IELTS Education Vocabulary

Part 1-style questions
Examiner: Are you studying English at a school?
Michel: Yes … I'm taking **an intensive course** at a local **private language school** … I **attend classes** three times a week …

Examiner: Would you say you are a good student?
Susan: I'm OK I think … I'm pretty good at **meeting deadlines** and I'm **keeping up with my studies** … plus I find it quite easy to **learn things by heart** which is useful when learning a language …

Examiner: When you were younger did you enjoy your time at school?

Theo: Yes … I liked school … it was an ordinary **state school** … nothing special … **a single-sex school** … which I'm not sure I liked … but the teachers were great … I had lots of friends and I never **played truant** like some pupils there …

Part 2-style task
Describe a time during your education that you really enjoyed. You should say:

- when this period was
- where you were
- what you were studying at the time

and say why you were so happy.

Caroline: I'd like to tell you about my time at university … I was **a mature student** … I didn't go to university until I was 25 … and it was my first time away from my parents so it was very exciting … I was doing **a Bachelors Degree** and it was a bit of a challenge … some people **take a year out** but I'd been away from education for 8 years … plus I had **to work my way through uni** so I was very busy … and **sitting exams** at the end of each year was a new experience for me as well but I really enjoyed **higher education** learning about a subject I loved … history … and the social life was great as well … I don't think I've ever had so many friends … I had my **graduation ceremony** last year in the local cathedral and I know my parents were really proud … so yes … that was a really happy time … I'm thinking of doing a **Masters Degree** soon … though that might be through **distance learning** as I have a full-time job now …

Part 3-style questions
Examiner: What qualities do you think a good teacher has?
Anna: They should be patient … they should be **subject specialists** and be able to explain the subject clearly … they should **give feedback** quickly … for example not hang on to essay for ages like some of my teachers …

Examiner: What are the advantages of studying on a distance learning course?
Florrie: It's a more flexible way of studying especially if you have a job … **tuition fees** are

usually cheaper … but you have to be very motivated … and I would imagine more people **fall behind with their studies** compared to **face-to-face classes** …

Examiner: Do all children get equal opportunities in education?
Julie: In my country I think it is quite equal but in the UK I've heard that most people who go to the top universities have studied at **public schools** … you have to be very rich to study in a school like that … they're usually **boarding schools** as well so the fees are enormous …

Definitions

- ***to attend classes***: to go to classes
- ***bachelors degree***: an undergraduate course which usually lasts 3-4 years
- ***boarding school***: a school where pupils live during term time
- ***distance learning***: a way of studying where tuition is carried out over the Internet or by post
- ***face-to-face classes***: as opposed to distance learning the traditional way of studying in a classroom with colleagues and a teacher
- ***to fall behind with your studies***: to progress less quickly than others
- ***to give feedback***: to offer guidance on a student's work
- ***a graduation ceremony***: an event where a successful student receives his or her academic degree
- ***higher education***: education, usually in a college or university, that is followed after high school or secondary school
- ***an intensive course***: a course that offers lots of training in order to reach a goal in as short a time as possible
- ***to keep up with your studies***: to not fall behind
- ***to learn something by heart***: to memorize it
- ***a mature student***: a student who is older than average and who has usually returned to education after a period at work
- ***masters degree***: a period of study which often follows the completion of a bachelors degree or is undertaken by someone regarded as capable of a higher-level academic course
- ***to meet a deadline***: to finish a job or task in the time allowed or agreed
- ***to play truant***: to stay away from classes without permission
- ***private language school***: an independent school run as a business concern
- ***public schools***: exclusive independent schools in the UK
- ***a single-sex school***: a school where only boys or girls attend (as opposed to a mixed-sex school)
- ***to sit an exam***: to take an exam
- ***state school***: a school paid for by public funds and available to the general public
- ***subject specialist***: a teacher who has a great deal of knowledge about the subject they teach.
- ***to take a year out***: to spend a year working or travelling before starting university
- ***tuition fees***: the money paid for a course of study

- ***to work your way through university***: to have a paid job whilst studying to support yourself financia

IELTS Speaking Vocabulary. Education

- **humanities**: studies about human culture, such as literature, languages, philosophy, and history.*Chloe excels in humanities subjects. She's adept at arts and languages.*
- **sciences**: studies about the world, such as physics, biology, chemistry, and maths.*Mark doesn't like scientific subjects, he's just too lazy to learn formulas.*
- **A for effort**: a good mark, which is given someone for trying hard rather than for a success.*Although I'm not the smartest in my group, I often get an A for effort, because I try hard.*
- **bachelor's degree**: an undergraduate course which usually lasts 3 or 4 years.*I will receive my bachelor's degree in two years.*
- **bookworm**: a term to describe someone who really likes to read and spends a lot of time on it.*I'm a real bookworm. I won't stop until the book is read.*
- **distance learning (e-learning)**: education that takes place remotely, usually via the Internet.*Distance learning is more flexible than traditional education, because students don't have to attend classes and can schedule their timetables as they want.*
- **eager beaver**: an enthusiastic and hard-working person.*My friend is an eager beaver. He studies everything with pleasure and gets great marks.*
- **face-to-face classes**: a traditional way of studying - in a classroom with a teacher.*When I was a kid, face-to-face classes had no alternatives, but nowadays a myriad of educational establishments offer online courses and individual tuition.*
- **higher education**: education that is followed after high school.*I plan on getting higher education after finishing school.*
- **hit the books**: begin studying hard.*I'm on my third year in the university, it is time to finally hit the books.*
- **individual tuition (private tuition)**: instruction received individually or in a small group.*Individual tuition is sometimes more effective than group work.*
- **intensive course**: a course that offers longer and more frequent classes.*A few years ago I took an intensive French course in the university.*
- **internship**: a temporary position which students usually take to get work experience and practical knowledge.*Before I went into design industry, I took an internship in a company.*

- **master's degree**: a graduate course, which follows after bachelor's degree.*Master's degree is often important to find a job with a higher salary.*
- **mature student**: someone who's older than others.*Nowadays it's not uncommon to face a mature student in the class. People often change professions and get a second or third degree in their mid-thirties.*
- **not the sharpest tool in the shed**: a polite way of saying that someone isn't very smart.*Maybe John isn't the sharpest tool in the shed, but he's a good friend nonetheless.*
- **public schools**: exclusive independent schools in the UK.*My friend finished a public school a few years ago.*
- **schoolboy error**: a very basic and stupid mistake.*Sam made a schoolboy error on his English test.*
- **single-sex schools**: schools for either boys or girls.*My brother studied in a single-sex school.*
- **small fraction**: small part.*A small fraction of students managed to pass this exam.*
- **state school**: a school which is paid for by the state or country.*It is hard to find a good state school nowadays.*
- **subject specialist**: a person who is very talented in one specific field.*My math teacher was a real subject specialist. Thanks to him math is my favourite subject now.*
- **teacher's pet**: student whom teachers like the most.*Hugo is a teacher's pet, he attends all classes and manages to get good marks with poor knowledge.*
- **three R's**: basic educational skills (**r**eading, w**r**iting, a**r**ithmetic).*Pupils in a primary school study the three R's.*
- **to attend classes**: to visit classes.*In my college, students need to attend classes five times a week.*
- **to fall behind with studies**: to progress less quickly than others.*Mary was ill for two weeks, so she fell behind with her studies.*
- **to give feedback**: to give some information or criticism on a subject.*I launched a project a couple of days ago and I want my friends to give me some feedback.*
- **to goof around**: spend time doing nothing important.*Sometimes I like to goof around, although my parents scold me for that.*
- **to learn something by heart**: to memorize something.*Last year i had to learn a very big poem by heart for my literature class.*
- **to meet a deadline**: to finish something within a time limit.*Unfortunately, we weren't able to meet the deadline for our project.*
- **to pass with flying colours**: to pass easily and with excellent result.*I'm studying hard and I will pass IELTS with flying colours.*
- **to play truant**: to skip classes without permission.*During my school years I often played truant with my friends.*
- **to pursue studying**: to continue studying.*Lora would like to pursue studying in the future to become a professor.*
- **to set aside some time**: to take some time.*I need to set aside some time to collect my thoughts.*

- **to sit an exam**: to take an exam.*Tomorrow I'll have to sit a two-hour math exam.*
- **to take a year out**: to spend one year working or traveling before studying in the University.*My friend took a year out and went traveling to the UK.*
- **tuition fees**: money you pay for your education.*I had to pay tuition fees this summer.*

IELTS Books and Films Vocabulary

Part 1-style questions

Examiner: Do you like to read books?
Marie: Yes … I love reading … I like nothing more than **to be engrossed in** a good book … I regularly **take out** books from the library and usually read them **from cover to cover** in no time … and I can't go to sleep at night without some good **bedtime reading** …

Examiner: How often do you go to the cinema?
Jemma: Unfortunately we don't have a cinema near us so we have to go into the nearest town **to catch the latest movie** … I usually avoid seeing popular **box-office hits** which I'm not always keen on seeing … I prefer **low-budget films** … **sci-fi** especially … and there's a great cinema I go to that has frequent **showings** of films like these …

Examiner: Do you prefer reading books or watching films?
Louisa: I'm not really **a big reader** … I find books quite **heavy-going** … so I much prefer to see a film … perhaps it's the **special effects** or the **soundtrack** … I don't know … I just prefer a film …

Part 2-style task

Describe a book you have read or a film you have seen. You should say:

- what this book or film was
- when you read or saw it
- why you decided to see the film or read the book

and say if you enjoyed it and why.

Pauline I like reading … especially English novels … it's a great way to improve your vocabulary and there are so many fantastic authors to choose from … one book that **came highly recommended** by my teacher was The Mayor of Casterbridge … I was studying at a school in The UK at the time and she said it would give me a picture of what life was like years ago in the area I was living … well I have to say I absolutely loved it … it was **a real page-turner** … it's a **historical novel** and **the setting** was a fictional town called Casterbridge … but actually it was **based on** a town near where I was studying called Dorchester … it had such a great **plot** … to cut a long story short **it tells the story of** the downfall of a man called Henchard **the central character** who lives during a period of great social change around the time of the industrial revolution … the reason I enjoyed it so much … apart from the great story … it gave me a picture of what life had been like in the place I was studying at the time … I really **couldn't put it down** … a fantastic story …

Part 3-style questions

Examiner: Is reading as pleasurable in digital format?
Alise: Personally I prefer reading a **paperback** or **hardback** … especially if I'm reading **a classic** which I don't think feels right as an **e-book** … but I can see it can be good for others … my grandmother has an **e-reader** and she loves the way you can enlarge the text …

Examiner: Do you think bookshops will survive the digital revolution?
Thomas: I think so … at least I hope so … I love **flicking through** books in a bookshop … online shopping is useful … finding out on Amazon if a book you want has **got a good review** … maybe getting one that is difficult to find … but I still love the experience of being in a bookshop …

Examiner: Statistics show that visits to the cinema are up despite the availability of DVDs and online downloads. Why do you think this might be?
Jamie: I think it's the whole experience that the cinema offers … going out **to see a film** when it **goes on general release** … and seeing it **on the big screen** is more exciting than **watching the film** at home on TV … especially if it's **an action movie** … and watching it with others makes it even more special …

Definitions

- ***an action movie***: a film with fast moving scenes, often containing violence
- ***to be engrossed in***: to be completely focused on one thing
- ***bedtime reading***: something to read in bed before you go to sleep
- ***to be a big reader***: someone who reads a lot
- ***to be based on***: to use as a modal
- ***a box office hit***: a financially successful film
- ***to be heavy-going***: difficult to read
- ***a blockbuster***: a film that is a big commercial success
- ***to catch the latest movie***: to see a film that has just come out
- ***the central character*:** the main person in a film or book
- ***a classic***: of the highest quality
- ***to come highly recommended***: to be praised by another person
- ***couldn't put it down***: wasn't able to stop reading a book
- ***an e-book***: a digital book
- ***an e-reader***: a device for reading e-books
- ***to flick through***: to look quickly through a book
- ***to get a good/bad review***: to receive positive or negative feedback
- ***to go on general release***: when a film can be seen by the general public
- ***hardback***: a book with a rigid cover (see 'paperback' below)
- ***a historical novel***: a story set in the past
- ***a low budget film***: a film made with a small amount of money
- ***on the big screen***: at the cinema
- ***a page turner***: a book that you want to keep reading
- ***paperback***: a book with a flexible cover (see 'hardback' above)
- ***plot***: the main events in a film or book
- ***to read something from cover to cover***: to read a book from the first page to the last
- ***sci-fi***: science fiction
- ***to see a film***: to see a film at the cinema (see 'watch a film' below)
- ***the setting***: where the action takes place

- ***showings***: performances of a film
- ***soundtrack***: the music that accompanies a film
- ***special effects***: the visuals or sounds that are added to a film which are difficult to produce naturally
- ***to take out (a book from the library)***: to borrow a book from the library
- ***to tell the story of***: to outline the details of someone's life or an event
- ***to watch a film***: to watch a film on TV (see 'to see a film' above)

IELTS Speaking Vocabulary. Books and Films

Adjectives to describe books and films:

- **action-packed**: full of action.*My brother loves action-packed movies. Probably that's why his favourite film is "Terminator".*
- **addictive**: a book or film that you quickly become addicted to.*"Harry Potter" series by Joanne Rowling are so addictive! I couldn't stop after the first book and read all volumes.*
- **creepy**: producing a sensation of uneasiness or fear, scary.*Noah finds Stephen King's stories creepy.*
- **dreary**: gloomy or depressing.*I can't stand dramas, thrillers and other dreary movies.*
- **entertaining**: funny and enjoyable.*Comedies are very entertaining.*
- **futuristic**: telling about the future.*"Star Wars" movie is futuristic and dynamic.*
- **heartbreaking**: that breaks your heart and evokes sad emotions.*When my aunt watched "Titanic" she cried all day! It's such a heartbreaking film.*
- **inspirational**: evoking inspiration.
-

- **intense**: a book or film loaded with actions and emotions that evokes strong feelings.*The play's plot was very intense. Just a minute after a couple had a quarrel in the forest, the secret lover appeared and started a fire-fight.*
- **tear-jerking**: tragic, making you cry.*My sister is very emotional. I would rather watch a comedy with her than a tear-jerking movie!*
- **thought-provoking**: a book or film that makes you think of new ideas or that changes your attitude to something.*Ray Bradbury's novel "Fahrenheit 451" is deeply thought-provoking. I had to rethink my attitude to legislation and censorship after I read it.*

Advanced vocabulary:

- **action movie**: film with fast moving scenes, often containing violence.*Last week I saw a great action movie with my brother at our local movie theatre.*
- **bedtime reading**: a book you read in your bed before going to sleep.*I'm really addicted to books! I can't even fall asleep without an hour of bedtime reading.*
- **box office hit**: a very successful movie, in terms of money.*The new movie might be a box office hit, but I didn't like it at all.*
- **e-reader**: a gadget for reading books.*My e-reader broke a few days ago, so now I'll need to fix it or buy a new one.*
- **from cover to cover**: from the first page to the last.*I am a slow reader so it takes me a lot of time to read a book from cover to cover.*
- **hardcover**: a book with hard cover. Opposite to softcover.*My friend gave me a hardcover book as a present for my birthday.*
- **page turner**: a book which is so good that you cannot stop reading it.*My sister recommended me a great book. It was such a page turner that I read it in one day!*
- **plot**: a storyline of a book or film.
    - **intricate plot**: a very complex, labyrinthine plot.*The famous Leo Tolstoy's novel "War and Peace" has a very intricate plot. It tells a story of five different families and comprises of 4 volumes.*
    - **subordinate plot** (subplot): a plot that is related to, but less important than the main plot of a story.*Ernest Hemingway's novel "The Sun Also Rises" tells a love story of a man and a woman. However, the book involves many subordinate plots that raise questions about physical and spiritual affinity, trans-racial relationships and anti-Semitism.*
    - **threadbare plot**: a simple, primitive plot.*The movie's plot was threadbare, but cutely disarming in its own way.*
- **unravelling of the plot**: the way in which a story develops over time.*I first thought Jack London's novel "Martin Eden" to be pretty straightforward. However, the plot unravelled in a very unpredicted way.*

IELTS Personality Vocabulary

Part 1-style questions
Examiner: How would you describe yourself?
Paula: Everyone tells me I **take after** my mum as I'm quite **laid-back** … I think I'm **good company** but you should ask my friends if they agree …

Examiner: In which ways are you similar to your friends?
Manuel: I seem to be attracted to **introverts** … not people who are **painfully shy** but most of my friends are a little **reserved** … and I think that's what I'm like …

Examiner: Are you similar or different to your brother(s)/sister(s)?
Mira: I think my brother and I are very similar … I'd say we're **fun-loving** and tend to be a bit **extroverted** … my brother is certainly **the life and soul of the party** … I'm not sure that applies to me …

Part 2-style task
Describe a teacher you once had who you enjoyed being taught by. You should say

- who this person was
- when they were your teacher
- which subject they taught you

and describe what it was about their character that you liked.

Carolina: I'd like to describe my English teacher from school … Miss Thomas … this was a few years ago now and she was my teacher at a time when I was getting a little bored with being at school … unlike some of the other teachers Miss Thomas never **lost her temper** … she was very calm and **easy-going** … she was also very **broad-minded** … we were able to ask her questions about lots of subjects that some other teachers would refuse to discuss which made us respect her even more … she had a great **sense of humour** too … she'd laugh at our jokes as well as making us laugh … and she would also **bend over backwards** to help us with our work … she always **put us first** and often stayed around at the end of class to talk with anyone who needed help … apparently she was highly respected within her field but you would never know as she was the type that **hid her light under a bushel** … she was very modest and **self-effacing** … so yes … Miss Thomas was a teacher I have fond memories of …

Part 3-style questions
Examiner: Which personal qualities do you think we most want to pass on to our children?
Martin: I certainly would want my children to be **self-confident** and **self-assured** … I really believe that people who feel good about themselves are in a good position to face what life has to offer them … and I'd hope they wouldn't be **self-centred** … but remembered to think about others …

Examiner: Which characteristics do you think are the least appealing in a person?
Marianne: Well … people who are very **narrow-minded** are difficult to get on with … it's nice

when someone is open to other people's opinion and willing to think about their own views … and people who are **two-faced** can be a little irritating … relationships are built on trust and without honesty there's not much left …

Examiner: Which personality types do you think are less likely to suffer from stress or anxiety?
Sol: Probably people who are **thick-skinned** … who don't let people or problems affect them too much … and if you are **fair-minded** you' ll be less likely to overreact to situations or be **quick-tempered** …

Definitions

- ***to be the life and soul of the party***: a fun person, someone who is the centre of activity
- ***to bend over backwards***: to try very hard to help someone
- ***broad-minded***: prepared to accept other views or behaviours
- ***easy-going***: relaxed and not easily worried about anything
- ***extrovert***: an energetic person who likes the company of others
- ***fair-minded***: to treat people equally
- ***fun-loving***: to enjoy having fun
- ***to hide one's light under a bushel***: to hide one's talents and skills
- ***good company***: enjoyable to socialise with
- ***good sense of humour***: the ability to understand what is funny
- ***introvert***: someone who is shy
- ***laid-back***: see 'easy-going'
- ***to lose one's temper***: to suddenly become angry
- ***narrow minded***: opposite of 'broad-minded' (see above)
- ***painfully shy***: very shy
- ***to put others first***: to think of others before yourself
- ***quick-tempered***: to become angry quickly
- ***reserved***: shy
- ***self-assured***: confident
- ***self-centred***: thinks only of oneself
- ***self-confident***: believes in one's own ability or knowledge
- ***self-effacing***: to not try to get the attention of others (especially in terms of hiding one's skills or abilities)
- ***to take after***: to be like (often another member of the family)
- ***thick-skinned***: not easily affected by criticism
- ***trustworthy***: can be trusted
- ***two-faced***: not honest or sincere. Will say one thing to someone to their face and another when they are not present.

IELTS Physical Appearance Vocabulary

Part 1-style questions
Examiner: Do you look like any other people in your family?
Carlo: No … not at all … take my brother for example … he has short **cropped hair** and has quite a **pointed face** … he's also quite **fair-skinned** compared to me …

Examiner: Tell me about your family.
Andrea: My father'**s getting on a bit** … he's **in his 60s** … but he **looks very young for his age** … he still does lots of exercise and is quite **well-built** …

Examiner: What does your best friend look like?
Mandy: She's the same age as me … she has **shoulder-length hair** … **fair hair** … she has a **slim figure** and is **medium height** …

Part 2-style task
Describe a person whose appearance you like. You should say

- who this person is
- what their relationship is to you
- what they look like

and say what it is about their appearance you like.

Monique: OK … I'd like to talk about my aunt … her name's Marta and she's quite a character … she'**s middle-aged** but has a very **youthful appearance** … she's a little **overweight** I suppose but not too much … she has a friendly **round face** framed by **thick blonde hair** … she has a lovely **complexion** and she's always **well-turned out** … she actually always looks like she's going out for the evening to somewhere special … there'**s never a hair out of place** … I've always thought she **bears a striking resemblance to** someone on TV … I can't remember the name now … she **wears glasses** and always seems to have a different pair on every time I see her … I like the way she looks because she wears clothes that are right for her age and manages to look glamorous without it looking like she's too done up … yes … I'll be happy if I look like her when I'm her age …

Part 3-style questions
Examiner: Is it important to dress well whenever we go out?
Mark: It depends where you're going … I know some people **get done up** just to go to the shops … but I don't see the point … you shouldn't go out looking **scruffy** with **disheveled hair** but I really don't see the point in **getting dressed up to the nines** unless you're going somewhere special …

Examiner: Do people worry too much about their appearance as they get older?
Mira: I'm sure they do … yes … but it happens to all of us doesn't it … we all **go grey** eventually and get **hard of hearing** … we start **to lose our figure** … that's why plastic surgery is so popular … personally I think we just need **to grow old gracefully** and not worry too much about how we look …

Examiner: Is attractiveness a quality worthwhile aiming for?
Phoebe: I'd like to say no … it shouldn't matter what we look like in terms of our physical

appearance … but unfortunately it seems women especially are taken more seriously if they are **good looking** with **a slender figure** with perfect **make up** and so on …

Definitions

- ***to bear a striking resemblance***: to look very similar to
- ***cropped hair***: very short hair
- ***disheveled hair***: untidy hair
- ***to dress up to the nines***: to dress very smartly or glamorously
- ***fair hair***: light-coloured hair
- ***to be fair-skinned***: light skinned
- ***to get done up***: to dress smartly
- ***to be getting on a bit***: to be getting old
- ***to go grey***: to have hair that is turning grey
- ***to be good looking***: to be attractive
- ***to grow old gracefully***: to act in a way that embraces the fact you are getting older
- ***to be hard of hearing***: to find it difficult to hear
- ***in his/her 30s/40s***: to be 20/30 something
- ***scruffy***: dressed untidily
- ***to look young for your age***: to look younger than you are
- ***to lose one's figure***: to have a figure that has lost its toned shape
- ***complexion***: natural skin colour and texture
- ***make up***: cosmetics
- ***medium height***: average height
- ***middle-aged***: approximately between 45-65
- ***to never have a hair out of place***: perfectly styled hair
- ***to be overweight***: to weigh more than is regarded as healthy
- ***pointed face***: the opposite of a round face
- ***shoulder-length hair***: hair that comes down to the shoulders and no further
- ***slender figure***: a figue that is tall and slim
- ***slim figure***: attractively thin
- ***thick hair***: a lot of hair
- ***to wear glasses***: to use spectacles
- ***to be well-built***: to be muscular
- ***to be well-turned out***: to look smart
- ***youthful appearance***: to look young

IELTS Music Vocabulary

Part 1-style questions

Examiner: What kind of music do you listen to?
Katherine: I'm a big fan of **classical music** … it doesn't make me very popular with my children … their **taste in music** is completely different … they always want to listen to their favourite **rock bands** …

Examiner: Do you play any instruments?
Jamie: No I don't … I've always wished I'd **taken up a musical instrument** … I'd love to be able to play the guitar … but I think I'm a bit **tone deaf** so perhaps I'd find it hard …

Examiner: Have you got any hobbies or interests?
Marco: I'm really into **live music** … I go to a lot of **music festivals** … I think a **live performance** always sounds more exciting than a recorded version … as long as the performers can sing and play well of course …

Part 2-style task

Describe a song you like to listen to. You should say

- what the piece of music is called
- how long you have liked it
- when you like to listen to it

and say why you like it so much.

Millie: Well … I'm a little older than most students and when I was young Abba the Swedish **pop group** were very famous … I don't think it was cool to like them even though they had a **huge following** but I think now people have realised what wonderful songs they wrote … one **piece of music** in particular is called 'Slipping through my fingers' … it wasn't a **massive hit** but I love it … it's a song for parents and it's all about how quickly our children grow up … it's a **slow number** and like a lot of their songs it's a very **catchy tune** … the two women in Abba had great voices and it's the kind of music you can also **sing along to** easily … even if you don't have a great voice … I listen to Abba when I feel like a **sing-song** … and I especially like to listen when I'm doing the housework … it stops me thinking about the hard work …

Part 3-style questions

Examiner: Is the Internet a good or bad thing for the music industry?
Thomas: On the one hand it's good for marketing new **musical talent** or particular bands but it's so easy to share and **download tracks** for free I think it is costing the industry a lot of money …

Examiner: Should music be treated as seriously as subjects like maths or sciences at school?
Carla: I think it should … I don't think it should be taught in a boring way … I mean making children **read music** … but I do think they should be encouraged to play instruments and to **play things by ear** perhaps … to keep the lessons fun …

Examiner: Where do people usually enjoy listening to music?
Sally: In lots of ways or places … as **background music** when they are doing something else … at concerts when a band **goes on tour** … or in clubs or discos …

Definitions

- ***adoring fans***: people who love a particular band or singer
- ***background music***: music that is played while something else is happening
- ***a catchy tune***: a song that is easy to remember and makes you want to sing it
- ***classical music***: music that is regarded as part of a long, formal tradition

- ***to download tracks***: to obtain music from the Internet
- ***to have a great voice***: to sing well
- ***to go on tour***: to go on a planned series of performances around a region or country
- ***a huge following***: a large number of fans
- ***live music***: music that is listened to while it is performed (not recorded)
- ***live performance***: (see live music)
- ***a massive hit***: a record that sells lots of copies
- ***a music festival***: music performances at a venue often over several days
- ***musical talent***: skilled at music
- ***to be/sing out of tune***: to not be in harmony/to sing the wrong notes
- ***a piece of music***: an item of music
- ***to play by ear***: to play without reading the musical notes
- ***a pop group***: a small group of people who play or sing pop music together
- ***to read music***: to understand and follow written musical notes
- ***a rock band***: a group of musicians that play rock music
- ***to sing along to***: to join in singing
- ***a sing-song***: to sing informally, often with other people
- ***a slow number***: a song with a slow tempo
- ***to take up a musical instrument***: to begin learning a musical instrument
- ***taste in music***: the music someone likes
- ***to be tone deaf***: to be unable to distinguish the different notes in music

IELTS Speaking Vocabulary. Music

Vocabulary:

- **music genre**: a distinct type of music. Famous music genres include:
    - **classical music**: music that is thought to be a part of a long, formal tradition.*My dad is fond of classical music. He listens to Mozart and Beethoven every day.*
    - **pop music**: a genre of popular music.*One of the most famous pop-singers in the history are Michael Jackson and Madonna.*
    - **rock music**: music that is based around amplified instruments, especially the electric guitar and electric bass, and is characterized

by driving rhythms.*My favourite music genre is rock. I adore such rock bands as Red Hot Chili Peppers and The Beatles.*

- **catchy tune**: a tune or a song that's easy to remember and that you enjoy singing.*I heard a catchy song the other day and now it's stuck in my head.*
- **elevator music**: music that is played in places like supermarket or family restaurant. Almost always is very repetitive and annoying.*Yesterday I heard a very annoying elevator music in the local supermarket.*
- **live music**: music performance in front of an audience.*I prefer listening to a live music than to a recording. It's much more emotional and energetic.*
- **music to one's ears**: something (often information) very pleasant and enjoyable to someone.*When my teacher told me that I got the highest mark in the class for the assignment, it was like music to my ears.*
- **opera**: a kind of performance in which actors sing during their play with music performed by an orchestra.*I often listen to classical music and go to opera.*
- **ringtone**: sound that a cell phone makes when someone is calling.*I set my favourite song as a ringtone on my cell phone.*
- **rock band**: musicians that play rock music.*Last week I was on my favourite rock band's concert.*
- **tone deaf**: not able to discern the notes properly.*Alhough I'm tone deaf, I'd like to learn to sing properly in the future.*
- **tuneful**: pleasant and melodious music or sound.*I heard a tuneful choir of birds yesterday morning.*

- Useful idioms:
- **to face the music**: to have to accept the unpleasant consequences of your actions.*If you commit a crime, eventually, you'll have to face the music.*
- **to ring a bell**: to sound familiar.*I think I heard this song somewhere. It definitely rings a bell.*
- **to sound like a broken record**: to repeat yourself again and again.*Little children often sound like a broken record and it annoys most people.*
- **to strike (hit) a false note**: to do something wrong.*I realised that I hit a false note on the exam when I received a 0 mark afterwards.*

IELTS Relationships Vocabulary

Part 1-style questions
Examiner: Do you see your friends very often?
Louisa: Yes … we meet up most weekends … we all **get on really well** and **have a lot in common** so we're always happy doing the same things and going to the same places.

Examiner: What do you like about your close friends?
Anna: I think we **enjoy each other's company** … we **see eye-to-eye on** most things so we rarely **fall out with** each other.

Examiner: Have you known each other long?
Amy: Most of them yes … although my closest friend Carrie … we **struck up a relationship** at college and **got on like a house on fire** … but yes … my other friendships **go back years** to when we were at school.

Part 2-style task
Describe a person you are very close to. You should say:

- who this person is
- when you met them
- where you met them

and say what it is about them you like so much.

Reiko: I'd like to talk about my boyfriend … Jose … we **got to know** each other at University almost 4 years ago … we were in the same department … initially we were **just good friends** and used to go out in a group with our other friends … when Jose went back to Spain for the holidays we would **keep in touch with** each other … then one year he invited me to come to Spain with him … and that's when we **fell for** each other I think … so you couldn't really say it was **love at first sight** as it had been over a year since we'd met … but we really **hit it off** and by the time we got back to university in September we were able to tell all our friends that we were **in a relationship** … what do I like about Jose … well he's very kind … very funny … and very supportive … and we're really **well matched** in our interests … he hasn't **popped the question** yet though … we've talked about getting married and I think we're both ready **to settle down** and have children … we'll just have to wait and see …

Part 3-style questions
Examiner: Do you think marriage is still as important as ever?
Cristine: Yes … it certainly is in my country … I think the problem for some people is a lack of commitment … all relationships **have their ups and downs** …. but some people prefer to **break up** rather than **working at** the relationship.

Examiner: What do you think is the ideal time to get married?
Terry: Personally … I think you should wait until you've found yourself first … decided if you

want a career … perhaps do some travelling … you should do this before **tying the knot** … although if you **fall head over heels in love** plans like these can easily be forgotten.

Examiner: Is it important to keep in contact with our friends when we're in a relationship?
Maria: Absolutely … it's so easy to **drift apart** from your friends when you **fall in love** … but I think both partners should try not **to lose touch with** their friends … that's the best way to have a **healthy relationship** with your partner.

Definitions

- ***to break up***: to end a romantic relationship
- ***to drift apart***: to become less close to someone
- ***to enjoy someone's company***: to like spending time with someone
- ***to fall for***: to fall in love
- ***to fall head over heels in love***: to start to love someone a lot
- ***to fall out with***: to have a disagreement and stop being friends
- ***to get on like a house on fire***: to like someone's company very much indeed
- ***to get on well with***: to understand someone and enjoy similar interests
- ***to get to know***: to begin to know someone
- ***to go back years***: to have known someone for a long time
- ***to have a lot in common***: to share similar interests
- ***to have ups and downs****:* to have good and bad times
- ***a healthy relationship***: a good, positive relationship
- ***to hit it off***: to quickly become good friends with
- ***to be in a relationship***: to be romantically involved with someone
- ***to be just good friends***: to not be romantically involved
- ***to keep in touch with***: to keep in contact with
- ***to lose touch with***: to not see or hear from someone any longer
- ***love at first sight***: to fall in love immediately you meet someone
- ***to pop the question***: to ask someone to marry you
- ***to see eye to eye***: to agree on a subject
- ***to settle down***: to give up the single life and start a family
- ***to strike up a relationship***: to begin a friendship
- ***to tie the knot***: to get married
- ***to be well matched***: to be similar to
- ***to work at a relationship***: to try to maintain a positive relationship with someone

IELTS Speaking Vocabulary. Friends

- **close friend**: a very good friend.
- **enjoy each other's company**: to like spending time with each other.*Steve and Noah are always together, they definitely enjoy each others company.*
- **fair-weather friend**: someone who is your friend only when you are cheerful and successful.*A lot of John's friends turned out to be fair-*

weather friends. They were with him when he was rich and left him when he went bankrupt.

- **friends are like second family**: that is to say your friends love you and make you feel comfortable.
- **get in touch with somebody**: to contact somebody.*I plan to get in touch with my friends when I return home.*
- **near and dear to someone**: very important to someone.*Her parents are the only people who are near and dear to her.*
- **shoulder to cry on:** someone who is always ready to listen to your problems.*I'm so glad my boyfriend is so kind and sympathetic, it's good to always have a shoulder to cry on.*
- **to be through thick and thin**: to have some good times and difficult times together.*Your parents are married for 15 years, they must have been through thick and thin together.*
- **to be well-matched**: to be similar to somebody in interests.*They are well-matched.*
- **to break up**: to end a relationship.*It is hard to believe that Jacob and Sarah broke up. They were dating since high school.*
- **to drift apart**: to become less close to someone.*As years went by, school friends drifted apart.*
- **to fall for someone (to fall in love with someone)**: to start loving somebody.*They were childhood friends, and he fell for her!*
- **to fall out with**: to quarrel, to have a conflict.*He left the party after falling out with his girlfriend.*
- **to get on like a house on fire**: people get on like a house on fire when they like each other's company and become friends very quickly.*I like my new roommate! We have a lot of same interests and get on like a house on fire.*
- **to get on well with somebody**: to have a good relationship with somebody.*I'm an outgoing person and I easily get on well with new people.*
- **to get to know someone**: to become acquainted with someone.*I thought Jenna was selfish until I got to know her and understood her real character.*
- **to have a lot in common**: to have similar interests.
- **to have friends in high places**: to have friends in powerful positions in business or government.*Joe owes his fast career growth to his friends in high places.*
- **to hit it off with somebody**: to quickly become close friends with somebody.*I could not imagine that Laura will hit it off with Dylan! They are so different.*
- **to keep in touch with someone**: to maintain contact with someone.*I keep in touch with my friends from high school, although we graduated five years ago.*
- **to lose touch with someone**: to lose contact with someone.*I lost touch with Mary since she moved to Canada.*
- **to see eye to eye**: to agree.*I think it's better to live in a big city, but my brother doesn't see eye to eye with me about it.*

- **to strike up (a conversation, a relationship)**: to start.*I feel awkward when I strike up a conversation with unknown people.*
- **ups and downs**: a mixture of good and bad things that happen.*We're friends for almost 30 years! Surely we've had our ups and downs.*

IELTS Environment Vocabulary

Part 1-style questions

Examiner: Are there any environmental problems in your country?
Kelly: Yes … we have a serious issue with **pollution levels** in some of our big cities … **exhaust fumes** from cars and lorries are definitely one reason for the problem but we also have a lot of **heavy industry** in some areas and this also results in poor **air quality** …

Examiner: Do you take an interest in nature?
Jenny: Well … I'm a city person through and through and don't **get back to nature** very often I'm afraid … but like everyone else I'm fascinated by **the natural world** and I like watching documentaries showing wild animals in their **natural habitat** …

Examiner: Do you or your family take steps to help the environment?
Mira: My parents have always tried to make us aware of our **impact on the environment** … they're really into **energy conservation** … and always try to buy **environmentally friendly** products if they have the chance …

Part 2-style task

Describe an environmental problem that has been in the news. You should say

- when this was
- where the event happened
- what actually took place

and say how you felt about this problem.

Martin: Well … this is an interesting question … there are so many issues I could think of … **natural disasters** like earthquakes and floods seem to be in the news almost every year … but there was one story recently about some animals that were **under threat** … it wasn't focused on one place in particular … it was looking at various animals that could actually **become extinct** in different African countries … if we don't take steps to protect them … these were really iconic animals like gorillas … leopards … rhinos … and apparently they're now listed as **endangered species** … what made it really depressing was they were in danger thanks to us … in some cases it was due to a **loss of habitat** either because people need more agricultural production … or even worse I think … because of hunting and **poaching** … I hate to think of **future generations** being robbed of the chance to see creatures like these in their **natural environment** … it's lucky we have lots of organisations that focus on **wildlife conservation** … hopefully with their help we can put pressure on those in power to do something to stop creatures like these **dying out** …

Part 3-style questions

Examiner: What do you think is the main danger the world faces in terms of the environment?
Spencer: Well … **climate change** is a real issue … in my country we have **flash floods** and heatwaves on a yearly basis … so yes … I think **global warming** is the biggest issue.

Examiner: What examples are there of how we damage the natural world?
Stella: There are so many examples … there are factories that empty **toxic waste** into rivers and oceans … **oil spills** that damage the coastline … the way we destroy vast areas of land and rain forests in search of **fossil fuels** or to increase agricultural production …

Examiner: In which ways do we respond well to environmental problems?
Mathius: Well … on the one hand there are various worldwide agencies that are always the first on the scene with **humanitarian aid** after natural and **man-made disasters** … and on the other hand we have environmental **pressure groups** that are constantly raising awareness of issues and trying to stop disasters happening …

Definitions

- ***air quality***: the cleanliness of the air we breathe
- ***to become extinct***: to no longer exist
- ***to be under threat***: to be in danger of becoming extinct
- ***climate change***: the change in worldwide weather patterns
- ***to die out***: see 'to become extinct'

- ***endangered species***: categories of animals or plants that are in danger of becoming extinct
- ***energy conservation***: the careful management of energy resources to ensure they last as long as possible
- ***environmentally friendly***: behaviour and products that do not harm the environment
- ***exhaust fumes***: the toxic gases given off by vehicles powered by petrol
- ***flash floods***: floods that happen quickly
- ***fossil fuels***: energy resources like gas and oil that are produced deep below the ground over millions of years
- ***future generations***: the people who live after us
- ***to get back to nature***: to live a life that is closer to nature
- ***global warming***: the increasing temperature of the world brought about by gases such as carbon dioxide
- **heavy industry**: the manufacture of heavy articles and materials in large numbers
- ***humanitarian aid***: the act of showing support to people struggling to survive
- ***impact on***: the effect on
- ***loss of habitat***: the decline in areas of land where animals and plants would normally exist
- ***man-made disaster***: widespread damage or loss of life brought about by the action of humans
- ***natural disaster***: an event such as an earthquake, flood or hurricane which causes widespread damage or loss of life
- ***natural environment***: the place where animals and plants would normally be found in nature
- ***the natural world***: the world of nature

- ***oil spill***: waste usually deposited in the seas and oceans after an accident at sea
- ***poaching***: to hunt and kill wild animals illegally
- ***pollution levels***: the amount of toxic waste
- ***pressure group***: a group of people who try to raise awareness of issues and try to affect the views and actions of people and organisations
- ***toxic waste***: poisonous, unwanted rubbish often produced by industrial processes
- ***wildlife conservation***: to protect animals and plants and their habitats

IELTS Speaking Vocabulary. Environment

Vocabulary:

- **air quality**: the cleanliness of the air we breathe.*Due to the opening of a new factory nearby, the air quality here went down.*
- **bio-diversity**: a diversity in nature, among plants and animals.*Nowadays, we suffer the loss of bio-diversity.*
- **endangered species:** a category of animals or plans that might become extinct.*White rhinos are endangered species. There are only 5 white rhinos left in the world.*
- **environmentally friendly**: products that do not harm the environment.*I try to use only environmentally friendly goods in order to preserve the nature.*
- **exhaust fumes**: gases, ejected from an engine as waste products.*I bought an electric car to avoid producing exhaust fumes when I drive.*
- **fossil fuels**: energy resources like gas and oil.*Gas is one of the most well-known fossil fuels.*
- **global warming**: an increase in temperature all-over the world, as a result of greenhouse effect.*Global worming is a very serious problem that our society is dealing with.*
- **greenhouse effect**: heating of the atmosphere due to the carbon dioxide and other gases.*Greenhouse effect causes global warming.*
- **melting of glaciers**: the process of icebergs' melting.*Melting of glaciers increases the sea-level.*
- **natural disaster**: an event like an earthquake, hurricane etc.*I experienced a natural disaster in the form of an earthquake last year.*
- **paper recycling**: the processes of reprocessing waste paper for reuse.*It was found that paper recycling causes 35% less water pollution and 74% less air pollution than making virgin paper.*
- **poacher**: one who kills or takes wild animals illegally.*Poaching is considered a violation of hunting rules and impedes wildlife conservation.*
- **toxic waste**: poisonous rubbish, produced by industrial processes.*Many factories in my city dump toxic waste into rivers and lakes.*

Useful phrases:

- **to become extinct**: to stop existing.*Dinosaurs became extinct may centuries ago.*
- **to be under threat**: to be in danger of becoming extinct.*White Rhinos are under the threat of becoming extinct.*

- **to dry up**: to have all the water drained away.*The small river in my hometown dried up this summer due to the enormous heat.*
- **to get back to nature**: live a life that is closer to nature.*My friend decided to leave his boring job and move to the countryside to get back to nature.*
- **to litter**: to throw rubbish in inappropriate places.*I always try to find a garbage bin to throw my trash in. I don't like to litter.*

IELTS Food Vocabulary

Part 1-style questions
Examiner: Do you like to cook?
Mandy: Not really no … most of the time I eat **ready meals** and **take-aways** … that's one of the reasons I love visiting my mum … you can always guarantee lovely **home-cooked food** …

Examiner: What time do you usually eat dinner?
Michelle: We have our **main meal** at around 7.00 … I'm usually **starving hungry** by then … in fact I often **grab a bite to eat** as soon as I get home from college … a sandwich perhaps … but not too much **to spoil my appetite** …

Examiner: Are there any types of food you don't like?
Lionel: No not really … I'm not **a fussy eater** at all … actually I **eat like a horse** … I do a lot of sport and **work up quite an appetite** …

Part 2-style task
Describe a restaurant that you like to use. You should say

- where this restaurant is
- what kind of food it serves
- how often you go there

and say why you like eating there so much.

Howard: OK … this is a nice topic to talk about … there's a restaurant just around the corner from where I live … it's an Italian restaurant so as you'd expect you can eat various pasta dishes and pizzas and I usually go there with my family for **a slap-up meal** if we have anything to celebrate … it's quite a posh restaurant … the kind of place you would take someone if you wanted **to wine and dine** them … we usually order **a 3-course meal** … a light starter then a main dish … and I have quite **a sweet tooth** so I always look forward to the dessert … I usually order Tiramisu … it **makes my mouth water** just to think about it … I'm always totally **full up** by the end … why do I enjoy it there … well … it's not cheap … my parents always **foot the bill** and we couldn't afford to go there regularly so it's always a nice treat …

Part 3-style questions
Examiner: How can we encourage people to eat more healthily?
Anna: I think the best approach is to have everything in moderation … **processed food** won't kill you if you only eat it occasionally … but people should also be encouraged **to eat a balanced diet** … try to cook fresh ingredients at home a few times a week …

Examiner: Do you think people enjoy their food as much as they should?
Florrie: I don't know really … I suppose it's true that people will often eat **a quick snack**

because they're bored not because they're **dying of hunger** … and often they just **bolt it down** and don't savour it … so yes … perhaps we could take more time over our food …

Examiner: Do you think cooking is a pleasure or a chore for people who have busy lives?
Julie: Well … whether you **follow a recipe** or make something up as you go along … I think cooking is a very creative process … and cooking for other people is a particular pleasure … there's nothing more satisfying than seeing people you love **tucking into** something you've cooked yourself …

Definitions

- ***to be full up***: to eat to the point that you can no longer eat any more
- ***to be starving hungry***: an exaggerated way of saying you are very hungry
- ***to bolt something down***: to eat something very quickly
- ***to be dying of hunger***: an exaggerated way of saying you are hungry
- ***to eat a balanced diet***: to eat the correct types and amounts of food
- ***to eat like a horse***: to eat a lot
- ***to follow a recipe***: to cook a meal using instructions
- ***to foot the bill***: to pay the bill
- ***a fussy eater***: somebody who has their own very high standards about what to eat
- ***to grab a bite to eat***: to eat something quickly (when you're in a rush)
- ***to have a sweet tooth***: to enjoy sugary food
- ***home-cooked food***: food cooked at home from individual ingredients
- ***the main meal***: the most important meal of the day, usually eaten in the evening
- ***to make your mouth water***: to make you feel very hungry for something
- ***to play with your food***: to push food around the plate to avoid eating it
- ***processed food***: commercially prepared food bought for convenience
- ***a quick snack***: to eat a small amount of food between meals
- ***a ready meal***: see 'processed food'
- ***a slap up meal***: a large meal
- ***to spoil your appetite***: to eat something that will stop you feeling hungry when it's meal-time.
- ***a take away***: a cooked meal prepared in a restaurant and eaten at home
- ***to tuck into***: to eat something with pleasure
- ***to wine and dine***: to entertain someone by treating them to food and drink
- ***to work up an appetite***: to do physical work that leads to you becoming hungry

IELTS Speaking Vocabulary. Food

- **dine in:** dine at home.*We're dining in tonight.*
- **dine out:** dine at a restaurant.*We're dining out tonight.*
- **fussy eater**: someone who is very picky about the food and doesn't eat everything.*My husband is a fussy eater, and he's never pleased with my cooking.*

- **home-cooked food**: food cooked at home, usually implies that food is healthy.*Preparing home-cooked food is a good way to make a balanced meal.*
- **in a walking distance of**: close to.*I usually dine at a restaurant that's in a walking distance of my home.*
- **Italian cuisine**: traditional Italian food. You can also say French cuisine, Russian cuisine, Chinese cuisine and so on.*I adore pasta, pizza and Italian cuisine in general.*
- **more of a chore than a pleasure**: something you do rather unwillingly.*I think that cooking is more of a chore than a pleasure.*
- **mouth-watering**: delicious, appetizing.
- **my mouth is watering**: that is to say you find something very appetizing. People use this expression when they see/smell food that looks very delicious.*My mouth is watering every time I think about my grandmother's apple pie.*
- **nutritious products**: products rich in calories.*A nutritious breakfast is a great way to start the day, as it gives your body the nutrients and you get enough energy.*
- **processed food**: food that has been modified in an undesirable or unhealthy way to achieve its current state.*Try to avoid processed foods like flavored nuts and cereal bars. It is much healthier to eat organic food.*
- **quality justifies the bill**: when a product is worth buying due its good quality, even if it's expensive.*I first thought those strawberries were too expensive, but when I tasted them I understood that their quality justified the bill.*
- **quick snack**: a light and quick meal, usually unhealthy.*Eating quick snack instead of main meal can be harmful for stomach.*
- **ready meal**: a meal that you buy already cooked, which only requires reheating to be eaten.*I had no desire to cook, so I bought a ready meal in a nearby supermarket.*
- **restrain one's hunger**: to avoid eating when you really want to. Usually practiced during diets.*John couldn't restrain his hunger anymore and went to the nearest fast-food restaurant.*
- **slap-up meal**: a quick and fatty meal. To slap up means to cook something very quickly.*I feel like making a slap-up meal tonight.*
- **starving hungry**: to be extremely hungry.*I woke up starving hungry yesterday and ate the whole roast chicken.*
- **take-away**: a meal prepared in a café/restaurant and eaten at home.*I'm going to ring the Japanese restaurant and order a takeaway.*
- **the main meal**: the most important meal of the day.

- **to be dying of hunger**: an exaggerated way of saying you are really hungry.*I haven't eaten all day. I'm dying of hunger!*
- **to be full-up**: to eat to the point that you can't eat anymore.*- Would you like more chips?*
  - No, thank you, I'm already full-up!
- **to be ravenous (to have ravenous appetite)**: to be really hungry, starving, voracious.*After working all day, I had a ravenous appetite.*

- **to be starving hungry**: an exaggerated way of saying you are very hungry.

- **to bolt something down**: to eat a large amount of food very quickly.*Don't bolt your food down like that, it's very rude!*
- **to catch a snack**: to eat a little portion of food very quickly.

- **to eat a balanced diet**: to eat correctly and in time.
- **to eat like a horse**: to always eat a lot.*She's so thin, yet she eats like a horse.*
- **to follow a recipe**: to cook a meal using instructions.*Although she had never cooked a jugged hare before, she followed a recipe and made a fantastic meal.*
- **to foot the bill**: to pay the bill.*You paid for dinner last time. Let me foot the bill for lunch today.*
- **to grab a bite to eat**: to eat something quickly.*I won't eat the whole cake, just let me grab a bite to eat.*
- **to have a sweet tooth**: to enjoy eating sweet food.*Dave eats candy all the time. He must have a sweet tooth.*
- **to overeat oneself**: eat too much, eat immodestly.*If you overeat, you're bound to get fat.*
- **to play with your food**: to push food around the plate without eating it.
- **to spoil your appetite**: to do something that would hinder your desire to eat.*Stop talking about the snails, you're spoiling my appetite!*
- **to tuck into**: to eat something greedily and with pleasure.*After not eating the whole day, he tucked into the ham like a savage.*
- **to wine and dine**: to banquet, to "entertain with good food". If you wine and dine someone, you usually take him out to dinner at a fancy restaurant.*The company wined and dined us, hoping to convince us we should accept the job.*
- **to work up an appetite**: to do something that will lead to hunger.*He must have worked up an appetite in the gym.*

(1) IELTS Advertising Vocabulary

Part 1-style questions
Examiner: Are there any TV channels in your country that don't have adverts?
Loraine: No … they're all **commercial channels** and **show adverts** all day long … too many really … and there's also a lot of **product placement** going on … especially in soap operas where they place an item just behind the actors.

Examiner: Do you enjoy watching adverts on TV?
Karin: No … not really … I hate **commercial breaks** during a film … it really spoils the flow … and during **prime time** viewing they seem to squeeze even more ads in than usual … **celebrity endorsements** also get on my nerves … everyone knows they're only doing it because they're getting paid.

Examiner: What are the best ways for ordinary people to advertise something they want to sell in your country?
Marianne: The simplest way is to **place an advert** in something like the **classified ads** section of a local paper … or there's the Internet of course … there are lots of sites like eBay where you can **buy and sell** things online.

Part 2-style task
Describe an advert you once saw that was very effective. You should say

- where this advert appeared
- when you saw it
- what it was advertising

and say why you thought it was so effective.

Max: OK … well this was about 4 years ago … I was looking for some software to create videos … one day I got an email from a **mailing list** I'd signed up to … there was a link in it to a **press release** … a company had written something about a new product that was similar to what I was looking for … at the end of the press release there was a link to the **sales page** … I hadn't heard of the company but I was interested and clicked the link to the ad …. what caught my attention immediately were the number of testimonials from people who had bought the software … I think testimonials are like the online equivalent of **word of mouth** advertising and are really persuasive … anyway … when I got to the bottom of the page there was a great big **call to action** button inviting me to buy … I was totally persuaded and ended up making a purchase … what made it so effective I think was the power of those testimonials … they'd been written by people very much like me … they'd had a need and the software had obviously turned out to be just what they were looking for … when you think that this was a newish company they wouldn't have had any **brand awareness** at all … they probably wouldn't have had much of a budget for advertising … obviously you wouldn't advertise a product like this through the **mass media** on TV … they probably didn't even

have an **advertising agency** to support them …and yet they'd managed to create a great deal of **brand loyalty** from previous customers … I think that was really effective.

Part 3-style questions

Examiner: What is it that makes an advert effective?
Spencer: Well … when a company **launches a product** they have to consider the Internet … especially how it can be used to spread the word on **social media** … so in this context a video that **goes viral** is probably the most effective type of advert you could make.

Examiner: What are the advantages to companies of advertising on the Internet rather than TV?
Stelios: I'd imagine the main advantage is you can reach your **target audience** much more effectively … if you bring out a **niche product** for example … or you have a tight **advertising budget** … you can advertise on particular sites that the people you want to reach visit … that's not something you can do on TV.

Examiner: What things do advertising companies do that might give it a bad name?
Raol: For me the most irritating is **cold calling** … we must get two or three of these every day at work … then there's **junk mail** that gets posted through the letterbox … and of course the online equivalent of this … **spam emails** … I think it's this kind of advertising that tends to annoy people.

Definitions

- ***advertising agency***: a company that creates adverts for other companies
- ***advertising budget***: the amount of money a company decides to spend on advertising
- ***brand awareness***: how well people know a particular brand
- ***brand loyalty***: the degree to which people continue to buy from the same brand or company
- ***buy and sell***: often used to refer to the buying and selling of items between individuals

- ***call to action***: something that encourages someone to take a particular action, such as making a purchase or clicking a link on a website
- ***celebrity endorsement***: to have a well-known person promote a product
- ***classified ads***: small advertisements often put in a newspaper or magazine by individuals
- ***to cold call***: to call someone with the aim of selling something without them asking you to do so
- ***commercial break***: the short period during TV programmes when advertisements are shown
- ***commercial channel***: TV channels that make money from showing advertisements
- ***to go viral***: to quickly become extremely popular on the Internet through social media
- ***junk mail***: unwanted promotional leaflets and letters

- ***to launch a product***: to introduce a new product
- ***mailing list***: a list of names and contact details used by a company to send information and advertisements
- ***mass media***: large media outlets like TV, newspapers and magazines
- ***niche product***: a product that is aimed at a distinct group of people
- ***to place an advert***: to put an advert somewhere
- ***press release***: something written by a company for newspapers and magazines and websites to share and publish
- ***prime time***: the time during the viewing schedule when most people watch TV or listen to a broadcast
- ***product placement***: to advertise a product by using it as a prop in a TV show or film
- ***sales page***: a page specifically used to promote a product or service
- ***to show adverts***: to display adverts on TV
- ***social media***: websites that enable users to create and share content or to participate in social networking.
- ***spam email***: unwanted, promotional email
- ***target audience***: the people a company want to sell their product or service to
- ***word of mouth***: recommendations made by individuals to other individuals about a product of service

(2) IELTS Business Vocabulary

Part 1-style questions
Examiner: Do you work or are you a student?
Hati: I **run my own business** actually … I have an online business selling cosmetics … I **set up the business** 5 years ago and I'm really enjoying **working for myself** …

Examiner: What is your ideal job?
Kaori: I don't think I'd enjoy working for a big company … I think I'd like **to go it alone** and be **self-employed** … I'm not sure what area of business it would be but I think I'd enjoy the process of **drawing up a business plan** and seeing if I could be successful …

Examiner: Is your town a nice place to live?
Monique: It's OK … the main problem we have is our local high street … it used to be a busy centre but lots of shops have **gone bust** … it must be very difficult **to make a profit** when you have huge supermarkets in the area and a lot haven't been able to survive with such **cut-throat competition** …

Part 2-style task
Describe a business you know that you admire. You should say

- what this business is

- what the business sells
- how long you have known about the business

and say why you like it so much.

Magda: Actually I discovered a business very recently that I like so much I'd like to do something similar in the future … it's a small **niche business** that runs courses in how to cook … especially bread … the owner uses his kitchen for the courses and **went into business with** a local community shop and sells a lot of the bread and cakes they make in the shop … I first got to hear about the business last year … my wife paid for me to do one of the baking courses and I got to know the owner during the training … it's a **lifestyle business** really … he doesn't have plans **to take on employees** or expand into new areas … he's happy **earning a living** doing the thing he loves … I really admire what he does and I'm sure a lot of people would love to do something similar … he **has a web presence** … in fact that's how we got to find out about his company … and he uses social media **to raise the company profile** … but he's the only person involved in **running the business** so he's in complete control of where the business goes … that's something that must make it really satisfying … as long as he's managing **to balance the books** and the **cash flow** is healthy I'm sure he must be very pleased with what he has achieved …

Part 3-style questions

Examiner: Why do some people decide to set up their own business?
Marion: I suppose it's the idea of being in control of your own destiny … or of believing in a product or service idea you may have … plus it must be very exciting … **launching products** … **winning contracts** … and seeing your **sales figures** improving must be wonderful …

Examiner: What are some of the dangers involved in starting a business?
Hiro: Well … obviously you need to have a good idea … some people say you need to **do market research** beforehand so you know what the market wants … if you don't do this you could **go under** … and if it is a good idea the chances are someone else is doing the same thing so you could end up facing **stiff competition** …

Examiner: What are some of things you have to do when running your own business that might not appeal to everyone?
Katy: Personally i don't like being in debt so **taking out a business loan** wouldn't suit me at all … and I know a lot of companies do **cold calling** to try and **drum up business** … that's something I'd hate to do … and **laying people off** if the business gets into trouble … that would be horrible …

Definitions

- ***to balance the books***: to not spend more money than you are earning
- ***to be self-employed***: to work for yourself/to not work for an employer
- ***to cold call***: to make a sales call to someone without asking them for permission first
- ***cut throat competition***: when one company lowers its prices, forcing other companies to do the same, sometimes to a point where business becomes unprofitable

- ***to do market research***: to do research into what potential customers would or wouldn't buy
- ***to draw up a business plan***: to write a plan for a new business
- ***to drum up business***: to try to get customers
- ***to earn a living***: to earn money
- ***to go bust***: when a business is forced to close because it is unsuccessful
- ***cash flow***: the money coming in and going out of a business
- ***to go into business with***: to join another person to start or expand a business
- ***to go it alone***: to start your own business
- ***to go under***: (see 'to go bust')
- ***to have a web presence***: to have a website or social media profile that showcases your business
- ***to launch a product***: to start selling and promoting a new product
- ***to lay someone off***: when a company ends an employee's contract of employment
- ***lifestyle business***: a business that is set up to bring in a sufficient income and no more
- ***to make a profit***: to earn more money than it costs to run the business
- ***niche business***: a business that serves a small, particular market
- ***to raise a company profile***: to make more people aware of a business
- ***to run your own business***: to have a business of your own
- ***sales figures***: a report of the income a company generates through sales of products or services
- ***to set up a business***: to start a business
- ***stiff competition***: strong competition from other companies in the same area of work
- ***to take on employees***: to employ people
- ***to take out a loan***: to borrow money
- ***to win a contract***: when a business gets legally-binding work with an individual or company
- ***to work for yourself***: (see 'to be self-employed')

(3) IELTS Shopping Vocabulary

Part 1-style questions
Examiner: Do you often go shopping for personal items?
Maxine: When I can afford it yes … my college is in the city centre and I do a lot of **window shopping** … but being a student I'm **on a tight budget** so I have **to be careful with money** …

Examiner: Are there many shops where you live?
Jenny: We've got a few **local shops** nearby and a few **independent stores** but none of the big **high street names** … I have to go into town for them …

Examiner: Do you enjoy shopping?
Marco: It depends … I hate it when the sales are on … crowds of people all trying to **snap up a bargain** … I find it all a bit stressful … I also get annoyed when **shop assistants** try to **give me the hard sell** when all I want to do is look around …

Part 2-style task
Describe a time when you bought something for someone. You should say

- when this was
- what is was you bought
- who you bought it for

and say how you felt about buying it for them.

Coleen: I'd like to tell you about the time … about four years ago … my husband and I bought a computer for our daughter … she was about to go to university and we'd promised her we would treat her to one … at the time there had been a big **advertising campaign** for the latest Apple Macbook and our daughter was very keen to have one … she kept telling us they were **value for money** … even though they seemed very expensive to us … anyway we tried **to shop around** to see if we could **pick up a bargain** … this was in the middle of the **summer sales** and wherever you went **prices were being slashed** on **big brand names** … but unfortunately not Apple products … we ended up having **to pay the full price** … I remember my daughter justifying the cost by pointing out how nice the Apple **carrier bag** was … but it was lovely to see her so excited and the **customer service** she's received during the four years she's had it has been excellent … so it was value for money after all …

Part 3-style questions
Examiner: Do you think we will stop using paper money in the future?
Louisa: I think it's almost certain … at the moment it's still possible **to pay in cash** but I'm sure this will change … the problem is people are more likely **to get into debt** and **run up a credit card bill** when this happens.

Examiner: How do companies encourage the consumer to spend their money?
Peter: Well … a recent development in my country is something called 'Black Friday' where people are encouraged **to shop until they drop** and buy the latest **must-have products** … then there are things like **loyalty cards** to get the customer back in the store …

Examiner: What do you think shops need to do to create a positive shopping experience?
Tania: The main thing for me is not being pressurised to buy … I appreciate that shop assistants are probably **on commission** but if I'm looking for clothes for example I like to take my time … **to try something on** … and to ask for help if I need it …

Definitions

- ***advertising campaign***: a series of advertisements to persuade people to buy something
- ***big brand names***: large well-known companies or product names
- ***to be careful with money***: to not over-spend
- ***carrier bag***: bags (usually plastic) supplied by shops

- ***customer service***: the degree to which customers are treated well
- ***to get into debt***: to owe money
- ***to give someone the hard sell***: to put pressure on someone to buy something
- ***high street names***: well-known shops
- ***independent stores***: small shops independent of large companies
- ***local shops***: community shops
- ***loyalty card***: a card issued by a shop to allow customers to save money on the basis of what they spend
- ***must-have product***: a product that is very popular that a lot of people want to have
- ***to be on a tight budget***: to have a limited amount of money to spend
- ***to be on commission***: to pay someone in relation to the amount they sell
- ***a pay in cash***: to pay for something using coins or paper money
- ***to pay the full price***: to pay the full amount for something
- ***to pick up a bargain***: to buy something much cheaper than the normal price
- ***to run up a credit card bill***: to owe money on a credit card
- ***to shop around***: to try different shops to find the best deal
- ***shop assistant***: the person who serves customers
- ***to shop until you drop***: to do a lot of shopping
- ***to slash prices***: to reduce prices a great deal
- ***to snap up a bargain***: to buy something quickly that is being sold cheaply
- ***summer sales***: a period in the year when things are sold cheaply
- ***to try something on***: to see if an item of clothing fits or is suitable
- ***to be value for money***: to be worth the cost
- ***window shopping***: to visit a store to look at items without the intention of buying anything

(4) IELTS Clothes & Fashion Vocabulary

Part 1-style questions

Examiner: Do you enjoy buying clothes?

Pedro: I used to … yes … like most young people I was a bit of **a slave to fashion** and I'd always have to buy that **must-have** shirt or pair of shoes … I'm not so bothered now though … I wouldn't feel comfortable wearing something **old fashioned** but I'm not as bothered as I used to be about what I wear …

Examiner: What kind of clothes do you like to wear?
Marco: I prefer **casual clothes** actually … I hate **getting dressed up** for special occasions … personally I think it's possible **to look good in** a pair of jeans … but that's my opinion … I don't think my wife would call me a **fashion icon** that's for sure …

Examiner: Are there many clothes shops where you live?
Sylvia: Yes … there are lots in my town … apart from the big chain stores we've got a couple of really nice shops that sell **vintage clothes** … old clothes but in a **classic style** that never really **go out of fashion** … I love going there …

Part 2-style task
Describe someone you know who dresses well. You should say

- who they are
- how you know them
- what kind of clothes they wear

and say why you like the way they dress.

Tomoko: I'd like to talk about one of my teachers … Miss Evans … she teaches us English in the school I go to … we always look forward to seeing what she's going to wear when our lessons start … she's always very **well dressed** and **takes a lot of pride in her appearance** … it's not that she dresses in very **smart clothes** … she doesn't come to school **dressed to kill** or anything like that … but what she wears really **suits her** … and she has a great **sense of style** as well … we often ask her where she gets some of her clothes and most of the time they're just **off the peg** … and she says she's not interested in **designer labels** or anything like that … she doesn't seem too concerned about **keeping up with the latest fashion** … she just wears clothes that are **timeless** … yes … Miss Evans is the person I think looks great in the clothes she wears …

Part 3-style questions
Examiner: What factors do you think affect the clothes we choose to wear?
Maki: It depends … where we are or where we're going is a big factor … if you are going out to a club or party you're going **to dress for the occasion** … and then there are those who think it's important to look like they're **on trend** … they'll want to wear the latest fashions … there are lots of factors really …

Examiner: What kind of things determine what is in fashion and what we should be wearing?
Martin: I suppose the big **fashion houses** and **fashion shows** must have an effect but the clothes you see **on the catwalk** don't always reflect what normal people wear … so I suppose it will be things like what singers are wearing in videos or models are wearing in magazines … that kind of thing …

Examiner: Is it possible to look good without spending lots of money on clothes?
Corinna: I'm sure it is … yes … I suppose it's about **having an eye for** what looks good … knowing how **to mix and match** different items of clothing that go well together … I think

you can pick up great bargains in charity shops … sometimes for youngsters even **hand-me-downs** can look good …

Definitions

- ***to be on trend***: to be very fashionable
- ***casual clothes***: not formal
- ***classic style***: a simple, traditional style that is always fashionable
- ***designer label***: a well-known company that makes (often expensive) clothing
- ***dressed to kill***: wearing clothes that attract admirers
- ***to dress for the occasion***: to wear clothes suitable for a particular event
- ***fashionable***: in fashion
- ***fashion house***: a company that sells (usually expensive) new styles in clothes
- ***fashion icon***: a person who is famous for their sense of fashion
- ***fashion show***: an event where modals show off the latest in fashion designs
- ***to get dressed up***: to put on nice clothes, often to go out somewhere special
- ***to go out of fashion***: to not be in fashion any more
- ***hand-me-downs***: clothes that are passed down from older brothers or sisters to their younger siblings
- ***to have an eye for (fashion)***: to be a good judge of
- ***to have a sense of style***: the ability to wear clothes that look stylish
- ***the height of fashion***: very fashionable
- ***to keep up with the latest fashion***: to wear the latest fashions
- ***to look good in***: to wear something that suits you
- ***to mix and match***: to wear different styles or items of clothing that aren't part of a set outfit
- ***must-have***: something that is highly fashionable and therefore in demand
- ***off the peg***: clothing that is ready made
- ***old fashioned***: not in fashion any more
- ***on the catwalk***: the stage that modals walk along to show off the latest fashions
- ***a slave to fashion***: someone who always feel the need to wear the latest fashions
- ***smart clothes***: the kind of clothes worn for a formal event
- ***to suit someone***: to look good on someone
- ***to take pride in one's appearance***: to pay attention to how one looks
- ***timeless***: something that doesn't go out of fashion
- ***vintage clothes***: clothes from an earlier period
- ***well-dressed***: to be dressed attractively

Next Step? Test yourself on topic vocabulary. Sign up to IELTS Speaking: Advanced for vocabulary tests and whole lot more!

(5) IELTS Town and City Vocabulary

Part 1-style questions
Examiner: What is it like where you live?
Christiane: I live in a **residential area** of a busy town in the south of Spain … we have all the facilities you need … good **public transport** … a good **shopping centre** … it's nice …

Examiner: Do you like living in the city?
Andrea: Yes I do … I like going out with my friends and there are lots of **lively bars and restaurants** within walking distance of my apartment … I'm a bit of a culture vulture as well so it's great to have access to art exhibitions and that kind of thing …

Examiner: Do you get many tourists visiting your area?
Mandy: Not really no … I live in the **inner-city** and the area is a little **run down** … it's basically a lot of **high-rise flats** and many of the shops are **boarded up** … so nothing to interest tourists really …

Part 2-style task
Describe an interesting town or city in your country that visitors might enjoy. You should say

- what the place is called
- where the place is
- what the facilities are like

and say why visitors might enjoy going there.

Monique: Anyone who comes to my country really should spend some time in Barcelona … it's a beautiful place … it's not what you would call a **sprawling city** … it's quite compact really and you could walk across the city in a couple of hours … but there's no need to do that as we have a fantastic **public transport system** so it's easy **to get around** … there are various districts all with their own character … you have the **upmarket shops** in the centre … you'll find lots of **chain stores** you'll recognise from your own country but also local brands as well … we have the narrow streets in the Gothic district with lots of **fashionable boutiques** and **tourist attractions** … there's the Olympic area and the beaches along the coast … and dotted around the city are some lovely **public spaces** … parks and squares in the **city centre** and **on the outskirts** of Barcelona where people relax with their friends and family … and of course **pavement cafes** everywhere … all that and some great historical **places of interest** … so a great destination for tourists …

Part 3-style questions
Examiner: What are the advantages of living in a city or big town?
Carrie: I think it's having access to **local facilities** really … local shops as well as access to larger **shopping malls** in the city centre … and if you're well-off you can afford to live **in the suburbs** away from the busy traffic …

Examiner: In your experience are city centres usually attractive places?
Mary: Some can be yes … especially those with a historical interest … but sometimes they're full of ugly **office blocks** … **multi-story car parks** … and residents living in **poor housing** … it depends on the city doesn't it?

Examiner: What are some of the challenges facing towns and cities?
Penny: I suppose **traffic congestion** is a major problem … and the growth in **out-of-town supermarkets and retail parks** mean lots of town centre shops are **closing down** … plus a shortage of good quality housing … I think these are the major challenges …

Definitions

- ***boarded up shops***: shops that are no longer doing business
- ***chain stores***: well-known brands with shops in multiple cities
- ***to close down***: to stop doing business
- ***fashionable boutiques***: fashionable clothes shops
- ***to get around***: to travel around
- ***high-rise flats***: multi-story apartments
- ***inner-city***: the central part of a city where people live and where conditions are often poor
- ***in the suburbs***: the outer area of large towns and cities where people live
- ***lively bars/restaurants***: bars or restaurants with a good atmosphere
- ***local facilities***: local buildings or services serving the public
- ***multi-story car parks***: car parks on several floors
- ***office block***: a large building that contains offices
- ***out of town shopping centre/retail park***: large shopping centres outside of the town or city
- ***pavement cafe***: cafes with tables outside on the pavement
- ***places of interest***: buildings that have a particular interest for visitors
- ***poor housing***: housing that is not in good condition
- ***public spaces***: areas in a town or city that are open to the public
- ***public transport system***: public vehicles such as buses and trains that operate at regular times on fixed routes
- ***residential area***: an area where people live
- ***run down***: old and of a poor standard
- ***shopping centre***: an area consisting of multiple shops
- ***shopping malls***: large indoor shopping centres
- ***sprawling city***: a city that has grown over time and which covers a wide area
- ***tourist attraction***: a place of interest to tourists
- ***traffic congestion***: heavy traffic making it difficult to move around a town or city
- ***upmarket shops***: expensive fashionable shops

(6) IELTS Accommodation Vocabulary

Part 1-style questions
Examiner: Do you live in a house or an apartment?
Callum: Actually I live **on campus** … in a **single room** in **halls of residence** … all first year students are encouraged to do that as they're close to the university … next year I plan to move into **student digs** in town …

Examiner: Tell me about where you live.
Julia: I live with my parents **in the suburbs** of Madrid … we only **moved in** recently … in fact we had a **house-warming party** just a few weeks ago …

Examiner: What kind of accommodation do most people live in in your city?
Maria: In the city itself the majority of people live in **apartment blocks** … that's what surprised me about England … most people seem to live in **terraced houses** with lovely **back gardens** …

Part 2-style task
Describe a house or an apartment you would like to live in. You should say

- what kind of accommodation it would be
- where it would be
- who would live there with you

and say why you would enjoy living in this place.

Paolo: I think most people when answering this question would say they'd like to live in a big **detached house** with **spacious rooms** … views of the countryside and so on … but actually my **ideal home** would be a lot different … I've always loved the idea of having a **mobile home** … a really expensive one with **all the mod cons** … so I could live wherever I wanted or at least have lots of holidays and be able to take all my **home comforts** with me whenever I travelled … I realise this would have to be a second home as I'd need a base … a **permanent address** … but the mobile home would be the accommodation I'd find it exciting to live in … I suppose once I settle down and have children I'll want **to get on the property ladder** … I'll be like everyone else … saving up **to put down a deposit** on a house or an apartment … I don't think my family would want to live in a mobile home … but I like to think I'll still keep that **dream home** in mind ….

Part 3-style questions
Examiner: Is it better to own your own home or to rent?
Ana: I think both have their advantages … living in **rented accommodation** isn't necessarily a bad thing … you don't have a huge debt like you do when you **take out a mortgage** but I suppose the **property market** offers you an investment for the future … I'm sure that's why most people prefer **to own their own home** …

Examiner: What options are available to young couples looking for accommodation in your country?

Toni: If they want to buy their own home it isn't easy for **first-time buyers** … mortgages are hard to get so most people live with their parents or in **rented accommodation** … but that can also be very expensive … you often have to **pay rent in advance** … and if the accommodation isn't **fully furnished** you have the expense of buying furniture …

Examiner: What are some of the pleasures involved in making a home for ourselves?
Suki: I suppose it starts with **house-hunting** … finding your ideal home … some people enjoy **doing up an old property** … giving a property that's old and tired a new lease of life … others like making wherever they live feel like home with some **home comforts** …

Definitions

- ***(all the) mod cons***: technology at home that makes jobs easier such as a washing machine, dishwasher etc.
- ***apartment block***: a large building made up of smaller units of apartments
- ***back garden***: a garden at the rear of the house
- ***detached house***: a house that is not physically connected to another property
- ***to do up a property***: to repair an old building
- ***dream home***: a home you regard as perfect
- ***first-time buyer***: someone buying a property for the first time, especially when taking out a loan (mortgage)
- ***fully-furnished***: a rented property with all furniture included
- ***to get on the property ladder***: to buy a property with the aim of buying another bigger or more expensive one later in life
- ***hall of residence***: a college or university building where students live
- ***home comforts***: things that make a home feel comfortable to live in
- ***house-hunting***: looking for a property to live in
- ***house-warming party***: a party to celebrate moving into a new home
- ***ideal home***: a perfect home
- ***to live on campus***: to live on the university or college grounds
- ***mobile home***: a home that can be moved by a vehicle or one that has its own engine
- ***to move into***: to begin to live in a property
- ***to own your own home***: to have bought the property you live in
- ***to pay rent in advance***: weekly or monthly rent paid at the beginning of the week or month
- ***permanent address***: a fixed address
- ***property market***: the buying and selling of land or buildings
- ***to put down a deposit***: to pay an amount of money as the first in a series of future payments
- ***rented accommodation***: property owned by someone else and for which a person pays a fixed amount to live in
- ***single room***: a room for one person
- ***spacious room***: a large room
- ***student digs***: student accommodation
- ***the suburbs***: a residential area on the edge of towns or cities

- ***to take out a mortgage***: to borrow a large amount of money, paid back over several years, in order to buy a house
- ***terraced house***: a house connected on both sides by other properties

Making Life Choices & Change

1. Decide (v) / Decision (n)

*Example: Young children should be **encouraged** to make their own **decisions**.*

Related Collocations:

- To make a decision to do something

2. Encourage (v)

*Example: Young children should be **encouraged** to make their own **decisions**.*

Related Collocations:

- To encourage somebody to do something

3. Participate (v)

*Example: College students should **participate** in extracurricular activities to enhance their soft skills.*

Related Collocations:

- To participate in something/doing something
- Participation in something

4. Pursue (v)

*Example: Many high school graduates choose to **pursue** a career instead of attending college.*

Related Collocations:

- To pursue a hobby, career, a passion, education

5. Underlying (adj)

*Example: There are some **underlying** reasons why children nowadays have more freedom than the previous generation.*

Related Collocations:

- Underlying causes
- Underlying reasons

6. Experience (n) Trải nghiệm

*Example: People can have valuable **experiences** when they travel around the world.*

Related Collocations:

- Rewarding experiences
- Valuable experiences

7. Gender-specific (adj)

*Example: It is unfair to determine a person's suitability for a certain job based on **gender-specific** personalities.*

Related Collocations:

- Gender-specific personalities

8. Favor (v)

*Example: A huge number of youngsters nowadays **favor** the sedentary lifestyle.*

Related Collocations:

- To favor A over B

9. Cultivate (v)

*Example: The aim of any education system should be to help each individual to **cultivate** his or her own talents.*

Related Collocations:

- To cultivate a talent, skill

10. Liberty (n)

*Example: Students should be at **liberty** to choose study whatever subjects they like at school.*

Related Collocations:

- To be at liberty to do something
- To take the liberty of doing something.

11. Attitude (n)

*Example: Students who are forced to do unpaid work might develop a negative **attitude** toward their schools.*

Related Collocations:

- To develop a positive/negative attitude toward something.

Socio – cultural impacts of tourism

1. backgrounds:

Example: Tourists can have an opportunity to interact with people of different cultural **backgrounds**.

Related collocations:

- Family backgrounds
- Religious backgrounds
- A variety of backgrounds
- To come from diverse backgrounds

2. Heritage:

Example: The Red Building in the Old Quarter is part of our national **heritage**.

Related collocations:

- Preserve/protect heritages
- Cultural heritage
- Ancestral heritage

3. Reap:

*Example: International tourists can **reap** many benefits from their trips*

Related collocations:

- Reap the rewards
- Reap the benefits of sth

4. Tourist destination:

Example: This island is considered a popular **tourist destination** as it welcomes 2 million visitors every year.

Related collocations:

- Popular tourist destination
- Arrive at/reach (the) tourist destination

5. Hospitable:

*Example: Tourists always feel pleased whenever they visit Da Nang. This is because the locals are very **hospitable**.*

Related collocations:

- Hospitable to/towards somebody

6. Standards of behavior:

Example: Tourists when visiting a foreign country need to follow its ***standards of behavior*** *and* ***moral values.***

Related collocations:

- Keep up/maintain standards of behavior

7. Moral values:

Example: Tourists when visiting a foreign country need to follow its ***standards of behavior*** *and* ***moral values.***

Related collocations:

- Preserve moral values
- Encourage/foster moral values
- Instil moral values in children

8. Anti – social behavior:

Example: There are a lot of visitors who show ***anti-social behavior*** *in a historical place, which causes* ***offence*** *to the locals.*

9. Offence:

Example: There are a lot of visitors who show ***anti-social behavior*** *in a historical place, which causes* ***offence*** *to the locals.*

Related collocations:

- Cause offence to someone

10. Language barrier:

Example: Local traders have to overcome a ***language barrier*** *in order to sell their products to foreign visitors.*

Related collocations:

- Overcome language barrier
- Face language b

Protecting Endangered Species

1. **Extinction (n) / Extinct (adj)**
   Example: The **extinction** of the dinosaurs occurred millions of years ago.
   Relevant collocations:
   - in danger of/ threatened with extinction
   - on the verge of extinction
2. **Poach (v)** :
   Example: The Government should do what they can to prevent wild animals from being **poached** uncontrollably.
3. **Captivity (n)**
   Example: The animal finally were released from ***captivity*** *after three months.*
   Relevant collocations:
   - forcing something into captivity
   - hold/keep sb in captivity.
   - bring/take sb into captivity
   - free/release sb from captivity
   - escape from captivity
4. **conservation (n) / conserve (v)**
   Example: Young people can volunteer to inform visitors of the importance of wildlife in ***conservation*** *areas.*
   Relevant collocations:
   - energy, environmental, forest, nature, soil, water, wildlife | architectural, building | art, painting + conservation
   - conservation + group, organization | efforts, measure, policy, programme, project, scheme, work | area
5. ***exotic (adj)***
   Example: ***Exotic*** *pets like snakes and tropical birds are becoming more and more popular.*
6. **boycott (v)**
   Example: People are encouraged to ***boycott*** *products that are made from animals' skin.*
7. **regulation (n)** / **regulate (v)**
   Example: The new ***regulation*** *about wildlife conservation will be implemented at the end of the year.*
   Relevant collocations:
   - regulation + come into force
   - in accordance with (the) regulations

-

8. **deterrent (n)** / **deter (v)**
   Example: Severe punishments, such as life imprisonment, can serve as a strong ***deterrent*** *against the illegal hunting of wild animals.*
   Relevant collocations:
   - act/serve as a deterrent against something to someone
9. **habitat (n)**
   Example: Human industrial activities are destroying wild animal's natural ***habitats****.*
   Relevant collocations:
   - loss of habitat
   - Habitat destruction
   - conserve/protect habitats.
10. **allocate (v)**
    Example: The government is ***allocating*** *£10 million for wildlife conservation.*
    Relevant collocations:
    - allocate resources/budget
11. **sanctuary (n)**
    Example: Many animals are protected in wildlife ***sanctuaries****.*
12. **survive (v)**
    Example: These animals cannot ***survive*** *if their habitats are destroyed.*
13. **shelter (n,v)**
    Example: There was no ***shelter*** *for these animals after the forest had been cut down.*
    Relevant collocations
    - find/take shelter
14. **reproduce (v)**
    Example: Some creatures were better at surviving and ***reproducing*** *than others.*
15. **Awareness (n)**
    Example: Environmental ***awareness*** *has increased dramatically over the past decade.*
    Relevant collocations
    - a lack of awareness
    - develop, foster, heighten, increase, raise awareness
    - public awareness
16. **Ecosystem (n)**
    Example: Pollution can have harmful effects on the balance of the regional ***ecosystem****.*

17. **Biodiversity (n)**
    Example: Habitat destruction caused by local agricultural activities can threaten the area's ***biodiversity***.
    Relevant collocations
    - Biodiversity

Qualifications & Experience

18. **butterflies in my stomach** /ˈbʌt.ə.flaɪs ɪn maɪ ˈstʌm.ək/: Being very nervous about something
19. **put your mind at ease** /pʊt jər maɪnd æt iːz/: Cease to be anxious about something
20. **certificate** /səˈtɪf.ɪ.kət/: A qualification proving that you have completed a course of study (usually below 1 year)
21. **degree** /dɪˈgriː/: The qualification obtained by students who completed a college or university course
22. **Academic achievement** /æk.əˈdem.ɪk əˈtʃiːv.mənt/: Achievements related to study at school
23. **Experience** [U/ C] /ɪkˈspɪər·i·əns/: Knowledge or skill that is obtained from doing sth
24. **Play an integral role in something** /pleɪ ən ˈɪn.tɪ.grəl roʊl/: to have a lot of power or influence in a particular situation
25. **work part-time** /gəʊˌpɑːtˈtaɪm/: to work around 20 or so hours per week
26. **Have a reputation for** /Hæv ə rep.jəˈteɪ.ʃən fɔːr/: to be well-known for
27. **rewarding perk** /rɪˈwɔː.dɪŋ pɜːk/: A bonus, such as money or goods, that you are given as part of your job
28. **probation** /prəˈbeɪ.ʃən/: A starting period of a new job when you are tested to see if you are suitable

Environmental problems

29. **eliminate** /ɪˈlɪmɪneɪt/: to get rid of something
30. **environmental pollution** /ɪnˌvaɪrənˈment(ə)l – pəˈluːʃ(ə)n/: Things that cause damage to or change the natural environment e.g chemicals, light, noise

31. **a hybrid car** /ˈhaɪbrɪd/-/kɑː(r)/: a car that can run using either petrol or electricity
32. **fossil fuels** /ˈfɒsəl ˌfjuːəl/: A natural fuel such as coal, gas or oil, that takes millions of years to form
33. **Carbon emissions** /ɪˈmɪʃ(ə)n/: carbon dioxide and carbon monoxide released into the atmosphere
34. **pivotal** /ˈpɪvət(ə)l/: extremely important and affecting how something develops
35. **remedy** /ˈremədi/: a solution to a particular problem
36. **alternative energy sources** /ɔːlˈtɜː(r)nətɪv-ˈenə(r)dʒi-sɔː(r)sis/: a source of energy that people use to replace fossil fuels
37. **environmentally-friendly** /ɪnˌvaɪrənˈment(ə)li-ˈfren(d)li/: does not harm the natural environment
38. **exhaustion** /ɪgˈzɔːstʃ(ə)n/: using all of something

Advertising Vocabulary

- **advertising agency**: a company that creates adverts for other companies
- **advertising budget**: the amount of money a company decides to spend on advertising
- **brand awareness**: how well people know a particular brand
- **brand loyalty**: the degree to which people continue to buy from the same brand or company
- **buy and sell**: often used to refer to the buying and selling of items between individuals
- **call to action**: something that encourages someone to take a particular action, such as making a purchase or clicking a link on a website
- **celebrity endorsement**: to have a well-known person promote a product
- **classified ads**: small advertisements often put in a newspaper or magazine by individuals
- **to cold call**: to call someone with the aim of selling something without them asking you to do so
- **commercial break**: the short period during TV programmes when advertisements are shown
- **commercial channel**: TV channels that make money from showing advertisements
- **to go viral**: to quickly become extremely popular on the Internet through social media

- **junk mail**: unwanted promotional leaflets and letters
- **to launch a product**: to introduce a new product
- **mailing list**: a list of names and contact details used by a company to send information and advertisements
- **mass media**: large media outlets like TV, newspapers and magazines
- **niche product**: a product that is aimed at a distinct group of people
- **to place an advert**: to put an advert somewhere
- **press release**: something written by a company for newspapers and magazines and websites to share and publish
- **prime time**: the time during the viewing schedule when most people watch TV or listen to a broadcast
- **product placement**: to advertise a product by using it as a prop in a TV show or film
- **sales page**: a page specifically used to promote a product or service
- **to show adverts**: to display adverts on TV
- **social media**: websites that enable users to create and share content or to participate in social networking.
- **spam email**: unwanted, promotional email
- **target audience**: the people a company want to sell their product or service to
- **word of mouth**: recommendations made by individuals to other individuals about a product of service

Large list of English idioms from A to Z

List of Idioms A - Z

A Idioms

A big cheese- an important or a powerful person in a group or family

A bird's eye view- a view from a very high place which allows you to see a large area

A bone of contention- something that people argue for a long time

A cock and a bull story- a story or an explanation which is obviously not true.

At the crack of the dawn- very early in morning

A cuckoo in the nest- someone in a group of people but not liked by them.

A litmus test- a method which clearly proves something

As the crow flies- measuring distance between two places in a straight line.

A dead letter- an argument or law not followed by anyone.

At the drop of the hat- u do something easily and without any preparation

An early bird- someone who gets early in the morning

An educated guess- a guess which was likely to get corrected

At the eleventh hour- be too late.

A queer fish- a strange person

A wakeup call- an event done to warn someone

A worm's eye view- having very little knowledge about something

A witch hunt- an attempt to find and punish those who have options that are believed to be dangerous

At the heels of- to follow someone

A dish fit for Gods- something of very high quality

A game of two equal halves- a sudden change in circumstances

Afraid of one's own shadow- to become easily frightened

Against the clock- to be in a hurry to do something before a particular time

Air one's dirty laundry- to make public something embarrassing that should be kept secret.

All systems go- everything is ready.

An arm and a leg- a large amount of money

Appear out of now here- to appear suddenly without warning.

Apple of someone's eye- someone loved very much.

Ask for the moon- to ask for too much.

Asleep at the switch- not to be alert on opportunity

At sixes and sevens- to be lost and bewildered

At someone's beck and call- to be always ready to serve

At the bottom of the ladder- at the lowest level

A house of cards- a poor plan

At an arm's length- to keep at a distance

At sixes and sevens- in disorder

A boon in disguise- a benefit in loss

A bull in a China shop- an awkward person

A red letter day- an important day

A nine days wonder- pleasure for a short time

A bit under the weather- falling ill

B idioms

Bad blood- feelings of hate between two families

Bend your ears- to talk to someone for a very long time about something boring

Bite your tongue- to stop yourself from saying something because it would be better not to

Black and blue- full of bruises

Blue blood- belonging to high social class

Be above board- to be honest and legal

Be bouncing off the walls- excited and full of nervous energy

Bow and scrap- try too hard to please someone in a position of authority

Brass monkey weather- extremely cold weather

Be tailor made- to be completely suitable for someone.

Break the ice- to make more comfort or relaxed with a person whom you have not met earlier, to break the silence

Be as clear as mud- to be impossible to understand

Be on cloud nine- be very happy

Between the devil and deep blue sea- a type of situation where u must choose between two equally unpleasant situations

Be in the doldrums- not very successful or nothing new is taking place

Beat the drum- to speak eagerly about something you support

Be on the edge- to be nervous or worried about something

Be in seventh heaven- extremely happy

Be at each other's throat- two persons arguing angrily

Batten down the hatches- to prepare for trouble

Back the wrong horse- to support someone weak

Back to square one- to reach again to the starting point

Back to the salt mines- back to something that you don't want to do

Ball of fire- active and energetic

Beat one's head against the wall- to try to do something that is hopeless

Bark up the wrong tree- to make a wrong assumption

Batten down the hatches- prepare for difficult times

Beat one's brain out- to work hard

Begin to see the light- to begin to understand

Behind closed doors- done in secret

Bet on the wrong horse- to misread the future

Bent on doing- to be determined to do something

Bite off more than one can chew- to do more than one's ability

Bite the bullet- to face a difficult situation bravely

Bitter pill to swallow- an unpleasant fact that must be accepted

Black sheep of the family- worst member

Blessing in disguise- something that turns out to be good which earlier appeared to be wrong

Blind leading the blind- someone who does not understand something but tries to explain it to other

Blow one's own horn- to praise one

Blow someone's mind- excite someone

Bone of contention- subject matter of the fight

Bring home the bacon- to earn money to live

Blue in the face- exhausted and speechless

Break the back of- reduce the power of something

Burn a hole in one's pocket- to spend money quickly

Burn the midnight oil- to study till late of night

Bushman's holiday- a holiday where you spend doing same thing as you did at working days

Button's one lip- to keep quite

Break a leg- to wish good luck

C idioms

Carrot and sticks- You use both awards as well as punishments to make someone do something.

Cloak and dragger- when people behave in a very secret manner

Cards are stacked against- luck is against you

Crack a book- to open book to study

Cross a bridge before one comes to it- worry about the future in advance

Carry coals to new castle- to take something to a place or a person that has a lot of that thing already

Cast in the same mould- to be very similar

Change horses in midstream- to change plans

Cap it all- to finish

Cried with eyes out- cried a lot

Carry the can- If you carry the can, you take the blame for something, even though you didn't do it or are only partly at fault.

Cast a long shadow- Something or someone that casts a long shadow has considerable influence on other people or events.

Cat and dog life- If people lead a cat and dog life, they are always arguing.

D idioms

Drive a wedge between- to break relationship between the two

Dances to the tune- to always do what someone tells you to do

Dressed up to the nines- wearing fancy clothes

Dragging its feet- delaying in decision, not showing enthusiasm

Davey Jones' locker- Davey Jones' locker is the bottom of the sea or resting place of drowned sailors. ('Davy Jones' locker' is an alternative spelling.)

Dancing on someone's grave- If you will dance on someone's grave, you will outlive or Outlast them and will celebrate their demise

Dog in the manger- If someone acts like a dog in the manger, they don't want other people to have or enjoy things that are useless to them

Don't cry over spilt milk- When something bad happens and nothing can be done to help it people say, 'Don't cry over spilt milk'

Don't wash your dirty laundry in public- People, especially couples, who argue in front of others or involve others in their personal problems and crises, are said to be washing their dirty laundry in public; making public things that are best left private.

Donkey work- Donkey work is any hard, boring work or task.

Don't throw bricks when you live in a glass house- Don't call others out on actions that you, yourself do. Don't be a hypocrite.

E idioms

Entering the 80th orbit- celebrating the 80th birthday

Eleventh hour decision- decision that is made at the last possible minute

End in smoke- to bear no result

Earth shattering- not at all surprising

Eat humble pie- to apologize humbly

Elephant in the room- An elephant in the room is a problem that everyone knows very well but no one talks about because it is taboo, embarrassing, etc.

Egg on your face- If someone has egg on their face; they are made to look foolish or embarrassed

Eye for an eye- This is an expression for retributive justice, where the punishment equals the crime.

Eyes are bigger than one's stomach- If someone's eyes are bigger than their stomach, they are greedy and take on more than they can consume or manage.

F idioms

From cradle to grave- during the whole span of your life.

Face the music-to accept punishment for something you have done.

Feel the pinch- to have problems with money.

Fall on your own sword- to be cheated by someone you trust.

Feather in one's cap- something that you achieve and proud of.

Firing on all cylinders- work every possible way to succeed.

French leave- absent without permission, to take French leave is to leave a gathering without saying goodbye or without permission.

Fall on our feet- If you fall on your feet, you succeed in doing something where there was a risk of failure.

Fall on your sword- If someone falls on their sword, they resign or accept the consequences of what they have done wrong.

Fingers and thumbs- If you are all fingers and thumbs, you are being clumsy and not very skilled with your hands.

Finger in the pie- If you have a finger in the pie, you have an interest in something.

Flash in the pan- If something is a flash in the pan; it is very noticeable but doesn't last long, like most singers, who are very successful for a while, then forgotten.

Follow your nose- When giving directions, telling someone to follow their nose means that they should go straight ahead.

Fool's paradise- A fool's paradise is a false sense of happiness or success

Foot in mouth- This is used to describe someone who has just said something

Embarrassing, inappropriate, wrong or stupid

For a song- If you buy or sell something for a song, it is very cheap

For donkey's years- If people have done something, usually without much if any change, for an awfully long time, they can be said to have done it for donkey's years

G idioms

Get off the hook- free from all obligations

Give-up the ghost- to die

Got the slap on the wrist- got light punishment

Give someone a bird- make fun

Got the wind up- to be scared

Get a raw deal- not treated equally

Gift of the gab- talent of speaking, if someone has the gift of the gab, they speak in a persuasive and interesting way

Gives cold shoulder- to ignore

Get your wires crossed- If people get their wires cross, they misunderstand each other, especially when making arrangements.('Get your lines crossed' is also used.)
Give me five- If someone says this, they want to hit your open hand against theirs as a
Way of congratulation or greeting
Give me a hand- If someone gives you a hand, they help you
Give someone a piece of your mind- If you give someone a piece of your mind, you criticize them strongly and angrily.
Go bananas- If you go bananas, you are wild with excitement, anxiety, or worry
Go tell it to birds- This is used when someone says something that is not credible or is a lie
Go under the hammer- If something goes under the hammer, it is sold in an auction
Graveyard shift- If you have to work very late at night, it is the graveyard shift
Grease monkey- A grease monkey is an idiomatic term for a mechanic

H idioms

Have ants in your pants- not be able to keep still because you are very excited or worried about something.

Having a whole of a time- to enjoy very much

Hold one's horse- be patient

Have a big mouth- one who gossips more or tells secret

Himalayan blunder- a serious mistake

Have a one track mind- think only of one thing

Have clean hands- be guiltless

Have an egg on the face- be embarrassed

Have eyes bigger than stomach- desiring more food than one can eat

Heart missed a beat- very excited

Heart in the right place- good natured

Hit the nail on the head- done the thing correctly

Hand to mouth- Someone who's living from hand to mouth, is very poor and needs the little money they have coming in to cover their expenses

Have no truck with- If you have no truck with something or someone, you refuse to get involved with it or them

Hit the bull's-eye- If someone hits the bull's-eye, they are exactly right about something or achieve the best result possible.

Hold water- When you say that something does or does not 'hold water', it means that the point of view or argument put forward is or is not sound, strong or logical. For e.g. 'Saying we should increase our interest rates because everyone else is doing so will not hold water'

Hornets' nest- A hornets' nest is a violent situation or one with a lot of dispute. (If you create the problem, you 'stir up a hornets' nest'.)

I idioms

In dribs and drabs- in small amounts at a time

In black and white- to give in writing

In the blues- low spirited

In cahoots with- in a partnership usually for a dishonest reason

If the shoe fits, wear it- This is used to suggest that something that has been said might apply to a person

In droves- When things happen in droves, a lot happen at the same time or very quickly

In the doghouse- If someone is in the doghouse, they are in disgrace and very Unpopular at the moment.

J idioms

Jack Frost - If everything has frozen in winter, then Jack Frost has visited.

Jack the Lad - A confident and not very serious young man who behaves as he wants to without thinking about other people is a Jack the Lad.

Jack-of-all-trades- A jack-of-all-trades is someone that can do many different jobs.

Jam on your face - If you say that someone has jam on their face, they appear to be caught, embarrassed or found guilty.

Jam tomorrow - This idiom is used when people promise good things for the future that will never come.

Jane Doe - Jane Doe is a name given to an unidentified female who may be party to legal proceedings, or to an unidentified person in hospital, or dead. John Doe is the male equivalent.

Jekyll and Hyde - Someone who has a Jekyll and Hyde personality has a pleasant and a very unpleasant side to the character.

Jersey justice - Jersey justice is very severe justice.

Jet set - Very wealthy people who travel around the world to attend parties or functions are the jet set.

Jet-black - To emphasise just how black something is, such as someone's hair, we can call it jet-black.

Job's comforter - Someone who says they want to comfort, but actually discomforts people is a Job's comforter.

Jobs for the boys - Where people give jobs, contracts, etc, to their friends and associates, these are jobs for the boys.

Jockey for position - If a number of people want the same opportunity and are struggling to emerge as the most likely candidate, they are jockeying for position.

Jog my memory- If you jog someone's memory, you say words that will help someone trying to remember a thought, event, word, phrase, experience, etc.

John Doe- John Doe is a name given to an unidentified male who may be party to legal proceedings, or to an unidentified person in hospital, or dead. Jane Doe is the female equivalent.

Joe Public - Joe Public is the typical, average person.

Johnny on the spot - A person who is always available; ready, willing, and able to do what needs to be done.('Johnny-on-the-spot' is also used.)

Johnny-come-lately - A Johnny-come-lately is someone who has recently joined something or arrived somewhere, especially when they want to make changes that are not welcome.

Join the club - Said when someone has expressed a desire or opinion, meaning "That viewpoint is not unique to you". It can suggest that the speaker should stop complaining since many others are in the same position. Example: "If this train doesn't come, I'll be late for work!" "Join the club!"

Joined at the hip - If people are joined at the hip, they are very closely connected and think the same way.

Judge, jury and executioner - If someone is said to be the judge, jury, and executioner, it means they are in charge of every decision made, and they have the power to be rid of whomever they choose.

Juggle frogs - If you are juggling frogs, you are trying to do something very difficult.

Jump down someone's throat - If you jump down someone's throat, you criticise or chastise them severely.

Jump on the bandwagon - If people jump on the bandwagon, they get involved in something that has recently become very popular.

Jump ship - If you leave a company or institution for another because it is doing badly, you are jumping ship.

Jump the broom - To jump the broom is to marry. (Jump over the broom, jump over the broomstick, jump the broomstick are also used.)

Jump the gun - If you jump the gun, you start doing something before the appropriate time.

Jump the track - Jumping the track is suddenly changing from one plan, activity, idea, etc, to another.

Jump through hoops - If you are prepared to jump through hoops for someone, you are prepared to make great efforts and sacrifices for them.

Jump to a conclusion - If someone jumps to a conclusion, they evaluate or judge something without a sufficient examination of the facts.

Jumping Judas! - An expression of surprise or shock.

Jungle out there - If someone says that it is a jungle out there, they mean that the situation is dangerous and there are no rules.

Jury's out - If the jury's out on an issue, then there is no general agreement or consensus on it.

Just around the corner- If something is just around the corner, then it is expected to happen very soon.

Just coming up to - If the time is just coming up to nine o'clock, it means that it will be nine o'clock in a very few seconds. You'll hear them say it on the radio in the morning.

Just deserts - If a bad or evil person gets their just deserts, they get the punishment or suffer the misfortune that it is felt they deserve.

Just for the heck of it - When someone does something just for the heck of it, they do it without a good reason.

Just for the record - If something is said to be just for the record, the person is saying it so that people know but does not necessarily agree with or support it.

Just in the nick of time - If you do something in the nick of time, you just manage to do it just in time, with seconds to spare.

Just off the boat - If someone is just off the boat, they are naive and inexperienced.

Just what the doctor ordered - If something's just what the doctor ordered, it is precisely what is needed.

Justice is blind - Justice is blind means that justice is impartial and objective.

K idioms

Kick up a row- to start a fight, to create disturbance

Keep ones eye on the ball- be ready for something

Kangaroo court- When people take the law into their own hands and form courts that are not legal, these are known as kangaroo court

Keep body and soul together- If you earn enough to cover your basic expenses, but nothing more than that, you earn enough to keep body and soul together.

Keep your eye on the ball- If you keep your eye on the ball, you stay alert and pay Close attention to what is happening

Know which way the wind blows- This means that you should know how things are Developing and be prepared for the future.

L idioms

Loaves and fishes- done for material benefits

Like a shag on a rock- completely alone.

Let someone slide- neglect something

Let the cat out of the bag- reveal the secret

Let nature take its course- to allow someone to live or die naturally.

Like a sitting duck- totally unaware

Lion's share- a major share

Left to your own devices- If someone is left to their own devices, they are not controlled and can do whatever they want

M idioms

Make castles in the air- plans or hopes that have very little chances of happening.

Make a bee line for- to go directly towards something.

Make ones bed and lie on it- to be responsible for what you have done and accept the results

Meet ones waterloo- meet ones final end

Monkey around- to waste time here and there

My hands are full- I am busy

Make a dry face- show disappointment

Make a monkey of someone- If you make a monkey of someone, you make them look foolish

Man of his word- A man of his word is a person who does what he says and keeps his Promises

Many moons ago- A very long time ago

N idioms

Nobody's fool- one who can take care of himself

not having a leg to stand for- not having proof

Never-never land- ideal best place.

No love lost between- dislike

Needle in a haystack- If trying to find something is like looking for a needle in a haystack, it means that it is very difficult, if not impossible to find among everything around it

New brush sweeps clean- 'A new brush sweeps clean' means that someone with a new perspective can make great changes. However, the full version is 'a new brush sweeps clean, but an old brush knows the corners', which warns that experience is also a valuable thing

No smoke without fire- This idiom means that when people suspect something, there is Normally a good reason for the suspicion, even if there is no concrete evidence. ('Where's there's smoke, there's fire' is also used.)

O idioms

Once in a blue moon- very rarely

On the bandwagon- doing something because others are also doing it

Open Pandora's box- to discover more problems

Over the moon- being too happy

On its last legs- in a bad condition and will not last long

Old flames die hard- It's very difficult to forget old things

On pins and needles- If you are on pins and needles, you are very worried about something

On the carpet- When you are called to the bosses office (since supposedly, they are the only ones who have carpet) and its definitely not for a good reason, i.e., you are in trouble, something has not gone according to plan and either maybe you are responsible and/or have some explaining to do

On the hook- If someone is on the hook, they are responsible for something.

Only the wearer knows where the shoe pinches- This means that it's hard to know how much someone else is suffering.

P idioms

Pass muster- to be approved

Pick someone to pieces- to criticize sharply

Paper over the cracks- to try to hide something

Put the cart before the horse- doing things in a wrong manner

Pull up the shocks- do things in the right manner and correctly

Parrot fashion- If you learn something parrots fashion; you learn it word for word

Pay on the nail- If you pay on the nail, you pay promptly in cash

Pen is mightier than the sword- The idiom 'the pen is mightier than the sword' means that words and communication are morepowerful than wars and fighting

Pick someone's brains- If you pick someone's brains, you ask them for advice, Suggestions and information about something they know about

Pieces of the same cake- Pieces of the same cake are things that have the same Characteristics or qualities

Play fast and loose- If people play fast and loose, they behave in an irresponsible way And don't respect rules, etc.

Poker face- Someone with a poker face doesn't show any emotion or reaction so that People don't know what they are feeling

Q idioms

Quarrel with bread and butter- Bread and butter, here, indicate the means of one's living. If a sub-ordinate in an organization is quarrelsome or if he is not patient enough to bear the reprimand he deserves, gets angry and retorts or provokes the higher-up, the top man dismisses him from the job. So, he loses the job that gave him bread and butter. Hence we say, he quarreled with bread and butter (manager or the top man) and lost his job

Quiet as a cat- If somebody is as quiet as a cat they make as little noise as possible and try to be unnoticeable

Quiet as a mouse- If someone's as quiet as a mouse, they make absolutely no noise

Queer fish- A strange person is a queer fish

R idioms

Round the twist- go crazy

Read between the lines- read hidden meanings

Rack and ruin- If something or someone goes to rack and ruin, they are utterly destroyed or wrecked

Rain on your parade- If someone rains on your parade, they ruin your pleasure or your plans

Rake someone over the coals- If you rake someone over the coals, you criticize or scold them severely

Recipe for disaster- A recipe for disaster is a mixture of people and events that could only possibly result in trouble

Red carpet- If you give someone the red-carpet treatment, you give them a special
Welcome to show that you think they are important

Red herring- If something is a distraction from the real issues, it is a red herring

Red letter day- A red letter day is a one of good luck, when something special happens to you

Reduce to ashes- If something is reduced to ashes, it is destroyed or made useless. His infidelities reduced their relationship to ashes

Round the houses- If you go round the houses, you do something in an inefficient way when there is a quicker, more convenient way

Rub shoulders- If you rub shoulders with people, you meet and spend time with them,
Especially when they are powerful or famous

Run into the sand- If something runs into the sand, it fails to achieve a result

S idioms

Salt on the earth- fundamental good people

Sands of time- tiny amounts of time

Shake a leg- to go fast, hurry

Spill the beans- to expose a secret

Snake in the grass- a hidden army

Salt on the earth- fundamental good people

Sands of time- tiny amounts of time

Shake a leg- to go fast, hurry

Spill the beans- to expose a secret

Snake in the grass- a hidden army

Snake in the shoes- to be in a state of fear

Stood to his guns- maintained to his opinion

showing the door- asking someone to leave

Song and a dance- an excuse

Salad days- Your salad days are an especially happy period of your life

Sail under false colors- Someone who sails under false colors is hypocritical or Pretends to be something they aren't in order to deceive people

T idioms

Threaded his way out- walked carefully through.

Take the cloth- to become a priest.

Talk turkey- to discuss a problem with a real intension to solve it.

Tit for tat- an action done to revenge against a person who has done some wrong to you

To crow over- to triumph over someone

to blow a fuse- to turn someone angry

though thick and thin- under all conditions

to bell the cat- to take great risks

To look through colored glasses- to look the things not as they are

Taking to a brick wall- taking with a no response

Turned a deaf ear- disregarded

Take a back seat- choose to decrease involvement

Tables are turned- When the tables are turned, the situation has changed giving the advantage to the party who had previously been at a disadvantage

Take someone under your wing- If you take someone under your wing, you look after them while they are learning something

Take your medicine- If you take your medicine, you accept the consequences of something you have done wrong

Talking to a brick wall- If you talk to someone and they do not listen to you, it is like talking to a brick wall

Taste of your own medicine- If you give someone a taste of their own medicine, you do something bad to someone that they have done to you to teach them a lesson

The apple does not fall far from the tree- Offspring grow up to be like their parents

Through thick and thin- If someone supports you through thick and thin, they support you during good times and bad

U idioms

Upset the apple cart- to create difficulty

Under a cloud- If someone is suspected of having done something wrong, they are under a cloud

Under fire- If someone is being attacked and criticized heavily, they are under fire

Under your nose- If something happens right in front of you, especially if it is surprising or audacious, it happens under your nose

Up for grabs- If something is up for grabs, it is available and whoever is first or is successful will get it

Up to the neck- If someone's in something up to the neck, they are very involved in it, especially when it's something wrong

Up a river without a paddle- If you up a river without a paddle, you are in an unfortunate situation, unprepared and with none of the resources to remedy the matter

Uncharted waters- If you're in uncharted waters, you are in a situation that is unfamiliar to you, that you have no experience of and don't know what might happen

Under lock and key- If something is under lock and key, it is stored very securely

V idioms

Vale of tears- This vale of tears is the world and the suffering that life brings.
Velvet glove - This idiom is used to describe a person who appears gentle, but is determined and inflexible underneath. ('Iron fist in a velvet glove' is the full form.)
Vent your spleen - If someone vents their spleen, they release all their anger about something.
Vicar of Bray - A person who changes their beliefs and principles to stay popular with people above them is a Vicar of Bray
Vicious circle - A vicious circle is a sequence of events that make each other worse- someone drinks because they are unhappy at work, then loses their job... 'Vicious cycle' is also used.
Vinegar tits - A mean spirited women lacking in love or compassion.
Virgin territory - If something is virgin territory, it hasn't been explored before.
Voice in the wilderness - Someone who expresses an opinion that no one believes or listens to is a voice in the wilderness,especially if proved right later.
Volte-face - If you do a volte-face on something, you make a sudden and complete change in your stance or position over an issue.
Vultures are circling - If the vultures are circling, then something is in danger and its enemies are getting ready for the kill.

W idioms

Weight one's word- be careful to what one says

Wait for a raindrop in the drought- When someone is waiting for a raindrop in the drought, they are waiting or hoping for something that is extremely unlikely to happen

Walking on broken glass- When a person is punished for something

Wet behind the ears- Someone who is wet behind the ears is either very young or inexperienced

Whale of a time- If you have a whale of a time, you really enjoy yourself

Work your fingers to the bone- If you work your fingers to the bone, you work extremely hard on something

Wrench in the works- If someone puts or throws a wrench, or monkey wrench, in the works, they ruin a plan

X idioms

X factor - The dangers for people in the military that civilians do not face, for which they receive payment, are known as the X factor.

X marks the spot - This is used to say where something is located or hidden.

X-rated - If something is x-rated, it is not suitable for children.

Y idioms

Yah boo sucks- Yah boo & yah boo sucks can be used to show that you have no sympathy with someone.

Yank my chain - If some one says this to another person (i.e. stop yanking my chain) it means for the other person to leave the person who said it alone and to stop bothering them.

Yell bloody murder - If someone yells bloody murder, they protest angrily and loudly, or scream in fear.

Yellow press - The yellow press is a term for the popular and sensationalist newspapers.

Yellow streak- If someone has a yellow streak, they are cowardly about something.

Yellow-bellied - A yellow-bellied person is a coward.

Yen - If you have a yen to do something, you have a desire to do it.

Yeoman's service - To do yeoman's service is to serve in an exemplary manner.

Yes-man - Someone who always agrees with people in authority is a yes-man.

Yesterday's man or Yesterday's woman - Someone, especially a politician or celebrity, whose career is over or on the decline is yesterday's man or woman.

You are what you eat - This is used to emphasise the importance of a good diet as a key to good health.

You can catch more flies with honey than with vinegar - This means that it is easier to persuade people if you use polite arguments and flattery than if you are confrontational.

You can choose your friends, but you can't choose your family - Some things you can choose, but others you cannot, so you have to try to make the best of what you have where you have no choice.

You can lead a horse to water, but you can't make it drink - This idiom means you can offer something to someone, like good advice, but you cannot make them take it.

You can say that again - If you want to agree strongly with what someone has said, you can say 'You can say that again' as a way of doing so.

You can't fight City Hall - This phrase is used when one is so cynical that one doesn't think one can change their Representatives. The phrase must have started with frustration towards a local body of government.

You can't have cake and the topping, too - This idiom means that you can't have everything the way you want it, especially if your desires are contradictory.

You can't have your cake and eat it - This idiom means that you can't have things both ways. For example, you can't have very low taxes and a high standard of state care.

You can't hide elephants in mouse holes - means that some issues/problems/challenges cannot be hidden/concealed but have to be faced and dealt with.

You can't make a silk purse out of a sow's ear - If something isn't very good to start with, you can't do much to improve it.

You can't make an omelette without breaking eggs - This idiom means that in order to achieve something or make progress, there are often losers in the process.

You can't take it with you - Enjoy life, enjoy what you have and don't worry about not having a lot, especially money...because once you're dead, 'you can't take it with you.' For some, it means to use up all you have before you die because it's no use to you afterwards.

You can't teach an old dog new tricks - It is difficult to make someone change the way they do something when they have been doing it the same way for a long time

You can't un-ring a bell - This means that once something has been done, you have to live with the consequences as it can't be undone.

You could have knocked me down with a feather - This idiom is used to mean that the person was very shocked or surprised.

You do not get a dog and bark yourself - If there is someone in a lower position who can or should do a task, then you shouldn't do it.

You get what you pay for - Something that is very low in price is not usually of very good quality.

You reap what you sow - This means that if you do bad things to people, bad things will happen to you, or good things if you do good things. It is normally used when someone has done something bad.

You said it!- Used to say you agree completely with something just said.

You scratch my back and I'll scratch yours - This idiom means that if you do something for me, I'll return the favour.

You what? - This is a very colloquial way of expressing surprise or disbelief at something you have heard. It can also be used to ask someone to say something again.

You're toast - If someone tells you that you are toast, you are in a lot of trouble.

You've got rocks in your head - Someone who has acted with a lack of intelligence has rocks in their head.

You've made your bed- you'll have to lie in it - This means that someone will have to live with the consequences of their own actions.

Young blood - Young people with new ideas and fresh approaches are young blood.

Young Turk - A Young Turk is a young person who is rebellious and difficult to control in a company, team or organisation.

Your belly button is bigger than your stomach - If your belly button is bigger than your stomach, you take on more responsibilities than you can handle.

Your call - If something is your call, it is up to you to make a decision on the matter.

Your name is mud - If someone's name is mud, then they have a bad reputation.

Your sins will find you out - This idiom means that things you do wrong will become known.

Z idioms

Zero hour- The time when something important is to begin is zero hour.

Zero tolerance - If the police have a zero tolerance policy, they will not overlook any crime, no matter how small or trivial.

Zigged before you zagged - If you did things in the wrong order, you zigged before you zagged.

Zip it - This is used to tell someone to be quiet.

Zip your lip - If someone tells you to zip your lip, they want to to shut up or keep quiet about something. ('Zip it' is also used.)

IELTS Work Vocabulary

Part 1-style questions

Examiner: What do you do?

Sasha: I **do a job-share** with a friend in a boutique … I enjoy it … I like working with customers … unfortunately it's only **temporary work** but **one of the perks of the job** is I get a discount on the clothes …

Examiner: Do you have any career plans yet?

Carly: Yes … I'd like to **be my own boss** one day … I'm interested in programming and I'd like to create apps for myself or for other companies … I know being **self employed** would be a challenge but the idea of doing a **nine-to-five job** doesn't appeal to me at all …

Examiner: What do you see yourself doing in 10 years time?

Marie: I'd hope to be working … not **a high-powered job** … but I'm quite a creative person so something where I can **work with my hands** would be nice … as long as I'm not **stuck behind a desk** doing something boring **in a dead-end job** I'll be happy …

Part 2-style task

Describe your ideal job. You should say:

- what this job is
- whether you would need any qualifications
- whether it would be easy to find work

and say why you would enjoy this job in particular.

Max: I've always loved watching wildlife programmes on TV and often thought how much I'd enjoy working with animals … perhaps in a safari park … something like that … you'd probably need a degree to have any chance of being **called for an interview** and whether there are many **full-time jobs** I don't know … I'm sure a lot of parks rely on **voluntary work** so it might not be easy … and it probably wouldn't be **well-paid** either but money isn't everything … I'd get so much **job satisfaction** … I can't imagine it being the kind of job where you get **stuck in a rut** … and I think I'd be good at it as well … I'd love to work with animals I enjoy **manual work** and I'm **a good team player** … so even though the **working conditions** might not be the best I think that would be my ideal job …

Part 3-style questions

Examiner: If there are a limited number of jobs available who should be given priority, young people or older people with more experience?

Anna: Things are so different these days … a few years ago older employees would often **take early retirement** or go onto **part-time** contracts and there were always opportunities for younger people but now jobs are so scarce … I think younger people need to be given the chance whenever possible …

Examiner: What are some of the important things a candidate should find out before accepting a job?

Ali: Well … you'd need to know about your area of responsibility … and your salary of

course and then there are things like **holiday entitlement** … **maternity or paternity leave** … if you're thinking of having children … and what the situation is regarding **sick leave** … that kind of thing …

Examiner: What are the advantages of having your own business rather than working for someone else?
Julie: Well … unfortunately being an employee at the moment is very stressful … people have very **heavy workloads** … they're always under pressure to **meet deadlines** … **running your own business** isn't easy … but I do think it would be far more satisfying …

Definitions

- ***to be called for an interview***: to be invited to attend an interview
- ***to be your own boss***: to have your own business
- ***a dead-end job***: a job with no promotional opportunities
- ***to do a job-share***: to share the weekly hours of work with another person
- ***a good team player***: somebody who can work well with other people
- ***full-time***: the number of hours that people usually work in a complete week
- ***a heavy workload***: to have a lot of work to do
- ***a high-powered job***: an important or powerful job
- ***holiday entitlement***: the number of days holiday allowed
- ***job satisfaction***: the feeling of enjoying a job
- ***manual work***: work that requires physical activity
- ***maternity leave***: time off work given to a woman about to have a baby
- ***to meet a deadline***: to finish a job by an agreed time
- ***a nine-to-five job***: a normal job that consists of an 8 hour day (approximately)
- ***one of the perks of the job***: an extra benefit you get from a job
- ***part-time***: working less than full-time
- ***to run your own business***: see 'to be your own boss'
- ***to be self-employed***: see 'to be your own boss'
- ***sick leave***: time allowed off work when sick
- ***to be stuck behind a desk***: to be unhappy in an office job
- ***to be/get stuck in a rut***: to be in a boring job that is hard to leave
- ***to take early retirement***: to retire early (retire: to reach an age when you are allowed to stop working for a living)
- ***temporary work***: work done for a limited time only
- ***voluntary work***: to work without pay
- ***to be well paid***: to earn a good salary
- ***working conditions***: the hours, salary and other entitlements that comes with the job
- ***to work with your hands***: to do manual work

IELTS Speaking Vocabulary. Weather

Temperatures:

- **boiling hot**: an expression to describe a very hot weather.*The last summer was boiling hot, the average temperature reached 40 degrees!*
- **hot**
- **mild**: warm and pleasant.*The weather in my country is mild in spring.*
- **warm**
- **chilly**: cold.*It's chilly today, so I think you should wear a coat.*
- **freezing cold**: very cold.*I wanted to go ice skating on the New Year day, but it was freezing cold and I decided to stay home.*
-

- **degrees Celsius**: used to measure the temperature.*In the autumn, the average temperature here is 15 degrees Celsius*
- **to go below zero**: to become negative (about temperatures).*The temperature often goes below zero in the winter.*

Cloudy weather:

- **gloomy**: weather with dark clouds and dull light.*Personally, I don't like gloomy weather. It makes me feel depressed.*
- **clear**: without clouds.*I adore clear weather, when there are no clouds on the sky.*
- **to clear up**: when clouds and rain disappear.*After a long rain, it finally cleared up.*

Rainy weather:

- **to be drenched (to the skin)**: to be completely soaked with water.*I forgot to take an umbrella and was drenched in the rain.*
- **gentle rain**: light rain.
- **drizzle**: a light rain that falls in very small drops.*It often drizzles in the morning.*
- **downpour**: a heavy fall of rain.*What a downpour! We are drenched to the skin.*
- **to pour down**: to rain heavily.*I like rainy weather. When it pours down, we sit at home with my family, talk and drink hot tea.*
- **humid**: containing a high amount of water.*In my country the climate is generally cold and humid, especially in the north.*

Snowy weather:

- **snow-covered**: covered with snow.*In the winter my family and I go skiing to the snow-covered hills of Switzerland.*
- **heavy snow**: when a lot of snow falls.*Children went to school in spite of the heavy snow.*
- **frosty**: cold.*Continental climate implies hot summers and frosty winters.*
- **snowstorm**: large amounts of wind and snow.*I don't like winters because of frequent snowstorms.*
- **hail**: when small balls of ice (hailstones) fall from the sky.*After the hail, we found hailstones that were the size of golf balls!*

Windy weather:

- **high wind** = **strong wind**.*In the autumn strong winds are quite frequent.*
- **breeze:** a nice gentle wind.*I don't usually like windy weather, but a light breeze from the ocean makes me happy.*
- **wind chill factor**: when the wind makes the air feel colder than the real temperature.*In my hometown it's very windy in the winter. And though the temperature rarely goes below zero, with wind chill factor it feels like minus 10!*

Sunny weather:

- **sunshine**: the heat and light of the sun.*I love summertime because of the long days and bright sunshine.*
- **dry**: with no rain.*Summers in Turkey are often hot and dry.*
- **heat stroke (sun stroke)**: a serious heat illness because of being too long in hot weather.*It's often boiling hot in my city in the summer and a lot of people suffer from heat stroke.*

Other vocabulary:

- **a spell of good weather**: a period of good weather. You can use other adjectives instead of "good" to describe weather.*After a three-day spell of rainy weather, there was a spell of sunny weather.*
- **changeable weather**: weather that often changes.*In my country the weather is very changeable, periods of hot weather can be followed by heavy rains or even snowstorms!*
- **mild climate**: a climate without extreme weather conditions.
-

- **smog**: a cloud of pollution.*My town is so polluted that I don’t see stars at night because of thick smog!*
- **forecast**: a prediction of how the weather will change.*Although the forecasts predicted a mild winter, the January was freezing cold.*

IELTS Weather Vocabulary

Part 1-style questions
Examiner: What's the weather like in your country?
Katie: It's quite **changeable** really … we have periods of time with **clear blue skies** then all of a sudden we'll have **torrential rain.**

Examiner: Which months have the best weather in your country?
Ernst: Well … I suppose it's a matter of personal taste really … I like it around the end of October and November … I'm not fond of the **heatwaves** we often get during the summer … it's not **freezing cold** during these months and we still get lots of **sunny spells.**

Examiner: Does it bother you much when it rains?
Junko: It depends … if I **get caught in the rain** and I **get drenched** I don't like it … but I'm a gardener so **a drop of rain** is good for my plants.

Part 2-style task
Describe a time when you experienced extreme weather conditions. You should say

- when this was
- where you were
- what the weather was like

and say how you felt about the experience.

I was studying English in a language school a few years ago … we were in Cornwall in the UK … we'd been enjoying lovely sunny days … **not a cloud in the sky** … when all of a sudden there was **a change in the weather** … we were in town walking around the shops when it started **to pour down** … I'd never seen such **heavy rain** before … within about 10 minutes the roads were full of water … I think they call it a **flash flood** … it was like being in the middle of a **tropical storm** … the water was almost up to my knees … the **weather forecast** hadn't predicted it so everyone was taken by surprise … I'm not sure you could call it 'extreme' weather as a few hours later it started **to clear up** … **the sun came out** and slowly the water level went down … but a lot of people's houses were flooded so it would have been extreme for them … I found it all quite exciting … in my country we generally have a very **mild climate** and don't often get floods like this so it was quite an experience for me.

Part 3-style questions
Examiner: Do you think the weather affects how people feel?
Tierre: Absolutely … yes … I don't mind the occasional **cold spell** but I think the winter months can make you feel down. I hate having to leave the house in the winter … there's often a **thick fog** every morning and we sometimes get **bitterly cold** winds … the winter certainly makes me feel a little depressed … though having said that … it's always nice to see the town covered in a **blanket of snow.**

Examiner: Do you think the weather is changing due to global warming?
Ceri: I don't know if it's due to global warming or not but the weather in my country is certainly changing … we've been getting quite **mild winters** lately … the temperatures are sometimes **below freezing** but only occasionally … and then during the summer it can get **boiling hot** with a lot of older people even suffering from **heatstroke**.

Examiner: In which ways are weather forecasts useful?
Sinita: Well … if you're planning a trip or going on holiday it's important to know whether you'll need to **dress up warm** or take an umbrella … farmers need to know what the **long-range forecast** is so they can plan their work … I suppose people who organise outside events need to know as well in case things get **rained off**.

Definitions

- ***to be below freezing***: below zero degrees Celsius
- ***bitterly cold***: very cold and unpleasant
- ***a blanket of snow***: a complete covering of snow
- ***boiling hot***: very hot (informal)

- ***changeable***: weather that often changes
- ***a change in the weather***: when weather conditions change
- ***clear blue skies***: a sky without clouds
- ***to clear up***: when clouds or rain disappear
- ***to come out (the sun)***: when the sun appears out of a cloudy sky
- ***a cold spell***: a short period of cold weather
- ***to dress up warm***: to wear warm clothes to protect yourself against wintry conditions
- ***a drop of rain***: a little bit of rain
- ***a flash flood***: a sudden and severe flood
- ***freezing cold***: very cold (informal)
- ***to get caught in the rain***: to be outside when it rains unexpectedly
- ***to get drenched***: to get very wet
- ***heatstroke***: a serious condition caused by being too long in hot weather
- ***a heatwave***: a period of very hot weather
- ***heavy rain***: intense rainfall
- ***long-range forecast***: the weather forecast for several days or weeks ahead
- ***mild climate***: a climate without extreme weather conditions
- ***mild winter***: a winter that isn't particularly cold
- ***not a cloud in the sky***: see 'clear blue skies' above
- ***to pour down***: to rain heavily
- ***to be rained off***: to be cancelled or postponed due to poor weather
- ***sunny spells***: short periods of sunny weather
- ***thick fog***: a dense fog that makes visibility very poor
- ***torrential rain***: see 'heavy rain' above
- ***tropical storm***: a storm typical of ones that you find in tropical climates

- ***weather forecast***: a TV/radio programme or section in a newspaper/magazine which predicts weather conditions

IELTS Speaking Vocabulary. Weather

Temperatures:

- **boiling hot**: an expression to describe a very hot weather.*The last summer was boiling hot, the average temperature reached 40 degrees!*
- **hot**
- **mild**: warm and pleasant.*The weather in my country is mild in spring.*
- **warm**
- **chilly**: cold.*It's chilly today, so I think you should wear a coat.*
- **freezing cold**: very cold.*I wanted to go ice skating on the New Year day, but it was freezing cold and I decided to stay home.*
-

- **degrees Celsius**: used to measure the temperature.*In the autumn, the average temperature here is 15 degrees Celsius*
- **to go below zero**: to become negative (about temperatures).*The temperature often goes below zero in the winter.*

Cloudy weather:

- **gloomy**: weather with dark clouds and dull light.*Personally, I don't like gloomy weather. It makes me feel depressed.*
- **clear**: without clouds.*I adore clear weather, when there are no clouds on the sky.*
- **to clear up**: when clouds and rain disappear.*After a long rain, it finally cleared up.*

Rainy weather:

- **to be drenched (to the skin)**: to be completely soaked with water.*I forgot to take an umbrella and was drenched in the rain.*
- **gentle rain**: light rain.
- **drizzle**: a light rain that falls in very small drops.*It often drizzles in the morning.*
- **downpour**: a heavy fall of rain.*What a downpour! We are drenched to the skin.*
- **to pour down**: to rain heavily.*I like rainy weather. When it pours down, we sit at home with my family, talk and drink hot tea.*
- **humid**: containing a high amount of water.*In my country the climate is generally cold and humid, especially in the north.*

Snowy weather:

- **snow-covered**: covered with snow.*In the winter my family and I go skiing to the snow-covered hills of Switzerland.*
- **heavy snow**: when a lot of snow falls.*Children went to school in spite of the heavy snow.*
- **frosty**: cold.*Continental climate implies hot summers and frosty winters.*
- **snowstorm**: large amounts of wind and snow.*I don't like winters because of frequent snowstorms.*
- **hail**: when small balls of ice (hailstones) fall from the sky.*After the hail, we found hailstones that were the size of golf balls!*

Windy weather:

- **high wind** = **strong wind**.*In the autumn strong winds are quite frequent.*
- **breeze:** a nice gentle wind.*I don't usually like windy weather, but a light breeze from the ocean makes me happy.*
- **wind chill factor**: when the wind makes the air feel colder than the real temperature.*In my hometown it's very windy in the winter. And though the temperature rarely goes below zero, with wind chill factor it feels like minus 10!*

Sunny weather:

- **sunshine**: the heat and light of the sun.*I love summertime because of the long days and bright sunshine.*
- **dry**: with no rain.*Summers in Turkey are often hot and dry.*
- **heat stroke (sun stroke)**: a serious heat illness because of being too long in hot weather.*It's often boiling hot in my city in the summer and a lot of people suffer from heat stroke.*

Other vocabulary:

- **a spell of good weather**: a period of good weather. You can use other adjectives instead of "good" to describe weather.*After a three-day spell of rainy weather, there was a spell of sunny weather.*
- **changeable weather**: weather that often changes.*In my country the weather is very changeable, periods of hot weather can be followed by heavy rains or even snowstorms!*
- **mild climate**: a climate without extreme weather conditions.

-

- **smog**: a cloud of pollution.*My town is so polluted that I don’t see stars at night because of thick smog!*
- **forecast**: a prediction of how the weather will change.*Although the forecasts predicted a mild winter, the January was freezing cold.*

IELTS Technology vocabulary

Part 1-style questions

Examiner: Do you enjoy using technology?
Stephan: Well … I wouldn't call myself **a techie** or a **computer buff** but I enjoy using computers … I'd like to find out more about how they work … when my **computer crashes** I never know what to do.

Examiner: Do you use the Internet for your studies?
Sophie: Yes … I'd be lost without it … I do lots of **video conferencing** to practise speaking and **social media** like Facebook is a good way to meet up with other students … and I **download podcasts** that teach English vocabulary and grammar.

Examiner: Do you have your own computer?
Tania: Yes … I have a Macbook Pro … I use it all the time … for **word processing** … **browsing websites** and catching up with TV programmes I've missed.

Part 2-style task

Describe an item of technology you have that is very important. You should say:

- what the technology is
- when you got it
- how often you use it

and say how different your daily life would be without it.

Mattie: I don't have many **gadgets** … just a computer … a laptop and my mobile phone … but I'll talk about my computer as it's so useful … it's funny really … 2 years ago I was still learning to use computers … how to use email … **send attachments** how to **access websites** … then I decided to do a **digital editing** course for video and photography … and so I bought the laptop when I started the course … my husband had a **desktop PC** but it was very slow so I decided **to upgrade** to a powerful one because we do a lot of video editing on the course … it's a **high-spec** laptop … very fast … the latest **operating system** … it **boots up** really quickly and it's fun to use so it makes working a pleasure … I've become a competent computer user now … if I didn't have it I daresay I'd have to spend more time at college using their computers … but on the positive side I suppose I'd read a lot more if I didn't have it … I probably waste a lot of time **surfing the web** … but hopefully I won't have to be without it …

Part 3-style questions

Examiner: What do you think are the important things people need to learn when they start using computers?
Alejandro: Well … there are things like how to use the Internet … how **to enter a web address** … how **to navigate websites** … that kind of thing but it's also important to know how **to back up** your files in case your computer crashes … and all about **Internet security**.

Examiner: What kind of technological developments have made the biggest impact on our lives?
Faydene: In my lifetime it has to be the Internet of course but I also think wifi has made a huge difference to how we interact with the Internet … **wireless networks** at home and public **wifi hotspots** mean we can **go online** easily … **access our mail** … log into our work intranet and basically be connected wherever we are.

Examiner: Do computers make it much easier to study?
Jane: Definitely yes … researching information is much easier with the Internet .. you can **bookmark webpages** for future reference and writing essays is much easier … being able **to cut and paste** sections of text means you can experiment with organisation … so yes … compared to years ago when you had a pile of books on your desk and a pen and paper … it's now much easier.

Definitions

- ***to access websites/email***: to locate
- ***to back up files****: to make a copy of files in case of a computer problem*
- ***to boot up***: to start a computer
- ***to bookmark a webpage***: to mark a webpage for future reference
- ***to browse websites***: to look at websites
- ***a computer buff***: an expert computer user
- ***to crash***: to suddenly stop working
- ***to cut and paste***: to move text or images from one place in a document to another place
- ***a desktop PC***: a computer that isn't portable and remains in situ on a desk
- ***digital editing***: to edit digital materials like audio or video files
- ***download (podcasts)***: to save a copy of a file from the internet to your own device
- ***to enter a web address***: to type the address of a website into the address bar of your browser
- ***a gadget****:* a technological tool like a mobile phone or camera
- ***to go online***: to start using the Internet
- ***high-spec (laptop)***: powerful computer with top quality components
- ***Internet security***: Internet safety
- ***intranet***: a network of connected computers within an organisation that is not accessible by unauthorised visitors
- ***to navigate a website***: to find your way around a website
- ***operating system***: the software that tells the computer how to work
- ***send an attachment***: send an email with an accompanying file
- ***social media***: media used to interact with other people such as Facebook or Twitter
- ***to surf the web***: to look at a series of websites one after the other
- ***a techie***: somebody who has an interest in technology
- ***to upgrade***: to obtain a more powerful or feature-rich computer or piece of software
- ***video conferencing***: to see and hear people from different locations using the Internet

- ***wireless hotspot***: a public place where you can access the Internet
- ***wireless network***: a network where users can access the Internet without the use of fixed cables
- ***word processing****;* producing written texts on a computer

IELTS Speaking Vocabulary. Technology

- **computer age**: the period in modern history characterized by rapid technology development and widespread computer use.*Living in a computer age has many benefits.*
- **computer buff**: a user who is good at working with a computer.*Mike is a computer buff. He got an A+ on his programming exam.*
- **computer fatigue**: a syndrome of tiredness resulting from long computer usage.*About 60% of IT specialists are affected by computer fatigue.*
- **cutting-edge**: something innovational and leading.*Cutting-edge technology.*
- **desktop PC**: a personal computer that remains on a desk.*I have an old desktop PC that I use for surfing the net when I'm home.*
- **digital editing**: a process of changing digital materials like audio or video files.*Being good at digital editing is essential in our time.*
- **download (podcasts)**: to save a copy of a file from the internet to your own device.*Yesterday I downloaded a few films that I plan to watch during the weekends.*
- **essential**: something you can't imagine your life without.*Internet is an essential piece of technology for many people.*
- **gadget**: an advanced piece of technology, like smartphone.*Nowadays almost everybody owns a gadget.*
- **geek**: someone who is obsessed with technology, especially computers.*My friend is a real geek. He owns a bunch of computers and other gadgets.*
- **hold the line**: wait a minute.*She told me to hold the line, because she had to open the door.*
- **large screen**: a big-sized monitor.*A few days ago I decided to renew my computer, so I bought a large screen for it.*
- **light years ahead**: very far away from.*Modern computers are light years ahead of those which people used in 90s.*
- **on the cutting edge**: at the forefront of progress.*Paul's new laptop is on the cutting edge of technology.*
- **operating system**: the most important program that runs the computer.*I chose to buy a laptop which is based on the Windows operating system.*
- **out of steam**: tired, exhausted.*Due to today's intense workday I am out of steam, so I won't be able to work tomorrow.*
- **rocket science**: a very complicated subject for someone.*Biology is a rocket science for me. I don't understand anything in it.*
- **send an attachment**: send an email with an added file.*My brother sent an attachment with his homework to the professor.*

- **silver surfer**: an old person, who uses the Internet.*Uncle Bob is a silver surfer. He uses the Internet every day, although he's almost 70.*
- **social media**: media used to interact with other people.*Facebook is the biggest social media in the world.*
- **time-consuming and inefficient**: something that takes too much of your time and isn't rational to do.*I find watching football time-consuming and inefficient.*
- **to access websites/email**: to visit websites/email.*John accessed his email today to see if he had received any letters.*
- **to back up files**: to make a copy of files in case of a computer problem.*I had to back up files on my computer, because I was going to reinstall my operating system.*
- **to be stuck behind a computer**: to use computer for a long period of time.*A lot of teenagers are stuck behind their computers all day.*
- **to boot up**: to start a computer.*I booted up my computer as soon as I got home.*
- **to browse websites**: to search for websites.*I spent a few hours browsing the websites today, until I found was I was looking for.*
- **to crash**: to suddenly stop working.*My computer crashed when I was writing my essay.*
- **to go online**: to use the Internet.*Millions of people go online every day.*
- **to navigate a website**: to find what you need on the website.*Navigating a website is not very easy, especially if the website is poorly designed.*
- **to pull the plug**: to end an activity.*After being stuck behind a computer all day, I decided to pull the plug.*
- **to push someone's buttons**: to do specific thing to irritate somebody (usually intentionally).*I became so angry because he pushed my buttons by adding pepper to my ice cream!*
- **to surf the web**: to look through websites, searching for something you need, or simply for entertainment.*I was surfing the web yesterday for three hours, because I had nothing else to do.*
- **to upgrade**: to renew a software or a piece hardware.*Thanks to the new program for students, I updated my computer for free.*
- **well-oiled machine**: something that works perfectly well.*My computer, despite being 7 years old, is still a well-oiled machine.*
- **widespread computer use**: that is to say people use computers very often.
- **Wi-Fi hotspots**: a public place where you can access the Internet.*Our university has a Wi-Fi hotspot. It is very convenient.*
- **wireless network**: a network where users can access the Internet without using any cables.*We have installed a wireless network at home.*
- **word processing**: writing, editing and producing words on a computer, using special programs.*There are tons of word processing programs.*

IELTS Sports Vocabulary

Part 1-style questions

Examiner: Do you do any sports?

Loiuse: Not really … no … I always say I'm going **to take up exercise** and try **to get into shape** but I never seem to get started … I sometimes wonder whether I should get **a personal trainer** … someone who will sort out **a fitness programme** for me and make me **train hard** ….

Examiner: How do you spend a typical weekend?

Stella: I'm a big **football fan** and weekends always centre around **a football match** … I support FC Utrecht and have **a season ticket** so I go to most of the **home games** and quite a few of the **away games** too … I'm really looking forward to the new **football season** starting soon …

Examiner: Have you got any hobbies or interests?

Theo: Yes … I'm really keen on sports … I **do judo** once a week and **play tennis** in the summer … I think it's really important **to keep fit** … it makes you feel good and energised for work and your studies ….

Part 2-style task

Describe a place you like going to in your leisure time. You should say:

- what this place is
- when you go there
- what you do there

and say why you enjoy it there so much.

Maurice: I'd like to talk about my local **sports centre** … it's a place I spend a lot of time in … it's a new building with all the latest **sports facilities** … I probably go there at least twice a week … sometimes more often … it's a huge place … there's an outdoor **athletics track** and some **football pitches** … I **play football** so I'm often out there … there are several indoor **squash and tennis courts** that I use occasionally … a big **swimming pool** … although I don't use that very often … I'm not a very **strong swimmer** … there's a gym … lots of things really … why do I enjoy going there … it's just a really fun place to be … there's a good social side to it all … you can enter competitions … meet up with other people who want to do the same sports … and because there are so many activities on offer it gets you interested in different things … for example I was listening to some people talking about training **to run the marathon** and I've decided I might even think about that … I **go jogging** a couple of times a week so it would give me something to aim for … so yes … the sports centre … that's the place I really like to visit …

Part 3-style questions

Examiner: Should people be encouraged more to take up sport?
Alejandro: I think young people should be given the chance to discover which sport they might like … watching sport is sometimes a good way to get people started … not on TV but actually getting out … take athletics for example … they could go to **an athletics meeting** … there are so many different sports on show one might interest them …

Examiner: Why do some people enjoy participating in sport more than others?
Florrie: That's a good question … I suppose some people are more concerned about their health … they can't stand the thought of **being out of condition** … other people might be driven to excel … they want **to set records** or get **personal bests** …

Examiner: Which sports do you think are best for people who aren't used to physical activity?
Julie: Well … I think people like this should avoid **strenuous exercise** so things like **circuit training** are definitely out of the question … maybe just doing **a brisk walk** every day … or swimming is always a good way to get started …

Definitions

- ***an athletics meeting***: an event where various athletics sports are held
- ***an athletics track***: a running track
- ***an away game***: a football match played in the opposing teams stadium
- ***a brisk walk***: a fast walk
- ***to do judo***: (not go or play)
- ***a football fan***: someone who likes football
- ***a fitness programme***: a schedule of activities to keep fit
- ***a football match***: a game of football
- ***a football pitch***: the surface on which you play football (as opposed to a stadium, which is the building)
- ***a football season***: a period in the year when football is played
- ***to get into shape***: to become fit
- ***to go jogging***: to run around the streets
- ***a home game***: a football match played in the teams own stadium
- ***to keep fit***: to stay in good physically condition
- ***to be out of condition***: to not be physically fit
- ***a personal best***: to achieve the best personal result so far in a sport
- ***a personal trainer***: a sports coach that helps you on a one-to-one basis
- ***to play tennis/football***: (not do or go)
- ***to run the marathon***: to run a distance of 42.195 Kilometres
- ***a season ticket***: a ticket that gives you entry to most of a team's home games during the sporting year.
- ***to set a record***: to achieve the best result in a sport
- ***a sports centre***: a public building where people can do various sports
- ***sports facilities***: the equipment and services needed to do a sport

- ***a squash/tennis/badminton court***: the surface where you play these sports
- ***strenuous exercise***: exercise that needs a lot of physical effort
- ***a strong swimmer***: a good swimmer
- ***a swimming pool***: the place where you swim
- ***to take up exercise***: to start doing exercise
- ***to train hard***: to train with a lot of effort

IELTS Speaking Vocabulary. Sport

- **active rest**: a leisure time during which you exercise.*Active rest between lessons helps children to study more effectively.*
- **athletics track (running track)**: a track for running, usually used for athletic races.*The 9-lane running track is equipped to cope with competitions of all levels.*
- **barbell**: a weight-lifting gear.
- **blow the competition away**: win easily the competition.*After training for seven years, he blew the baseball competition away.*
- **brisk walk (brisk walking)**: a sport in which people walk fast, but not as fast as a full run.*Brisk walking is a great exercise for those, who want to lose weight.*
- **to build muscle**: to gain muscle mass.*John was very skinny five year ago, but now he has built muscle and looks really strong.*
- **fitness program**: a timetable of activities to keep you in a good shape.
- **football fan**: someone who adores football.
- **football pitch**: the surface on which you play football.
- **football season**: a period when football is played.
- **jogging**: a form of running at a slow pace.
- **keep-fit exercises**: exercises that help you to keep your body in a good shape.
- **personal best**: an achievement in sport that is better than anything you have achieved before.*Today I've ran 100m in 12 seconds! That is my personal best.*
- **personal trainer (sports coach)**: a person that helps you to train on a one-to-one basis.*It's much easier to train with a sports coach than alone.*
- **sports centre (fitness centre)**: a specific building where people can do different sports.*I practise fencing at a local sports centre.*
- **sports facilities**: the equipment and services needed to do a sport.*I chose this gym because it offers a wide range of sports facilities.*
- **sports meeting (athletics meeting)**: an event at which a number of athletic contests are held.*The next athletics meeting will be held in November and will include javelin, pole vault, hurdles and steeplechase.*
- **squash/tennis/badminton court**: the surface where you play these sports.
- **strength-training strategy**: set of exercises to build muscles.*My dad advised me a wonderful strength-training strategy.*

- **strenuous exercise**: exercise that needs a lot of physical effort.*It is recommended to drink a lot of water after strenuous exercises.*
- **strong swimmer**: an experienced swimmer.
- **swimming pool**: a place filled with water made specifically for swimming.
- **that's the way the ball bounces**: used to say that things don't always go as planned, but there is nothing we can do about it.*Dave didn't win the game as he expected, but he never minds - that's the way the ball bounces.*
- **to be keen to do smth (to be keen on doing smth)**: to be very interested in doing something.*I'm keen on cycling.*
- **to be out of condition (to be out of shape)**: to be in bad physical condition, to lose strength.*Lily hasn't been training for years, she is out of condition now.*
- **to be saved by the bell**: to be saved from losing by a timely interruption.*Evan would lose this round, if he wasn't saved by the bell.*
- **to build muscle**: to gain muscle by working out.
- **to get into shape**: to become fit.*Paul started training in gym because he wanted to get into shape.*
- **to keep fit**: to stay in a good shape.*I practise dancing to keep fit.*
- **to run the marathon**: to run a distance of 42.195 kilometres.
- **to set a record**: to achieve the best result in a sport.*A new record in pole vault was set two years ago.*
- **to take up doing smth**: to start doing something new (usually sport).*I took up dancing last week.*
- **to train hard**: to train with effort and passion.
- **to warm up**: to perform light exercises to prepare for a hard workout.*A good warm-up readies your body for a hard training.*
- **to work out**: to exercise in gym.
- **treadmill**: an exercise machine in the gym used for walking or running, while staying in the same place.*Good treadmills provide a indoor workout experience as natural as the outdoors.*

IELTS Holiday and travel vocabulary

Part 1-style questions

Examiner: What kind of holiday do you like?
Miguel: I try to avoid **tourist traps** … I like **to get away from it all** and prefer going somewhere **off the beaten track** … last year I had **the holiday of a lifetime** … a two week **wildlife safari** in Kenya.

Examiner: What do you like to do when you're on holiday?
Anna: I enjoy visiting the local **places of interest** … I like **to go sightseeing** and always sign up for **guided tours** as it's a chance to be shown around and take photographs … one of my hobbies.

Examiner: Do you have many tourists in your country?
Amy: Yes … we have a lot of **holiday resorts** along the coast that are popular with tourists … most people come on **package holidays** and stay in one of the many hotels and **self-catering** apartments.

Part 2-style task

Describe a beautiful place you once visited. You should say:

- when you went to this place
- where it was
- who you went with

and say why you liked it so much.

Sally: A few years ago I went on a **long weekend** to the Lake District in the UK … it's a very popular **holiday destination** in the north of England … I went on my own and had a wonderful time … I stayed in a **youth hostel** and met some really nice people … but the most memorable thing about the holiday were the **breathtaking views** … and lovely **picturesque villages** … it can get very busy with **hordes of tourists** so I decided **to go out of season** in the autumn … the weather was fantastic and the shops were full of **local crafts** … a really great holiday … it's certainly not the kind of **short break** for someone looking for a busy nightlife but if you want to relax in the middle of **stunning landscape** I would certainly recommend a holiday to the Lake District.

Part 3-style questions

Examiner: What do you think has led to the growth in the tourism industry?
Miguel: It's much easier and affordable to travel now … nowadays you can get cheap **charter-flights** or **all-in packages** … to somewhere near or to **a far-off destination**.

Examiner: How do people tend to choose a destination?
Anna: The Internet is a great source of information and high street **travel agents** are still very popular … that's where I like to go to get **holiday brochures** for the place I'm interested in.

Examiner: People sometimes say flying is the most glamorous form of travel. Do you agree?
Amy: I'm not so sure really … flying can be quite boring … queuing up at the **check-in desk** … going through **passport control** … sitting for ages in the **departure lounge** … then the flight itself can be quite uncomfortable … no … I'm not sure I agree.

Definitions

- ***all-in package/package holiday***: a holiday where you purchase the travel and accommodation together
- ***breathtaking view***: an extremely beautiful view
- ***charter-flight***: a cheaper form of flying than a scheduled flight
- ***check-in desk***: the place at the airport where you register for your flight and deposit your luggage
- ***departure lounge***: where you wait for your flight to be called
- ***far-off destination***: somewhere a long way away
- ***to get away from it all***: to take a holiday to escape a busy or stressful lifestyle
- ***guided tour***: an organised group shown around a place of interest by an expert
- ***holiday brochure***: a glossy publication with details of holiday packages
- ***holiday destination***: where you go for a holiday
- ***holiday of a lifetime***: a special holiday that you are unlikely to repeat
- ***holiday resort****:* a place where lots of people go for a holiday
- ***hordes of tourists***: crowds of tourists
- ***local crafts***: objects produced locally
- ***long weekend***: an extended weekend holiday including Friday or Monday
- ***out of season***: outside of the main holiday period
- ***picturesque village***: very pretty village
- ***passport control***: the place where your passport is checked
- ***places of interest***: sites of interest to tourists
- ***wildlife safari***: a holiday, often in Africa, to observe wild animals
- ***self-catering***: a holiday where you supply your own food
- ***short break***: a short holiday
- ***to go sightseeing***: to look around the tourist sites
- ***stunning landscape***: extremely beautiful countryside
- ***travel agent***: a shop that specialises in booking holidays
- ***tourist trap***: somewhere where too many tourists go
- ***youth hostel***: a cheap form of accommodation

IELTS Speaking Vocabulary. Travel & Holidays

- **accommodation:** a room or building in which you stay during holidays or live.*While I'm travelling, my favourite types of accommodation are hotels.*
- **all holiday**: a time after you lost your job.*He lost his job yesterday. Now it's all holiday for him.*

- **all-inclusive**: a hotel deal where the price includes accommodation, meals and drinks at any time.*I've never thought that hotels with all-incusive service are so comfortable! You can grab a piece of cake at 6 a.m. or get a cocktail at midnight.*
- **half-board**: if you request 'half-board' at a hotel, breakfast and dinner would be included in the hotel price (as part of the package).*John and Lily liked their tour with half-board service. They spent breakfasts and dinners in the hotel and bought lunches in the nearby cafes.*
- **full-board**: if you request 'full-board' at a hotel, that would include all three meals (breakfast, lunch and dinner) in the price of your accommodation.
-

- **self-catering**: a holiday deal where meals are not provided.*Mary thinks that self-catering is neither pleasant nor efficient.*
- **to book (something)**: to arrange and confirm a place on a flight, a room in a hotel or a ticket for an event in the future.*If you book your plane tickets in advance, they will be much cheaper.*
- **breathtaking view**: an amazing view.*I've seen many breathtaking views during my journey to Paris.*
- **busman's holiday**: when you spend your free time similarly to the time when you work. This expression comes from the idea that a bus driver would spend his holiday traveling somewhere on a bus.*Unfortunately, many people spend a busman's holiday nowadays.*
- **charter flight**: a cheap regular flight.*Due to our modest budget, we had to take a charter-flight.*
- **check-in desk**: the place at the airport where you register for your flight and deposit your luggage.
-

- **far-off destination**: a distant place.*Australia is a far-off destination, nonetheless I want to visit it.*
- **getting away from it all**: escaping in order to rest from a daily routine.*After I passed my exams, I wanted to get away from it all for at least a couple of days.*
- **go off the beaten track**: to visit an uncommon place.*Unlike my brother, I prefer to go off the beaten track.*
- **guided tour**: a tour in which a group of people is guided by an expert.*Guided tours are a great way to learn about different places of interest.*
- **head for**: go in a direction for.*I'm heading for France for my next holidays.*
- **holiday brochure**: a publication with details of holiday.*Our guide gave us a great brochure about our hotel.*
- **holiday destination**: where you go for a holiday.*We chose New York as our holiday destination for the next summer.*

- **holiday of a lifetime**: a very special holiday, once in a lifetime.*Last year me and my family had a holiday of a lifetime in Italy.*
- **holiday resort (tourist resort)**: a place where lots of people go for a holiday.*Last year my family went on a journey to London. We lived in a great tourist resort.*
- **hordes of tourists**: crowds of tourists.*Hordes of tourist can be seen during summer near the city park.*
- **in the middle of nowhere**: in a place that is far away from where most people live.*My grand-mother lives in the middle of nowhere, but she loves her old little village.*
- **local crafts**: thighs made in the region.*My sister bought some amazing local crafts on her trip to India.*
- **out of season**: not within the main holiday period.*I decided to go on a journey with my friends out of season.*
- **passport control**: a place where you get your passport checked.*I spent a few hours waiting in line on a passport control.*
- **package tour**: a holiday at a fixed price in which the travel company arranges your travel, hotels, and sometimes meals for you:*We bought a cheap package tour to Italy and stayed in a big hotel by the sea.*
- **picturesque village**: a nice, beautiful village.*My grandparents live in a picturesque village.*
- **places of interest**: memorable and honorable places.*My native city has a variety of places of interest.*
- **short break**: a little holiday.*My father had a short break this year, I hope he'll be able to relax some more.*
- **stunning landscape**: a beautiful countryside.*Stunning landscapes are only one of many reasons why I want to visit Africa.*
- **to go sightseeing**: to go visiting sights of interest.*Today we went sightseeing with my friends.*
- **to travel on foot / horse***When I'm in a small town I prefer to travel on foot.*
- **to travel by bus / plane / car / bicycle / motorcycle***Although I usually travel by car, when I decided to visit Paris I had to travel by plane.*
- **tourist attractions**: places which tourists tend to visit.*Despite not being a tourist attraction, new fountain is very popular among the locals.*
- **tourist trap**: place with many tourists.*We've visited many tourists traps lately.*
- **travel agency**: a shop that specializes in booking holidays.*I've bought tickets for my trip through a travel agency.*
- **wildlife safari**: an observational holiday, mainly in Africa.*I'd love to go on a wildlife safari sometime.*
- **youth hostel**: a cheap hotel.*During our trip we stayed in a hostel, because we didn't have enough money for a hotel.*

IELTS speaking Health vocabulary

Part 1-style questions

Examiner: Have you got a relation you're particularly fond of?
Sinita: Yes … my granddad … he's 94 years old but generally he's **as fit as a fiddle** … we're very close and see each other a lot … whenever he **goes down with a cold** or **is under the weather** I make a point of visiting him …

Examiner: Do you do any sport?
Jon: Yes … I'm keen on skateboarding … but I haven't done it for a while … I had a bad fall recently and **pulled a muscle** and had a few **cuts and bruises** … but I'm **on the mend** and hope to be doing it again soon …

Examiner: Is there anything you're particularly afraid of?
Davide: The dentist … I hate going to the dentist … I only ever go if I **have a toothache** so it usually means I have to **have a filling** or even **have a tooth out** … I really don't like it …

Part 2-style task

Describe a time when you were ill. You should say:

- when this was
- what your symptoms were
- how long the illness lasted

and say how it affected your life at the time.

Pierre: This is a tricky one really as I'm usually quite healthy … I've never been seriously ill … like everyone else I sometimes get a few **aches and pains** or **catch a cold** … I can remember a few months ago I had to have time off work with **a heavy cold** … I had the usual symptoms … **a blocked nose** … **sore throat** … it lasted quite a while … about 2 weeks I think though I didn't have that much time off work … for a few days I remember **feeling poorly** but I was **over the worst of it** after a few days and went back to work … I always find it's better to be active when you feel ill as it keeps your mind off your symptoms … I think my family get a little fed up with me when I'm ill though … I tend to feel sorry for myself and lie on the sofa all day as if I'**m at death's door** … but as I said earlier … on this occasion it was nothing serious and didn't really cause me any problems …

Part 3-style questions

Examiner: What costs are involved when you are ill in your country?
Anya: Well … people have to pay **prescription charges** which can be quite expensive … but fortunately general healthcare is free … unless you want to **go private** of course and then you can pay a fortune for your treatment …

Examiner: In your experience are people too quick to take time off work when they're ill?
Alicia: Yes .. I've got friends who have a day off work if they wake up with a **runny nose** … and in most cases they seem **to make a speedy recovery** after they've **phoned in sick** …

Examiner: Do women pay more attention to their health than men?
Julie: I think so yes … women are more likely to see their **GP** for a **check-up** if they're concerned about something … men tend to avoid facing up to any health problems they have … my dad always seems to have a very **chesty cough** but refuses to go to **make an appointment** to see the doctor …

Definitions

- ***aches and pains***: minor pains that continue over a period of time
- ***to be a bit off colour***: to feel a little ill
- ***to be at death's door***: (informal) to be very ill indeed
- ***to be on the mend***: to be recovering after an illness
- ***to be over the worst***: to have got through the most serious or uncomfortable stage of an illness
- ***to be under the weather***: (informal) to not feel well
- ***a blocked nose***: when the nose has excess fluid due to a cold
- ***to catch a cold***: to get a cold
- ***a check-up***: a physical examination by a doctor
- ***a chesty cough***: a cough caused by congestion around the lungs
- ***cuts and bruises***: minor injuries
- ***to feel poorly***: to feel ill
- ***as fit as a fiddle***: to be very healthy
- ***to go down with a cold***: to become ill
- ***to go private***: to choose to be treated by commercial healthcare rather than by services offered by the state
- ***GP***: General Practitioner (family doctor)
- ***to have a filling***: to have a tooth repaired
- ***to have a tooth out***: to have a tooth removed
- ***a heavy cold***: a bad cold
- ***to make an appointment***: to arrange a time to see the doctor
- ***to make a speedy recovery***: to recover quickly from an illness
- ***to phone in sick***: to call work to explain you won't be attending work due to illness
- ***prescription charges***: money the patient pays for medicine authorised by a doctor
- ***to pull a muscle***: to strain a muscle
- ***a runny nose:*** a nose that has liquid coming out of it
- ***a sore throat***: inflammation that causes pain when swallowing

IELTS Speaking Vocabulary. Health

- **addict**: a person, who is obsessed (addicted) by (to) something, drugs or alcohol, for example.*My friend used to be an addict, but thankfully he's healthy now.*
- **a check-up**: an examination done by a doctor.*I felt ill for a few days, so I went for a check-up.*

- **a runny nose**: a nose that has liquid coming out of it.*I caught a cold so now I have a runny nose.*
- **chronic disease**: a type of disease that continues to occur for a long time.*My friend Rob needs to use inhaler every day, because he has chronic asthma.*
- **impediment**: a physical defect that hinders normal or easy speech.*After an accident, Jim developed an impediment - he stutters.*
- **epidemic**: when disease spreads very quickly and effects a large number of people.*There was a large epidemic in South Africa in 20th century. It took away millions of lives.*
- **painkillers**: medicine for dealing with pain.*I had to take the painkillers last night, because I couldn't handle the pain.*
- **rehab**: a course of treatment for drug or alcohol or any other dependence.*After talking to a doctor, Jim decided to go to a rehab.*
- **to diagnose**: to recognise an illness by examining the patient.*Although Nick had a very rare disease, his doctor managed to diagnose it correctly.*
- **to stutter**: to talk with a continued accidental repetition of sounds.*Sometimes you might develop a stutter if you have been scared by someone or something*

Useful idioms:

- **alive and kicking**: to continue being well and healthy.*My grandma is almost 90 but she's still alive and kicking.*
- **to break a habit**: to stop doing something that is a habit, especially something bad or harmful.*I was a drug addict, but a managed to break this habit.*
- **to black out**: to lose consciousness.*I blacked out before my final exam, because I was too worried about it.*
- **to be under the weather**: to feel ill.*Mary won't be at work todays, she's a bit under the weather.*
- **to phone in sick**: to call your superior to inform him/her that you are sick and won't be at work for some time.*I had to phone in sick last week, because I caught a flu.*
- **sick as a dog = to be at death's door**: very sick.*Paul caught a flu a few days ago and now he's sick as a dog.*
- **white as a sheet**: can be sad about a very pale person.*Jonh looks sick. Look at him! He's white as a sheet.*