



TestInnovators

Prep for Success

100 ISEE Words to Know

for Primary Level

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This vocabulary packet is intended to prepare your student for the official ISEE.*

This document includes 100 vocabulary words with definitions and synonyms. Below each definition is a line for students to write their own sentence using the vocabulary word.

Students can create a study plan based on the amount of time they have to prepare. For example, with three months before the exam, they might aim to learn about 10 new words per week.

The following vocabulary list is based on official ISEE practice tests and graded word lists, which categorize words by grade level. However, since the exact words on the test cannot be predicted, students should use this list as a starting point to build their vocabulary rather than a definitive guide.

Students can also make flashcards using the words found here, or use the Test Innovators flashcards found on Quizlet: <https://quizlet.com/testinnovators/folders>.

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1. **Abandon (verb):** To leave something behind; to give up completely
Synonyms: desert, leave

Example: Marni **abandoned** her book when she heard the commotion outside.

2. **Accomplishment (noun):** Something successfully completed or achieved
Synonyms: achievement, success

3. **Admiring (adjective):** Characterized by showing respect, approval, or appreciation for something
Synonyms: appreciative, respectful

4. **Adventurous (adjective):** Willing to take risks or try new experiences
Synonyms: daring, bold

5. **Amused (adjective):** Feeling entertained or pleased
Synonyms: entertained, charmed

6. **Appearance (noun):** The way something looks; an outward form or look
Synonyms: look, manner, presence

7. **Beaming (adjective):** Smiling or shining brightly
Synonyms: glowing, shining

8. **Beloved (adjective):** Deeply loved or cherished
Synonyms: precious, dear

9. **Bitter (adjective):** Having a sharp, unpleasant taste; feeling resentful or angry
Synonyms: harsh, resentful

10. **Canine (adjective):** Related to dogs or resembling traits of dogs
Synonym: dog-like

11. **Carefree (adjective):** Free from worries, stress, or responsibilities
Synonyms: lighthearted, untroubled, easygoing

12. **Chant (verb):** To repeat words or phrases rhythmically
Synonyms: recite, intone

13. **Chime (verb):** To make a musical sound, usually from a bell; to speak in agreement; to add one's comment to a conversation
Synonyms: ring, toll; agree; comment

14. **Chuckle (verb):** To laugh softly, often in amusement
Synonyms: snicker, laugh

15. **Crafty (adjective):** Clever or skilled at achieving goals, often through trickery or cleverness
Synonyms: sly, cunning, clever

16. **Curious (adjective):** Eager to learn or know more; showing interest in new things
Synonyms: questioning, interested

17. **Dangling (adjective):** Hanging loosely or swinging freely
Synonyms: hanging, swinging, suspended

18. **Desperate (adjective):** Feeling a great need or urgency; willing to take extreme risks
Synonyms: frantic, reckless

19. **Discomfort (noun):** a state of pain or uneasiness
Synonyms: unease, irritation

20. **Donate (verb):** To give money, goods, or time to help a person, cause, or organization
Synonyms: contribute, give

21. **Enormous (adjective):** Extremely large in size or amount
Synonyms: huge, giant

22. **Enthusiastic (adjective):** Showing great excitement, interest, or eagerness
Synonyms: excited, eager

23. **Examine (verb):** To look at or inspect something carefully and thoroughly
Synonyms: inspect, investigate

24. **Exhausted (adjective):** Extremely tired or drained of energy
Synonyms: tired, drained

25. **Exposed (adjective):** Not covered or hidden

Synonyms: uncovered, bare

26. **Familiar (adjective):** Well-known or easily recognized due to previous experience

Synonyms: recognizable, common

27. **Flatter (verb):** To praise someone, often to gain approval

Synonyms: compliment, praise

28. **Fortunate (adjective):** Having good luck or favorable circumstances

Synonyms: lucky, privileged

29. **Frustrated (adjective):** Feeling upset or annoyed due to being unable to achieve something

Synonyms: irritated, discouraged

30. **Gleaming (adjective):** Shining brightly, often referring to light

Synonyms: shining, glimmering

31. **Glide (verb):** To move smoothly and effortlessly, often with little noise

Synonyms: slide, flow

32. **Gradually (adverb):** Happening slowly or in small steps over time

Synonyms: slowly, steadily

33. **Grumble (verb):** To complain in a low, muttering voice
Synonyms: mutter, complain

34. **Habit (noun):** A regular practice or behavior
Synonyms: routine, custom

35. **Hesitate (verb):** To pause or delay an action due to uncertainty
Synonyms: pause, waver

36. **Humble (adjective):** Modest or not overly proud
Synonyms: modest, unassuming, meek

37. **Imitation (noun):** A copy or reproduction of something
Synonyms: copy, clone

38. **Immediate (adjective):** Happening or done without delay; occurring at once
Synonyms: instant, urgent

39. **Informative (adjective):** Providing useful or educational information
Synonyms: educational, instructive

40. **Intense (adjective):** Very strong, extreme, or deeply felt
Synonyms: powerful, extreme, fierce

41. **Intently (adverb):** With great focus, concentration, or intention
Synonyms: closely, attentively

42. **Jolly (adjective):** Cheerful, happy, and full of good humor
Synonyms: merry, joyful

43. **Justice (noun):** Fair treatment and the pursuit of what is morally right
Synonyms: fairness, lawfulness

44. **Labor (noun):** Work, especially hard physical or mental effort
Synonyms: toil, effort

45. **Liberty (noun):** The state of being free; the ability to do as one pleases
Synonyms: freedom, independence, choice

46. **Longing (noun):** A strong desire for something
Synonyms: craving, desire

47. **Manufactured (adjective):** Made or produced by machines
Synonyms: constructed, artificial

48. **Mission (noun):** A specific task, goal, or purpose
Synonyms: assignment, objective

49. **Morsel (noun):** A small piece of food; a small quantity
Synonyms: bite, tidbit

50. **Multitude (noun):** A large number of people or things
Synonyms: group, assembly, mass

51. **Myth (noun):** A traditional story or legend, often explaining a world view or cultural belief
Synonyms: legend, fable

52. **Necessary (adjective):** Required or essential for something to happen or exist
Synonyms: essential, required

53. **Neglect (verb):** To fail to take care of something properly or give it enough attention
Synonyms: ignore, overlook

54. **Nestle (verb):** To settle into a comfortable position
Synonyms: snuggle, cuddle

55. **Nimble (adjective):** Quick and light in movement or thought
Synonyms: agile, swift

56. **Occasion (noun):** A particular event, time, or situation
Synonyms: event, celebration

57. **Opportunity (noun):** A chance or favorable situation for achieving something
Synonyms: chance, possibility, opening

58. **Ordinary (adjective):** Common, usual, or an expected order of events
Synonyms: usual, average

59. **Overwhelmed (adjective):** Feeling emotionally or physically overcome
Synonyms: overburdened, swamped, defeated

60. **Pace (noun):** The speed or rate at which something happens
Synonyms: speed, tempo

61. **Particular (adjective):** Referring to a specific person or thing
Synonyms: specific, distinct

62. **Patient (adjective):** Able to handle inconvenience without complaint
Synonyms: tolerant, calm

63. **Peek (adjective):** To look quickly or secretly at something
Synonyms: glance, glimpse

64. **Persuade (verb):** To convince someone to do or believe in something through reasoning
Synonyms: convince, influence

65. **Poised (adjective):** Balanced, composed, and in control of one's emotions or movements
Synonyms: composed, graceful

66. **Praise (verb):** To express approval, admiration, or gratitude for something
Synonyms: compliment, applaud

67. **Precious (adjective):** Characterized as highly valuable, either in cost or emotional importance
Synonyms: valuable, cherished

68. **Puzzling (adjective):** Difficult to understand
Synonyms: confusing, perplexing

69. **Rage (noun):** Intense, uncontrollable anger
Synonyms: fury, wrath

70. **Realize (verb):** To become aware or to understand clearly
Synonyms: recognize, comprehend, discover

71. **Redirect (verb):** To change the direction or focus of something
Synonyms: reroute, turn, divert

72. **Reflection (noun):** The image seen in a mirror or surface; deep thought or consideration
Synonyms: mirroring; thinking

73. **Regretful (adjective):** Feeling sorrow for something that happened

Synonyms: remorseful, sorrowful, mournful

74. **Relief (noun):** A feeling of comfort or ease after a moment of stress

Synonyms: comfort, reassurance

75. **Represent (verb):** To stand for or symbolize something; to act on behalf of something

Synonyms: symbolize, portray

76. **Resist (verb):** To fight against or refuse to accept something

Synonyms: oppose, defy, fight

77. **Setting (noun):** The time and place in which something happens

Synonyms: environment, scene

78. **Shelter (verb):** To provide protection or a safe place

Synonyms: cover, shield

79. **Shiver (verb):** To shake slightly due to cold, fear, or excitement

Synonyms: tremble, quiver

80. **Signature (noun):** A person's name written down; a unique identifying mark

Synonyms: autograph, mark

81. **Sincere (adjective):** Genuine and honest in feelings, words, or actions

Synonyms: truthful, heartfelt

82. **Snarl (verb):** To growl aggressively or speak in an angry tone

Synonyms: growl, lash out

83. **Sorrowful (adjective):** Feeling or showing deep sadness

Synonyms: mournful, sad

84. **Stunning (adjective):** Extremely impressive, beautiful, or surprising

Synonyms: gorgeous, breathtaking

85. **Sturdy (adjective):** Firmly built and capable of handling strain

Synonyms: durable, strong, robust

86. **Therefore (adverb):** A transition word that refers to a result of an action

Synonyms: As a result, so, consequently, to that end

87. **Thrilling (adjective):** Exciting and full of suspense or joy

Synonyms: exciting, interesting

88. **Transformation (noun):** A complete or major change in appearance, condition, or character

Synonyms: change, shift

89. **Triumph (noun):** A great victory or achievement

Synonyms: victory, success

90. **Undisturbed (adjective):** Not bothered or interfered with

Synonyms: uninterrupted, peaceful

91. **Uneasy (adjective):** Feeling anxious, uncomfortable, or unsettled

Synonyms: restless, nervous

92. **Uniform (adjective):** Remaining the same in cases; no variation

Synonyms: consistent, identical

93. **Unusual (adjective):** Not common or ordinary; different from what is expected

Synonyms: rare, unique

94. **Vanish (verb):** To disappear suddenly or completely

Synonyms: disappear, evaporate

95. **Vision (noun):** The ability to see; an idea for the future

Synonyms: sight, imagination

96. **Vow (noun):** A promise or commitment

Synonyms: oath, pledge, promise

97. **Voyage (noun):** A long journey

Synonyms: expedition, journey

98. **Wander (verb):** To move around without a specific direction or purpose

Synonyms: roam, drift

99. **Weary (adjective):** Feeling very tired, either physically or mentally

Synonyms: tired, exhausted, worn

100. **Wince (verb):** To flinch or grimace in reaction to pain or discomfort

Synonyms: flinch, recoil, cringe

100 ISEE Words to Know:

Vocabulary Activities

for Primary Level

Activity One: Common Denominator

Directions: Each set of vocabulary words has a theme or something in common. Write down what you think each group of words has in common on the line below.

1.

Flatter	Persuade
Praise	Redirect

Theme or Commonality:

2.

Adventurous	Curious
Voyage	Wander

Theme or Commonality:

3.

Amused	Enthusiastic
Jolly	Chuckle

Theme or Commonality:

4.

Exhausted	Frustrated
Overwhelmed	Weary

Theme or Commonality:

5.

Carefree	Patient
Poised	Undisturbed

Theme or Commonality:

Now try coming up with your own word groups!

Theme or Commonality:

Theme or Commonality:

Activity Two: Antonym Clues

Directions: Read each antonym clue (opposite word) and write down the corresponding vocabulary word.

1. Antonym clue: Finding fault with something or not appreciating something; criticizing.
Vocabulary word: _____
2. Antonym clue: Characterized as something extremely tiny in size or amount; small.
Vocabulary word: _____
3. Antonym clue: To act immediately; decide, act.
Vocabulary word: _____
4. Antonym clue: To wrongfully take something without permission; steal.
Vocabulary word: _____
5. Antonym clue: A large portion of something; chunk
Vocabulary word: _____
6. Antonym clue: Small in power or effect; weak
Vocabulary word: _____
7. Antonym clue: Something that is not required; optional
Vocabulary word: _____
8. Antonym clue: To stay in one place; remain
Vocabulary word: _____
9. Antonym clue: Something that is common; typical
Vocabulary word: _____
10. Antonym clue: Feeling calm and comfortable; relaxed
Vocabulary word: _____

Activity Three: Fill-in-the-Blank

Directions: Select the word that best fits the context.

1. As the hair stylist turned her client's chair around, the client broke out into a huge smile at her new _____.
 - a. accomplishment
 - b. appearance
 - c. labor
 - d. mission

2. "Please, I need to have the next book in the series right now!" the woman said to the bookstore worker, ignoring the glares from the people she cut in line. The woman didn't care; she was _____. "I won't be able to rest until I know what happens next!"
 - a. crafty
 - b. desperate
 - c. humble
 - d. uneasy

3. The kid made a face as he tried a lime for the first time—he was not expecting the fruit's _____ taste.
 - a. bitter
 - b. familiar
 - c. sorrowful
 - d. thrilling

4. "Don't miss this _____ to join our dynamic team," a newspaper ad read in a cheerful and alarmingly large font. "Apply today for a rewarding career with great benefits!!"
- a. opportunity
 - b. transformation
 - c. triumph
 - d. vision
5. Even though the girl covered her eyes for most of the scary movie, she would sometimes _____ through her fingers when the scenes sounded interesting.
- a. grumble
 - b. pace
 - c. peek
 - d. vanish
6. Avery was _____ when he apologized to his sister; from that day on, he asked before he borrowed any of her things.
- a. beaming
 - b. particular
 - c. puzzling
 - d. sincere
7. With a flick of his wrist, the magician made the coin _____, leaving the audience gasping in disbelief.
- a. chime
 - b. rage
 - c. snarl
 - d. vanish

8. A skilled detective like Sherlock Holmes is likely to _____ the details that others might overlook.
- a. abandon
 - b. chant
 - c. examine
 - d. neglect
9. Although the necklace was her _____ treasure, the woman tossed it into the ocean as a powerful symbol of her decision to let go of the past.
- a. beloved
 - b. ordinary
 - c. particular
 - d. thrilling
10. The _____ toys were already packaged and ready for shipment to stores across the country.
- a. dangling
 - b. familiar
 - c. jolly
 - d. manufactured

Activity Four: Matching

Directions: Match each vocabulary word in the left column with its corresponding letter in the right column.

Matching 1

- | | |
|----------------------|--------------|
| 1. _____ Beaming | a. slowly |
| 2. _____ Chant | b. hanging |
| 3. _____ Dangling | c. copy |
| 4. _____ Discomfort | d. freedom |
| 5. _____ Exposed | e. recite |
| 6. _____ Gradually | f. specific |
| 7. _____ Imitation | g. snuggle |
| 8. _____ Liberty | h. uncovered |
| 9. _____ Nestle | i. smiling |
| 10. _____ Particular | j. unease |

Matching 2

- | | |
|-------------------------|----------------|
| 1. _____ Accomplishment | a. effort |
| 2. _____ Chime | b. educational |
| 3. _____ Familiar | c. goal |
| 4. _____ Gleaming | d. craving |
| 5. _____ Grumble | e. ring |
| 6. _____ Informative | f. closely |
| 7. _____ Intently | g. mutter |
| 8. _____ Labor | h. shining |
| 9. _____ Longing | i. common |
| 10. _____ Mission | j. success |

Activity Five: Word Search

Directions: Use the synonym clues to identify the vocabulary words hidden in the word search box.

Word Search 1

1. Clue: Dog
Vocabulary Word:

2. Clue: Lucky
Vocabulary Word:

3. Clue: Fairness
Vocabulary Word:

4. Clue: Modest
Vocabulary Word:

5. Clue: Group
Vocabulary Word:

6. Clue: Ignore
Vocabulary Word:

7. Clue: Event
Vocabulary Word:

8. Clue: Tempo
Vocabulary Word:

9. Clue: Confusing
Vocabulary Word:

10. Clue: Discover
Vocabulary Word:

11. Clue: Sorrowful
Vocabulary Word:

12. Clue: Symbolize
Vocabulary Word:

13. Clue: Scene
Vocabulary Word:

14. Clue: Tremble
Vocabulary Word:

15. Clue: Growl
Vocabulary Word:

16. Clue: Gorgeous
Vocabulary Word:

17. Clue: So
Vocabulary Word:

18. Clue: Change
Vocabulary Word:

19. Clue: Identical
Vocabulary Word:

20. Clue: Promise
Vocabulary Word:

Word Search 1

Z	I	G	J	U	S	T	I	C	E	K	Y	Y	S	U
T	V	U	V	R	E	G	R	E	T	F	U	L	H	N
H	V	O	O	F	V	V	Q	O	P	S	N	N	I	E
E	T	X	W	J	P	U	Z	Z	L	I	N	G	V	G
R	E	A	L	I	Z	E	S	N	A	R	L	D	E	L
E	M	G	H	N	Z	L	P	A	C	E	P	D	R	E
F	T	C	H	Y	B	B	U	N	I	F	O	R	M	C
O	G	K	A	R	E	P	R	E	S	E	N	T	V	T
R	T	R	A	N	S	F	O	R	M	A	T	I	O	N
E	N	B	E	I	I	V	S	T	U	N	N	I	N	G
G	A	J	G	G	P	N	H	Q	P	V	A	P	O	I
H	U	M	B	L	E	G	E	X	D	B	D	V	Y	Q
O	C	C	A	S	I	O	N	S	E	T	T	I	N	G
F	S	O	A	G	E	M	U	L	T	I	T	U	D	E
M	E	U	S	K	F	O	R	T	U	N	A	T	E	Z

Word Search 2

1. Clue: Clever
Vocabulary Word:

2. Clue: Flow
Vocabulary Word:

3. Clue: Routine
Vocabulary Word:

4. Clue: Instant
Vocabulary Word:

5. Clue: Legend
Vocabulary Word:

6. Clue: Swift
Vocabulary Word:

7. Clue: Average
Vocabulary Word:

8. Clue: Valuable
Vocabulary Word:

9. Clue: Wrath
Vocabulary Word:

10. Clue: Mirroring
Vocabulary Word:

11. Clue: Comfort
Vocabulary Word:

12. Clue: Defy
Vocabulary Word:

13. Clue: Shield
Vocabulary Word:

14. Clue: Autograph
Vocabulary Word:

15. Clue: Sad
Vocabulary Word:

16. Clue: Strong
Vocabulary Word:

17. Clue: Exciting
Vocabulary Word:

18. Clue: Victory
Vocabulary Word:

19. Clue: Sight
Vocabulary Word:

20. Clue: Flinch
Vocabulary Word:



Word Search 2

MXAMGPCZRHQOMYTHBQXP
OYUDLOWNIMBLEKD JGCTZ
QISAISYXROIZJQDWINCE
YLSUDTIQNLRSVSRELIEF
IBBREYMETERRURESISTE
SSZFRRMAUOOTRIUMPHTO
IHAUAWEPXSIGNATUREHS
VKFGGPDFRHMSSUHEGVTRT
CARFEHIULEZH ZDLNYIU
XNKKXFAWDECPAVYP IGLR
GVZBQLTDCNCINBTCVHLD
SIO LKCERV RATO AIEDV IY
OFGJTPBRKBADIUXTFNNJ
RWSCSVOAAOPFCOSEFJGV
RAEHORDINARYTCNFAICA
OFPIEWHLKUQUZYHCBHKR
WTIZSLNCMKPPVIS IONNA
FQKSQ LTOAMJFFWJIZFWN
UJEIUCTEYBJIAJWFDBYZ
LTZSPCETRCZODIEJKFYW

Answer Key

Activity One: Common Denominator

*The following answers for this activity are suggested responses. There can be more than one correct answer.

1. These words are related to influencing others.
Flatter – Giving excessive praise to gain favor.
Persuade – Convincing someone to think or act in a certain way.
Praise – Expressing approval or admiration to encourage.
Redirect – Steering someone’s attention or actions in a different direction.
2. These words are related to exploration and discovery.
Adventurous refers to a willingness to take risks and seek new experiences.
Curious describes a desire to learn or explore.
Voyage is a journey, often long and exploratory.
Wander means to move around without a fixed destination, often in search of new sights or experiences.
3. These words are related to happiness and positive emotions.
Amused – Feeling entertained or lightly pleased.
Chuckle – A soft or quiet laugh, often from amusement.
Enthusiastic – Showing excitement and eager interest.
Jolly – Cheerful and full of good humor.
4. These words are related to mental or physical exertion or strain.
Exhausted – Completely drained of energy, either physically or mentally.
Frustrated – Feeling irritated or discouraged due to obstacles or unmet expectations.
Overwhelmed – Feeling unable to cope due to stress, tasks, or emotions.
Weary – Tired, often from prolonged effort or stress.
5. These words are related to a state of calm.
Undisturbed – Not bothered or interrupted; remaining at peace.
Carefree – Free from worries or concerns.
Patient – Able to remain calm and endure without frustration.
Poised – Composed, balanced, and confident under pressure.

Activity Two : Antonym Clues

1. Admiring
2. Enormous
3. Hesitate
4. Donate
5. Morsel
6. Intense
7. Necessary
8. Abandon
9. Unusual
10. Uneasy

Activity Three: Fill-in-the Blank

1. B: appearance
2. B: desperate
3. D: bitter
4. A: opportunity
5. C: peek
6. D: sincere
7. D: vanish
8. C: examine
9. A: beloved
10. D: manufactured

Activity Four: Matching

Matching 1

1. i: smiling
2. e: recite
3. b: hanging
4. j: unease
5. h: uncovered
6. a: slowly
7. c: copy
8. d: freedom
9. g: snuggle
10. f: specific

Matching 2

1. j: success
2. e: ring
3. i: common
4. h: shining
5. g: mutter
6. b: educational
7. f: closely
8. a: effort
9. d: craving
10. c: goal

Activity Five: Word Search

Word Search 1

1. Canine
2. Fortunate
3. Justice
4. Humble
5. Multitude
6. Neglect
7. Occasion
8. Pace
9. Puzzling
10. Realize
11. Regretful
12. Represent
13. Setting
14. Shiver
15. Snarl
16. Stunning
17. Therefore
18. Transformation
19. Uniform
20. Vow

Word Search 1

Z	I	G	J	U	S	T	I	C	E	K	Y	Y	S	U
T	V	U	V	R	E	G	R	E	T	F	U	L	H	N
H	V	O	O	F	V	V	Q	O	P	S	N	N	I	E
E	T	X	W	J	P	U	Z	Z	L	I	N	G	V	G
R	E	A	L	I	Z	E	S	N	A	R	L	D	E	L
E	M	G	H	N	Z	L	P	A	C	E	P	D	R	E
F	T	C	H	Y	B	B	U	N	I	F	O	R	M	C
O	G	K	A	R	E	P	R	E	S	E	N	T	V	T
R	T	R	A	N	S	F	O	R	M	A	T	I	O	N
E	N	B	E	I	I	V	S	T	U	N	N	I	N	G
G	A	J	G	G	P	N	H	Q	P	V	A	P	O	I
H	U	M	B	L	E	G	E	X	D	B	D	V	Y	Q
O	C	C	A	S	I	O	N	S	E	T	T	I	N	G
F	S	O	A	G	E	M	U	L	T	I	T	U	D	E
M	E	U	S	K	F	O	R	T	U	N	A	T	E	Z

Word Search 2

1. Crafty
2. Glide
3. Habit
4. Immediate
5. Myth
6. Nimble
7. Ordinary
8. Precious
9. Rage
10. Reflection
11. Relief
12. Resist
13. Shelter
14. Signature
15. Sorrowful
16. Sturdy
17. Thrilling
18. Triumph
19. Vision
20. Wince

Word Search 2

