

500 IELTS Vocabulary 2

concept

/ˈkɒnsept/ n. Syn. notion; idea

something formed in the mind; thought or notion

The local chain concept is simple: identify your customer, cater to their tastes and once successful, expand within a neighborhood.

conclude

/kənˈkluːd/ v. Syn. deduce; infer

enclose; reach as an end of reasoning; make final determination ; judge or decide; bring to an end

From his appearance we may safely conclude that he is a smoker.

concurrent

/kənˈkʌrənt/ a. Syn. simultaneous; coincident

simultaneous; coincident; occurring or operating at the same time

The Winter War fought between Finland and the Soviet Union, was a concurrent war to World War II, and thus is covered in its own main article.

conduct

/ˈkɒndʌkt/ v. Syn. accompany; direct

direct the course of; manage or control; lead or guide

You cannot conduct business like this.

confer

/kənˈfɜː(r)/ v.

bestow; present; have a conference in order to talk something over

The sternest-seeming stoic is human after all; and to "burst" with boldness and good-will into "the silent sea" of their souls is often to confer on them the first of obligations.

confine

/kənˈfaɪn/ v. Syn. limit; circumscribe

restrict in movement; circumscribe

You may take the maniac with you to England; confine her with due attendance and precautions at Thornfield.

confirm

/kənˈfɜːm/ v. Syn. verify; corroborate

support or establish the certainty or validity of; verify

In the aftermath of Saturday's mass poisoning, the authorities imposed a virtual news blackout, refusing even to confirm how many people had died.

conflict

/ˈkɒnflɪkt/ n. Syn. fight; struggle

fight; struggle; incompatibility of dates or events

Malnutrition rates have now been cut by half since the start of the conflict, according to the United Nations.

conform

/kənˈfɔ:m/ v.

comply with; follow; fit; meet

Why, in defiance of every precept and principle of this house, does she conform to the world so openly--here in an evangelical, charitable establishment--as to wear her hair one mass of curls?

consent

/kənˈsent/ v. Syn. accord; concur; allow

agree in opinion or sentiment; be of the same mind; accord; concur; allow

They can still make speeches and advise and consent, however, they won't have any real power.

consequent

/ˈkɒnsɪkwənt/ a. Syn. resulting

resulting; following as a logical conclusion

His retirement and consequent spare time enabled him to travel more.

considerable

/kənˈsɪdərəb(ə)l/ a. Syn. significant

worthy of consideration; large in amount, extent, or degree

The Tigers are insisting on an interim administration for the north east of the island, giving them considerable powers.

consist

/kənˈsɪst/ v.

be made up or composed; be comprised or contained in

A sudden renewed interest in action movies from the early nineties whose titles consist of three words, one of which is usually either "kill", "law" or "justice".

constant

/ˈkɒnstənt/ a. Syn. invariable; repeating

invariable; repeating; continually occurring; persistent

Yemen's state news agency says the president visited the three wounded officials at the Saudi hospital, and expressed happiness about constant progress in their health.

constitute

/ˈkɒnstɪtju:t/ v. Syn. form

make up; form something

"I never did see the beat of that boy!" She went to the open door and stood in it and looked out among the tomato vines that would constitute the garden.

constrain

/kən'streɪn/ v. Syn. restrain; confine
restrain; keep within close bounds; confine
His idea is to constrain commercial banks' lending.

construct

/kən'strʌkt/ v. Syn. erect; build
form by assembling or combining parts; build; create
After all, perhaps there were different ways to construct machines that would have different properties.

consult

/kən'sʌlt/ v.
seek advice or information of; take into account; consider
I will consult with our friends, but it's going to be what's in the interests of our country first and foremost.

consume

/kən'sju:m/;/kən'su:m/ v. Syn. devour; eat
devour; eat
It is particularly an issue for those that have made large strides in industrial development, the sector of the economy that tends to consume the most energy.

contact

/'kɒntækt/ v.
get in touch with; reach
But Britney, 21, says he called her at two of her homes, and even tried to contact her at her parents' house.

contemporary

/kən'tempərəri/;/kən'tempərəri/ a.
modern; belonging to the same period of time
The Danes have now taken the top drama award at the Emmys for three out of the past four years with contemporary drama set in Denmark.

context

/'kɒntɛkst/ n. Syn. circumstance; setting
circumstance
Last week the Italian Prime Minister apologized to parliament in Rome for his alleged remarks about the superiority of western culture over that of Islam, claiming his words had been taken out of context.

contract

/ˈkɒntrækt/ v. Syn. shrink; constrict
constrict; make smaller; compress or concentrate
The heat will contract the woollen garment.

contradict

/kɒntrəˈdɪkt/ v. Syn. confront; oppose
confront; oppose
Now act as you please: write and contradict my assertion--expose my falsehood as soon as you like.

contrary

/ˈkɒntrəri/; /kɒntrəri/ a. Syn. opposite
relation of direct opposition; very opposed in nature or character or purpose
Our boat took a course contrary to theirs.

contrast

/ˈkɒntrɑːst/; /kɒntræst/ n.
act of distinguishing by comparing differences
In contrast, the Prime Minister's aides are preparing his defense, saying that at the time, the entire cabinet backed the move to war, and that he's willing to implement all the committee's recommendations.

contribute

/kənˈtrɪbjʊ:t/ v.
provide; bestow a quality on
In the developed world, many companies provide a fund, which they and their staff contribute to, which is then invested in shares, bonds and other assets.

controversy

/ˈkɒntrəvɜːrsɪ/ n. Syn. contention; argument
contentious speech act; argument
Information minister Jerry Gana released a statement in which he says there has been an international media conspiracy against Nigeria, to highlight the controversy surrounding the beauty pageant and fanning the flames of violence.

convene

/kənˈviːn/ v. Syn. assemble
cause to come together formally
Six days' public notice must be given when announcing the meeting schedules, meaning the earliest the board can next convene is July 24.

converse

/kənˈvɜːrs/ v. Syn. chat

chat; talk informally; engage in a spoken exchange of thoughts
Eva is all ears while Lulu and Lola converse.

convert

/kən'vɜrt/ n. Syn. transform

change something into another form; transform

However, he suggests that this only be done if the convert is also willingly accepted into his position by the community.

convince

/kən'vɪns/ v.

overpower; force to yield assent to truth; satisfy by proof; prove guilty

Your argument is too weak to convince me; we need more evidence.

cooperate

/koo'ɒpəreɪt/ v. Syn. collaborate

work or act together toward a common end or purpose

The best way to get Pakistan to cooperate is to find the reasons why it is so keen to retain influence in Afghanistan and try to meet its concerns.

coordinate

/koo'ɔ:dɪneɪt/ v. Syn. integrate; harmonize

bring order and organization to; harmonize

The second way of specifying star positions is the equatorial coordinate system.

core

/kɔ:(r)/ n. Syn. center; essence

basic, center, or most important part; essence

But at the core is a story about two men who can't let go of the sense that they are dreaming their way through what might be an ultimately meaningless life.

corporate

/'kɔ:pərət/ a.

united or combined into one body; collective; belonging to corporation or incorporated body

The demonstrators inspired thousands of allies to take to the streets to protest economic inequality and corporate greed.

correspond

/kɒrɪ'spɒnd/; /kɔ:rə'spɒnd/ v.

be compatible, similar or consistent; exchange messages

My Russian pen pal and I correspond for several years.

couple

pair /'kʌp(ə)l/ n. Syn. pair

a male and female associated together; a pair who associate with one another
He caught a married couple from Chicago.

create

create /kri:'eɪt/ v.

make or cause to be or to become; invest with a new thing
He plans to create a new company next year.

credit

credit /'krɛdɪt/ n. Syn. reputation; prestige

arrangement for deferred payment for goods and services; money available for a client to borrow
The proposed treaty would give credit to peasant farmers who developed the crops in the first place.

criteria

criteria /krai'tɪərə/ n.

standard, rule, or test on which a judgment or decision can be based
This spring, the health department established a set of criteria for such clinics, including an offer of primary-care appointments within 24 hours of first contact.

crucial

crucial /'kru:ʃ(ə)l/ a.

of extreme importance; vital to the resolution of a crisis; of the greatest importance
The meeting of today is the crucial moment in his career.

culture

culture /'kʌltʃə(r)/ n. Syn. civilization

all the knowledge and values shared by a society ; foster; raising of plants or animals
Last week the Italian Prime Minister apologised to parliament in Rome for his alleged remarks about the superiority of western culture over that of Islam, claiming his words had been taken out of context.

currency

currency /'kʌrənʒi/ n. Syn. money

money; general acceptance or use
It now ranks along with oil and tourism as Mexico's biggest foreign currency earner.

cycle

cycle /'saɪk(ə)l/ n.

periodically repeated sequence of events; long period of time; entire round in a circle or a spire
Do they not understand that the spin cycle is an important part of the washing machine?

data

/ˈdeɪtə, ˈdɑːtə/; ˈdætə/ n.

collection of facts, observations, or other information related to a particular question or problem

Now that data is required from around the world, the IEA must obtain them from a wide variety of sources.

debate

/dɪˈbeɪt/ n. Syn. argument

discussion; dispute; discussion involving opposing points

Robert Potts, who recently retired as chancellor at Arkansas State University, witnessed the nickname debate in two states.

decade

/ˈdekeɪd/ n.

a group of ten, especially a period of ten years

This decade is the time to fully embrace diversity and demonstrate equal rights to all Americans in this country.

decline

/dɪˈklaɪn/ n. Syn. deterioration; decay

change toward something smaller or lower ; gradual falling off from a better state

Dustan has a record of switching sides when convenient, and there are many Taliban supporters who would do likewise if the fortunes of the puritan militia are on the decline.

deduce

/dɪˈdjuːs/ v.

lead forth; reach a conclusion by reasoning; trace the origin or derivation of

Our investors deduce from the figures that the report shows.

define

/dɪˈfaɪn/ v.

determine the nature of; give a definition; describe the nature or basic qualities of; explain

That argument may define the political parties and help shape the 2012 elections.

definite

/ˈdefɪnɪt/ a. Syn. fixed; exact

fixed; exact; having distinct limits

He introduced the closed circuit of oscillation into wireless telegraphy, and was one of the first to send electric waves in definite directions.

demonstrate

/ˈdemənstreɪt/ v. Syn. show; confirm; prove; manifest

show clearly and deliberately; manifest; confirm; prove

After a series of drug scandals, this was Major League Baseball's chance to demonstrate its determination to crack down on the cheats.

denote

/dɪ'noʊt/ v. Syn. signify; indicate; show
indicate; signify directly; refer to specifically

The word "sex" is simply that—a word to denote whether a person is male or female.

deny

/dɪ'naɪ/ v. Syn. disagree; disavow
disagree with; refuse; declare untrue

What I do deny is that we have been inconsistent with respect to our view of the Constitution

depress

/dɪ'pres/ v. Syn. lower
lower in spirits; press down

There are hopes that this could help to revive the internet and technology sector which has shown to depress since the dotcom crash of 2000.

derive

/dɪ'rɪv/ v. Syn. obtain; extract
obtain or receive from a source; trace the origin or development of

For I knew Diana and Mary would derive more pleasure from seeing again the old homely tables than from the spectacle of the smartest innovations.

design

/dɪ'zɑɪn/ n. Syn. devise

act of working out the form of something; creation of something in the mind; formulate a plan for
He is hired to design a marketing strategy for the new product.

despite

/dɪ'spaɪt/ n.

lack of respect accompanied by a feeling of intense dislike; disdain, contemptuous feelings, hatred
He didn't hide his despite in the party because he believed the host cheated.

detect

/dɪ'tekt/ v. Syn. feel; discover the presence of; discern; sense; identify
feel; discover the presence of; identify

They won't detect prescription drugs or medication such as cold or flu tablets.

deviate

/'di:vɪeɪt/ v. Syn. depart; diverge

turn away from a principle, norm; depart; diverge

Richard did not deviate from his daily routine: every day he set off for work at eight o'clock, had his sack lunch at 12:15, and headed home at the stroke of five.

device

/dɪ'vaɪs/ n. Syn. instrument

technique or means; instrument; machine used to perform one or more relatively simple tasks

Anti-gravity device could change air travel.

devote

/dɪ'vəʊt/ v. Syn. dedicate; contribute

dedicate; contribute

Those who trade them hunt out the fiercest insects and devote many hours to training them.

differentiate

/dɪfə'renʃi'eɪt/ v. Syn. distinguish; discriminate

set apart; distinguish; perceive or show difference in or between

You can differentiate car parts by using different color markers; maybe you use one color for the left side and another for the right.

dimension

/dɪ'menʃ(ə)n/ n. Syn. measure; size

measure of spatial extent, especially width, height, or length; size; aspect; element

Describing time as a dimension is a natural assumption.

diminish

/dɪ'mɪnɪʃ/ v. Syn. dwindle; reduce; decrease

dwindle; reduce; make smaller or less or to cause to appear so

The only way to diminish mistakes is to bring competitors into the game.

discrete

/dɪ'skri:t/ a. Syn. separate; distinct

separate; consisting of unconnected distinct parts

The universe is composed of discrete bodies.

discriminate

/dɪ'skrɪmɪneɪt/ v.

make a clear distinction; distinguish; make sensible decisions; judge wisely

It's not just a notion when 46 states can still discriminate against same-sex couples getting married.

displace

/dɪs'pleɪs/ v. Syn. move; replace; substitute

move or shift from the usual place or position, especially to force to leave a homeland

This war will displace lots of refugees from their villages.

display

/dɪ'spleɪ/ v. Syn. exhibit; present; show

exhibit; present or hold up to view; show; demonstrate; give evidence of; manifest

The airport authorities decided to remove all Christmas trees because a Jewish rabbi threatened to sue them if they didn't also display a menorah.

dispose

/dɪ'spəʊz/ v.

get rid of; settle or decide a matter; place or set in a particular order; arrange

Do not use them to dispose of household trash.

distinct

/dɪ'stɪŋkt/ a. Syn. definite; separate; different

definite; separate; different

The UN has always been at pains to say that its role in occupied Iraq is distinct from that of the US-led forces, and many ordinary Iraqis appreciated that the primary UN role was humanitarian.

distort

/dɪ'stɔ:t/ v. Syn. deform; twist

twist out of proper or natural relation of parts; misshape; misrepresent

It is difficult to believe the newspaper accounts of the riots because of the way some reporters distort and exaggerate the actual events.

distribute

/dɪ'strɪbjʊ:t/ v. Syn. disseminate; allocate

hand out; disseminate; allocate

They are planning to buy some main firms that distribute gas to European consumers.

diverse

/daɪ'vɜ:rs/ a. Syn. various

differing in some characteristics; various

The professor suggested diverse ways of approaching the assignment and recommended that we choose one of them.

document

/'dɒkjʊmənt/ v. Syn. record

provide written evidence; record in detail

She kept all the receipts from her business trip in order to document her expenses for the firm.

domain

/də'meɪn/ n. Syn. field

field; territory over which rule or control is exercised; networked computers that share a common

address

Our cat knows who the queen of the domain is.

domestic

/də'mestɪk/ a. Syn. house-hold; tame

house-hold; of or relating to the home ; within the country or home

Only a substantial increase in the price of domestic fuel will make local refineries more profitable.

dominate

/'dɒmɪneɪt/ v. Syn. monopolize; command; rule

monopolize; command; rule; prevail; be prevalent in

People tend to have one side of their brain dominate their thought patterns.

draft

/drɑːft/;/dræft/ n. Syn. sketch

rough outline; draw up an outline; sketch

Now governments are re-writing the EU's governing treaty and the draft version is considered by the EU's leaders in Brussels.

drama

/'drɑːmə/ n. Syn. play

play; literary work intended for theater

The Danes have now taken the top drama award at the Emmys for three out of the past four years.

duration

/dʒʊə'reɪʃ(ə)n/;/dʊ'reɪʃn/ n. Syn. length; period

length of time something lasts

Because she wanted the children to make a good impression on the dinner guests, Mother promised them a treat if they'd behave for the duration of the meal.

dynamic

/daɪ'næmɪk/ a. Syn. energetic

energetic; vigorously active

The dynamic aerobics instructor kept her students on the run.

economy

/'iːkənəmi/ n.

efficient use of resources; reduction in cost; specific type of economic system

The tribe's main economy is primitive agriculture and its wealth is sometimes counted in people as well as animals.

edit

/'ɛdɪt/ v.

revise and prepare for publication; select, correct, arrange matter of, for publication
The fourth volume of Make magazine, which I edit, is now available on Amazon.

element

/ˈɛlɪmənt/ n. Syn. component
fundamental or essential constituent of a composite entity; basic assumptions or principles of a subject
There's always an element of danger in mountain climbing.

eliminate

/ɪˈlɪmɪneɪt/ v. Syn. eradicate; abolish
eradicate; abolish; rule out
So the EU's offer to eliminate the subsidy was almost universally welcomed.

emerge

/ɪˈmɜːdʒ/ v. Syn. appear
come into prominence; spring up; appear
New cases continue to emerge on an almost daily basis.

emphasis

/ˈɛmfəˌsɪs/ n.
special attention or effort directed toward something; stress
They also said that there was too much emphasis placed on protecting the liberty of individuals at the expense of broader social justice.

empirical

/ɛmˈpɪrɪk(ə)l/ a.
derived from experiment and observation rather than theory
He distrusted hunches and intuitive flashes; he placed his reliance entirely on empirical data.

enable

/ɪˈneɪb(ə)l/ v.
supply with the means, knowledge, or opportunity; make able; make feasible or possible
We shall have become so unfit that nothing we can do to enable us to survive.

encounter

/ɪnˈkaʊntə(r)/ v. Syn. face; confront; meet
face; confront; meet, especially unexpectedly; come upon
Even children who can swim are at risk as they often move too far away from their families and then encounter difficulties getting back to dry land.

energy

/ˈɛnədʒi/ n. Syn. vigor; power

exertion of force; capacity for work or vigorous activity; usable heat or power
Each year Americans consume a high percentage of the world's energy.

enforce

/ɪn'fɔ:s/ v. Syn. force; constrain; compel
put force upon; force; constrain; compel; put in motion or action by violence
Can the police enforce the same rule to avoid another Rodney King incident?

enhance

/ɪn'hɑ:ns/; /ɪn'hæns/ v. Syn. increase; improve
make better or more attractive; increase; improve
This sauce will enhance the flavor of the meat.

enormous

/ɪ'nɔ:məs/ a. Syn. tremendous; huge; massive
very great in size, extent, number, or degrees; huge; massive
An enormous puppy was looking down at her with large round eyes, and feebly stretching out one paw, trying to touch her.

ensure

/ɪn'ʃʊə(r)/; /ɪn'ʃʊər/ v.
make sure or certain; insure; assure
For example, to ensure data security, a publicly held company will need to control who has access to financial records.

entity

/'entɪti/ n.
real being; something that exists as a particular and discrete unit; fact of existence
Persons and corporations are equivalent entity under the law.

environment

/ɪn'vaɪərənmənt/ n. Syn. circumstance
surroundings; totality of surrounding conditions
We shall never understand the natural environment until we see it as a living organism.

equate

/'kweɪt/ v.
make equal or equivalent; consider, treat, or depict as equal or equivalent
Most Americans equate success with wealth and fame.

equip

/'kwɪp/ v.
supply with necessities such as tools or provisions; furnish with the qualities necessary for

performance

There escort ships are also the only ships on which you can equip cannons.

equivalent

/ɪ'kwɪvələnt/ a. Syn. interchangeable; comparable; tantamount
interchangeable; comparable; equal, as in value, force, or meaning

The Clinton campaign has raised more money in the first three months than all nine Democratic candidates in the equivalent period for the 2004 election.

erode

/ɪ'roʊd/ v. Syn. corrode

eat away; wear away by abrasion; become worn

The film shows how dripping water to erode the limestone until only a thin shell remained.

establish

/ɪ'stæblɪʃ/ v.

set up or found; build

His first novel did not establish his fame as a writer, but second one did.

estate

/ɪ'steɪt/ n. Syn. property

extensive landed property; everything you own; all of your assets

Jackson's estate is also subject to federal inheritance taxes.

estimate

/'estɪmət/ v. Syn. assess; appraise; evaluate

judge to be probable; form an opinion about; evaluate

The insurance industry is well prepared to estimate of the loss it will suffer.

ethic

/'εθɪk/ n.

a set of principles of right conduct; theory or a system of moral values

Do these clowns want us to emulate the Japanese "work until you die" ethic?

ethnic

/'εθnɪk/ a. Syn. racial

relating to races; group of people sharing common racial, national, or religious heritage

But guess why they stay home and suppress what they call ethnic unrest?

evaluate

/ɪ'væljuːeɪt/ v. Syn. judge; appraise; estimate

judge; examine and judge carefully; appraise

They saw several oil slicks but could not evaluate their size.

eventual

/ɪ'ventʃʊəl/ a. Syn. ultimate; final; inevitable

ultimate; occurring at an unspecified time in the future

One of Mr. Barak's legacies is that more Israelis now know that an eventual peace agreement with the Palestinians will have to involve a deal on Jerusalem.