

4000 IELTS Academic Words List (2)

baby-sitter

n.

person engaged to care for children when the parents are not home

bachelor

n.

unmarried men; the first or lowest academic degree conferred by universities and colleges

backbone

n. Syn. support; mainstay

support; mainstay; vertebrate spine or spinal column

backward

a.

directed to the back or rear; unwilling; averse; reluctant; hesitating; undeveloped

bacon

n.

back and sides of a pig salted and smoked

bacterium

n.

single celled organism with no nucleus

badge

n.

distinctive mark, token, or sign worn on the person

badminton

n.

game played on a court with light long-handled rackets

baffle

v. Syn. frustrate; perplex

frustrate as by confusing or perplexing; impede force or movement of

baggage

n. Syn. luggage; packing

trunks, bags, parcels, and suitcases in which one carries one's belongings while traveling; luggage

bait

v. Syn. harass; tease

harass; tease; lure, entice, or entrap

bake

v.

prepare, as food, by cooking in a dry heat, either in an oven or under coals, or on heated stone or metal

balance

n. Syn. equilibrium; symmetry; stability

being in equilibrium; equilibrium; symmetry; stability

balcony

n.

platform projecting from the wall of a building

bald

a. Syn. hairless

hairless; lacking a natural or usual covering

ballet

n.

a sort of theatrical representation by dancers

balloon

n.

large non-rigid bag filled with gas or heated air

ballroom

n.

large room used mainly for dancing

bamboo

n.

plant of the family of grasses, and genus Bambusa, growing in tropical countries

band

n. Syn. orchestra; team

orchestra; team; strip; ribbon; belt; unite; ally

bandage

n.

strip of woven material, used in dressing and binding up wounds

bang

n.

a vigorous blow; a conspicuous success

banker

n.

person in charge of the bank in a gambling game; one who owns or is an executive in a bank

bankrupt

a.
penniless, without any money; financially ruined

banner

n. Syn. flag; sign
flag; sign; a newspaper headline that runs across the full page

banquet

n. Syn. feast
feast; entertainment of eating and drinking

bar

n. Syn. caf,
a counter where you can obtain food or drink; cafe; strip; stick

barber

n. Syn. haircutter; shaver
haircutter; one whose business is to cut hair and to shave or trim beards

bare

a. Syn. naked; nude
lacking the usual or appropriate covering or clothing

barely

ad. Syn. just; only
just; only; hardly; scarcely

bargain

n.
agreement between parties concerning the sale of property

barge

n. Syn. flatboat
flatboat; long, large boat for transporting freight that is unpowered and towed or pushed by other craft

bark

n. Syn. yelp; howl
sound made by a dog; harsh sound uttered by a dog

barn

n.
an outlying farm building for storing grain or animal feed and housing farm animals

barometer

n.
instrument for determining the weight or pressure of the atmosphere

baron

n.
title or degree of nobility

barrel

n. Syn. vessel
vessel; large cylindrical container

barren

a. Syn. desolate
desolate; fruitless and unproductive; lacking

barrier

n. Syn. obstacle; hindrance; hurdle
obstacle; structure built to bar passage; boundary or limit

barter

v. Syn. trade; exchange
trade goods or services without the exchange of money

baseball

n.
game played with a bat and ball by two opposing teams of nine players; ball used in this game

basement

n. Syn. cellar
cellar; storage room

basin

n.
bowl-shaped vessel, usually used for holding food or liquids

bathe

v. Syn. lave; immerse
wash by immersion, as in a bath; subject to bath; lave; immerse or cover one's self

batter

v.
beat with successive blows; beat repeatedly and with violence

battery

n.
beating or pounding; set of guns or heavy artillery; dry cell that produces electric current

bay

n.
inlet of the sea, usually smaller than a gulf; small body of water set off from the main body

bazaar

n.

market consisting of a street lined with shops and stalls, especially one in the Middle East

bead

n. Syn. pearl; drops; droplet

small piece of material, such as glass, plastic, or wood, that is pierced for stringing

beak

n. Syn. nib

nib ;horny projecting mouth of a bird

beam

n. Syn. rafter; brace

ray of light; long piece of metal or wood; long piece fixed or movable in structure, machine, or tool

bean

n.

various edible seeds; small oval or roundish seed, berry, nut, or lump

bear

v. Syn. support; sustain

support; sustain; carry; have; yield; give birth; hold up or support

bearing

n.

carrying another part; patient endurance; suffering without complaint; act of producing or giving birth

beat

v. Syn. whip; strike; defeat

whip; strike; defeat; hit repeatedly

become

v.

suit or be suitable to; be worthy of, or proper for; cause to appear well; grow or come to be

beforehand

ad. Syn. previously; aforesaid

in state of anticipation; in advance; by way of preparation

behalf

n. Syn. represent

represent; advantage, benefit, interest of someone

behave

v. Syn. perform; behave oneself

perform; conduct oneself in a proper way

behavior

n. Syn. conduct; manner
conduct; manner

belly

n.
part of human body which extends downward from breast to thighs, and contains bowels; womb

beloved

a.
greatly loved; dear to the heart

below

ad. Syn. beneath; under
under, or lower in place; beneath not so high; inferior to in rank; unworthy of

bend

v.
strain or move out of a straight line; curve; turn toward some certain point

beneath

ad. Syn. below; under
lower in place, with something directly over or on; under; underneath; below

beneficial

a. Syn. helpful; useful
helpful; tending to promote physical well-being

beneficiary

n.
person entitled to benefits or proceeds of an insurance policy or will

benefit

n. Syn. welfare; gain
advantage; something that aids or promotes well-being ; welfare; gain

benevolent

a. Syn. generous; charitable
generous in providing aid to others; charitable

bent

a.
determined to do or have

besides

ad.
over and above; separate or distinct from; in addition to; other than

bestow

v. Syn. present
give as gift; present

bet

n.
stake or pledge upon the event of a contingent issue; amount or object risked in a wager

betray

v. Syn. reveal
be unfaithful; reveal unconsciously or unwillingly

beverage

n. Syn. refreshment
liquids for drinking, usually excluding water; refreshment

bewilder

v. Syn. confuse
lead into perplexity or confusion; perplex with mazes

bias

n. Syn. prejudice; preference
preference or inclination, especially one that inhibits impartial judgment; influence in unfair way

bid

v.
make an offer of; propose; offer in words; declare, as a wish, a greeting, a threat, or defiance

bill

n. Syn. invoice
invoice; act; proposal; statement or list of particulars, such as a theater program or menu

billion

n.
the number that is represented as a one followed by 9 zeros

bind

v. Syn. contract; cohere; stick
tie, or confine with a cord, band, or chain; make fast; contract; cohere or stick together

biographer

n.
one who writes a book about somebody's life

biography

n.
an account of the series of events making up a person's life; accounts of people's life

biologist

n.
scientist who studies living organisms

bite

v.
pierce skin with teeth; seize with the teeth; sting with a stinger; eat into; have a sharp taste

bitter

a. Syn. painful; acrid; acrimonious
harsh or corrosive in tone; painful; acrid; acrimonious

bitterness

n.
sharp and bitter manner

blacksmith

n.
one who forges and shapes iron with a hammer and anvil

blade

n.
flat part of the leaf, of any plant, especially of gramineous plants; cutting part of an instrument

blame

v. Syn. condemn; rebuke
condemn; rebuke; find fault with; censure

blank

a.
of a white or pale color; without color; empty; void

blanket

n.
heavy, loosely woven fabric, usually of wool, and having a nap, used in bed clothing

blast

n. Syn. explode; burst
explode; burst; gale; very strong gust of wind or air

blaze

n. Syn. flame
brilliant burst of fire; destructive fire; flame

bleach

v. Syn. whiten; blanch
make white or colorless; blanch

bleed

v.
emit blood; lose blood; withdraw blood from the body

blend

n. Syn. combination; mixture
combination; mixture; forming uniform mixture

bless

v.
make or pronounce holy; consecrate; make happy

blessing

n. Syn. boon; benediction
praying for divine protection; formal act of giving approval

blink

v. Syn. wink
shut eyes briefly; wink

block

v. Syn. chunk
hinder; obstruct; indicate broadly without great detail; sketch

bloom

n. Syn. flower; blossom
flower; blossom; best time of youth; period of greatest prosperity or productivity

blossom

n.
reproductive organ of plants, especially one having showy or colorful parts

blot

n.
spot or stain, as of ink on paper; blur; weak point or failing

blunder

n. Syn. error
serious mistake typically caused by ignorance or confusion

blunt

a. Syn. insensitive
having a dull edge or end; not sharp; lacking in feeling; insensitive

blush

v.
become rosy or reddish; turn red, as if in embarrassment or shame

board

n. Syn. lumber; plank

a committee having supervisory powers; a flat piece of material designed for a special purpose

boarding

n.

wooden boards collectively; act of entering a ship; supplying with meals and lodgings for pay

boast

v. Syn. brag; vaunt

show off oneself; speak of with excessive pride

bodyguard

n.

guard to protect or defend person; lifeguard

boil

v.

be agitated; pass from a liquid to vapor when heated; be excited with passion; heat in water

bold

a. Syn. brave; daring; intrepid; impudent

brave; daring; intrepid; impudent

bolt

v. Syn. dash

dash or dart off; move or jump suddenly

bond

n. Syn. link; tie; connection

link; connection; uniting force or tie; binding agreement; duty

bonus

n.

an extra dividend to the shareholders; money paid in addition to a stated compensation

bookcase

n.

case with shelves for holding books, especially one with glazed doors

boom

n. Syn. bonanza; prosperity

bonanza; prosperity; prosper; expand; flourish

booming

a.

deep and resonant; flourishing; thriving

boost

v. Syn. raise; advance
raise; advance; push or shove upward

booth

n.
house or shed built for temporary occupation; covered stall or temporary structure

border

n.
outer part or edge of anything, as of a garment, a garden; margin; verge; brink; boundary

bore

v. Syn. drill
drill; make a hole in or through, with or as if with a drill

boring

a. Syn. tiresome; tedious
uninteresting and tiresome; dull

bother

v. Syn. disturb; puzzle
annoy; trouble; make agitated or nervous; fluster

bounce

v. Syn. jolt; rebound
jolt; rebound after having struck an object or a surface

bound

n. Syn. limit; constraint
tied; held; committed; limit; constraint; leap; jump

boundary

n. Syn. border; frontier
dividing line; border; frontier

bourgeois

a.
middle class; selfishly materialistic; dully conventional

bow

n.
inclination of head, or bending of body for reverence, respect, civility, or submission; bending or rounded part of ship forward

bowl

v.
throw or roll a ball; move quickly and smoothly, especially by rolling

boycott

v.
refrain from buying or using

brace

n.
something which holds anything tightly or supports it firmly, as bandage, cord, or rod;

brain

n. Syn. intelligence; intellect
organ or seat of intellect; understanding or imagination

brake

n.
a piece of mechanism for retarding or stopping motion by friction

brand

n.
burning piece of wood; mark made by burning with a hot iron; distinctive mark upon in any way

breach

n. Syn. violation; infringement
breaking of contract or duty

breadth

n. Syn. width; extent
measure or dimension from side to side; width; extent

break

n.
opportunity to do something; pause or interval, as from work; sudden change

breakdown

n.
process of failing to function or continue; sudden collapse in physical or mental health; summary of itemized data

breakthrough

n.
act of overcoming or penetrating an obstacle or restriction

breath

n.
air that is inhaled and exhaled in respiration

breathe

v. Syn. respire
respire; inhale and exhale air

breed

v. Syn. raise; hatch; mate
raise; produce offspring; give birth to or hatch; mate

breeze

n. Syn. light wind
light current of air; gentle wind; progress swiftly and effortlessly

bribe

n.
something serving to influence or persuade; reward or gift with a view to prevent judgment

bridle

n.
headgear with which a horse is directed and which carries a bit and reins

brief

a.
short in time, duration, length, or extent; concise

brighten

v. Syn. lighten
lighten; cheer; encourage; make or become bright or brighter

brilliance

n. Syn. cleverness; magnificence
cleverness; magnificence

brilliant

a.
full of light; shining; bright; sharp and clear in tone

brim

n. Syn. brink; edge
brink; edge

brink

n. Syn. verge; border
edge, margin, or border of a steep place verge

brisk

a. Syn. energetic; swift
marked by speed, liveliness, and vigor; energetic; swift; keen or sharp in speech or manner

brittle

a.
easily broken; having little elasticity

broadcast

n.
message that is transmitted by radio or television; radio or television show

broaden

v. Syn. widen; expand
widen; grow broad or broader

brochure

n. Syn. pamphlet
pamphlet; small book usually having paper cover

bronze

n.
an alloy of copper and tin and sometimes other elements

brood

v.
think long and anxiously; be in a state of gloomy, serious thought

brook

n. Syn. creek; stream
creek; stream

brown

a.
of dark color, of various shades between black and red or yellow

bruise

v.
injure, as by a blow or collision; contuse; fight with the fists

brutal

a.
like a brute; savage; cruel; inhuman; merciless

brute

a.
not having sensation; senseless; inanimate; unconscious; without intelligence

bubble

n. Syn. foam
foam; dome-shaped covering made of transparent glass or plastic; fantastic or impracticable idea or belief

bucket

n.
vessel for drawing up water from a well; vessel for hoisting and conveying coal, ore, grain

bud

n. Syn. shoot; sprout
one that is not yet fully developed; sprout

budget

n. Syn. estimate
estimate; a sum of money allocated for a particular purpose

buffet

n.
table with food set out for people to serve themselves; meal at which people help themselves to food that's been set out

bug

n.
general name applied to various insects

bulb

n.
rounded part of a cylindrical structure; electric lamp consisting of a glass ball

bulk

n. Syn. majority; mass
majority; main part; volume; mass

bulky

a. Syn. cumbersome; unwieldy; clumsy
of large size for its weight

bull

n.
male of any species of cattle; large, strong, and aggressive person; optimist regarding business conditions

bulletin

n.
brief statement of facts; any public notice or announcement; a periodical publication

bullion

n.
gold and silver in the form of bars

bump

n. Syn. lump; bulge
impact as from a collision; lump on the body caused by a blow

bunch

n. Syn. clump; cluster; gathering
clump; cluster; gathering

bundle

n. Syn. packet; parcel
packet; a package of things tied together; a large sum of money

burdensome

a.
not easily borne; wearing; causing uneasiness or fatigue

bureaucracy

n.
over-regulated administrative system

burial

n. Syn. grave
grave or tomb; ritual placing of a corpse in a grave; concealing something under the ground

bush

n. Syn. shrub
place abounding in trees or shrubs; wild forest

business

n.
rightful concern or responsibility; occupation, work, or trade in which a person is engaged;
commercial enterprise

butcher

n. Syn. slaughterer
one whose job is to kill animals for food; one who kills in large numbers, or with unusual cruelty;
vendor, especially on train or in theater

butter

n.
oily, unctuous substance obtained from cream or milk by churning

butterfly

n.
insect typically having a slender body with broad colorful wings

buzz

n.
confusion of activity and gossip; sound of rapid vibration

bygone

a.
past; gone by

bypass

n.
channel used to conduct gas or liquid around another pipe or a fixture; conductor having low

resistance in parallel

by-product

n.

product made during the manufacture of something else