

IELTS Vocabulary pdf

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affably

in a pleasant or friendly way

afield

far afield a long way
away People come from far afield to visit
the grave

agenda

noun a list of points
for discussion what's on the agenda?
what are we going to discuss?

agog

adj all agog very eager
They were all agog to hear her story

alienate

verb 1. to make someone
feel unfriendly 2. to make someone not
want to support you

allege

verb to suggest that someone
may have done something wrong. Synonym
claim

barnstorming

adj full of wild political oratory

bigoted

adj with very strong and
unreasonable ideas about something. Synonym
prejudiced. Antonym open-minded

bipartite

adj with two sides
taking part

bleak

adj 1. cold and unpleasant
The path led across bleak mountains. 2.
showing no sign of hope She gave him a
bleak stare. With no qualifications, his job
prospects are bleak.

bootleg

adj sold illegally. Synonym
illegal

Briton

noun a person from the
United Kingdom

buoyant

adj 1. which can float
easily, which helps something float easily
The raft became waterlogged and was no
longer buoyant. Salt water is more buoyant
than fresh water. 2. full of confidence She
left the meeting in a very buoyant mood.

cahoots

noun (informal.) to
be in cahoots with someone to work with
someone against another person I think
she's in cahoots with the drugs gang.

cairn

noun a pile of stones to mark
an important spot

caricature

noun a funny
drawing or description which exaggerates a

person's appearance He drew a caricature of the Prime Minister. Her description of the office is nothing less than a caricature of the system. _____ verb to draw a caricature of someone The Prime Minister is easy to caricature.

cartel

noun a group of companies which try to fix the price of something

derisory

adj ridiculously small

despise

verb to look down on someone, to think someone is not worth much. Synonym loathe. Antonym admire

egregious

adj very bad (formal.)

elision

noun the omission of an element of a word or phrase

Vocabulary for IELTS

fidelity

noun 1. the fact of being faithful He was rewarded for his fidelity to the president. 2. the quality of the sound produced by an electronic machine such as a CD player a high fidelity CD player

figurative

adj 1. (of art.) which shows something as it really is He's a well-known figurative artist.

glaring

adj 1. very bright the glaring headlights of the cars 2. fierce He gave me a glaring look. 3. obvious The book is full of glaring mistakes

hoax

noun a trick played on someone as a joke or to annoy him or her The police and fire brigade arrived but the bomb was just a hoax. The ambulance answered a hoax telephone call.

Vocabulary for IELTS

immaculate

adj 1. extremely clean or tidy The car looked absolutely immaculate

laconically

adv using only a few words

opulent

adj rich, luxurious or splendid. Antonym sparse

propaganda

noun the spreading of false or biased information about something which you want the public to believe

stance

noun 1. the position of someone when standing His stance is so awkward I'm surprised he can even hit the ball. 2. a point of view or opinion Her

stance on environmental issues is surprising.
The party has adopted a new progressive
stance on education.

unpalatable

adj unpleasant
to consider or accept She had to face
some unpalatable facts.

yank

noun a short sharp pull He
gave the rope a yank and it came away in his
hands. _____ verb to pull hard and sharply
Yank that string and it should ring a bell in
the bar. She tried to yank the pram out of
the mud. Synonym pull

zealot

noun a fanatic, a person who
shows excessive zeal, especially for religion.
Synonym extremist. Antonym moderate

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aback

taken aback surprised
and shocked by something unpleasant
She was somewhat taken aback when he
told her there was no train that evening.

abandoned

adj no longer used or lived in

abashed

adj ashamed or embarrassed

abject

very bad abject poverty 2. making you feel ashamed
an abject apology abject terror

able-bodied

adj fit and healthy

abrasion

noun 1. the action of rubbing off the surface of something

2. an area of skin damaged by rubbing against something hard There were cuts and abrasions all over her legs.

abridgement

noun a shortened form of a text such as a book or play

abysmal

adj extremely bad. Synonym terrible. Antonym superb

accredit

verb to make someone an official representative.

barbell

noun a long metal bar with a weight at each end which is used in weightlifting

beastly

adj nasty (dated informal.)
Synonym horrid. Antonym lovely

beckon

verb to beckon to someone to make a sign with your hand telling someone to come The nurse beckoned to her to come into the room

bedraggled

adj dirty, untidy and wet. Synonym unkempt

bemoan

verb to complain about something. Synonym lament. Antonym applaud

censure

noun criticism There was widespread public censure of the government. Antonym approval ————— verb to criticise
The Opposition put forward a motion to censure the Government.

certitude

noun certainty. Synonym conviction. Antonym uncertainty

deaden

verb to make something less intense, e.g. to make a sound quieter or a pain less painful. Synonym soften

decadent /

dekəd(ə)nt/ adj which is declining in moral values. Synonym debauched

decry

verb to criticise something or say that something is bad. Synonym criticise. Antonym praise

enigma

noun a mystery or puzzle. Synonym paradox

enticing

adj which attracts or tempts someone to do something. Synonym tempting

fatality

noun a death in an accident

feisty

adj energetic and brave (informal).
Synonym lively. Antonym feeble

gradient

noun a slope in a
road or railway

hastily

adv carelessly and
quickly

revamp

verb to improve the appearance
of something which is slightly
old-fashioned

swindle

noun an illegal deal in
which someone is cheated out of money
She was caught up in some swindle involving
imported cars. Synonym fraud

tenacious

adj 1. holding on
tightly to something, determined to have
your own way We have to deal with several
very tenacious tenants. 2. holding on to
an idea tightly her tenacious belief in socialist
principles

wistful

adj longing for something,
but sad because there is no hope of getting

it. Synonym pensive. Antonym satisfied

ambivalent

adj not sure or decided. Synonym unsure

amble

verb to walk in a relaxed way without hurrying. Synonym stroll. Antonym dash

amicably

adv in a friendly way

amiss

adv, adj something is amiss something is wrong, there is a problem
They checked the engine, but nothing seemed to be amiss. don't take it amiss
don't be annoyed

anarchic

adj without any law or order

annihilate

verb to destroy something completely

aplomb

noun a calm and self-confident attitude. Synonym assurance

appease

verb 1. to try to improve something bad or uncomfortable 2. to give in to another country in the hope that they will not start a war

archetype

noun a typical example
of something

aristocracy

noun the people
of the highest class in society, usually
with titles such as Lord or Duke.

aura

noun a general feeling or quality
in a particular situation. Synonym air

babble

1. a little sound
made by water as it flows the babble of the
stream 2. the sound of people talking together
a babble of voices in the next room

bashful

adj shy and embarrassed.
Synonym shy

balk

verb to balk at something
to refuse to do something which is dangerous
or unpleasant He did all sorts of work in
the office, but balked at having to clean the
toilets. She balked at the cost of the air
fare to New Zealand

chalk up

verb to achieve a
score or a victory

chauffeur

noun a person who is
paid to drive a car for someone else The
chauffeur brought the Rolls round to the
door. Synonym driver

chink

noun 1. a very small hole or crack Even a tiny chink in the curtains will let light into the darkroom. 2. a little noise of pieces of something hard hitting each other The chink of glasses on the waiter's tray. _____
verb to make a little noise We could hear the ice cubes chinking as she carried the tray of drinks over to us.

churlish

adj unfriendly or unhelpful

cloistered

adj protected from the outside world and its problems. Synonym secluded

damp

adj rather wet She'd just had a shower and her hair was still damp. The cellar has cold damp walls. (NOTE: damper – dampest) _____ noun moisture in the air or on a surface The damp makes my rheumatism worse. _____ verb to wet something slightly The dew has damped the grass

daunt

verb to discourage or frighten someone. Antonym encourage _____ nothing daunted not discouraged at all He saw the crocodile and, nothing daunted, continued to walk along the river bank.

dazed

adj confused in the mind. Synonym confused

epitome

noun a person who shows a particular quality very strongly. Antonym antithesis

excursion

noun a short pleasure trip

fag

noun 1. tiring or boring work (informal.)
It's such a fag, licking all these envelopes.
2. a cigarette He cadged a fag off me. I bought a packet of fags at the kiosk

famished

adj very hungry

graffiti

noun writing on walls in public places

halt

noun a complete stop. Synonym standstill to come to a halt to stop completely The lorry came to a halt just before the wall.

riveting

adj which holds everyone's attention (informal.) Synonym fascinating. Antonym boring

swingeing

adj harsh, heavy

tenable

adj which can be held
or supported. Antonym untenable

warring

adj at war. Synonym belligerent.
Antonym friendly

winch

noun a device which pulls
things up by winding a rope around a drum
The recovery vehicle has a winch at the back.
Synonym hoist verb to pull up or to lift by
using a winch The sailors were winched
from the yacht by helicopter.

acquaint

verb 1. to be acquainted with someone or something have
some knowledge of someone or something
(formal.) Is he acquainted with the details
of the case? She is acquainted with my father.
2. to inform someone

acquiesce

/kwies/ verb to agree to
something without protesting about it (formal.).
Synonym accept. Antonym resist

adamant

with firm opinions.
Synonym obstinate. Antonym
amenable

adorn

verb to decorate something
with ornaments (formal.)

adrift

1. floating on the water
but not being guided by anyone to cast a
boat adrift to let a boat float without control
2. not connected It won't work because the

wire has come adrift from the plug. 3. away from the correct figure I think we are about £250 adrift in our calculations.

aerodrome

noun a small airport. Synonym airfield

avant-garde

adj describes things such as forms of art or ways of thinking that are new, original and not traditional

backer

1. a person who supports a project with money One of the company's backers has withdrawn. 2. a person who risks money by saying which horse, team, etc. will win a particular race or competition Several backers lost thousands when the favourite fell at the last fence

bane

noun it's the bane of my life it's very annoying The neighbour's dog is the bane of our lives.

bargain

noun 1. an agreed deal to strike a bargain to agree terms We shook hands and the bargain was struck.

besotted

adj besotted with someone madly in love with someone I don't see what he sees in her, but he's completely besotted. She's besotted with her new baby.

bewildered

adj confused or
puzzled

bide

verb 1. to wait for a good opportunity
to do something If I were you I
wouldn't do anything quickly, I'd bide my
time. 2. (archaic) to stay, or wait

cascade

noun a waterfall

There are plants and trees and even a cascade
in the atrium of the hotel. _____ verb to fall
in large quantities Pale pink roses cascading
down the brick wall.

castigate

verb to punish, to
criticise someone strongly (formal.). Synonym
criticise. Antonym praise

catastrophic

adj disastrous.
Antonym fortunate

caveat

noun a warning, especially
against doing something

defiance

noun a very proud action
against an opponent. Synonym insubordination.
Antonym compliance as an act
of defiance to show that you are defying
someone He kept his hat on in church as
an act of defiance. in defiance of someone
or something acting proudly against someone
or something Their protest march took
place in defiance of a police order.

defray

verb to provide money to
pay someone's costs

demure

adj quiet and serious

eloquence

noun the art of
making speeches which persuade and convince

emigrate

verb to leave your
country to live in another. Compare
immigrate

 fend

/fend/ verb to fend for yourself to
look after yourself We went to Spain and
left the children to fend for themselves

fetish

noun 1. an object which is
believed by some people to be magic 2. a
strong sexual interest in a certain object or
material a rubber fetish 3. a very strong interest
in or liking for something

globule

noun a small round
drop, especially of oil or another thick liquid

haywire

adj (informal.) to go
haywire to stop working properly Everything's
gone haywire.

incoherent

adj not able
to speak in a way which makes sense

retrace

verb to go back to the origins
of something to retrace your steps to
go back over the same path again She
thought she had lost her watch while shopping,
so she retraced her steps from shop to
shop.

symposium

noun a meeting
organised to discuss a specialised subject.
Synonym conference (NOTE: The plural is
symposia.)

taint

noun a trace of something bad
We need a new finance director who is totally
free of the taint of corruption. _____ verb 1.
to damage something His political reputation
has been permanently tainted by the
scandal. 2. to make something rotten
tainted food food which has become rotten
by touching other rotten food

workaholic

noun a person
who cannot stop working (informal.)

zilch

noun nothing