

**BESTSELLING** VOCABULARY WORKBOOK

Check Your  
**English Vocabulary** for  
**IELTS**

4th edition

Essential words and phrases to help  
you maximise your IELTS score

**Ideal for  
self-study or  
classroom  
use**

RAWDON WYATT

B L O O M S B U R Y

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CHECK YOUR ENGLISH VOCABULARY FOR

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# IELTS

by  
Rawdon Wyatt

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# About this workbook

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## Introduction

This workbook has been written for students who are planning to sit either the Academic or General Training modules of the IELTS examination. It covers some of the main vocabulary areas that you will need for, or come across in, the Listening, Reading, Writing and Speaking sections of the exam.

We hope that you find the exercises in this book useful, and that the vocabulary you acquire will help you to achieve the grade you want in the IELTS.

Good luck!

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## Structure of the book

Each vocabulary area is presented in the form of a self-contained module with task-based activities which present each vocabulary item in context.

- Pages 1 – 57 focus on general vocabulary items. Some of these are relevant to specific tasks or questions in the IELTS examination (for example, describing how something works, talking about changes shown in a graph or table, saying where things are and following directions).
- Pages 58 – 104 focus on topic-specific vocabulary areas which may be required in the examination (for example, education, architecture, family matters and science and technology). Each module consists of three tasks: the first two present vocabulary items in context, each with a practice or recognition exercise, and the third gives you the opportunity to review the vocabulary in a gap-fill exercise.
- Pages 105 – 119 contain some productive practice exercises which will give you the opportunity to practise using your vocabulary in some IELTS-style speaking and writing tasks. These tasks are followed by some sample answers. Note that these sample answers are there only to give you some guidance as to how the tasks might be answered. There are no 'right' or 'wrong' answers.
- Pages 120 – 139 contain a comprehensive key so you can check your answers. The answer key also gives additional information about specific vocabulary items or general vocabulary areas, as well as other useful words or phrases.

## Using the workbook

You should not work through the book mechanically from beginning to end. It is better to choose areas that you are unfamiliar with, or areas that you feel are of specific interest or importance to yourself.

## Recording, reviewing and extending your vocabulary

Remember that you should keep a record of new words, phrases and expressions that you acquire, and review these on a regular basis so that they become part of your active vocabulary. Also remember that there are other ways of acquiring new vocabulary. For example, you should read as much as possible from a variety of authentic reading materials (books, newspapers, magazines, web-based articles, etc.).

## Using an English dictionary

To help you develop your vocabulary more effectively, you should use a good monolingual English dictionary. This should clearly explain what the words mean, show you how they are pronounced, show you their various forms where relevant (e.g., what the noun form of an adjective is), tell you which words or phrases they collocate with, and give sample sentences to show you how the words are used. We particularly recommend the *Macmillan English Dictionary for Advanced Learners* (ISBN 978-1405026284). A free on-line version of this can also be found at [www.macmillandictionary.com](http://www.macmillandictionary.com).

## The International English Language Testing System (IELTS)

The IELTS is administered by the University of Cambridge Local Examinations Syndicate (UCLES), the British Council and IDP Education Australia. For further information, visit [www.ucles.org.uk](http://www.ucles.org.uk). Note that this book is not endorsed by any of these organisations.

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# Addition, equation & conclusion

1 Put the following words and phrases into their correct place in the table depending on their function.

along with   also   and   as well as   besides   correspondingly  
 equally   furthermore   in addition   in brief   in conclusion  
 in the same way   likewise   moreover   similarly   thus   therefore  
 to conclude   to summarise   to sum up briefly   too  
 we can conclude that   what's more

Addition	Equation	Conclusion
and	equally	in conclusion

2 Complete these sentences with one of the words or phrases from above. In most cases, more than one answer is possible.

1. Tourism brings much-needed money to developing countries. ...., it provides employment for the local population.
2. .... bringing much-needed money to developing countries, tourism provides employment for the local population.
3. Tourists should respect the local environment. .... they should respect the local customs.
4. .... industrial waste, pollution from car fumes is poisoning the environment.
5. In order to travel, you need a passport. ...., you might need a visa, immunisation jabs and written permission to visit certain areas.
6. Drugs are banned in Britain - ..... weapons such as guns and knives.
7. All power corrupts. ...., absolute power corrupts absolutely.
8. You shouldn't smoke, drink, take drugs or eat unhealthy food. ...., you should live a more healthy lifestyle.
9. The ozone layer is becoming depleted, the air in the cities is becoming too dirty to breathe and our seas and rivers are no longer safe to swim in. .... pollution is slowly destroying the planet.
10. Your grades have been very poor for the past two years. .... you need to work really hard if you want to pass your exams next month.

# Around the world

## 1 Choose the correct word or phrase in bold to complete these sentences.

1. Japan, Korea and Taiwan are all in **the Near East / the Middle East / the Far East**.
2. The South Pole is situated in the **Arctic / Antarctic / Antarctica**.
3. New Zealand is part of **Austria / Australia / Australasia**.
4. Bangladesh is part of **the Indian subcontinent / India / Indiana**.
5. Guatemala is a country in **North America / South America / Central America**.
6. Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Panama and Honduras all form part of what is often referred to as **Latin America / South America / Spanish America**.
7. Botswana is in **South Africa / southern Africa / Central Africa**.
8. England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland are known collectively as **Britain / Great Britain / the United Kingdom**.
9. The United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland are part of **Continental Europe / Mainland Europe / Europe**.
10. Kuwait, Oman and the United Arab Emirates form part of what are known as **the West Indies / the Gulf States / the European Union**.
11. Denmark, Finland, Norway and Sweden are known collectively as **the Baltic Republics / the Caribbean / Scandinavia**.
12. Bangkok, Lima and Tunis are examples of **capital / capitol / capitalism** cities.

## 2 What are the nationalities of the people who come from these countries?

- |   |                        |                           |
|---|------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. Afghanistan..... <i>Afghan</i> ..... | 2. Argentina .....     | 3. Australia .....        |
| 4. Bangladesh .....                     | 5. Belgium .....       | 6. Brazil .....           |
| 7. Canada .....                         | 8. Denmark .....       | 9. Egypt .....            |
| 10. England .....                       | 11. Finland .....      | 12. Greece .....          |
| 13. India .....                         | 14. Iran .....         | 15. Iraq .....            |
| 16. Ireland .....                       | 17. Israel .....       | 18. Japan.....            |
| 19. Kuwait .....                        | 20. Lebanon .....      | 21. Malaysia .....        |
| 22. Mexico .....                        | 23. Morocco .....      | 24. the Netherlands ..... |
| 25. Norway .....                        | 26. Pakistan .....     | 27. Peru .....            |
| 28. the Philippines .....               | 29. Poland .....       | 30. Portugal .....        |
| 31. Russia .....                        | 32. Saudi Arabia ..... | 33. Scotland .....        |
| 34. Spain .....                         | 35. Sweden .....       | 36. Switzerland.....      |
| 37. Thailand .....                      | 38. Turkey .....       | 39. Wales .....           |
| 40. Yemen .....                         |                        |                           |

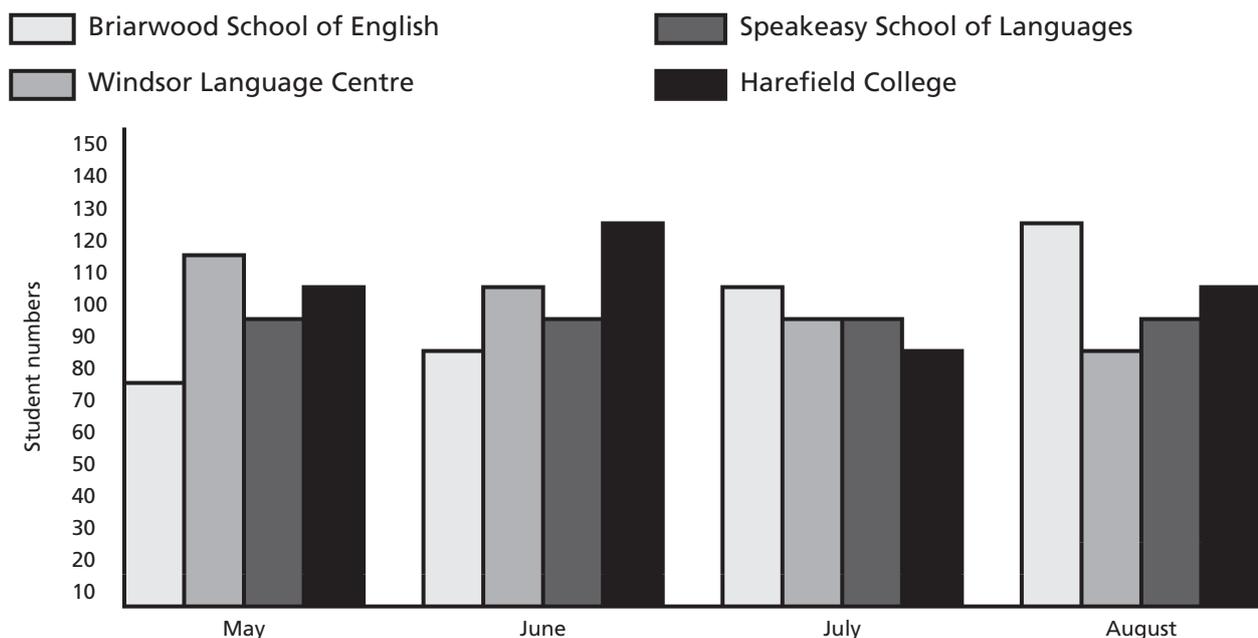
Is your country on this list? If not, how do you say your nationality in English? .....

# Changes 1

1 Look at the graph, and complete the sentences with the correct form of the words and phrases in the box. In most cases, more than one option is possible.

decline   decrease   drop   fall   fluctuate   go down  
 go up   increase   peak at   reach a peak of   remain constant  
 remain steady   rise

## English school student numbers: May – August.



Between May and August...

1. ...student numbers at the Briarwood School of English *increased* / ..... / .....
2. ...student numbers at the Windsor Language Centre ..... / ..... / ..... / .....
3. ...student numbers at the Speakeasy School of Languages ..... / .....
4. ...student numbers at Harefield College ..... They ..... / ..... 120 in June.

2 Look at this table, and complete the sentences on the next page with words and phrases from the box. In some cases, more than one answer is possible. There is one word or phrase that you do not need.

Petrol prices			
January	£1.10 / litre	June	£1.55 / litre
February	£1.12 / litre	July	£1.52 / litre
March	£1.15 / litre	August	£1.53 / litre
April	£1.18 / litre	September	£1.58 / litre
May	£1.16 / litre	October	£1.60 / litre

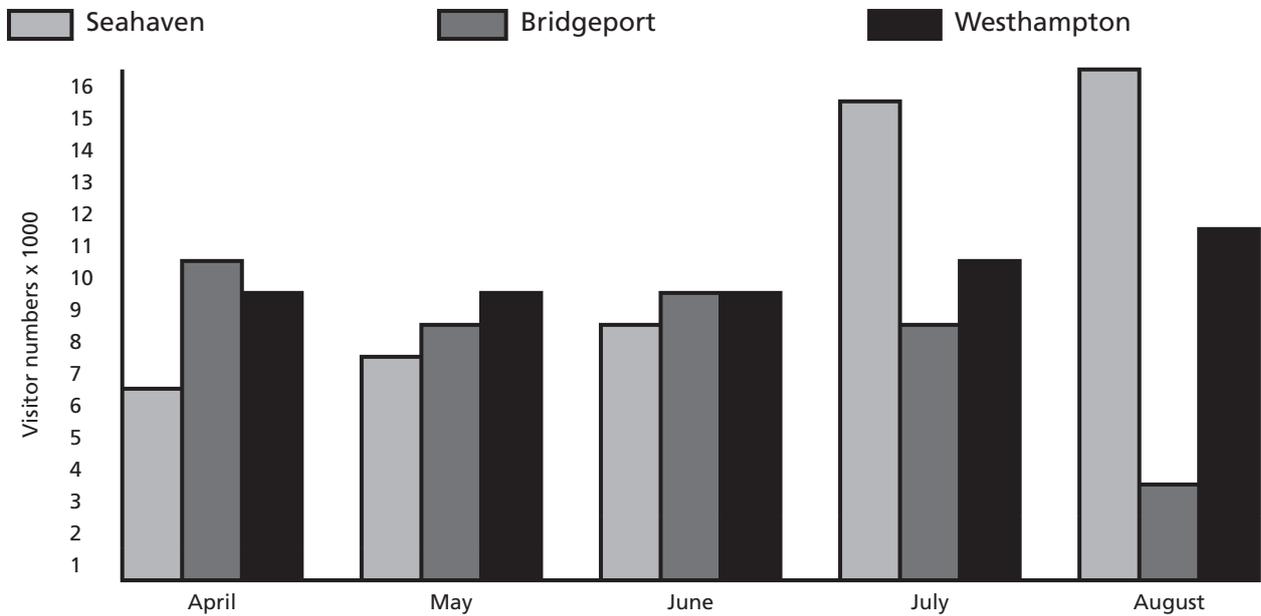
downward trend   dramatically   gradually   sharply   slightly   steadily  
 upward trend

# Changes 1

- Between January and April, petrol prices increased ..... / .....
- In May, petrol prices fell .....
- In June, petrol prices rose ..... / .....
- Overall, there has been an ..... in petrol prices

3 Look at the task in the box, then complete the sample answer with words and phrases from Exercises 1 and 2. In some cases, more than one answer may be possible.

The graph below shows the number of visitors to three seaside towns over a five-month period. Summarise the information by selecting and reporting the main features, and make comparisons where relevant.



Sample answer

The graph shows how many people visited three seaside towns between April and August.

The number of visitors to Seahaven (1) *increased* (2) ..... between April and June, then (3) ..... (4) ..... in July, and continued to (5) ..... in August. For the first four months, visitor numbers to Bridgeport (6) ....., but then (7) ..... (8) ..... in the final month. Westhampton visitor numbers (9) ..... from April to June, then (10) ..... (11) ..... in July and finally (12) ..... 11,000 in August.

Overall, there was an (13) ..... in the number of visitors to Seahaven and Westhampton, but a (14) ..... in the number of people visiting Bridgeport.

## Changes 2

1 Complete these sentences with the correct form of one of the verbs in the box. Both sentences in each sentence pair should use the same verb. In some cases, the meaning of the verb may change slightly.

adjust	alter	deteriorate	exchange	fade	reduce	renovate
swell	switch	vary				

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1. Moving to the countryside radically <i>altered</i> our lifestyle.                                  | Some people choose to <i>alter</i> their appearance with surgery.                                       |
| 2. By ..... to a different provider, it can be possible to pay much less for your mobile phone bills. | I chose drama as an extra-curricular activity, but ..... to photography a few weeks later.              |
| 3. It can take time to ..... to living in a different country.  | Prices seem low, but when you ..... them to allow for tax, they are considerably higher.                |
| 4. The noise built up rapidly, and then just as quickly it ..... into the distance.                   | As the applause ....., the speaker started talking.   |
| 5. The amount of tax you pay on a car ..... according to the amount of carbon dioxide it emits.       | People's reactions to the medicine ..... a lot, with some people complaining it has no effect at all.   |
| 6. Everyone should try to ..... the amount of fat in their diet.                                      | Many companies were forced to ..... their workforce during the recession.                               |
| 7. Economic crises often ..... into social unrest.  | The weather ..... rapidly when it started raining and the winds picked up.                              |
| 8. Ankles and other joints often ..... when people travel by air.                                     | The town is home to 3,000 people, but this figure ..... to 12,000 in the same summer.                   |
| 9. The tokens can be ..... for food in the student canteen.   | Shops will normally ..... damaged goods if you have a receipt.  |
| 10. Businesses in the city centre were offered funding so they could ..... their premises.            | In some cases it can be more expensive to ..... an old building than knock it down and build a new one. |

# Changes 2

2 Now do the same with these.

adapt   cut   decline   disappear   expand   improve   promote  
 relax   replace   transform

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1. Email has largely ..... the traditional letter as a means of written business communication.                | The plan is to ..... all the old desktop computers in the library with netbooks.  |
| 2. Some companies are slow to ..... to a changing market.  | Courses can be ..... to suit the needs of individual students.  |
| 3. The symptoms of illnesses like measles aren't usually serious, and ..... within a few days.                 | As the sun ..... behind the clouds, the temperature quickly dropped.  |
| 4. A college course can help you to find a job or get ..... at work.   | The 'Peter Principle' is a theory which says that in a big company, everyone eventually gets ..... to a job that is beyond their ability. |
| 5. Some people think that the government should ..... the rules regarding building on protected land.          | For the final part of the exercise, you need to repeatedly tighten, then ..... your stomach muscles.                                      |
| 6. The government's aim in the next five years is to ..... educational standards.                              | The best way of ..... your English is to practise using it as much as possible.   |
| 7. Water freezes in the pipes, forcing them to ..... and burst.  | Britain's universities ..... at an unprecedented rate at the end of the twentieth century.  |
| 8. Supermarkets ..... prices on many basic items to attract more customers.                                    | I believe that governments should increase spending on the arts instead of ..... it.  |
| 9. Email and social networking websites have ..... the way people communicate.                                 | When it was closed down, the old fire station was ..... into an art gallery.  |
| 10. House prices are so high that the number of people buying their own home has ..... in the last five years. | Because so many people are out of work, living standards are ..... rapidly.   |

# Condition

**1 Complete the second sentence in each pair so that it has the same or a similar meaning to the first sentence. Use the words or phrases in bold, and any other words that are necessary.**

1. You can borrow my dictionary if you return it before you go home.  
**providing that**  
 You can borrow my dictionary *providing that you return* ..... it before you go home.
  
2. I should get my assignment finished this weekend if I have enough time.  
**provided that**  
 I should get my assignment finished this weekend ..... enough time.
  
3. You can't go to university if you don't get good exam grades at school.  
**unless**  
 You can't go to university ..... good exam grades at school.
  
4. Students can use the common room in the evening if they tidy up any mess they make.  
**on condition that**  
 Students can use the common room in the evening ..... up any mess they make.
  
5. Pollution will get worse if we continue to live in a throwaway society.  
**as long as**  
 Pollution will get worse ..... to live in a throwaway society.
  
6. Children will always prefer fast food to fresh fruit and vegetables, even if you tell them how unhealthy it is.  
**no matter how**  
 Children will always prefer fast food to fresh fruit and vegetables, ..... tell them it is unhealthy.
  
7. Computer programming is complicated, even if you read a lot of books about it.  
**however many**  
 Computer programming is complicated, ..... read about it.
  
8. Crime is a problem, even if you live in a small town or in the countryside.  
**wherever**  
 Crime is a problem, ..... live.

**2 Complete these sentences using an appropriate word or phrase from above and your own ideas.**

1. British universities will accept students from abroad .....
2. Working for a large company can be a fulfilling experience .....
3. The environmental situation will continue to worsen .....
4. Travelling helps you understand more about the world around you .....

# Confusing words & false friends 1

*Confusing words* are two or more words which:

(a) have a similar meaning to each other but which are used in a different way

or

(b) are related to the same topic, but have a different meaning

or

(c) look similar, but have a different meaning.

*False friends* are words in English which have a similar-looking word in another language, but which have a different meaning.

Complete the following sentence pairs with the appropriate word.

1. **aboard / abroad**

More and more people go *abroad* for their holiday.

In 2002, she became the first woman to travel *aboard* the space shuttle *Discovery*.

2. **action / activity**

We decided to take immediate ..... when we realised there was a problem.

The environmental changes in the area are the result of human .....

3. **advice / advise**

Can you ..... me on the best course of action to take?

He offered me some excellent .....

4. **affect / effect**

Diverting the course of the river will have a major ..... on the local ecosystem.

Frequent traffic jams in the suburbs seriously ..... journey times into the city.

5. **appreciable / appreciative**

Widening the road made an ..... difference to the flow of traffic.

The applause at the end of the concert was warm and .....

6. **avoid / prevent**

Rapid international action managed to ..... an environmental disaster from taking place.

There are areas in the city that are wise to ..... after dark.

7. **beside / besides**

The company's main office is ..... the railway station.

..... their regular daytime job, many people do extra work in the evening.

8. **briefly / shortly**

..... before the earthquake began, many animals were seen to be behaving in an unusual manner.

She spoke ..... but passionately about the need to help those in developing countries.

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# Confusing words & false friends 1

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9. **canal / channel**

A ..... system joined the two main rivers, which made transporting goods much quicker.  
When television first became popular in the early 1950s, there was only one .....

10. **conscientious / conscious**

Most people are ..... of the need to protect the environment.  
..... workers should be rewarded for their hard work.

11. **considerable / considerate**

In my opinion, some people are not very ..... of those around them.  
A ..... amount of money was spent on developing the product.

12. **continual / continuous**

The computer system has given us ..... problems ever since we installed it. Some days it works, other days it doesn't.  
The ..... noise from the new motorway has forced many people to move.

13. **control / inspect**

New teachers often find it difficult to ..... their classes.  
Environmental health inspectors regularly ..... commercial kitchens for cleanliness, especially those in restaurants.

14. **criticism / objection**

I have no ..... to people using their mobile phones on buses or trains.  
Plans for the new stadium have attracted fierce ..... from local people.

15. **damage / harm / injury**

He suffered a serious ..... which needed immediate hospital treatment.  
The low levels of dangerous chemicals in the river were enough to cause ..... to aquatic life.  
A lot of ..... was caused to buildings along the coast during the storm.

16. **during / for / while**

The college closes ..... two weeks at the end of December.  
He died ..... trying to cross the desert alone.  
Many creatures stay underground ..... daylight hours.

17. **however / moreover**

The plan was good in theory. ...., in practice it was extremely difficult to implement.  
The plan was excellent. ...., it was clear from the beginning that it was going to attract a lot of interest.

18. **injured / wounded**

I believe that we should do more to help and support soldiers who have been ..... in combat.  
Several workers were ..... when the drilling platform collapsed.

## Confusing words & false friends 2

Complete the following sentence pairs with the appropriate word or phrase.

1. **job / work**

Everybody has the right to a decent ..... with good pay.

During the economic recession, a lot of people found themselves out of .....

2. **lay / lie**

If you're suffering from dehydration, you should drink plenty of water and sit or ..... down for a while.

Before you begin the experiment, you should ..... a large plastic sheet on the ground.

3. **look at / watch**

We need to ..... the situation carefully over the next few weeks and see how things develop.

We need to ..... the problem carefully and decide if there is anything we can do about it.

4. **loose / lose**

Some people are very competitive and hate to ..... a game or competition.

The surface is mainly composed of ..... soil and small stones.

5. **make / cause**

The noise from traffic outside the school can ..... it hard to hear what the teacher is saying.

Hurricanes ..... widespread damage in urban areas.

6. **nature / countryside**

Thousands of ..... lovers head for the national parks every weekend.

I'd rather live in the ..... than in a city.

7. **per cent / percentage**

It is a myth that only ten ..... of Americans hold a passport.

Only a small ..... of land is privately owned.

8. **permission / permit**

I'm afraid we can't ..... photography in the museum.

We received ..... to attend the meeting, as long as we didn't interrupt.

9. **personal / personnel**

My own ..... view is that professional football players are paid far too much.

The company was in trouble until there was a change of ..... on the management team.

10. **possibility / chance**

We might go to Spain for our field trip. Another ..... is that we'll go to Italy instead.

If we act now, we have a good ..... of finding a cure for the disease.