

# 500 IELTS Vocabulary 1

## abandon

/ə'bændən/ n. Syn. relinquish

lacking restraint or control; feeling of extreme emotional intensity; unbounded enthusiasm  
With her parents out of town, Kelly danced all night with abandon.

## abstract

/'æbstrækt/ a. Syn. theoretical; abstruse

theoretical; not concrete; not applied or practical; difficult to understand  
To him, hunger was an abstract concept; he had never missed a meal.

## academy

/ə'kædəmi/ n.

school for special instruction; society of scholars, scientists, or artists  
The mission of our academy is actually to ensure the health and the well-being of all children.

## access

/'æksɛs/ n. Syn. approach

approach; entry; entrance

It remains to be seen whether the multinationals like Chevron, Exxon Mobil, and BP will give in to Mr Chavez's brinkmanship as they know he needs them as much as they need access to his oil.

## accommodate

/ə'kɒmədeɪt/ v. Syn. adapt; oblige

do a favor or service for; provide for; supply with; make suitable; adapt; allow for

As for the stage in the public auditorium, it can easily be adjusted to accommodate from a full-scale musical production to one by a solo vocalist.

## accompany

/ə'kʌmpəni/ v.

travel with; be associated with

But the night being wet and inclement, Mr. Rochester did not accompany them.

## accumulate

/ə'kju:mjʊleɪt/ v. Syn. collect

pile up; collect; mount up; increase

The tendency of Capital to accumulate is a big threat to the free market.

## accurate

*/ˈækjʊrət/* a. Syn. precise; correct

capable of providing a correct reading or measurement; performing with care and precision

Very Interesting, can anyone tell me, how accurate is the English translation in the posted clip?

## **achieve**

*/əˈtʃiːv/* v. Syn. accomplish; fulfill

gain with effort; accomplish; fulfill

Water, energy, health, agriculture, and biodiversity, require the world's scientific community to come up with the means to achieve sustainable development.

## **acknowledge**

*/əkˈnɒlɪdʒ/* v. Syn. recognize; admit

declare to be true or admit; express obligation, thanks

Although I acknowledge that the Beatles' tunes sound pretty dated today, I still prefer them to the songs my brothers play.

## **acquire**

*/əˈkwaɪə(r)/* v. Syn. obtain; gain

gain through experience or effort; gain possession of; locate with tracking system

As Norman Mailer once said to me, "One of the hardest things to acquire is a persona, and you've got one."

## **adapt**

*/əˈdæpt/* v. Syn. alter; modify

make fit for; change to suit a new purpose

One way to adapt is to become smaller, generation by generation.

## **adequate**

*/ˈædɪkwət/* a. Syn. sufficient; enough

sufficient; enough to meet a purpose

England missed key players through injury, lacked adequate preparation and was unable to match Australia's skill.

## **adjacent**

*/əˈdʒeɪsənt/* a. Syn. adjoining; neighboring

adjoining; neighboring; close to; lying near

Philip's best friend Jason lived only four houses down the block, close but not immediately adjacent.

## **adjust**

*/əˈdʒʌst/* v. Syn. adapt; regulate

adapt; regulate

The opera house was handed over by the builders nearly a year ago, but it's taken many months to install new stage machinery and to adjust the acoustics.

## administrate

/əd'mɪnɪstreɪt/ v.

administer; supply; supervise or be in charge of

Remember that Democrats want to increase spending and create more laws which in turn create more government to administrate and enforce.

## adult

/'ædʌlt/ n.

one who has attained maturity or legal age; fully grown

Not clear from the video if the adult is a man or woman, but he or she is facing charges of endangering the welfare of a child.

## advocate

/'ædvəkət/ v. Syn. urge; support

speak, plead, or argue in favour of; plead for; push for something

The some doctors advocate a smoking ban in the entire house.

## affect

/ə'fekt/ v.

have an emotional or cognitive impact upon

The move is likely to affect women and girls all over the world as international brands such as Mango and Zara have signed up to the agreement.

## aggregate

/'ægrɪgət/ v. Syn. gather; accumulate

gather into a mass, sum, or whole; amount to

Before the Wall Street scandals, dealers managed to aggregate great wealth in short periods of time.

## aid

/eɪd/ n.

person or thing that promotes or helps in something done; helper; assistant

The company has also asked for an additional 3.50 billion dollars in aid from the government.

## albeit

/ə:l'bi:t/ ad.

even though; although; notwithstanding

This question bothers me, albeit from a different perspective.

## allocate

/'æləkeɪt/ v. Syn. assign

assign; distribute according to plan

Even though the Red Cross did allocate a large sum for the relief of the sufferers of the disaster, many people perished.

## alter

*/ˈɔːltə(r)/* v. Syn. modify; change; convert  
modify; cause to change; make different; convert

In public neither Mr. Blair's visit nor the regional summit in Nepal has done anything to alter India's position on dialogue with Pakistan.

## alternative

*/ɔːl'tɜːnətɪv/* a.

one of two or more things, ideas or courses of action that may be used; option; choice

Electron Instruments believed its desktop SEM was vastly superior to the next best alternative from a Japanese competitor.

## ambiguous

*/æm'bigjʊəs/* a.

unclear or doubtful in meaning

His ambiguous instructions misled us; we did not know which road to take.

## amend

*/ə'mend/* v. Syn. correct; improve

change for the better; improve; remove faults or errors

Would McCain amend executive orders to ensure that communications between persons outside government and White House staff are disclosed to the public?

## analogy

*/ə'nælədʒɪ/* n. Syn. similarity; parallelism

similarity in some respects; comparison based on similarity

This analogy is almost always noted without further comment, although in fact it may be taken further.

## analyse

*/'ænləɪz/* v.

resolve anything complex into its elements; separate into parts for purpose of examination of each separately

Don't spend all day calling agents about fees - pick three in your locality and analyse which is the best one.

## analysis

*/ə'næləsis/* n. Syn. study; investigation

study; investigation; process of breaking down a substance into its constituent parts

You can read more about those studies here, and my analysis is here.

## annual

*/'ænjʊəl/* a.

occurring or payable every year

It says that the Queen's role in the annual state opening of parliament should be changed.

## anticipate

/æn'tɪsɪpeɪt/ v. Syn. expect; predict

act in advance of; deal with ahead of time; predict

Nature seemed to me benign and good; I thought she loved me, outcast as I was; and I, who from man could anticipate only mistrust, rejection, insult, clung to her with filial fondness.

## apparent

/ə'pærənt/ a. Syn. visible

capable of being seen, or easily seen; open to view; visible to eye

It is apparent to all that he was guilty; do you think anyone still trusts him now?

## append

/ə'pend/ v. Syn. attach

attach; add as supplement or appendix

When you append a bibliography to a text, you have just created an supplementary material.

## appreciate

/ə'pri:ʃieɪt/ v. Syn. admire; value

be thankful for; increase in worth; be thoroughly conscious of

I am truly thankful for the stocks, which would appreciate in value considerably in future years.

## approach

/ə'prəʊtʃ/ n. Syn. access; method

access; method

Faced with an increasingly competitive jobs market and frequent bad publicity over pay and conditions, the army is getting ever more sophisticated and corporate in its approach to recruitment.

## appropriate

/ə'prəʊpriət/ v. Syn. acquire; allocate

acquire; take possession of for one's own use; set apart for specific use

The ranch owners appropriate the lands that have originally been set aside for the Indians' use.

## approximate

/ə'prɒksɪmət/ v. Syn. approach

approach; come near

The conclusions of yours both approximate to the truth.

## arbitrary

/'ɑ:bɪtrəri/; /'ɑ:rbrɪtrəri/ a. Syn. capricious; impulse

randomly chosen; determined by chance or impulse, and not by reason or principle

He threw an arbitrary assortment of clothes into his suitcase and headed off, not caring where he went.

## area

*/ˈɛəriə/* n.

plane surface, as of the floor of a room; open space in a building; the enclosed space; extent; scope; range

His special interest lies in the area of literature.

## aspect

*/ˈæspɛkt/* n. Syn. respect; facet

distinct feature or element in a problem; a way in which something can be viewed by the mind

And I guess as his coming back, the education aspect is more on display than the others.

## assemble

*/ə'semb(ə)l/* v. Syn. gather

put together; bring or call together into a group or whole

Washington announced its decision to dissolve the core group of nations, the US, India, Japan and Australia, it would assemble to deliver aid.

## assess

*/ə'ses/* v. Syn. estimate; judge

estimate value; judge worth of something

They say that they lack both the money and the resources to deploy officials across the country to assess the safety of each and every ferry.

## assign

*/ə'saɪn/* v. Syn. appoint; allot

appoint; allot; make over; point out authoritatively or exactly

Never underrate the difficulties which your pupils will have to encounter, or try to persuade them that what you assign is easy.

## assist

*/ə'sɪst/* v. Syn. help

give help or support to, especially as a subordinate

A good way to assist is to bring entrepreneurial and business skills to them.

## assume

*/ə'sju:m/; ə'su:m/* v. Syn. suppose; presume

suppose; presume; take on; bear

He looked at me long and hard: I turned my eyes from him, fixed them on the fire, and tried to assume and maintain a quiet.

## assure

/ə'ʃʊə(r)/; /ə'ʃʊər/ v. Syn. solidify; guarantee; convince  
solidify; guarantee; convince  
I know it, and I don't wish to palliate them, I assure you.

## **attach**

/ə'tætʃ/ v. Syn. fasten; annex  
fasten; annex; be in contact with  
The anti-nuclear campaigners used concrete blocks and chains to attach themselves to the rails.

## **attain**

/ə'teɪn/ v. Syn. gain  
achieve or accomplish; gain  
The scarecrow sought to attain one goal: he wished to obtain a brain.

## **attitude**

/'ættɪtju:d/; /'ættɪtʊd/ n.  
posture, action, or disposition of a figure or a statue  
One of the major reasons for this change in attitude is that there's more money around.

## **attribute**

/ə'trɪbjʊ:t/ n. Syn. trait  
essential quality; reputation; honor  
His outstanding attribute was his kindness.

## **author**

/'ɔ:θə(r)/ n.  
beginner, former, or first mover of anything; creator; originator; one who composes or writes book or composer  
The mayor of the village, in delivering the prize to the author of it, made a warm speech.

## **authority**

/ɔ:'θɔ:riɪtɪ/ n. Syn. jurisdiction; power  
jurisdiction; power to enforce laws, exact obedience, command, determine, or judge; government  
The laws will reinforce Australia's authority to turn boats away from Australia.

## **automate**

/'ɔ:təmeɪt/ v.  
replace or enhance human labor with machines  
The other reason to automate is to get people out of the dangerous circumstance.

## **available**

/ə'veɪləb(ə)l/ a. Syn. free

convenient for use or disposal; not busy, free; obtainable; accessible

Vaccines are available but are costly and only offer relatively short-term protection so the animals need regular booster vaccinations.

## aware

/ə'weə(r)/ a.

knowing; having knowledge or cognizance

BPA, as you're likely aware, is a chemical commonly found in plastics, food cans, and water bottles.

## behalf

/br'ha:rf/ n. Syn. represent

represent; advantage, benefit, interest of someone

And I'm going to work to assure that that voice that is heard on their behalf is a roar and not a whisper.

## benefit

/'benɪfɪt/ n. Syn. welfare; gain

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

Another benefit for business is the elimination of currency risk in the Euro area - the possibility that you might lose money in cross border trade because of exchange rate movements.

## bias

/'baɪəs/ n. Syn. prejudice; preference

preference or inclination, especially one that inhibits impartial judgment; influence in unfair way

Now that I can daily watch their news reports on Star Choice, I can tell you that the bias is as deep there as anywhere.

## bond

/bɒnd/ n. Syn. link; tie; connection

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

Last year, the average short-term bond fund gained about 9%, according to Morningstar.

## brief

/'bri:f/ a.

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

When my brief career as a pop star ended, I found I had done fairly well.

## bulk

/'bʌlk/ n. Syn. majority; mass

majority; main part; volume; mass

Canada's largest bulk food retailer, it has more than 112 stores.

## capable

**capable** /'keɪpəb(ə)l/ a. Syn. competent

having the ability required for a specific task

Canadian politicians have been in capable of ending this primitive practice.

## capacity

**capacity** /kə'pæsɪtɪ/ n. Syn. volume; ability; capability

mental or physical ability; ability to accommodate

Mike had the capacity to handle several jobs at once.

## category

**category** /'kætɪgəri/ n. Syn. group

group; class; collection of things sharing a common attribute

Remember, all cars are priced, booked and controlled by car category, not by car maker or model.

## cease

**cease** /si:s/ v. Syn. stop; terminate

stop; terminate; put an end to; discontinue

We must not only cease from the acts of sin, but we must get the vicious habits and inclinations weakened and destroyed.

## challenge

**challenge** /'tʃælɪndʒ/ v.

assert a right; raise a formal objection; take exception to

Nowadays no one will challenge the fact that the earth is round.

## channel

**channel** /'tʃæn(ə)l/ n.

passage for water or other fluids to flow through; bed of a stream or river; route of communication or access

You should take her request through official channel, there is no private room for her issue.

## chapter

**chapter** /'tʃæptə(r)/ n.

division of a book or treatise; assembly of monks; bishop's council; organized branch of some society

A new chapter in a novel is something like a new scene in a play.

## chart

**chart** /tʃɑrt/ n. Syn. graph; diagram

graph; diagram; map showing coastlines, water depths, or other information of use to navigators

A fisherman's chart may be the crucial evidence which finally help to put to rest the mystery of what happened to Roald Amundsen.

## circumstance

*/ˈsɜːrkəmstəns/* n. Syn. situation; condition

situation; condition; detail accompanying or surrounding an event

Her heart is broken, but then a change in circumstance forces them to be together every day.

## cite

*/saɪt/* v. Syn. quote

quote; adduce as an instance

She could cite passages in the Bible from memory.

## civil

*/'sɪv(ə)l/* a. Syn. civic

having to do with citizens or the state; courteous and polite

Although Internal Revenue Service agents are civil servants, they are not always courteous to suspected tax cheats.

## clarify

*/'klærɪfaɪ/* v. Syn. illuminate; elucidate

make clear and comprehensible; elucidate

A Japanese delegation has started talks in North Korea to try to clarify the fate of at least ten Japanese citizens who were abducted by the communist state.

## classic

*/'klæsɪk/* n.

work of acknowledged excellence and authority, or its author; creation of the highest excellence

His face was like a Greek face, very pure in outline: quite a straight, classic nose; quite an Athenian mouth and chin.

## clause

*/kloːz/* n. Syn. sentence; phrase

sentence; phrase; distinct article, stipulation, or provision in a document

Congress insisted on an exclusion clause for seventeen-year-olds.

## code

*/kɒd/* n.

body of law; system of rules or regulations relating to one subject; system of symbols, letters, or words

Do you know the postal code of this postal district?

## coherent

*/'kəʊ'hɪərənt/* a. Syn. adhesive; cohesive

adhesive; cohesive; sticking together ; logical; sound; capable of thinking and expressing yourself in a clear and consistent manner

If the EU is to form any kind of coherent common foreign policy, it needs France and Britain singing from the same song sheet.

## coincide

/kəʊɪn'saɪd/ v. Syn. correspond

occur at the same time as; correspond

To coincide with World AIDS Day, the World Health Organization and UN AIDS are launching a campaign to treat three million HIV sufferers by the year 2005.

## collapse

/kə'læps/ v.

breakdown; failure

The streets of Baghdad are littered with putrefying mounds of rubbish that have been accumulating since the collapse of municipal services in March, with the arrival of coalition forces.

## colleague

/'kɒli:g/ n. Syn. associate

fellow worker; associate; co-worker

The abduction of the Italians, along with one Iraqi colleague, was claimed by several organizations.

## commence

/kə'mens/ v. Syn. originate; start; begin

have a beginning or origin; originate; start; begin

Mrs. Fairfax swallowed her breakfast and hastened away to commence operations.

## comment

/'kɒment/ v. Syn. remark; judgment

express an opinion; remark

She refused to comment about David Beckham's eye injury.

## commission

/kə'mɪʃ(ə)n/ n.

fee for services; group of people appointed to find out about something; authorize

China has hit back, its foreign ministry urging the Congressional commission to wipe out its prejudice, respect the truth.

## commit

/kə'mɪt/ v.

do something that cannot be changed; cause to be admitted

And small bands of extremists may again commit heinous crimes in the name of faith.

## commodity

/kə'mɒdɪti/ n. Syn. goods

goods; article of trade; advantage; benefit.

While some world stock and commodity markets show signs of calming down, China is usually an exception.

## communicate

/kə'mju:nikeɪt/ v. Syn. convey; inform; correspond

send information about; make known; impart; reveal clearly

Well, it came to me that the best way to communicate is to have direct, personal contact with people.

## community

/kə'mju:nɪti/ n. Syn. society; district

society; a group of people living in the same locality and under the same government

Where governments manage public life, human freedom in community is compromised.

## compatible

/kəm'pæɪtəb(ə)l/ a. Syn. harmonious

harmonious; having similar disposition and tastes

They were compatible neighbors, never quarreling over unimportant matters.

## compensate

/'kɒmpenseɪt/ v. Syn. make up; reimburse

make amends for; reimburse

He said improved trade would compensate for the jobs lost to competition from India's world beating out-sourcing and computer software industries.

## compile

/kəm'paɪl/ v. Syn. assemble; gather; accumulate

put together or compose from materials gathered from several sources

We planned to compile a list of the words most frequently used on these examinations.

## complement

/'kɒmpləmənt/ v. Syn. complete; consummate

complete; consummate; make perfect

The waiter recommended a glass of port to complement the cheese.

## complex

/'kɒmpleks/ a. Syn. intricate; compound

complicated in structure; a whole structure, as a building, made up of interconnected or related structures

Prescott's speech comes as ministers from around the world struggle to overcome complex arguments about how the Kyoto agreement on cutting greenhouse gas emissions should work.

## component

/kəm'pounənt/ n. Syn. element; ingredient  
element; ingredient; abstract part of something

I wish this component like all others of my stereo system is working at the same time.

## **compound**

/kəm'paʊnd/ v. Syn. combine; constitute  
combine; mix; constitute; pay interest; increase

The makers compound the ingredients by design.

## **comprehensive**

/kəm'prɪ'hensɪv/ a. Syn. thorough; inclusive  
thorough; including all or everything; broad in scope

Mr. Skubel has since completed what he describes as a comprehensive two-week training program and is now setting up his franchise in his hometown.

## **comprise**

/kəm'praɪz/ v. Syn. include  
include; consist of; be composed of

If the District of Columbia were to be granted statehood, the United States of America would comprise fifty-one states, not just fifty.

## **compute**

/kəm'pjʊ:t/ v. Syn. reckon; calculate  
reckon; make mathematical calculation

He failed to compute the interest, so his bank balance was not accurate.

## **conceive**

/kən'si:v/ v. Syn. design; consider

form or develop in the mind; devise; become pregnant with; begin or originate in a specific way

I asked was it a mere nervous impression--a delusion? I could not conceive or believe: it was more like an inspiration.

## **concentrate**

/'kɒnsəntreɪt/ v.

bring to or direct toward a common center; unite more closely; gather into one body

I was now able to concentrate my attention on the group by the fire.