility.

**18. responsibility** (noun)

**Definition:** a duty to deal with something.

**Example:** Parents have a responsibility to guide young children.

**Usage note:** Common in opinion essays.

**19. priority** (noun)

**Definition:** the most important thing to focus on.

**Example:** Public safety should be a priority for city planners.

**Usage note:** Useful for recommendations.

**20. solution** (noun)

**Definition:** a way to solve a problem.

**Example:** Public transport is a practical solution to congestion.

**Usage note:** Good in concluding lines.

**21. approach** (noun)

**Definition:** a method of doing something.

**Example:** A balanced approach can improve work-life quality.

**Usage note:** Formal alternative to “way.”

**22. maintain** (verb)

**Definition:** keep something at the same level.

**Example:** Cities must maintain public parks to improve wellbeing.

**Usage note:** Useful in responsibility themes.

**23. reduce** (verb)

**Definition:** make smaller in amount or degree.

**Example:** Recycling can reduce household waste.

**Usage note:** High-frequency IELTS verb.

**24. increase** (verb)

**Definition:** become larger in amount or degree.

**Example:** Prices may increase when supply is limited.

**Usage note:** Good for trend sentences.

**25. access** (noun)

**Definition:** the ability to use or obtain something.

**Example:** Many students lack access to reliable internet.

**Usage note:** Great for inequality topics.

**26. resource** (noun)

**Definition:** something useful that can be used.

**Example:** Water is a limited resource in arid regions.

**Usage note:** Environment and development.

**27. consume** (verb)

**Definition:** use something, especially energy or food.

**Example:** Modern devices consume large amounts of electricity.

**Usage note:** Helpful in energy arguments.

**28. pressure** (noun)

**Definition:** stress or demand placed on someone/something.

**Example:** Academic pressure can harm teenagers' mental health.

**Usage note:** Strong in education topics.

**29. affect** (verb)

**Definition:** influence or change something.

**Example:** Noise can affect concentration in classrooms.

**Usage note:** Core academic verb.

**30. support** (verb)

**Definition:** help or encourage something.

**Example:** Policies should support small businesses.

**Usage note:** Good for recommendations.

**31. require** (verb)

**Definition:** need something as necessary.

**Example:** Many jobs require strong communication skills.

**Usage note:** Useful in generalizations.

**32. challenge** (noun)

**Definition:** a difficult problem.

**Example:** Climate change remains a global challenge.

**Usage note:** Good for topic sentences.

**33. measure** (noun/verb)

**Definition:** an action taken to achieve a result.

**Example:** Strict measures can reduce road accidents.

**Usage note:** Fits solutions and policy.

**34. invest** (verb)

**Definition:** spend money/time to gain benefit.

**Example:** Countries should invest in renewable energy.

**Usage note:** Common in economy/environment.

**35. influence** (noun/verb)

**Definition:** the power to affect decisions.

**Example:** Peers often influence teenagers' behavior.

**Usage note:** Useful in social topics.

**36. standard** (noun)

**Definition:** a level of quality.

**Example:** High safety standards protect workers.

**Usage note:** Good for regulation themes.

**37. consequence** (noun)

**Definition:** a result, often negative.

**Example:** One consequence of pollution is higher disease rates.

**Usage note:** Strong for cause–effect.

**38. participate** (verb)

**Definition:** take part.

**Example:** Students should participate in group discussions.

**Usage note:** Useful in education.

**39. role** (noun)

**Definition:** a function or responsibility.

**Example:** Schools play a role in teaching digital literacy.

**Usage note:** Great for balanced arguments.

**40. limit** (noun/verb)

**Definition:** a maximum amount; to restrict.

**Example:** Setting limits on screen time can benefit children.

**Usage note:** Practical advice wording.

**41. average** (adj)

**Definition:** typical or normal.

**Example:** The average commute has become longer in big cities.

**Usage note:** Good for describing general trends.

**42. process** (noun)

**Definition:** a series of actions to achieve a result.

**Example:** Learning is a gradual process that takes time.

**Usage note:** Academic tone.

**43. trend** (noun)

**Definition:** a general direction of change.

**Example:** A clear trend toward online shopping is emerging.

**Usage note:** IELTS Task 1/2 crossover.

**44. policy** (noun)

**Definition:** an official plan or rule.

**Example:** A housing policy should protect low-income families.

**Usage note:** Government essays.

**45. income** (noun)

**Definition:** money earned.

**Example:** Higher income often leads to better healthcare access.

**Usage note:** Inequality discussions.

**46. outcome** (noun)

**Definition:** the result of an action.

**Example:** The long-term outcome may be improved productivity.

**Usage note:** Academic summarizing word.

**47. reliable** (adj)

**Definition:** can be trusted to work well.

**Example:** Reliable public transport encourages fewer car journeys.

**Usage note:** Useful for services topics.

**48. effective** (adj)

**Definition:** producing the desired result.

**Example:** An effective solution requires long-term planning.

**Usage note:** Common evaluation word.

**49. notable** (adj)

**Definition:** worthy of attention; significant.

**Example:** A notable improvement can be seen in literacy rates after reforms.

**Usage note:** Useful for describing results or data.

**50. efficient** (adj)

**Definition:** working well without wasting time or resources.

**Example:** An efficient public transport system can reduce traffic congestion.

**Usage note:** Useful for evaluating services and solutions.

# Band 7

## Band 7 Academic Vocabulary (50 Words)

Each entry includes a definition, a Writing Task 2 model sentence, and a usage note.

### 1. mitigate (verb)

**Definition:** make something less severe.

**Example:** Planting trees can mitigate the effects of air pollution.

**Usage note:** Strong for problem–solution writing.

### 2. facilitate (verb)

**Definition:** make an action easier.

**Example:** Online platforms facilitate access to education.

**Usage note:** Formal replacement for “help.”

### 3. undermine (verb)

**Definition:** weaken or damage.

**Example:** Unstable leadership can undermine public trust.

**Usage note:** High-impact argumentative verb.

### 4. exacerbate (verb)

**Definition:** make a problem worse.

**Example:** Social inequality can exacerbate crime rates.

**Usage note:** Excellent for cause–effect.

### 5. substantial (adj)

**Definition:** large in amount or degree.

**Example:** Substantial investment is needed to modernize transport.

**Usage note:** Better than “big/large.”

### 6. constrain (verb)

**Definition:** limit or restrict.

**Example:** Limited funding can constrain scientific research.

**Usage note:** Useful in limitations paragraphs.

### 7. evaluate (verb)

**Definition:** judge the quality or value.

**Example:** Students should evaluate sources before sharing news.

**Usage note:** Academic critical-thinking term.

**8. integrate** (verb)

**Definition:** combine into a whole.

**Example:** Schools should integrate technology into lessons carefully.

**Usage note:** Good for education/tech topics.

**9. incentive** (noun)

**Definition:** something that motivates.

**Example:** Tax incentives may encourage companies to hire locally.

**Usage note:** Economy/policy vocabulary.

**10. framework** (noun)

**Definition:** a structured system or plan.

**Example:** A clear legal framework protects consumers online.

**Usage note:** Formal for governance essays.

**11. intervene** (verb)

**Definition:** become involved to change a situation.

**Example:** Authorities may need to intervene to prevent exploitation.

**Usage note:** Useful in government role arguments.

**12. transition** (noun/verb)

**Definition:** a change from one state to another.

**Example:** The transition to renewable energy will take time.

**Usage note:** Great for future-focused writing.

**13. viable** (adj)

**Definition:** possible and practical.

**Example:** Public transport is a viable alternative to private cars.

**Usage note:** Useful in evaluating solutions.

**14. widespread** (adj)

**Definition:** common over a large area.

**Example:** Widespread smartphone use has reshaped daily habits.

**Usage note:** Strong for generalizations.

**15. mechanism** (noun)

**Definition:** a method or process that makes something work.

**Example:** Price controls are one mechanism to reduce inflation.

**Usage note:** Adds academic precision.

**16. context** (noun)

**Definition:** the situation in which something happens.

**Example:** In a modern context, online skills are essential.

**Usage note:** Good for nuanced writing.

**17. consensus** (noun)

**Definition:** general agreement.

**Example:** There is growing consensus that climate action is urgent.

**Usage note:** Useful for establishing authority.

**18. inequality** (noun)

**Definition:** unfair differences in society.

**Example:** Economic inequality can limit social mobility.

**Usage note:** Key social issue term.

**19. legislation** (noun)

**Definition:** laws made by a government.

**Example:** New legislation could restrict single-use plastics.

**Usage note:** Formal for legal topics.

**20. outcome** (noun)

**Definition:** the result of a process.

**Example:** A likely outcome is improved public health.

**Usage note:** Useful for conclusions.

**21. perspective** (noun)

**Definition:** a way of thinking about something.

**Example:** From a long-term perspective, prevention is cheaper than treatment.

**Usage note:** Shows sophistication.

**22. reinforce** (verb)

**Definition:** strengthen an idea or system.

**Example:** Regular feedback can reinforce good study habits.

**Usage note:** Academic teaching term.

**23. stabilize** (verb)

**Definition:** make something steady.

**Example:** Reforms may stabilize the housing market.

**Usage note:** Economy and policy.

**24. adapt** (verb)

**Definition:** change to suit new conditions.

**Example:** Workers must adapt to rapid technological change.

**Usage note:** Useful for modernization themes.

**25. modify** (verb)

**Definition:** change slightly to improve.

**Example:** Cities can modify road design to protect cyclists.

**Usage note:** Practical solution wording.

**26. predict** (verb)

**Definition:** say what will likely happen.

**Example:** It is difficult to predict employment patterns accurately.

**Usage note:** Useful in cautious claims.

**27. relevant** (adj)

**Definition:** connected to the topic.

**Example:** Only relevant evidence should be included in essays.

**Usage note:** Academic writing tip.

**28. sector** (noun)

**Definition:** a part of the economy.

**Example:** The private sector can support innovation through investment.

**Usage note:** Economy vocabulary.

**29. strategy** (noun)

**Definition:** a planned method to achieve a goal.

**Example:** A long-term strategy is needed to reduce emissions.

**Usage note:** Strong for planning.

**30. tension** (noun)

**Definition:** a difficult relationship or conflict.

**Example:** There is tension between economic growth and environmental protection.

**Usage note:** Great for balanced arguments.

**31. bias** (noun)

**Definition:** unfair preference.

**Example:** Media bias can influence public opinion.

**Usage note:** Good for critical analysis.

**32. welfare** (noun)

**Definition:** people's health and happiness.

**Example:** Public welfare improves when healthcare is affordable.

**Usage note:** Social policy term.

**33. generate** (verb)

**Definition:** produce or create.

**Example:** Tourism can generate income for local communities.

**Usage note:** Economy-friendly.

**34. emerge** (verb)

**Definition:** appear or become known.

**Example:** New problems may emerge as cities expand.

**Usage note:** Good for developments.

**35. contemporary** (adj)

**Definition:** modern, current.

**Example:** Contemporary lifestyles involve less physical activity.

**Usage note:** Formal adjective.

**36. allocate** (verb)

**Definition:** distribute resources.

**Example:** Schools should allocate more time to critical thinking.

**Usage note:** Band 7 control of policy language.

**37. prioritize** (verb)

**Definition:** treat as more important.

**Example:** Governments must prioritize mental health services.

**Usage note:** Shows clear focus.

**38. coherent** (adj)

**Definition:** logical and well-organized.

**Example:** A coherent argument requires clear topic sentences.

**Usage note:** Academic writing.

**39. attain** (verb)

**Definition:** achieve after effort.

**Example:** Many students hope to attain higher IELTS scores.

**Usage note:** Formal alternative to “get.”

**40. disparity** (noun)

**Definition:** a noticeable difference.

**Example:** There is a disparity between urban and rural services.

**Usage note:** Inequality nuance.

**41. feasible** (adj)

**Definition:** possible and realistic.

**Example:** It is feasible to reduce waste through better packaging.

**Usage note:** Better than “possible.”

**42. compelling** (adj)

**Definition:** convincing and persuasive.

**Example:** A compelling example strengthens the main claim.

**Usage note:** Argument quality word.

**43. robust** (adj)

**Definition:** strong and effective.

**Example:** A robust transport system reduces traffic pressure.

**Usage note:** Advanced evaluation.

**44. consequence** (noun)

**Definition:** result.

**Example:** One consequence of overwork is burnout among employees.

**Usage note:** Cause–effect.

**45. notion** (noun)

**Definition:** an idea or belief.

**Example:** The notion that success equals wealth is questionable.

**Usage note:** Argument nuance.

**46. advocate** (verb)

**Definition:** publicly support.

**Example:** Many experts advocate stricter pollution controls.

**Usage note:** Good for authority references.

**47. plausible** (adj)

**Definition:** reasonable and believable.

**Example:** This is a plausible explanation for the decline in attendance.

**Usage note:** Cautious academic tone.

**48. sufficient** (adj)

**Definition:** enough.

**Example:** Without sufficient funding, reforms will fail.

**Usage note:** Formal precision.

**49. consequently** (adv)

**Definition:** as a result.

**Example:** Consequently, long commutes can reduce productivity and wellbeing.

**Usage note:** Useful for linking cause and result.

**50. predominant** (adj)

**Definition:** most common or main.

**Example:** The predominant reason for stress is financial pressure.

**Usage note:** Stronger than “main.”

# Band 8

## Band 8 Academic Vocabulary (50 Words)

Each entry includes a definition, a Writing Task 2 model sentence, and a usage note.

### 1. articulate (verb)

**Definition:** express ideas clearly.

**Example:** Candidates must articulate their position with precise vocabulary.

**Usage note:** High-level writing/speaking skill.

### 2. consolidate (verb)

**Definition:** combine and strengthen.

**Example:** Companies consolidate services to reduce long-term costs.

**Usage note:** Useful in business and economy topics.

### 3. formulate (verb)

**Definition:** develop systematically.

**Example:** Governments should formulate policies based on evidence.

**Usage note:** Academic planning verb.

### 4. inhibit (verb)

**Definition:** prevent or slow down.

**Example:** Excessive screen time may inhibit children's social development.

**Usage note:** Strong for negative impacts.

### 5. mediate (verb)

**Definition:** help resolve a disagreement.

**Example:** Schools can mediate conflicts before they escalate.

**Usage note:** Useful in social/education arguments.

### 6. optimize (verb)

**Definition:** make as effective as possible.

**Example:** Cities must optimize public transport routes to cut delays.

**Usage note:** High-precision improvement verb.

### 7. perpetuate (verb)

**Definition:** cause something to continue.

**Example:** Unfair stereotypes can perpetuate discrimination.

**Usage note:** Powerful for social issues.

**8. scrutinize** (verb)

**Definition:** examine closely.

**Example:** Consumers increasingly scrutinize product labels.

**Usage note:** Great for critical analysis.

**9. substantiate** (verb)

**Definition:** support with evidence.

**Example:** Students must substantiate claims with credible examples.

**Usage note:** Excellent for essay quality.

**10. utilize** (verb)

**Definition:** use effectively.

**Example:** Countries should utilize solar energy in sunny regions.

**Usage note:** Formal alternative to “use.”

**11. viability** (noun)

**Definition:** the ability to work successfully.

**Example:** The viability of remote work depends on reliable internet.

**Usage note:** Useful in evaluating solutions.

**12. paradigm** (noun)

**Definition:** a model or typical example.

**Example:** Online learning represents a new paradigm in education.

**Usage note:** Advanced academic noun.

**13. empirical** (adj)

**Definition:** based on observation or data.

**Example:** Empirical evidence suggests that exercise improves mood.

**Usage note:** Research-oriented vocabulary.

**14. infrastructure** (noun)

**Definition:** basic systems and services.

**Example:** Poor infrastructure can limit economic growth.

**Usage note:** High-frequency academic word.

**15. intervention** (noun)

**Definition:** action taken to improve a situation.

**Example:** Early intervention can prevent long-term learning problems.

**Usage note:** Strong in health/education.

**16. nuance** (noun)

**Definition:** a subtle difference in meaning.

**Example:** Good writers include nuance rather than extreme claims.

**Usage note:** Shows sophistication.

**17. precedent** (noun)

**Definition:** an earlier example that guides decisions.

**Example:** This case sets a precedent for future regulations.

**Usage note:** Useful in legal topics.

**18. rationale** (noun)

**Definition:** a logical reason.

**Example:** The rationale behind the policy is to protect public health.

**Usage note:** Academic explanation term.

**19. systemic** (adj)

**Definition:** affecting an entire system.

**Example:** Systemic inequality cannot be solved by short-term fixes.

**Usage note:** High-level social analysis.

**20. threshold** (noun)

**Definition:** a level at which something changes.

**Example:** Once pollution crosses a threshold, health risks rise sharply.

**Usage note:** Good for scientific tone.

**21. trajectory** (noun)

**Definition:** the path of development over time.

**Example:** The economic trajectory depends on stable governance.

**Usage note:** Strong for trend discussion.

**22. validate** (verb)

**Definition:** confirm that something is correct.

**Example:** Further studies are needed to validate these findings.

**Usage note:** Research and caution.

**23. warrant** (verb)

**Definition:** justify or require.

**Example:** The seriousness of the issue warrants immediate action.

**Usage note:** Strong formal phrasing.

**24. autonomy** (noun)

**Definition:** independence or self-control.

**Example:** Teenagers need autonomy to develop responsibility.

**Usage note:** Useful in education/parenting.

**25. benchmark** (noun)

**Definition:** a standard for comparison.

**Example:** IELTS band descriptors are a benchmark for performance.

**Usage note:** Evaluation word.

**26. comprehensive** (adj)

**Definition:** complete and detailed.

**Example:** A comprehensive plan is required to reduce homelessness.

**Usage note:** Better than “full.”

**27. constraint** (noun)

**Definition:** a limitation.

**Example:** Budget constraints can delay major reforms.

**Usage note:** Good for limitations.

**28. cumulative** (adj)

**Definition:** increasing by adding over time.

**Example:** The cumulative effects of stress can damage health.

**Usage note:** Advanced cause–effect.

**29. feasible** (adj)

**Definition:** possible and practical.

**Example:** Renewable energy is feasible with modern technology.

**Usage note:** Solution evaluation.

**30. inherent** (adj)

**Definition:** existing as a natural part.

**Example:** Risk is inherent in any investment.

**Usage note:** Useful in balanced arguments.

**31. leverage** (verb)

**Definition:** use something to gain advantage.

**Example:** Businesses can leverage data to improve services.

**Usage note:** Advanced business verb.

**32. marginal** (adj)

**Definition:** small in effect or importance.

**Example:** Marginal improvements can still save millions over time.

**Usage note:** Nuanced evaluation.

**33. resilient** (adj)

**Definition:** able to recover quickly.

**Example:** Resilient communities adapt better after disasters.

**Usage note:** Excellent for society/environment.

**34. robust** (adj)

**Definition:** strong and reliable.

**Example:** A robust healthcare system reduces inequality.

**Usage note:** Advanced evaluation adjective.

**35. subtle** (adj)

**Definition:** not obvious; delicate.

**Example:** There is a subtle difference between access and quality.

**Usage note:** Nuance control.

**36. transformative** (adj)

**Definition:** causing major change.

**Example:** Artificial intelligence may be transformative for education.

**Usage note:** Strong for future trends.

**37. underlying** (adj)

**Definition:** basic but hidden.

**Example:** Unemployment often has underlying social causes.

**Usage note:** Good for deeper analysis.

**38. variance** (noun)

**Definition:** difference or change.

**Example:** There is considerable variance in school quality across regions.

**Usage note:** Data commentary.

**39. coherent** (adj)

**Definition:** logical and consistent.

**Example:** A coherent structure makes arguments easier to follow.

**Usage note:** Essay quality.

**40. diminish** (verb)

**Definition:** reduce in size or importance.

**Example:** Raising awareness can diminish prejudice over time.

**Usage note:** Formal reduction verb.

**41. exacerbate** (verb)

**Definition:** make worse.

**Example:** Rising prices exacerbate financial stress for families.

**Usage note:** Strong causal language.

**42. allocate** (verb)

**Definition:** distribute resources.

**Example:** More funding should be allocated to preventive medicine.

**Usage note:** Policy language.

**43. integrated** (adj)

**Definition:** combined effectively.

**Example:** An integrated approach links education and employment.

**Usage note:** Advanced cohesion word.

**44. rigorous** (adj)

**Definition:** careful and thorough.

**Example:** Rigorous research is needed before changing laws.

**Usage note:** Academic research tone.

**45. salient** (adj)

**Definition:** most noticeable or important.

**Example:** The most salient point is the cost to taxpayers.

**Usage note:** High-level emphasis word.

**46. consequential** (adj)

**Definition:** important; having results.

**Example:** This decision is consequential for future generations.

**Usage note:** Adds weight to arguments.

**47. ubiquitous** (adj)

**Definition:** found everywhere.

**Example:** Smartphones are ubiquitous in modern society.

**Usage note:** Band 8–9 crossover word.

**48. hamper** (verb)

**Definition:** make it difficult to do something.

**Example:** Poor planning can hamper efforts to reduce traffic.

**Usage note:** Strong for obstacles/limitations.

**49. pragmatic** (adj)

**Definition:** practical and realistic.

**Example:** A pragmatic solution balances cost with long-term benefits.

**Usage note:** Excellent for evaluation language.

**50. subsequent** (adj)

**Definition:** happening after something else.

**Example:** Subsequent studies confirmed the benefits of early education.

**Usage note:** Useful for research-style writing.

# Band 9

## Band 9 Academic Vocabulary (50 Words)

Each entry includes a definition, a Writing Task 2 model sentence, and a usage note.

### 1. corroborate (verb)

**Definition:** confirm with evidence.

**Example:** Independent studies corroborate the link between pollution and disease.

**Usage note:** Shows research-level precision.

### 2. delineate (verb)

**Definition:** describe or outline precisely.

**Example:** The report delineates the responsibilities of each agency.

**Usage note:** Excellent for academic summaries.

### 3. elucidate (verb)

**Definition:** make something clear by explaining.

**Example:** Graphs can elucidate long-term economic trends.

**Usage note:** High-level explanation verb.

### 4. interrogate (verb)

**Definition:** examine critically.

**Example:** We should interrogate the assumption that technology always improves life.

**Usage note:** Strong critical-thinking tone.

### 5. juxtapose (verb)

**Definition:** place ideas side by side for contrast.

**Example:** The essay juxtaposes economic benefits with ethical costs.

**Usage note:** Advanced comparison device.

### 6. legitimize (verb)

**Definition:** make something seem acceptable or valid.

**Example:** Strict oversight is needed so data use does not legitimize surveillance.

**Usage note:** Powerful in ethics/privacy topics.

### 7. problematize (verb)

**Definition:** treat as complex; question critically.

**Example:** This view problematizes the idea of a single definition of success.

**Usage note:** Band 9 critical stance.

**8. reconcile** (verb)

**Definition:** bring into agreement.

**Example:** Policymakers must reconcile growth with environmental limits.

**Usage note:** Elegant balance word.

**9. recontextualize** (verb)

**Definition:** place in a new context to change meaning.

**Example:** Historical events are often recontextualized in modern debates.

**Usage note:** High-level discourse word.

**10. transcend** (verb)

**Definition:** go beyond limits.

**Example:** Education can transcend social boundaries and create mobility.

**Usage note:** Adds depth to conclusions.

**11. underscore** (verb)

**Definition:** emphasize strongly.

**Example:** These findings underscore the urgency of reform.

**Usage note:** Strong academic emphasis.

**12. heuristic** (adj/noun)

**Definition:** serving as a practical method for learning.

**Example:** Rules of thumb are useful heuristics for beginners.

**Usage note:** Advanced academic term.

**13. ontological** (adj)

**Definition:** related to the nature of existence.

**Example:** The debate has ontological implications for human identity.

**Usage note:** For very advanced philosophical topics.

**14. axiomatic** (adj)

**Definition:** self-evident; taken as true.

**Example:** It is axiomatic that safety should come before profit.

**Usage note:** Elegant certainty.

**15. dialectical** (adj)

**Definition:** involving opposing ideas in discussion.

**Example:** A dialectical approach considers both risks and benefits.

**Usage note:** High-level analysis.

**16. exogenous** (adj)

**Definition:** coming from outside a system.

**Example:** Exogenous shocks can destabilize small economies.

**Usage note:** Economics sophistication.

**17. endogenous** (adj)

**Definition:** originating within a system.

**Example:** Corruption is often endogenous to weak institutions.

**Usage note:** Advanced systems thinking.

**18. heterogeneous** (adj)

**Definition:** diverse in kind.

**Example:** Urban populations are heterogeneous in needs and values.

**Usage note:** Precise diversity word.

**19. idiosyncratic** (adj)

**Definition:** unique to an individual.

**Example:** Some learning styles are idiosyncratic and hard to measure.

**Usage note:** Nuanced description.

**20. instrumental** (adj)

**Definition:** important as a means to an end.

**Example:** Trust is instrumental in building effective communities.

**Usage note:** Strong for explaining roles.

**21. normative** (adj)

**Definition:** based on values about what should be.

**Example:** Normative claims must be distinguished from factual statements.

**Usage note:** Critical writing.

**22. prescriptive** (adj)

**Definition:** telling people what should be done.

**Example:** Prescriptive policies can ignore local realities.

**Usage note:** Great for evaluation.

**23. provisional** (adj)

**Definition:** temporary; subject to change.

**Example:** These conclusions are provisional until more data appears.

**Usage note:** Cautious academic tone.

**24. reciprocal** (adj)

**Definition:** mutual; two-way.

**Example:** A reciprocal relationship exists between health and income.

**Usage note:** Elegant cause–effect.

**25. tenuous** (adj)

**Definition:** weak or not well supported.

**Example:** The evidence is tenuous, so stronger studies are needed.

**Usage note:** High-level caution.

**26. utilitarian** (adj)

**Definition:** focused on practical benefit.

**Example:** A utilitarian view may ignore cultural values.

**Usage note:** Ethics vocabulary.

**27. pluralistic** (adj)

**Definition:** including many different groups or ideas.

**Example:** Pluralistic societies require tolerance and compromise.

**Usage note:** High-level society term.

**28. postulate** (verb)

**Definition:** suggest as a basis for reasoning.

**Example:** Some researchers postulate that sleep consolidates learning.

**Usage note:** Research writing.

**29. teleological** (adj)

**Definition:** explaining by purpose or goal.

**Example:** A teleological view assumes progress has a clear end point.

**Usage note:** Advanced argumentation.

**30. abstraction** (noun)

**Definition:** an idea not based on concrete examples.

**Example:** Justice can be an abstraction unless laws are enforced fairly.

**Usage note:** Academic conceptual word.

**31. contingent** (adj)

**Definition:** dependent on conditions.

**Example:** Success is contingent on consistent practice.

**Usage note:** Precise conditional language.

**32. coercive** (adj)

**Definition:** using force or threats.

**Example:** Coercive measures may harm trust in institutions.

**Usage note:** Powerful in governance.

**33. salient** (adj)

**Definition:** most important or noticeable.

**Example:** The salient issue is whether the policy is fair.

**Usage note:** Advanced emphasis.

**34. systemic** (adj)

**Definition:** affecting the whole system.

**Example:** Systemic failures require structural reforms.

**Usage note:** High-level diagnosis.

**35. synthesis** (noun)

**Definition:** combining ideas into a whole.

**Example:** A strong conclusion offers synthesis rather than repetition.

**Usage note:** Band 9 writing skill.

**36. vis-à-vis** (prep/phrase)

**Definition:** in relation to; compared with.

**Example:** Vis-à-vis costs, the benefits remain unclear.

**Usage note:** Formal comparison marker.

**37. paradigmatic** (adj)

**Definition:** serving as a typical example.

**Example:** This policy is paradigmatic of short-term thinking.

**Usage note:** Academic evaluation.

**38. epistemic** (adj)

**Definition:** related to knowledge and understanding.

**Example:** Epistemic uncertainty makes prediction difficult.

**Usage note:** Research sophistication.

**39. rhetorical** (adj)

**Definition:** used for persuasive effect.

**Example:** Rhetorical questions can be effective when used sparingly.

**Usage note:** Writing technique.

**40. contingency** (noun)

**Definition:** a future event that may happen.

**Example:** Emergency funds are a contingency against job loss.

**Usage note:** Advanced planning term.

**41. instantiate** (verb)

**Definition:** provide a specific example of an idea.

**Example:** The case study instantiates the broader theory.

**Usage note:** High-level academic verb.

**42. circumvent** (verb)

**Definition:** avoid a rule or problem.

**Example:** Some companies circumvent regulations through loopholes.

**Usage note:** Strong for law/business.

**43. elide** (verb)

**Definition:** omit deliberately.

**Example:** Media reports sometimes elide important context.

**Usage note:** Advanced critical reading.

**44. ameliorate** (verb)

**Definition:** make a situation better.

**Example:** Targeted support can ameliorate educational disadvantage.

**Usage note:** Elegant improvement verb.

**45. attenuate** (verb)

**Definition:** reduce the intensity.

**Example:** Policies may attenuate inequality over time.

**Usage note:** Advanced reduction verb.

**46. salience** (noun)

**Definition:** importance or prominence.

**Example:** The salience of the issue has increased after recent events.

**Usage note:** Abstract noun form.

**47. discourse** (noun)

**Definition:** serious discussion on a topic.

**Example:** Public discourse should be based on evidence rather than fear.

**Usage note:** High-level society term.

**48. intractable** (adj)

**Definition:** very difficult to solve or manage.

**Example:** Some environmental problems are intractable without global cooperation.

**Usage note:** Adds precision to problem descriptions.

**49. extrapolate** (verb)

**Definition:** infer from known information.

**Example:** It is risky to extrapolate long-term trends from limited data.

**Usage note:** Excellent for cautious academic claims.

**50. propitious** (adj)

**Definition:** favorable or promising.

**Example:** The conditions are propitious for reforms if public support remains strong.

**Usage note:** Elegant high-level adjective.

## About TypoGrammar

TypoGrammar.com is an English-learning platform focused on clear, practical explanations of grammar and vocabulary, with resources that support IELTS preparation.

It is designed for learners who want accuracy, clarity, and confidence in formal academic English—especially for IELTS Writing and Speaking.

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