

IELTS Listening spelling list: 550 words by topic

Words that IELTS Listening answers use again and again, grouped by topic. One wrong letter makes a Listening answer wrong, so spelling is worth practising.

Cover the list, ask a friend to read the words aloud, and write them down. Tick the box for every word you spell right first time. British spelling is used; IELTS accepts American spelling too.

Days, months and time 16

- | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| ☐ Tuesday | ☐ January | ☐ November | ☐ century |
| ☐ Thursday | ☐ August | ☐ December | ☐ decade |
| ☐ Saturday | ☐ September | ☐ fortnight | ☐ midday |
| ☐ weekdays | ☐ October | ☐ millennium | ☐ midnight |

Money matters 19

- | | | | |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| ☐ debit | ☐ investment | ☐ taxpayers | ☐ income |
| ☐ deposit | ☐ deficit | ☐ debt | ☐ finance |
| ☐ poverty | ☐ voucher | ☐ purchase | ☐ membership |
| ☐ statement | ☐ coupon | ☐ refund | ☐ duty-free |
| ☐ withdraw | ☐ counterfeit | ☐ annuity | |

Subjects 12

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|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| ☐ science | ☐ statistics | ☐ economics | ☐ chemistry |
| ☐ politics | ☐ physics | ☐ philosophy | ☐ business |
| ☐ biology | ☐ anthropology | ☐ humanities | ☐ archaeology |

Studying at college or university 42

- | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| ☐ outline | ☐ teamwork | ☐ facilities | ☐ supervisor |
| ☐ discussion | ☐ module | ☐ knowledge | ☐ bachelor's |
| ☐ handout | ☐ assessment | ☐ intermediate | ☐ vocabulary |
| ☐ research | ☐ department | ☐ commencement | ☐ retention |
| ☐ proofreading | ☐ lecture | ☐ leaflet | ☐ publication |
| ☐ experiment | ☐ tutor | ☐ faculty | ☐ reunion |
| ☐ reference | ☐ attendance | ☐ pupils | ☐ stationery |
| ☐ textbook | ☐ deadline | ☐ feedback | ☐ secondary |
| ☐ dictionary | ☐ diploma | ☐ outcomes | ☐ experience |
| ☐ printer | ☐ placement | ☐ introductory | |
| ☐ advisor | ☐ overseas | ☐ guidelines | |

Marketing and business 12

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|--------------------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| ☐ interview | ☐ strategies | ☐ customer | ☐ trainee |
| ☐ newsletter | ☐ entertainment | ☐ survey | ☐ manufacture |
| ☐ competition | ☐ leadership | ☐ margin | ☐ profit |

Health and food 20

- | | | | |
|--|-------------------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|
| ☐ leisure | ☐ cereals | ☐ blackcurrants | ☐ exercise |
| ☐ disease | ☐ minerals | ☐ medicine | ☐ diet |
| ☐ protein | ☐ yoghurt | ☐ treatment | ☐ yoga |
| ☐ vitamin | ☐ vegetables | ☐ remedy | ☐ seafood |
| ☐ carbohydrates | ☐ citrus | ☐ nursery | ☐ nursing |

Nature and landscapes 23

- | | | | |
|-------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| ☐ footbridge | ☐ peninsula | ☐ volcano | ☐ oasis |
| ☐ waterfall | ☐ earthquake | ☐ disaster | ☐ canyon |
| ☐ mountain | ☐ avalanche | ☐ catastrophe | ☐ reef |
| ☐ valley | ☐ tornado | ☐ erosion | ☐ coast |
| ☐ cliff | ☐ typhoon | ☐ landslides | ☐ forest |
| ☐ island | ☐ desertification | ☐ jungle | |

The environment 18

- | | | | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|
| ☐ greenhouse | ☐ climate | ☐ hydroelectric | ☐ currents |
| ☐ fossil | ☐ pollution | ☐ reliable | ☐ firewood |
| ☐ exhaust | ☐ temperature | ☐ oxygen | ☐ drought |
| ☐ nitrogen | ☐ landfill | ☐ degradation | |
| ☐ smog | ☐ turbine | ☐ vegetation | |

Animals and plants 19

- | | | | |
|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| ☐ poultry | ☐ reptile | ☐ creature | ☐ leaves |
| ☐ mammals | ☐ insects | ☐ penguin | ☐ cluster |
| ☐ primates | ☐ octopus | ☐ genus | ☐ prey |
| ☐ rodents | ☐ species | ☐ mushroom | ☐ seabirds |
| ☐ amphibian | ☐ livestock | ☐ fungus | |

Places, countries and languages 20

- | | | | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| ☐ Antarctica | ☐ Singapore | ☐ bilingual | ☐ Japanese |
| ☐ Australia | ☐ Switzerland | ☐ trilingual | ☐ Russian |
| ☐ Indonesia | ☐ Philippines | ☐ polyglot | ☐ Italian |
| ☐ Malaysia | ☐ Greece | ☐ Portuguese | ☐ embassy |
| ☐ Nigeria | ☐ Egypt | ☐ Mandarin | ☐ temple |

Buildings and homes 25

- | | | | |
|--|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| ☐ palace | ☐ terraced | ☐ chimney | ☐ refrigerator |
| ☐ castle | ☐ bungalow | ☐ basement | ☐ microwave |
| ☐ glasshouse | ☐ thatched | ☐ landlord | ☐ hallway |
| ☐ pyramid | ☐ cottage | ☐ tenant | ☐ insurance |
| ☐ lighthouse | ☐ houseboat | ☐ lease | |
| ☐ skyscraper | ☐ apartment | ☐ dormitory | |
| ☐ semi-detached | ☐ condominium | ☐ storey | |

Workplaces and jobs 31

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|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| ☐ clinic | ☐ cooperation | ☐ engineer | ☐ craftsman |
| ☐ dentist | ☐ confidence | ☐ waitress | ☐ lecturer |
| ☐ appointment | ☐ employee | ☐ vacancy | ☐ accountant |
| ☐ colleague | ☐ occupation | ☐ professor | ☐ cashier |
| ☐ workshop | ☐ profession | ☐ psychologist | ☐ clerk |
| ☐ showroom | ☐ designer | ☐ volunteer | ☐ captain |
| ☐ employer | ☐ decorator | ☐ freelance | ☐ assistant |
| ☐ unemployed | ☐ architect | ☐ secretary | |

Ratings and descriptions 10

- | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| ☐ reasonable | ☐ quality | ☐ expensive | ☐ disappointed |
| ☐ satisfactory | ☐ efficient | ☐ striped | |
| ☐ dangerous | ☐ luxurious | ☐ satisfied | |

Touring and travel 10

- | | | | |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| ☐ souvenir | ☐ picnic | ☐ suite | ☐ culture |
| ☐ reservation | ☐ attraction | ☐ aquarium | |
| ☐ memorable | ☐ hostel | ☐ guided | |

Verbs 13

- | | | | |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| ☐ develop | ☐ surpass | ☐ suggest | ☐ review |
| ☐ supervise | ☐ register | ☐ arrange | |
| ☐ revise | ☐ persuade | ☐ borrow | |
| ☐ donate | ☐ concentrate | ☐ immigrate | |

Adjectives 27

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|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| ☐ energetic | ☐ voluntary | ☐ pessimistic | ☐ spectacular |
| ☐ ancient | ☐ mandatory | ☐ optimistic | ☐ intact |
| ☐ fabulous | ☐ compulsory | ☐ realistic | ☐ various |
| ☐ comfortable | ☐ temporary | ☐ practical | ☐ fantastic |
| ☐ convenient | ☐ permanent | ☐ flexible | ☐ exciting |
| ☐ suitable | ☐ immense | ☐ intensive | ☐ dull |
| ☐ affordable | ☐ extinct | ☐ tranquil | |

Hobbies and sports 30

- | | | | |
|--|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| ☐ orienteering | ☐ embroidery | ☐ javelin | ☐ treadmill |
| ☐ archery | ☐ parachute | ☐ gymnasium | ☐ recreation |
| ☐ snorkelling | ☐ gardening | ☐ athlete | ☐ championship |
| ☐ skateboarding | ☐ chess | ☐ paragliding | ☐ canoeing |
| ☐ billiards | ☐ cricket | ☐ abseiling | ☐ refreshments |
| ☐ photography | ☐ rugby | ☐ snowboarding | ☐ snooker |
| ☐ pottery | ☐ badminton | ☐ windsurfing | |
| ☐ woodcarving | ☐ stadium | ☐ rafting | |

Shapes and measurement 18

- ☐ rectangular
- ☐ triangular
- ☐ polygon
- ☐ oval
- ☐ spherical
- ☐ spiral
- ☐ circular
- ☐ cylindrical
- ☐ width
- ☐ length
- ☐ altitude
- ☐ imperial
- ☐ metric
- ☐ breadth
- ☐ height
- ☐ dimensions
- ☐ frequency
- ☐ depth

Transport and vehicles 28

- ☐ cargo
- ☐ shipment
- ☐ container
- ☐ lifeboat
- ☐ ferry
- ☐ hovercraft
- ☐ hydrofoil
- ☐ narrowboat
- ☐ dinghy
- ☐ kayak
- ☐ gondola
- ☐ aircraft
- ☐ helicopter
- ☐ seaplane
- ☐ balloon
- ☐ passenger
- ☐ platform
- ☐ automobiles
- ☐ minibus
- ☐ lorry
- ☐ tanker
- ☐ forklift
- ☐ caravan
- ☐ tractor
- ☐ tram
- ☐ underground
- ☐ subway
- ☐ freight

Weather 6

- ☐ humid
- ☐ breeze
- ☐ chilly
- ☐ freezing
- ☐ forecast
- ☐ moisture

Places in town 7

- ☐ parliament
- ☐ restaurant
- ☐ canteen
- ☐ bookshop
- ☐ council
- ☐ studio
- ☐ kindergarten

Equipment and tools 12

- ☐ helmet
- ☐ instrument
- ☐ cassette
- ☐ silicon
- ☐ monitor
- ☐ gadget
- ☐ device
- ☐ brakes
- ☐ mechanical
- ☐ backpack
- ☐ disk
- ☐ antenna

The arts and media 15

- ☐ opera
- ☐ concert
- ☐ symphony
- ☐ conductor
- ☐ vocalist
- ☐ audience
- ☐ festival
- ☐ carnival
- ☐ classical
- ☐ gallery
- ☐ museum
- ☐ ballet
- ☐ graphics
- ☐ newspaper
- ☐ television

Materials 16

- ☐ aluminium
- ☐ copper
- ☐ rubber
- ☐ ceramics
- ☐ cement
- ☐ textile
- ☐ cotton
- ☐ fabric
- ☐ leather
- ☐ lumber
- ☐ composite
- ☐ fibreglass
- ☐ concrete
- ☐ feathers
- ☐ steel
- ☐ beeswax

Colours 3

- ☐ grey
- ☐ purple
- ☐ yellow

Other common Listening words 98

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|--|
| ☐ passport | ☐ literary | ☐ man-made | ☐ tenancy |
| ☐ individual | ☐ umbrella | ☐ population | ☐ instalments |
| ☐ variety | ☐ sewer | ☐ reception | ☐ guarantor |
| ☐ sector | ☐ democracy | ☐ car park | ☐ recycling |
| ☐ gender | ☐ lunar | ☐ hospital | ☐ playground |
| ☐ creativity | ☐ calendar | ☐ botanical | ☐ teenagers |
| ☐ inhabitant | ☐ conservation | ☐ sanctuary | ☐ wheelchair |
| ☐ indigenous | ☐ expectancy | ☐ enrolment | ☐ refurbishment |
| ☐ demonstration | ☐ magnet | ☐ cathedral | ☐ barley |
| ☐ entrance | ☐ dialect | ☐ fountain | ☐ vineyard |
| ☐ circuit | ☐ ramification | ☐ opposite | ☐ orchard |
| ☐ dialogue | ☐ farewell | ☐ between | ☐ riverbank |
| ☐ carriage | ☐ welfare | ☐ approximately | ☐ summit |
| ☐ narrative | ☐ evolution | ☐ discount | ☐ wildlife |
| ☐ chocolate | ☐ revolution | ☐ confirm | ☐ migrating |
| ☐ satellite | ☐ illiteracy | ☐ cancelled | ☐ tortoises |
| ☐ decision | ☐ proficiency | ☐ equipment | ☐ mangrove |
| ☐ prototype | ☐ sufficient | ☐ application | ☐ wetland |
| ☐ attitude | ☐ junior | ☐ postponed | ☐ meadow |
| ☐ routine | ☐ senior | ☐ allowance | ☐ estuary |
| ☐ fulfilment | ☐ robot | ☐ furnished | ☐ plateau |
| ☐ recipient | ☐ prize | ☐ electricity | ☐ swamp |
| ☐ ultrasound | ☐ traffic | ☐ dishwasher | ☐ conversation |
| ☐ procedures | ☐ safety | ☐ balcony | |
| ☐ opportunity | ☐ fund-raising | ☐ housekeeping | |