●●● Academic & General Training Module

IELTS™

Formal words for IELTS writing

Improving your score from 5.5 to 7

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Dear candidates:

This short but useful pamphlet is intended to boost your vocabulary knowledge for both academic and general training students preparing for IELTS writing task 2. This is, in fact, a list of useful Verbs, Nouns, Adjectives and Adverbs helping students to boost their score from 5.5 to nearly 7 in the IELTS test.

About the terms:

Low lexis: are the words that are less formal.

High lexis: are the words that are more formal and are recommended for higher scores.

You need to check the meaning of high lexis words to see how they are used in writing.

Task 2 useful academic words

Useful adjectives for task 2
(nearly 165 words)

Useful adjectives for task 2 (nearly 165 words)			
Low lexis / meaning	**High lexis**	**Low lexis / meaning**	**High lexis**
Bad	Abominable, deplorable	Relating to money	Financial
Good	Acceptable, palatable, satisfactory, reasonable	Imaginary	Fictional, fabulous
Harmful	Adverse, deleterious, detrimental, inimical, injurious, destructive	Showing that sth exists	Indicative, demonstrative
Useful	Effective, fruitful, advantageous, constructive, beneficial	Related to understanding or explaining	Interpretive, analytical
Busy	Active, engaged, involved,	More important	Major, significant, cardinal, main, focal, dominant
Crowded	Congested, replete, crammed, cramped, flooded	Needed	Vital, crucial, necessary
Empty	Blank, bare	Looking the same	Similar, akin, comparable
Hopeful	Life affirming, optimistic, sanguine,	Changing often	Variable
Sad	Bereft , disconsolate, desolate, despondent	Can be reached or done, possible	Achievable, attainable, feasible, manageable, potential
Happy	Blissful, charmed, cheerful, delighted	Right	Suitable, apropos, apt
Satisfied	Complacent, content,	Difficult to understand	Abstruse, complex, byzantine
Satisfactory	Palatable, acceptable	Certain	Conclusive
Having controlling ability	Authoritative, commanding	Limited	Restricted, ambit
Can be measured	Assessable	Related, connected with	Relevant
Possible	Susceptible	Having good organization	Coordinated, well-organized
Present	Available, accessible, obtainable	Done or said in a strong way	Emphatic, assertive
Not present	Unavailable, inaccessible	Having good reason for sth	Justifiable
Producing unusual ideas	Creative, stimulating, visionary	Morally correct	Righteous, principled, upstanding, virtuous
Can be seen, clear	Evident, apparent, conspicuous, distinct, noticeable	Of or at the beginning	Initial, introductory, primary
Different	Alternative, contrasting, discrepancy, disparate, distinctive	Happening a lot or all the time	Constant, frequent, endless
Trustable	Reliable	Enough	Adequate, fair
Loyal	Committed, dedicated	Essential or important part, basic	Fundamental, integral indispensable, requisite

Useful adjectives for task 2			
Low lexis / meaning	**High lexis**	**Low lexis / meaning**	**High lexis**
Exact	Precise, accurate, correct, infallible	Around the world	Global, universal, world wide
Can do	Capable	In different order	Graded, arranged, categorized, classified
Completely new and effective	Revolutionary, avant-garde, emerging, innovative	Very near, next to	Adjacent, bordering, coterminous, neighboring
Great, extremely large	Enormous, colossal, immense, inordinate	Powerful	Prodigious, invulnerable, omnipotent, robust

Useful prepositions for task 2			
Low lexis / meaning	**High lexis**	**Low lexis / meaning**	**High lexis**
About	Regarding, with regard to, in terms of, concerning, on the subject of, connected with	Before	prior to, preceding
After	Subsequent	By	Through, via
Under	Below,	Above	more

Task 2 useful academic words

Useful verbs for task 2
(nearly 250 words)

Useful verbs for task 2 (nearly 250 words)			
Low Lexis	**High Lexis**	**Low Lexis**	**High Lexis**
Keep	store	show	indicate, illustrate, demonstrate, reveal
feel unhappy	become disappointed, disappoint	make rule	legislate
refresh	restore, rejuvenate	happen	occur
make happen faster	accelerate	(to cause)move forward	proceed, propel, inspire
send out	emit	need	require
Begin	commence	ask for	demand, request
go to school	attend school	do research	conduct, carry out, undertake
receive education	acquire an education	say yes	accept, approve, admit
Force	oblige, compel, impose	answer	respond, reply
Want	intend to, plan to	make	structure, form, construct
put up	install	change	alter, vary
Try	make an effort	do sth successfully	achieve, fulfill, attain
keep eye on sb/sth	supervise, monitor	get	gain, acquire, become, obtain
pay attention to	attend	do	administer
be keen on, interested in	to be enthusiastic about, show enthusiasm regarding	put into categories	categorize, classify
Love	show affection towards	help	assist
spend time on	devote, contribute to	to end sth, finish	conclude, terminate, adjourn
Use	consume, utilize, apply in	calculate the value, judge	evaluate
Work	function	look for	seek
understand, tell from	recognize, discern, identify, interpret,absorb	choose	select, adopt
give opinion about	comment on	to live	reside
pay for sth	afford	believe	perceive
make up for	compensate	buy	purchase
say	argue, believe, maintain, claim	to move to	transfer
suggest	recommend, pose	to control sth	regulate
move toward	approach	combine, match	coordinate, aggregate
think	assume	help	Coordinate. Provide aid
take advantage, be useful	benefit	communicate	interact
to have sth	possess	limit, control	constrain
to be able to use sth	to have access to sth	write	correspond
make up of sth	consist of sth	capitalize on sth	emphasize, highlight
make up	constitute, involve, comprise	make sure	ensure
Explain	justify	fill	occupy, obsess
test	assess	depend on	rely on
open sth, set up	establish, found	no have in sth	exclude, remove

Low Lexis	High Lexis	Low Lexis	High Lexis
help with money	finance, provide financial support	make better	improve, promote
provide money for sth	fund, sponsor	keep in mind	Retain
have sth in sth	contain	say before it happens	predict, forecast
find the place	locate	change to fit	adjust, modify
print	publish	worsen	compound, exacerbate
write your name in classes, etc	register, enroll	talk to sb	consult
make able	enable	change gradually	evolve
make larger	expand	leave open to, no to protect	expose
make sth (electricity,etc)	generate, manufacture	make easy	facilitate
become familiar with	orientate	follow	pursue
say no	reject, refute	keep on	continue, sustain
replace	substitute	thank sb	acknowledge
give example	cite, illustrate	connect, join	attach
say before	mention, aforementioned	grow	enhance, increase, rise
not give attention to	ignore	to tell sb how to do sth	Instruct
slow down sth	inhibit, prevent	Go forward	advance
to get rid of, escape	dispose of,	introduce new ideas	Innovate
delete, cross out	eliminate	forbid	Prohibit
to add sth to sth	insert	to stay alive	Survive
separate	isolate	to go with sb	Accompany
pile up	accumulate	value	Appreciate
make clear	clarify	obey	conform to
discover	detect	to show publicly	Exhibit
make less	reduce, minimize	to give room	Accommodate
live	dwell	make certain	Assure
stop	cease	act against, not obey	Violate
continue to exist	persist	face	encounter, confront
dig	quarry	use wrongly	misuse, abuse
do business	commerce	buy and sell	Trade
use sth a lot	overuse	to put in order	to prioritize
say formally, say	announce, express	to encourage to grow	Stimulate
to connect in mind	associate	copy	imitate, replicate
Solve	tackle, handle, approach the problem	To gather sth	Compile, accumulate, collect

Now turn to next page for a list of Nouns.

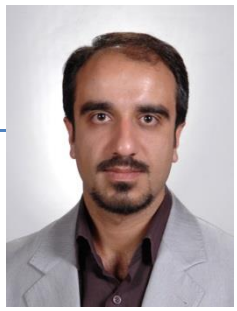
Task 2 useful academic words

Useful nouns for task 2 (nearly 250 words)

Useful Nouns for task 2 (nearly 250 words)			
High Lexis verb	**High Lexis Noun**	**High Lexis verb**	**High Lexis Noun**
store	storage	indicate, illustrate, demonstrate, reveal	indication, illustration, demonstration
become disappointed, disappoint	Disappointment	legislate	Legislation
restore, rejuvenate	restoration, rejuvenation	occur	Occurrence
accelerate	Acceleration	proceed, propel, inspire	proceedings, inspiration
emit	Emission	require	Requirement
commence	Commencement	demand, request	demand, request
attend school	Attendance	conduct, carry out, undertake	------
acquire an education	Acquisition of an education	accept, approve, admit	acceptance, approval, admission
oblige, compel, impose	obligation, compulsion, imposition	respond, reply	response, reply
intend to, plan to	intention, plan	structure, form, construct	structure, formation, construction
install	Installation	alter, vary	Alteration, variation
make an effort	an effort	achieve, fulfill, attain	achievement, fulfillment, attainment
supervise, monitor	supervision, monitoring	gain, acquire, become, obtain	gain, acquisition
attend	Attention	administer	Administration
to be enthusiastic about, show enthusiasm regarding	Enthusiasm	categorize, classify	category, classification
show affection towards	affection	assist	Assistance
devote, contribute to	devotion, contribution to	conclude, terminate, adjourn	conclusion, termination, adjournment
consume, utilize, apply in	consumption, utilization, application	evaluate	Evaluation
function	function	seek	----
recognize, discern, identify, interpret, absorb	Recognition , discernment, identification, interpretation ,absorption	select, adopt	selection, adoption
comment on	Comment	reside	Residence
afford	Affordability	perceive	Perception
compensate	Compensation	purchase	Purchase
argue, believe, maintain, claim	argument, belief, claim	transfer	Transfer
recommend, pose	Recommendation ,	regulate	Regulation
approach	Approach	coordinate, aggregate	coordination, aggregation
assume	Assumption	Coordinate. Provide aid	Coordination, aid
benefit	Benefit	interact	Interaction
possess	Possession	constrain	Constraint
to have access to sth	access to sth	correspond	Correspondence
consist of sth	----	emphasize, highlight	emphasis

High Lexis verb	**High Lexis Noun**	High Lexis verb	**High Lexis Noun**
constitute, involve, comprise	constitution, involvement,	ensure	Insurance
justify	Justification	occupy, obsess	occupation, obsession
assess	Assessment	rely on	Reliance
establish, found	establishment, foundation	exclude, remove	exclusion, removal
finance, provide financial support	finance, financial support	improve, promote	improvement, promotion
fund, sponsor	fund, sponsorship	Retain	Retention
Contain	----	predict, forecast	prediction, forecast
Locate	Location	adjust, modify	adjustment, modification
Publish	Publication	compound, exacerbate	compound, exacerbation
register, enroll	registration, enrollment	consult	Consultation
Enable	Ability	evolve	Evolution
expand	Expansion	expose	Exposition
generate, manufacture	generation, manufacture	facilitate	Facilitation
orientate	Orientation	pursue	Pursuit
reject, refute	rejection, refutation	continue, sustain	-----
substitute	Substitution	acknowledge	Acknowledgement
cite, illustrate	citation, illustration	attach	Attachment
mention, aforementioned	Mention	enhance, increase, rise	enhancement, increase, rise
ignore	Ignorance	instruct	Instruction
inhibit, prevent	inhibition, prevention	advance	Advancement
dispose of,	Disposition	innovate	Innovation
eliminate	Elimination	prohibit	Prohibition
insert	Insertion	survive	Survival
isolate	Isolation	accompany	Company
accumulate	Accumulation	appreciate	Appreciation
clarify	Clarification	conform to	Conformity
detect	Detection	exhibit	Exhibition
reduce, minimize	reduction	accommodate	Accommodation
dwell	Dwelling	assure	----
cease	Cease	violate	Violation
persist	Persistence	encounter, confront	encounter, confrontation
quarry	Quarry	misuse, abuse	misuse, abuse
commerce	Commerce	trade	Trade
overuse	Overuse	to prioritize	Priority
announce, express	announcement, expression	stimulate	Stimulation
associate	Association	imitate, replicate	imitation, replication
tackle, handle, approach the problem	Approach the problem	Compile, accumulate, collect	Compilation, accumulation, collection

About the author



Mr. Reza Atashzamzam is an MA graduate of English language teaching. He has been working as a lecturer at university, teacher trainer and teacher in Shiraz and Tehran, Iran since 2004. He has been internationally trained by **McMillan University** on teaching IELTS. He has spent time on holding workshops for IELTS candidates both in person and online. His teaching career includes:

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- Teaching at Navid English Institute, Shiraz, Iran
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