

A top-down view of a white desk. In the top left, a portion of a silver laptop is visible. In the top right, there is a small potted plant with green grass-like leaves. Below the plant, a white pen lies horizontally. In the bottom right, a pencil is positioned diagonally. In the bottom left, a pair of dark sunglasses is placed. The background is a clean, white surface.

IELTS Writing preparation:

Synonyms for 20 most common adjectives
used in IELTS Writing Task 2

	Common adjective	Synonym	Definition	Example
1	Excellent	World-class	as good as the best in the world	<i>world-class museum</i>
		State of the art	using the most modern or advanced techniques or methods; as good as it can be at the present time	<i>The system was state of the art (a state-of-the-art system)</i>
		Outstanding	extremely good; excellent	<i>an outstanding achievement/success</i>
2	Interesting	Compelling	so interesting or exciting that it holds your attention	<i>Her latest book makes compelling reading</i>
		Fascinating	extremely interesting or attractive	<i>The exhibition tells the fascinating story of the steam age.</i>
3	New	Modern	1) of the present time or recent times. 2) using the latest technology, designs, materials, etc.	<i>Stress is a major problem of modern life. A modern computer system.</i>
		Up-to-date	modern; having or including the most recent information	<i>Up-to-date equipment. We are keeping up to date with the latest developments.</i>
		Fresh	new or different in a way that adds to or replaces something	<i>I think it's time we tried a fresh approach.</i>
4	Old	Outdated	no longer useful because of being old-fashioned	<i>It is an outdated and inefficient system.</i>

		Old-fashioned	not modern; no longer fashionable	<i>old-fashioned clothes/styles/methods/equipment</i>
5	Easy, simple	Straightforward	easy to do or to understand; not complicated	<i>a straightforward process</i>
		Uncomplicated	simple; without any difficulty or confusion	<i>Why can't I have an uncomplicated life?</i>
6	Difficult	Challenging	difficult in an interesting way that tests your ability	<i>challenging work/questions/problems</i>
		Tough	having or causing problems or difficulties	<i>It was a tough decision to make.</i>
7	Many	Numerous	existing in large numbers	<i>The advantages of this system are too numerous to mention.</i>
				<i>Numerous studies have shown this to be true.</i>
8	Bad	Harmful	causing damage or injury to somebody/something, especially to a person's health or to the environment	<i>The harmful effects of alcohol are well established.</i>
		Detrimental	(formal) harmful	<i>The policy will be detrimental to the peace process.</i>
		Inappropriate	not suitable or appropriate in a particular situation	<i>The existing practice is totally inappropriate to the needs of modern society.</i>

9	Big	Substantial	large in amount, value or importance	<i>There are substantial differences between the two groups.</i>
		Sizable	fairly large	<i>Income from tourism accounts for a sizeable proportion of the area's total income.</i>
10	Fast	Rapid	happening in a short period of time	<i>rapid change/expansion/growth; a rapid rise/decline in sales</i>
11	Good	Suitable	right or appropriate for a particular purpose or occasion	<i>This programme is not suitable for children.</i>
		Acceptable	that somebody agrees is of a good enough standard or allowed	<i>We want a political solution that is acceptable to all parties.</i>
		Satisfactory	good enough for a particular purpose	<i>a satisfactory explanation/answer/solution/conclusion</i>
12	Important	Necessary	that is needed for a purpose or a reason	<i>Changes can easily be made where necessary.</i>
		Vital	necessary or essential in order for something to succeed or exist	<i>The police play a vital role in our society.</i>
		Crucial	extremely important, because it will affect other things	<i>a crucial factor/issue/decision; topics of crucial importance</i> <i>It is crucial that we get this right.</i>

		Essential	completely necessary; extremely important in a particular situation or for a particular activity	<i>Money is not essential to happiness.</i>
13	Wrong	Incorrect	not accurate or true	<i>incorrect information/spelling</i>
		Inaccurate	not exact or accurate; with mistakes	<i>These figures are somewhat inaccurate.</i>
14	Same	Equivalent	equal in value, amount, meaning, importance, etc.	<i>The new regulation was seen as equivalent to censorship.</i>
15	Long	Extensive	including or dealing with a wide range of information	<i>Extensive research has been done into this disease.</i>
		Lengthy	very long, and often too long, in time or size	<i>lengthy delays; the lengthy process of obtaining a visa</i>
16	Next	Subsequent	happening or coming after something else	<i>Subsequent events confirmed our doubts.</i>
17	Great	Remarkable	unusual or surprising in a way that causes people to take notice	<i>What is even more remarkable about the whole story is...</i>
		Noteworthy	deserving to be noticed or to receive attention because it is unusual, important or interesting	<i>It is noteworthy that only 15% of senior managers are women. The bridge is noteworthy for its sheer size.</i>
18	Risky, dangerous	Hazardous	involving risk or danger, especially to somebody's health or safety	<i>environmentally hazardous substances</i>

19	Famous	Uncertain	likely to change, especially in a negative or unpleasant way	<i>an uncertain future</i>
		Perilous	very dangerous	<i>a perilous adventure/journey/situation</i>
		Renowned	famous and respected	<i>a renowned author</i> <i>It is renowned as one of the region's best restaurants.</i>
		Distinguished	very successful and admired by other people	<i>a distinguished career in medicine</i>
20	Serious	Well-known	known about by a lot of people	<i>It is a well-known fact that caffeine is a stimulant.</i>
		Pressing	needing to be dealt with immediately	<i>There is a pressing need for more specialist nurses.</i>
		Alarming	causing worry and fear	<i>The rainforest is disappearing at an alarming rate.</i>
		Urgent	that needs to be dealt with or happen immediately	<i>a problem that requires urgent attention.</i> <i>The law is in urgent need of reform.</i>