

Confusing Word List for IELTS Listening

| | | |
|-------------------------|------------------------|--------------|
| Backpacks | Birthday | Afternoon |
| Backstage | Bushwalk | Built-up |
| Bathroom | Checklist | Classroom |
| Bio-Physical | Classroom | Clubhouse |
| Bookshop/Bookstore | Computer Centre | Coffee Break |
| Car-park | Cooperating | Coffee Maker |
| Cloakroom | Cost-effective | Countryside |
| Computer-based material | Coursework | Craftsmen |
| Computer-generation | Database | deadline |
| Dining room | Deadline | Dining Room |
| end-of-year exam | Downstairs | Drop-off |
| Eye-opener | English-Speaking World | Engine Room |
| Feedback | Ever-present | Farewell |
| first Class | Face-To-Face | Firewood |
| Four-wheel drive | Fiberglass | Fortnight |
| Fresh water | Footbridge | Forty-five |
| Fully-licensed | Grandparents | Gentlemen |
| Goodbye | Householder | Guidebook |
| Handouts | landlords | Landscape |
| Highlights | Low-risk | Local Papers |

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|------------------------|---------------|------------------|
| Home-grown | Main Hall | Mass Media |
| Keep-fit studio | minibus | Medium-sized |
| leg-room | Nursing Care | Minibus |
| livestock | Opera house | Neighbourhood |
| Midday | Overdue | Newsletter |
| Money-lenders | Parkland | Note-taking |
| One-to-one basis | Riverside | Notice-board |
| Outline | Sandstone | Online |
| Outside | Short report | Paperclips |
| Overlook | Skin-covered | Photocopy |
| Postcode | Sub-species | Riverside |
| Present-day Germany | Table Tennis | Sandpaper |
| Rainwater | Tea room | Showroom |
| Reopening | Team Leaders | Shut down |
| Self-study | Textbook | Sightseeing |
| Semi-rural | Time-scale | small-scale |
| Shallow-rooted | T-shirts | Soil Conditioner |
| Somewhere | Undersea | Stock Market |
| Supermarket | Viewpoint | Three-day |
| Timetable | Well-equipped | Weekend |
| Water level | Workshop | Welcome |
| Wavelength | | Work-force |
| Wildlife | | Workshop |

Additional Confusing Words For IELTS Listening

| | | |
|-----------------|----------------|------------------|
| Battery-powered | Airforce | Afternoon |
| Black street | Bedroom | Briefcase |
| Cashcard | Brother-in-law | Car Park |
| Cashpoint | Child care | cent |
| Checkouts | Child-friendly | Countryside |
| Chequebook | City Centre | Eco-hotel |
| Co-ordination | Day time | Five-week course |
| Easy-going | Deadlines | Foothills |
| Farm-size | Door-to-door | Fortnight |
| Fire door | Field work | Half-price |
| Forward-looking | Footprints | High-rise |
| Ground Floor | High-quality | Homestay |
| Headband | Highway | Man-made |
| Homesick | Homesick | Newtown |
| Hotspots | Housewives | Non –smoking |
| Ice-skating | Keyboard | Overhead |
| Inland | Keyholes | Post-graduate |
| Lifesaving | Land mass | Rock ground |
| Long-suffering | Low-cost | Roundabouts |
| Low-lying | Outdoors | Rucksack |
| Meal times | Overlap | Seafood |

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| | | |
|------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| Midnight | Part-time job | So-called |
| Milestones | Post Office | Store house |
| Mini-lecture | Proof Read | Ten-day holiday |
| Motorway | Short-sighted | Thirty-five per |
| Old-fashioned | Showcase | Train Lines |
| Overdraft | South-west | Twelfth-Century |
| Park Road | Sports People | Undergraduate |
| Rainforest | Teamwork | Underwater |
| re-planning | Thank-you Present | Waterfall |
| Stairway | Three-star hotel | Weekdays |
| State-of-the-art | Underneath | well-being |
| Sundown | Underside | Yachtsmen Rainfall |
| Sunshine | Under-used | |
| Wheelchair | Whereabouts | |
| Windscreen | Workplace | |
| Workforce | | |

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Single and double consonants

Spelling mistakes are common when single or double consonants occur nearby in a word.

A single consonant is followed by a double consonant:

Across, Process, Harass, Disappoint, Recommend, Tomorrow, Professor, Necessary

A double consonant is followed by a single consonant:

Parallel, Apparent, Exaggerate, Occasion, Occur (but Occurred), Commit (but Committed)

Some common words with two pairs of consonants:

Success, Possess, Access, Assess, Address, Accommodation, Embarrass, Millennium

Weak vowel sounds

Some words are difficult to spell because they contain the schwa or [ə], a weak vowel sound. It is almost impossible to know how to spell such words from their sound alone.

Examples of words containing more than one schwa include:

Separate (adj.), Definite, Desperate, Temperature, Literature, General, Relevant, Category

Other problematic schwa words include:

Describe, Decline, Despite; but Dispute, Discrete, Display

Capable, Achievable, Understandable; but Possible, Visible, Accessible

Performance, Attendance, Ignorance; but Independence, Sentence, Existence

Sometimes the schwa sound conceals a barely-pronounced [r]:

Opportunity, Pursue, Persuade, Surprise

Changes of spelling when words change form

A consonant can change when a noun becomes an adjective:

Benefit > Beneficial; Influence > Influential; Circumstance > Circumstantial

A vowel can change or be lost when a verb becomes a noun:

Maintain > Maintenance; Pronounce > Pronunciation, Argue > Argument

A vowel may double when a noun becomes a verb:

Success > Succeed; Excess > Exceed; Process > Proceed

A final consonant is often doubled when a verb changes form:

Occur > Occurred; Refer > Referred; Begin > Beginning

Silent letters in consonant clusters

[**nm**] in Environ**nm**ent, Govern**nm**ent
[**nm**] in Colum**nm**, Autumn**nm**
[**sc**] in **S**cience, Con**s**cious, Disci**pl**ine, Fasci**n**ate, Asc**sc**end, Desc**sc**end
[**xc**] in **Exc**ite, **Ex**ceed, **Exc**eption, **Exc**ellent, **Exc**ited
[**dg**] in Know**ld**ge, Acknow**ld**ge (but just [**g**] in Privi**l**ege, Oblig**e**)
[**th**] clusters in ordinals: Eigh**th**, Twelf**th**, Hundre**dh**

Pairs of frequently confused spellings in IELTS

Till ≠ **Until** (not *untill)
Lose ≠ **Loose** (one is a verb; the other is an adjective)
Affect ≠ **Effect** (one is a common verb; the other is its noun form)
Forth ≠ **Fourth** (one means 'forward'; the other means 'number four')
Fourth but **Forty** (not *fourty)
High but **Height** (not *hight)
Great but **Grateful** (not *greatful)
Precede ≠ **Proceed** (one means 'go before'; the other means 'go ahead')
Principle ≠ **Principal** (one means 'truth'; the other means 'main')
Site ≠ **Sight** (one is a place; the other is something to see, as in sightseeing not *siteseeing)
Copywriter ≠ **Copyright** (one writes advertising; the other means 'intellectual property')

Finally, some notoriously tricky spellings in English

Here are 10 English words of foreign origin that even native speakers have difficulty spelling!

Amateur, Entrepreneur, Hierarchy, Liaison, Medieval, Miscellaneous, Queue, Questionnaire, Rhythm, Vacuum