

The 1200 most commonly repeated words in IELTS Listening Test

Days of the week:

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday, Sunday, weekdays, weekend

Months of the year:

January, February, March, April, May, June, July August, September, October, November, December

Money matters:

cash, debit, credit card, cheque, in advance, annual fee, monthly membership, interest rate, deposit, tuition fees, poverty, bank statement, money management, current account, student account, withdraw, low-risk investment, mortgage, grace period, budget deficit, retail voucher, coupon, counterfeit money, public money, taxpayers' money, debt, interest-free credit, purchase, partial refund, annuity, non-refundable, MasterCard, VISA, distribution costs, income, finance department, family finances, duty-free store.

Subjects:

science, politics, history, biology, architecture, law, geography, archaeology, literature, business management, agriculture, statistics, mathematics, logic, physics, psychology, anthropology, economics, philosophy, performing arts, visual arts, chemistry, humanities

Studying at college/university:

course outline, group discussion, hand-out, written work, report writing, research, proofreading, experiment, experience, reference, textbook, dictionary, laptop, printer, student advisor, teamwork, module, topic, assessment, library, department, computer centre, classroom, lecture, tutor, main hall, attendance, deadline, give a talk, speech, computer laboratory, certificate, diploma, placement test, overseas students, full-time, facilities, college, dining room, specialist, knowledge, international, accommodation, home stay, primary, secondary, intermediate, media room, resources room, staff, commencement, dissertation, leaflet, faculty, pupils, pencil, feedback, tasks, outcomes, advanced, introductory, extra background, higher education, guidelines, post-secondary, supervisor, bachelor's degree, compound, vocabulary, student support services, student retention, publication, foreign students, schedule, school reunion, registrar's office, stationery.

Marketing:

catalogue, interview, newsletter, competition, TV program, strategies, research method, entertainment industry, leadership, management, display, products, customer, special offer, collecting data, questionnaire, survey, mass media, statistic, profit margin, poll, business card, training, trainee, merchandise, manufacture, recruitment.

Health:

yoga, tai-chi, keep-fit, salad bar, vegetarian, outdoor activities, leisure time, disease, meal, protein, balanced diet, food pyramid, vitamin, carbohydrates, rice, pasta, potatoes, pizza, tomatoes, bread, cereals, minerals, zinc, meat, seafood, eggs, beans, milk, cheese, yoghurt, fruit, vegetables, citrus fruits, green pepper, blackcurrant, nuts, egg yolk, liver, medicine, treatment, remedy, nursing care, nursery, regular exercise.

Nature:

field, footbridge, environment, waterfall, river, mountain, forest, village, coast, reef, lake, valley, hill, cliff, island, peninsula, earthquake, avalanche, tornado, typhoon, desertification, volcano, disaster, catastrophe, erosion, landslides, storm, flood, hurricane, pond, jungle, oasis, dam, canyon

The environment:

greenhouse effect, acid rain, global warming, carbon dioxide, burning fossil, exhaust fumes, deforestation, nitrogen oxide, smog, climate, pollution, temperature, power plants, landfill, cattle, wind turbine, solar power, hydroelectric power, renewable, source of energy, reliable, solar panels, environmentally friendly, oxygen, chemical-free, desert, degradation, vegetation, sea level, ocean currents, soil conditioner, coal, fossil fuels, firewood, drought, contaminated.

The animal kingdom:

birds of prey, seabirds, poultry and game, mammals, cetacean, whale, primates, rodents, fish, amphibian, reptile, insects, octopus, phylum, class, order, family, genus, species, livestock, creature, lion, penguin,

Plants:

mushroom, fungus, leaves, seed, core, bark, trunk, twig, branch, flower, stem, roots, cluster, fertilizer

Continents:

South America, North America, Africa, Asia, Europe, Australia and Antarctica

Countries:

Egypt, Mexico, France, Indonesia, Turkey, England, Germany, China, Greece, Brazil, India, North Korea, India, Malaysia, New Zealand, Nigeria, Pakistan, Singapore, Switzerland, United Kingdom, Italy, the Dominican republic, the Philippines, Denmark.

Languages:

linguistics, bilingual, trilingual, polyglot, Portuguese, Mandarin, Bengali, Chinese, Hindi, Russian, Japanese, German, Punjabi, Thai, Persian, Filipino, French, Italian, Greek, French

Architecture and buildings:

Dome, palace, fort, castle, glasshouse, pyramid, log cabin, lighthouse, hut, skyscraper, sculpture

Homes:

semi-detached house, duplex, terraced house, town house, row house, bungalow, thatched cottage, mobile home, houseboat, block of flats, apartment building, condominium, chimney, bedroom, basement, landlord, tenant, rent, lease, neighbourhood, suburb, sofa, coffee table, dormitory, storey, kitchen, refrigerator, microwave, ground floor, oven, hallway, insurance

In the city:

cities, street, lane, city centre, central station, car park, department store, bridge, temple, embassy, road system, hospital, garden, avenue,

Workplaces:

Clinic, dentist, reception, appointment, staff selection, colleague, workshop, showroom, information desk, employer, employment, unemployed, technical cooperation, team leaders, stress, ability, vision, confidence, employee, internship

Rating and qualities:

Reasonable, satisfactory, dangerous, safe, strongly recommended, poor quality, satisfied, disappointed, efficient, luxurious, colored, spotted, striped, expensive, cheap

Touring:

Tourist guided tour, ticket office, souvenir, trip, guest, reservation, view, culture, memorable, single double bedded room, picnic, tourist attraction, hostel, suite, aquarium

Verbs:

Train, develop, collect, supervise, mark, edit, revise, exhibit, donate, surpass, register, support, hunt, persuade, concentrate, discuss, suggest, arrange, borrow, immigrate, review, learn, touch.

Adjectives:

energetic, social, ancient, necessary, fantastic, exciting, fabulous, dull, comfortable, convenient, suitable, affordable, voluntary, mandatory, compulsory, temporary, permanent, Immense, vast, salty, extinct, vulnerable, pessimistic, optimistic, realistic, practical, knowledgeable, flexible, confident, Western, intensive, tranquil, spectacular, intact, various

Hobbies:

orienteering, caving, spelunking, archery, ice skating, scuba-diving, snorkelling, skateboarding, bowls, darts, golf, billiards, photography, painting, pottery, woodcarving, gardening, stamp collection, embroidery, climbing, chess, parachute

Sports:

cricket, baseball, basketball, rugby, soccer, American football, hockey, swimming, tennis, squash, badminton, Ping-Pong, field, court, pitch, stadium, team, the discus, the javelin, the hammer, the high jump, horse racing, show jumping, polo, cycling, gymnasium, athlete, gym, extreme sports, paragliding, hang-gliding, skydiving, abseiling, snowboarding, bungee jumping, surfing, windsurfing, jet-skiing, body boarding, white-water rafting, kite surfing, mountain biking, jogging, press-up, push-up, barbell, treadmill, judo, recreation, snooker, walking, championship, canoeing, refreshment

Shapes:

Square, rectangular, triangular, polygon, oval, spherical, spiral, circular, curved, cylindrical,

Measurement

Width, length, altitude, imperial system, metric system, mass, depth, breadth, height, three dimensions, frequency

Transportations:

cargo plane, shipment, container ship, boat, lifeboat, ferry, hovercraft, hydrofoil, liner, canal boat, narrow boat, dinghy sailing, sailboat, paddle steamer, cabin cruiser, rowing boat, rowboat, kayak, canoe, punt, gondola, aircraft, helicopter, seaplane, airship, hot-air balloon, airport, crew, passenger, platform, hire a car, automobile

Vehicles:

double-decker bus, single-decker, minibus, school bus, coach, truck, tanker, van, lorry, transporter, forklift truck, tow truck, breakdown truck, pickup, jeep, caravan, camper, tractor, taxi, cab, tram, underground, subway, stream train, freight train, goods train.

Weather:

humid, hot, sticky, breeze, chilly, cold, cool, dry, dusty, freezing, hot, warm, wet, weather forecast, antenna, moisture.

Places:

local library, swimming pool, cafeteria, cottage, parliament, accommodation, restaurant, canteen, cafe, bookshop, sports centre, city council, dance studio, park, conversation club, kindergarten

The arts and media:

Opera, orchestra, concert, symphony, the press, conductor, vocalist, audience, festival, carnival, exhibition, classical music, theatre, cinemas, art gallery, museum, ballet, television, radio, graphics, newspaper

Works and jobs:

occupation, profession, designer, decorator, architect, engineer, manager, waitress, waiter, teacher, vacancy, professor, specialist, psychologist, volunteer, freelance, secretary, craftsman, work experience, curriculum vitae, mail address, receptionist, pilot, guard, flight attendant, lecturer, office assistant, clerk, accountant, cashier, captain

Equipment and tools:

Helmet, light, musical instrument, cassette, silicon chip, digital monitor, gadget, device, screen, breaks, wheels, mechanical pencil, disk, backpack

Materials:

fur, metal, steel, aluminium, copper, rubber, plastic, ceramics, glass, cement, stone, textile, cotton, fabric, wool, leather, bone, paper, lumber/wood, glue, composite, fiberglass, concrete, wax, paper, wood, silver, gold, feather

Color:

Blue, white, orange, green, grey, black, red, yellow, purple, brown, pink

Expressions and time:

three times, three times per week, a gap year, full-time, part-time, midday, midnight, millennium, century, decade, fortnight.

Other:

passport photo, state, government, individual, variety, private sector, practice, gender, creativity, original inhabitant, indigenous, demonstration, strike, entrance, circuit, guarantee, dialogue, commerce, carriage, narrative, chocolate, satellite, decision, prototype, attitude, daily routine, personal fulfilment, activity, recipient, ultrasound, pedestrian safety, traffic jams, procedures, creation, prize, junior, senior, opportunity, driving license, process, literary, man-made, republicans, umbrella, frequently updated, waiting list, sewer systems, liberal democracy, democrats, lunar calendar, libertarian, burger, videos, nature conservation, life expectancy, fund-raising event, magnet, dialect, ramification, straight, farewell, welfare, encyclopaedia, evolution, revolution, illiteracy, robot, proficiency, sufficient.

This list of common IELTS spelling mistakes includes some of the words most likely to appear in the test.

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 Environment, Government

[nm] in Column, Autumn

[sc] in Science, Conscious, Discipline, Fascinate, Ascend, Descend

[xc] in Excite, Exceed, Exception, Excellent, Excited

[dg] in Knowledge, Acknowledge (but just [g] in Privilege, Oblige)

[th] clusters in ordinals: Eighth, Twelfth, Hundredth

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