

## IELTS Vocabulary Topics

### Education Word List

Word/phrase	Meaning	Example
Semester	A term at school or college, usually 15 weeks.	The Spring term at college starts in March.
Revise for a test	To study again the content of a course to prepare for a test.	Students often revise for their tests as close as possible to the date.
Curriculum	The different courses/subjects offer by an academy or school.	The English Academy offers a variety of English courses.
Syllabus	The detailed contents of a course.	The syllabus for my English course includes grammar, vocabulary and speaking practice.
Tertiary education	Third level education, after high school, at a college or university.	Students usually must pay their own course fees for tertiary education.
Dissertation	A long essay on a particular topic, usually as part of college/university course.	My dissertation for my BA was about English communication.
Assignment	A task completed by a student as part of the course requirements.	At high school, we had to complete two assignments per semester.
Formal assessment	Exams where students answer fixed questions under test conditions.	We have two formal assessments every semester, one at the midpoint and the other at the end of the course.
Continuous assessment	Grades awarded for course work rather than formal assessment.	My college awards grades for 50% continuous assessment and 50% formal assessment.
Lecture	A talk on a academic subject, usually delivered at university or college.	Every year we had a lecture on History from a visiting professor.
Seminar	A conference or meeting where a teacher discusses a topic with a small group of students.	This semester's seminar will be on the topic of English pronunciation.
Workshop	A group activity where students develop a skill or complete a project.	Before my test, I attended an IELTS Speaking workshop.
Webinar	A seminar conducted remotely, usually online.	Students who are unable to attend in person can register for the webinar.
Literacy	The ability to read and write.	The literacy rates in my country have increased considerably over the last 20 years.
Numeracy	The ability to understand and use basic arithmetic.	Students at primary school are taught basic numeracy skills.
Kindergarten	A school that prepares 4 to 6-year old's for first grade.	Kids at kindergarten usually learn through play.

Rote-learning	Learning by memorization and repetition	At high school, we used rote learning, especially in History, memorizing dates.
Distance learning	Learning via the internet rather than face-to-face.	During the pandemic, distance learning grew in popularity.
Tutorial	Usually an individual lesson with a tutor.	I arranged a tutorial with my English professor after disappointing exam results.
Campus	The grounds or buildings of a school, college, or university.	Our high school campus was renovated for its 50 <sup>th</sup> anniversary.
Evaluate	To grade or judge something.	Our essays are evaluated and graded by a group of professors.
Extracurricular	An activity at school or college that is not part of the official curriculum.	The extracurricular activities at college include the drama club and chess association.
Assembly	An official gathering of all or some of the school students usually for giving information.	At our weekly assembly, the headmaster usually reminded us of the school rules.
Elective course	An optional course on the curriculum.	The college offers a range of elective courses you can choose to supplement the required ones.
Autonomous learning	Learning through independent study or research.	Colleges expect students to be autonomous learners who don't need too much guidance from tutors.
Guided learning	Learning with the guidance of a teacher	Lessons in primary schools rely heavily on guided learning because of the young age of the students.
Self-study	Studying without the supervision of a teacher.	Self-studying for IELTS is not recommended because you need guidance from a teacher.
Remedial course	A series of lessons to solve problems students are having with a subject.	After he failed the test, he enrolled on a remedial course.
Enroll	To register for a course.	It is recommended that IELTS students enroll for a preparation course.
Corporal punishment	To discipline a student by inflicting physical pain.	Corporal punishment was banned from school more than 20 years ago.

## IELTS Vocabulary Topics

### Education Idioms

#### *Cram*

**Meaning:** To study hard before a test.

**Example:** He didn't get any sleep before the test because he spent the night *cramming*.

#### *Bookworm*

**Meaning:** Someone who reads a lot.

**Example:** I consider myself to be a *bookworm*. I especially love romantic fiction and read everything I can get my hands on.

#### *Pass with flying colors*

**Meaning:** To pass something with a high score.

**Example:** He *passed* the monthly English test *with flying colors*. He got an A+ for composition.

#### *Old school*

**Meaning:** To believe and do things in a traditional way.

**Example:** Our English teacher was so *old school*. He refused to use technology in his lessons or any modern curriculum.

#### *Teacher's pet*

**Meaning:** The teacher's favorite student.

**Example:** Karen got more attention from the teacher than the other students. We called her the *teacher's pet*.

#### *Put on your thinking cap*

**Meaning:** To think very seriously about something.

**Example:** The crossword puzzle in that newspaper is very difficult. You really need to *put on your thinking cap*.

#### *Can't teach an old dog new tricks*

**Meaning:** Someone who prefers to do things in a certain way and cannot or will not try a new way to do it.

**Example:** I tried unsuccessfully for years to show my grandmother how to use social media, but she wasn't interested. She always said, "you can't teach an old dog new tricks."

#### *Schoolboy error*

**Meaning:** To make a very basic or simple mistake.

**Example:** I made a *schoolboy error* in my IELTS writing and got a low score. I forgot to include data with the description of the chart.

#### *University of life*

**Meaning:** Learning from experience rather than formal education.

**Example:** My grandfather was a very successful businessman, but he didn't graduate from high school. He says he learned everything he knows from the *university of life*.

#### *Learn by heart*

**Meaning:** To memorize something.

**Example:** When it comes to learning vocabulary, a lot of students try to *learn* lists of words *by heart*.

#### *Skip class/school*

**Meaning:** To not go to class or school when you should.

**Example:** Abdul hated science and always *skipped the class*. Eventually, he failed the final tests.