

#### VOCABULARY FOR IELTS

HOW TO AVOID
BASIC WORDS
PART 1

#### WHAT YOU WILL LEARN?

- What BASIC WORDS look like
- How to avoid BASIC WORDS including good, bad, interesting, big, small, rich poor, think, very, a lot of, a lot, not many/much, most, problem, people
- How to describe people in employment, science, transport, education, free time, sport, media, the arts, crime and punishment, health, politics, environment, society, housing, opinions, age
- Practice

### WHY WORRY ABOUT AVOIDING BASIC WORDS?

If you can AVOID BASIC WORDS the IELTS examiner will see that your English is not basic. This will improve your grade (Vocabulary)

BASIC WORDS make writing seem informal and un-academic. If you can AVOID BASIC WORDS the IELTS examiner will see your writing as formal and academic in style (Task Achievement/Response)

If you can AVOID BASIC WORDS you will show the IELTS examiner your ability to substitute one word or phrase for another. This skill connects your ideas (Coherence and Cohesion)

### IELTS TASK 2 WRITING BAND DESCRIPTORS

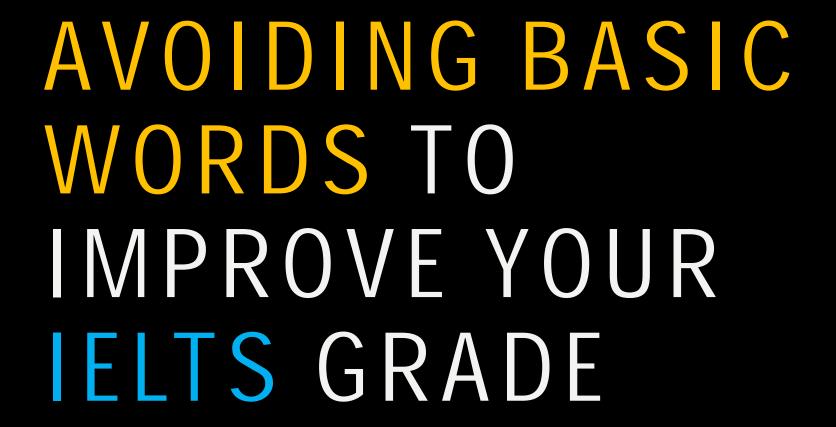
Band	Task Response	Coherence and Cohesion	Lexical Resource	Grammatical Range and Accuracy
9	<ul> <li>fully addresses all parts of the task</li> <li>presents a fully developed position in answer to the question with relevant, fully extended and well supported ideas</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>uses cohesion in such a way that it attracts no attention</li> <li>skilfully manages paragraphing</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>uses a wide range of vocabulary with very natural and sophisticated control of lexical features; rare minor errors occur only as 'slips'</li> </ul>	uses a wide range of structures with full flexibility and accuracy; rare minor errors occur only as 'slips'
8	<ul> <li>sufficiently addresses all parts of the task</li> <li>presents a well-developed response to the question with relevant, extended and supported ideas</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>sequences information and ideas logically</li> <li>manages all aspects of cohesion well</li> <li>uses paragraphing sufficiently and appropriately</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>uses a wide range of vocabulary fluently and flexibly to convey precise meanings</li> <li>skilfully uses uncommon lexical items but there may be occasional inaccuracies in word choice and collocation</li> <li>produces rare errors in spelling and/ or word formation</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>uses a wide range of structures</li> <li>the majority of sentences are error-free</li> <li>makes only occasional errors or inappropriacies</li> </ul>
7	<ul> <li>addresses all parts of the task</li> <li>presents a clear position throughout the response</li> <li>presents, extends and supports main ideas, but there may be a tendency to over-generalise and/ or supporting ideas may lack focus</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>logically organises information and ideas; there is clear progression throughout</li> <li>uses a range of cohesive devices appropriately although there may be some under/ over-use</li> <li>presents a clear central topic within each paragraph</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>uses a sufficient range of vocabulary to allow some flexibility and precision</li> <li>uses less common lexical items with some awareness of style and collocation</li> <li>may produce occasional errors in word choice, spelling and/ or word formation</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>uses a variety of complex structures</li> <li>produces frequent error-free sentences</li> <li>has good control of grammar and punctuation but may make a few errors</li> </ul>

### IELTS TASK 2 WRITING BAND DESCRIPTORS

Band	Task Response	Coherence and Cohesion	Lexical Resource	Grammatical Range and Accuracy
6	<ul> <li>addresses all parts of the task although some parts may be more fully covered than others</li> <li>presents a relevant position although the conclusions may become unclear or repetitive</li> <li>presents relevant main ideas but some may be inadequately developed/unclear</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>arranges information and ideas coherently and there is a clear overall progression</li> <li>uses cohesive devices effectively, but cohesion within and/ or between sentences may be faulty or mechanical</li> <li>may not always use referencing clearly or appropriately</li> <li>uses paragraphing but not always logically</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>uses an adequate range of vocabulary for the task</li> <li>attempts to use less common vocabulary but with some inaccuracy</li> <li>makes some errors in spelling and/ or word formation, but they do not impede communication</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>uses a mix of simple and complex sentence forms</li> <li>makes some errors in grammar and punctuation but they rarely reduce communication</li> </ul>
5	<ul> <li>addresses the task only partially; the format may be inappropriate in places</li> <li>expresses a position but the development is not always clear and there may be no conclusions drawn</li> <li>presents some main ideas but these are limited and not sufficiently developed; there may be irrelevant detail</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>presents information with some organisation but there may be a lack of overall progression</li> <li>makes inadequate, inaccurate or over-use of cohesive devices</li> <li>may be repetitive because of lack of referencing and substitution</li> <li>may not write in paragraphs, or paragraphing may be inadequate</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>uses a limited range of vocabulary, but this is minimally adequate for the task</li> <li>may make noticeable errors in spelling and/ or word formation that may cause some difficulty for the reader</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>uses only a limited range of structures</li> <li>attempts complex sentences but these tend to be less accurate than simple sentences</li> <li>may make frequent grammatical errors and punctuation may be faulty; errors can cause some difficulty for the reader</li> </ul>

#### IELTS TASK 2 WRITING BAND DESCRIPTORS

Band	Task Response	Coherence and Cohesion	Lexical Resource	Grammatical Range and Accuracy
4	<ul> <li>responds to the task only in a minimal way or the answer is tangential; the format may be inappropriate</li> <li>presents a position but this is unclear</li> <li>presents some main ideas but these are difficult to identify and may be repetitive, irrelevant or not well supported</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>presents information and ideas but these are not arranged coherently and there is no clear progression in the response</li> <li>uses some basic cohesive devices but these may be inaccurate or repetitive</li> <li>may not write in paragraphs or their use may be confusing</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>uses only basic vocabulary which may be used repetitively or which may be inappropriate for the task</li> <li>has limited control of word formation and/ or spelling: errors may cause strain for the reader</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>uses only a very limited range of structures with only rare use of subordinate clauses</li> <li>some structures are accurate but errors predominate, and punctuation is often faulty</li> </ul>
3	<ul> <li>does not adequately address any part of the task</li> <li>does not express a clear position</li> <li>presents few ideas, which are largely undeveloped or irrelevant</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>does not organise ideas logically</li> <li>may use a very limited range of cohesive devices, and those used may not indicate a logical relationship between ideas</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>uses only a very limited range of words and expressions with very limited control of word formation and/ or spelling</li> <li>errors may severely distort the message</li> </ul>	attempts sentence forms but errors in grammar and punctuation predominate and distort the meaning



• 'If children are overweight, their parents should be punished'. To what extent do you agree?

• Obesity is a very big and interesting problem. A lot of people think that being obese is bad and that being slimmer is good. Not many people think they have the answer to this problem. In this essay, I will discuss this problem and conclude that mothers and fathers should not be blamed if their sons and daughters are fat.

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Prepare for {IELTS}

### BASIC WORDS TO AVOID: GOOD

- Students who choose to take a gap-year have a tremendous opportunity to travel.
- Climbing to the summit of Mount Everest would be a brilliant experience
- It would be absolutely wonderful if human beings could learn to co-exist without the need for conflict and war.
- Most of us would consider the internet to have been a marvellous development: it has changed our lives for the better.
- The dedication and commitment of those working in Accident & Emergency units in hospitals is amazing.
- Students who are academically outstanding are sometimes referred to as 'gifted'.

### BASIC WORDS TO AVOID: BAD

- Unless we can reduce our dependence on oil, the consequences for all of us could be catastrophic/ calamitous.
- Those who migrate to large cities often have to endure awful/ atrocious living conditions in shanty towns and favelas.
- Even though it is widely known that smoking is detrimental to health, millions of nicotine-addicts find it impossible to give up.
- It would be absolutely terrible/ dreadful if a terrorist organisation managed to gain access to nuclear weapons.
- Driving while under the influence of alcohol can have disastrous/ appalling consequences, both for the driver, passengers and other road-users.
- Some politicians believe that nothing can actually be done to reduce the crime rate and that attempting to sort it out is both futile and pointless.

### BASIC WORDS TO AVOID: INTERESTING

- As far as I am concerned, visiting art galleries and learning about different styles of painting is absolutely fascinating.
- For most undergraduates, sitting in a lecture being taught by a world-renowned expert is a stimulating and inspiring experience.
- It is noteworthy that during the first few years of the period being discussed, levels of petty crime fluctuated wildly.

### BASIC WORDS TO AVOID: BIG

- Between 1990 and 2000 there was a huge/ colossal increase in the number of young adults looking for work.
- Technology has had a major/ substantial impact on almost every aspect of our lives.
- A large number of young people have a sense of dissatisfaction with their lives. They feel that society has failed to meet their expectations.
- There is still an enormous gap between the incomes of the richest and poorest members of society.
- We need to address the massive issue of illiteracy. In this day and age, it is not acceptable that so many human beings cannot read and write.
- Kazakhstan is a gigantic/ vast country. It is only by travelling across it that one realises how immense it is.

### BASIC WORDS TO AVOID: SMALL

- Only a tiny/ minute proportion of those surveyed admitted that they had never been abroad.
- It is sometimes claimed that there has been a major shift in attitudes towards ethnic minorities. Unfortunately, in my experience, the change has been insignificant.
- Those convicted of minor offences should, as far as I am concerned, never be sent to prison.
- Only a minuscule number of the stars in our galaxy have been studied by scientists.

# BASIC WORDS TO AVOID: RICH

- Affluent individuals have often inherited their wealth rather than actually earning it through their talent or ability.
- Wealthy members of society generally live far longer than their poorer counterparts. This is partly because they have access to better healthcare and a lifestyle which does not cause significant amounts of stress.
- Those who are relatively well-off donate a smaller proportion of their income to charity than those with less money.
- Prosperous families can afford to send their children to private schools. This tends to give those children advantages which help them throughout the rest of their lives.

# BASIC WORDS TO AVOID: POOR

- Impoverished families often live in poor-quality housing. This can have a serious and detrimental effect on their health.
- Workers engaged in manual labour or semi-skilled occupations tend to be less well-off than the professional classes.
- Underprivileged/ Disadvantaged/ Deprived children should be given basic support by the government in order to ensure that they are fed, clothed and sheltered and that they have access to good-quality education. We should all be willing to pay higher taxes to bring this about.
- For those with comfortable lifestyles, it is sometimes easier to ignore the destitute/ dispossessed.

### BASIC WORDS TO AVOID: THINK

- Many leading experts are convinced that formal assessments do not provide an appropriate indication about a pupil's progress.
- Most leading experts consider shorter school days to be beneficial for learners and teachers.
- I fervently/ wholeheartedly believe that the best way for a company to get loyal and committed staff is to treat its employees with dignity and respect.
- Some students are of the opinion that there is little or no point studying algebra or trigonometry.

### BASIC WORDS TO AVOID: VERY

- It is extremely difficult to understand why some individuals view their success purely in terms of their income and savings.
- An incredibly large number of people around the world still do not have access to clean drinking water.
- It is awfully important that we support charities which are trying to make a difference in the poorest parts of the developing world.
- Some schoolchildren find it tremendously difficult to concentrate during long and boring lessons.

### BASIC WORDS TO AVOID: A LOT OF

- A significant number of tourists spend their entire holiday on the beach and never bother to visit important cultural and historical sites.
- A huge proportion of university students claim to have too much work. The pressure they feel is often compounded by the fact that they have to work in order to pay their course fees and cover living expenses.
- Each year, a sizable quantity of food is thrown into landfill sites. This is the result of over-production and an attempt by food manufacturers to keep prices as high as possible.
- Most of us spend a large amount of time day-dreaming instead of getting on with our work.

### BASIC WORDS TO AVOID: A LOT

- The number of individuals with chronic back-pain has increased significantly over the past few years. This is thought to be related to the increased use of computers.
- These days we are considerably more likely to exaggerate or even lie on a job application than in the past. It may be that, as a society, we have become less honest. Possibly we simply do not fear the consequences of not telling the truth.
- The amount of oil produced in 1990 was far higher than predicted.

### BASIC WORDS TO AVOID: NOT MANY/ NOT MUCH

- Only a tiny number of people are capable of becoming astronauts.
   The skills required include a detailed knowledge of science, extreme physical and mental fitness, as well as a great deal of courage.
- Before 2000, an insignificant amount of electronic data was stored by governments. Obviously, since then the quantity of information kept has increased exponentially.

### BASIC WORDS TO AVOID: MOST

- Strangely, the vast majority of Europeans cannot name more than about twelve African countries.
- It is speculated that, in the future, a significant proportion of the electricity generated will come from nuclear power-stations.
- It is estimated that teenagers spend a huge percentage of their time engaged in social activities, either in the real world or online.

### BASIC WORDS TO AVOID: PROBLEM

- Young children face a great many difficulties when they start school. For instance, many struggle to make friends because they behave in ways which other children find inappropriate or aggressive.
- The rising level of truancy in schools is an important matter. Steps need to be taken to understand the causes and to identify possible solutions.
- The issue of whether children should be taught in larger or smaller groups has been debated for decades.
- We face a serious dilemma as school-leavers who cannot find work begin to feel undervalued by society.
- Recently, in the media, there has been a huge debate/ controversy over the rights and wrongs of same-sex marriage.

### BASIC WORDS TO AVOID: PEOPLE

- The number of individuals renting flats rose steadily during the 1950s, according to the figures given.
- As parents, we need to take our responsibilities extremely seriously
- All human beings have a stake in the future of our planet.
- The number of citizens who do not vote in general elections is on the rise; experts believe this increase relates to voter apathy and a general sense of being unconnected to society.
- The general public appears to have an attitude of healthy scepticism towards politicians.
- Members of the public who survive terrorist attacks often need extensive counselling.

#### WHAT SHALL I DO NOW?

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#### VOCABULARY FOR IELTS

HOW TO AVOID
BASIC WORDS
PART 2

#### WHAT YOU WILL LEARN?

- What BASIC WORDS look like
- How to avoid BASIC WORDS including good, bad, interesting, big, small, rich poor, think, very, a lot of, a lot, not many/much, most, problem, people
- How to describe people in employment, science, transport, education, free time, sport, media, the arts, crime and punishment, health, politics, environment, society, housing, opinions, age
- Practice

## PEOPLE: EMPLOYMENT

- Employers
- Employees
- The unemployed
- Strikers
- Trade union members
- Office-workers
- Civil servants
- Part-time/ Full-time staff
- Temporary/ permanent workers
- Those involved in dangerous or life-threatening work such as fire-fighters
- Those who have to do shift work

#### PEOPLE: EDUCATION

- Academics
- Experts in the field of pedagogy
- University lecturers and tutors
- Undergraduates/ graduates
- Pupils at primary school
- Secondary-school pupils
- Gifted children
- Students with special needs
- Bullies
- Children with poor levels of attendance and punctuality
- Classroom teachers and support staff
- Principals and head-teachers

### PEOPLE: SCIENCE

- Researchers and investigators
- Inventors
- Experts in the field of quantum mechanics
- Bio-chemists
- Those with a deep understanding of environmental issues
- Scientists working at top universities and research centres

### PEOPLE: TRANSPORT

- Pedestrians
- Motorcyclists/ cyclists
- Passengers
- Public transport users
- Commuters
- Frequent flyers
- Anyone behind the wheel of a car
- Drunk-drivers and those who drive under the influence of drugs

### PEOPLE: FREE TIME

- Holiday-makers
- Sight-seers
- Internet-users
- Avid readers
- Couch potatoes
- Shopaholics and lovers of retail therapy
- Culture-vultures
- Addicts of social media
- Keen gardeners
- Those who enjoy arts and crafts

### PEOPLE: SPORT

- Spectators
- Athletes
- Medal-winners
- Long-distance runners
- Overpaid sports-stars
- Amateurs
- Those who participate in extreme sports such as paragliding, mountaineering and caving
- Chess-players
- Keep-fit fanatics

## PEOPLE: MEDIA

- Journalists
- Newspaper proprietors
- Paparazzi
- Celebrities constantly in the media spotlight
- Producers of reality-TV shows
- Chat-show hosts
- Spin doctors
- Cyber-bullies
- Editors

### PEOPLE: THE ARTS

- Sculptors
- Singer-songwriters
- Those who visit museums and art galleries
- Internationally-renowned painters
- Award-winning novelists
- Film-makers
- Critics
- Autograph-hunters
- Oscar-winners
- Poets and playwrights

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#### VOCABULARY FOR IELTS

HOW TO AVOID
BASIC WORDS
PART 3

#### WHAT YOU WILL LEARN?

- What BASIC WORDS look like
- How to avoid BASIC WORDS including good, bad, interesting, big, small, rich poor, think, very, a lot of, a lot, not many/much, most, problem, people
- How to describe people in employment, science, transport, education, free time, sport, media, the arts, crime and punishment, health, politics, environment, society, housing, opinions, age
- Practice

### PEOPLE: CRIME AND PUNISHMENT

- Law-enforcement officers
- Law-abiding citizens
- Lawyers
- Judges
- Prison inmates
- Prison guards/ Prison officers
- Victims of violent crime
- Murderers
- Juvenile delinquents
- Petty criminals

## PEOPLE: HEALTH

- Neurologists
- Surgeons
- Nursing staff
- Patients
- Those who suffer from serious mental or emotional illness
- The obese
- Smokers, alcoholics and drug users
- The chronically ill
- Individuals suffering from eating disorders such as anorexia
- Dieticians and nutritionists

### PEOPLE: POLITICS

- Right-wing politicians/ Left-wing politicians
- Communists
- Capitalists
- Extremists
- Members of Parliament
- Government officials
- Those in power
- Political activists and campaigners
- Protesters and demonstrators
- Voters/ the electorate

#### PEOPLE: ENVIRONMENT

- Ecologists/ Environmentalists
- Eco-warriors
- Campaigners on 'green' issues
- Climate-change deniers
- individuals who are concerned about the future of our planet
- Wealthy businessmen and women whose factories pollute the atmosphere

### PEOPLE: SOCIETY

- The dispossessed/The underprivileged/The destitute
- Refugees and asylum-seekers
- Human rights campaigners
- Social commentators
- The fabulously wealthy
- The rich and famous
- Celebrities such as sports-stars, singers and actors
- Under-represented groups such as the disabled
- Those from ethnic minorities
- Racists and sexists

### PEOPLE: HOUSING

- Landlords/ property owners
- Home-owners
- Property magnates
- Tenants
- Residents
- Inhabitants
- City-dwellers
- Those living in rural areas
- Young adults who will probably never have the savings necessary to buy their own home
- The homeless/Those living on the streets

### PEOPLE: OPINIONS

- Liberals
- Conservatives
- Cynics
- Sceptics
- Optimists
- Pessimists
- Those who see the world through rose-tinted spectacles
- Prophets of doom and gloom

## PEOPLE: AGE

- Toddlers and infants
- Pre-school children
- Those attending primary/ secondary school
- Teenagers and adolescents
- Those in their early twenties
- Middle-aged adults
- Those nearing retirement
- The elderly

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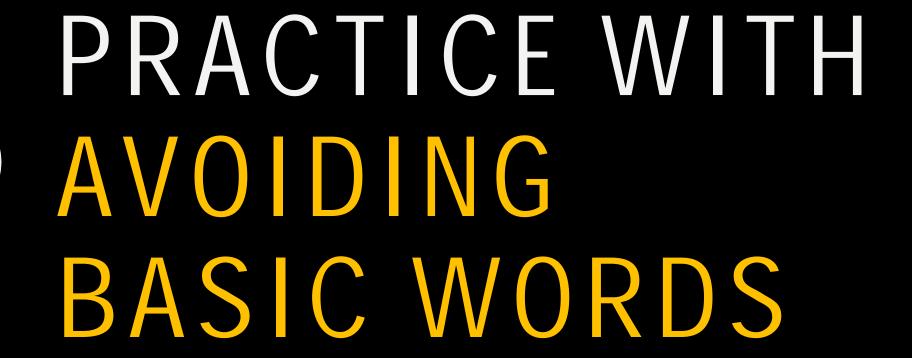


#### VOCABULARY FOR IELTS

HOW TO AVOID
BASIC WORDS
PART 4

#### WHAT YOU WILL LEARN?

- What BASIC WORDS look like
- How to avoid BASIC WORDS including good, bad, interesting, big, small, rich poor, think, very, a lot of, a lot, not many/much, most, problem, people
- How to describe people in employment, science, transport, education, free time, sport, media, the arts, crime and punishment, health, politics, environment, society, housing, opinions, age



- Question I
- The problem of homelessness is much worse than it used to be in many parts of the world.
- Possible answer
- The issue of homelessness is significantly worse than it used to be in many parts of the world.

- Question 2
- A very big number of people think that the government should change the law to make it easier for homeless people to find accommodation.
- Possible answer
- A huge number of social commentators are convinced that the government should change the law to make it easier for homeless individuals to find accommodation.

- Question 3
- A small number of people think that the government should not get involved with this problem. They think that this problem is very big and that attempts to deal with it would be bad.
- Possible answer
- A tiny proportion of right-wing politicians consider that the government should not get involved with this matter. They are of the opinion that this dilemma is incredibly large and that attempts to deal with it would be futile and pointless.

- Question 4
- There is an interesting connection between homelessness and mental illness. A lot of people think that a lot of poor people, who are living on the streets, suffered from bad emotional conditions when they were younger.
- Possible answer
- There is a fascinating connection between homelessness and mental illness. A significant number of experts are of the opinion that a huge proportion of the dispossessed and the destitute, who are living on the streets, suffered from terrible emotional conditions when they were younger.

- Question 5
- The decision of several big charities to build specialist housing for the homeless is obviously good.
- Possible answer
- The decision of several enormous charities to build specialist housing for the homeless is obviously tremendous.

- Question 6
- Not many richer people think that homelessness is a big problem.
   Most of them think that it is a small problem.
- Possible answer
- An insignificant amount of the wealthy are convinced that homelessness is a major issue. The vast majority of them are of the opinion that it is a minor difficulty.

- Question 7
- Rich people often claim that poor people are to blame for their condition. I do not think this to be the case
- Possible answer
- Well-off individuals often claim that those living in poverty are to blame for their condition. I do not consider this to be the case

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