

Female Voice: You are now listening to the IELTS podcast. Learn from tutors and ex-examiners who are masters of IELTS preparation. Your host Ben Worthington.

Ben: Hello there IELTS podcast listeners. In this tutorial, we are going to look at IELTS vocabulary, specifically, and this is a very specific subtopic, we are going to look at immigration and employment, but mainly immigration.

Now, this is an active learning lesson. That is, that means that I don't want you just to sit back and passively absorb this information. Although that's better than doing nothing, what I want you to do, what I would like you to do in this tutorial is grab a pen. That's the first step. Grab a pen because-- let me give you an overview.

First, we're going to look at the vocabulary, the terms and definitions very briefly. Then we're going to look at possible questions. Then we're going to look at a possible essay plan and at the end, I will tell you a formula that will help you learn the vocabulary. Rather than learning the lists, we learn the formula for building our own list.

This final point is much more powerful than learning the lists and I can say that from personal experience of learning another language. Also, it just makes more sense. Right, let's jump straight into it. First of all, I'm going to give you the collocations. The collocations are very useful.

The more collocations we use and the longer the collocation, the more natural we sound when we are speaking that language. So, a collocation is a pairing of two or more words that are found, that are statistically found in the language with a high percentage of being together than separately. Let's go straight into it.

So, one of these: refugee group. An example of this phrase: "Refugee groups are coming to the United States to escape violence in their native countries." 2) Increased movement. "Increased movement of immigrants from Mexico is due to conflict in the Mexican society."

Developing world: the developing world usually means the north, the western sides, the western parts of the world. So, we're talking about North America and European Union.

Nowadays, there's probably pockets of Asia in that as well. Singapore, Hong Kong, Japan, and Korea. These are all classed as the developed world.

Western countries. I think that's quite obvious. Public opinion. What does public opinion mean? Well, that's like a temperature gauge, a temperature reading of the situation of the public, of the issue. So, "Public opinion about Europe in England at the moment is probably quite low or skeptical due to all this Brexit pullover."

Next one: middle-income countries. Right, I guess this would mean the countries that are between the ones that are right at the top such as Japan, Singapore, Hong Kong and the ones which are below the top ones, but are not sort of like as poor as some of the poorest. Some middle-income countries that come to mind might be Mexico, Hungary, Poland, these kinds of countries.

Multi-cultural societies. That's quite straight forward. Global situation. Global situation is again quite straight forward. "The global situation at the moment is probably-- in an-- in economic terms prosperous." The economies are growing and there's no crisis as yet on the horizon. International community: that's quite straight forward. That's a collection of basically of the international bodies, I guess.

Next one. Let's look at the possible questions we can get related to this topic. Now, what I would like you to do, going back to the active learning component is, I hope you were doing it before, is writing down the terms I was sharing and the description. Now, let's go through these questions and I will give you the process that I use and when I am writing my own essays.

So, "An increasingly amount of people are emigrating from third world to western countries to fill openings in special job fields like engineering, computing, and medicine. Some think that by encouraging this immigration rich countries are stealing from the poor. Others feel that this is only a natural movement." Explain your opinion and why.

Right. A lot of information there. Step one, which I always find the most straight forward and the easiest to do is we simplify the question. So, let's start. "An increasing amount of people are emigrating from the third world to the rich in specialist fields," okay? That's the premise.

"Some people think that the rich are stealing from poor countries. Others think that it's natural." So, we've got two points there. We've kind of got the topic, which is emigrating from poor to rich, specialist fields and then we've got the two ideas. These two ideas, what are they?

Well, the rich countries are stealing from the poor and number two, it's a natural movement. Two ideas-- also, that serves very well for two paragraphs. So, I'm going to dedicate one paragraph about some people think that by encouraging this immigration, rich countries are stealing from the poor.

And I went back to the question there just to make sure I'm completely on topic and then my second paragraph is others feel that this is only natural movement. So, I've now simplified the question. I broke it up and now I have assigned ideas to parts of the question.

Now, I'm going to think of material, of what I can put into these body paragraphs that I've decided I'm going to build my essay around. So, ideas. "Some people think that by encouraging this immigration, rich countries are stealing from the poor."

Yes, I think that's the case. The rich are definitely stealing from the poor. We have a brain drain. We have the rich countries losing the best employees, and it's difficult for the poor countries to ever get ahead. This is a terrible situation, okay? So, I have kind of already expressed my opinion and I'm going to support the poorer countries in this case.

Body paragraph two, it's a natural movement. Now, I might contradict myself. I'm going to say, yes, it's a natural movement. For example, in the European Union in the early 2000s, the West accepted the former Eastern Bloc which includes Hungary, Poland, Romania, Latvia.

All of the-- a lot of the population moved to the West and they greatly increased their income and a lot of them send the money home. So, it's win-win. It's really natural. It's really positive and it was really good, okay? Those are my ideas. I'll probably develop them a little bit further.

So, that's how I'm going to attack that question. I have sketched it out and now I can put my ideas into coherent paragraphs. As I said before on my online course, there is a very easy-to-follow tutorial on how to put those ideas into coherent paragraphs.

The first thing is getting to that point where we can dissect the question and we can assign the ideas to parts of the question and then we can build our paragraphs. It's really quite straight forward. Also, in the online course, there is a whole module dedicated to this. What I've basically just done now and how to do it.

Next question: "Some people believe that the government should give health care benefits to all employed people even if they are illegal immigrants." Body paragraph number one: What is your view on this issue? Explain specific reasoning.

Nothing counts in the question. So, I'm going to give my view in body paragraph one and body paragraph two. I'll probably, just for the ease of simplicity, I'm going to go with it's-- let's see. "Some people believe that the government should give health care benefit to all employed people even if they are illegal immigrants."

Yes. They should give health care benefits because it's a universal right and because it's probably cheaper for society in the long run and two, this is the model most developed countries follow. That's body paragraph number one.

Body paragraph two, if there are illegal immigrants and working and if they are allowed to work, then they should be allowed health care coverage. I don't know. Maybe I would just think of an example from the United States and say that, I don't know, something about immigrants in the United States costing the economy, I don't know, 50 billion a year because of retraining when the employee leaves because of sickness and has to return to their country to get health care and the cost of retraining, re-finding new employees greatly exceeds that of granting basic healthcare to a large majority of people i.e. illegal immigrants.

Okay, there's the plan. Same thing as before. I'm dedicating paragraphs or I'm allocating, that's a better word, I'm allocating ideas to each paragraph and then I'm building it out and I'm

brainstorming then I'm going to put it into a clear coherent structure which is going to score points for task response.

Next one. "Unemployment is a very serious issue in many developing nations across the world today. How can we solve the problem of unemployment in poor nations in order to boost the economies of these countries?" Okay, once again, one more question. Just one question. No follow-on question. One question which I will spread over two body paragraphs.

My personal favorite is to just always go for two body paragraphs. I think I won't go into it now, but I just think it's the most effective way to write your IELTS essay. Now, how can we solve the problem of unemployment in poorer nations in order to boost the economies of these countries?

So, two very similar body paragraphs. Well, we can boost it by, I don't know, reducing taxes, which in theory increases investment which stimulates the economy. That could be one idea and then give an example to boost this, to boost the credibility of my claim and I probably have to expand this a little bit more so maybe give two reasons.

One would be, I don't know, increased training programs so the workforce is more skilled. Number two, decreased taxes to improve investment and then give an example. Now I've got like roughly three points. That's quite a substantial body paragraph especially if I expound them and go into details.

Body paragraph number two. Boosting unemployment in poor nations. Boosting employment in poorer nations. Let's see. So, what could we do as a government I guess is the assumption. We could do what China did in the 1970s which is allocate areas called special enterprise zone or special economic areas, I can't remember exactly the name. There the government just gives land to foreign companies to use on the premise that they employ people.

Okay, so basically what we're saying is give incentives to foreign companies to come and invest in the poorer country. Okay, and then, for example, China. Then we just put all of that together in our second body paragraph and we've got an essay. We've got the outline of an essay.

Also, you hopefully will have realized I'm only focusing on my body paragraphs and that's because the introduction and the conclusion are going to be derived from the body paragraph. That's why I always focus on my body paragraphs first. I make sure that the body paragraph plan, which is what you've just heard me talk about, I make sure that it corresponds to the task response.

Then from there, I make sure that my ideas correspond to-- I make sure that the body paragraph ideas correspond to the question. Then I make sure the ideas for this body paragraph also correspond to the question by repeating the question numerous times and then I can give examples related to these ideas and this is what-- yes, I'm focusing on my body paragraphs always.

The introduction and the conclusion are going to be derived from my body paragraphs. That's why I just focus on my body paragraphs first. Any essay tutor who tells you to start your Task 2 writing exam by just looking at the-- just writing the introduction is crazy, is absolutely crazy.

You need to think about this in a little more depth and you need to think about this a little bit more strategically first. You look at the question and you plan and you brainstorm and you allocate ideas. Once you've got a good solid plan for your body paragraphs, then you jump into the introduction, okay?

Or then you make a few notes for your introduction and a few notes for your conclusion and then you write it. You basically transfer your notes from your paper onto your essay. Now, that's a solid essay writing process. So, run away if any tutor tells you to sit down in the exam and not make a plan first. That's a very, very powerful tip to fail your exam.

Right, I got a little bit off topic there. Let's jump into it. By the way, if you're doing this tutorial online at ieltspodcast.com you'll see that I've included a TED Talk video into the page, into the tutorial. That's because you'll hear the same vocabulary terms I've just been mentioning in the beginning, but you'll hear them in context and learning vocabulary in context is key.

Now, we've gone through the topic specific collocations and we've gone through the possible questions, possible essay plans. Now, we're going to have a very brief look at a model essay,

which is also in the tutorial at ieltspodcast.com. We're going to look at this model essay and I'll give you a few tips on how we can improve it.

So, and then after this, I will tell you the formula that I mentioned earlier about learning the vocabulary. Not learning it in a list, but learning it through the formula. So, let's have a look at that model essay.

Now, the question is, the first question that we had from our list is, "An increasing amount of people are emigrating from third world to western countries to fill openings in special job fields like engineering, computing, and medicine. Some think that by encouraging this immigration rich countries are stealing from the poor. Others feel that this is only a natural movement." Explain your opinion and why.

Let's look at the model essay we wrote. So, this is kind of a basic essay, okay? It's really quite straight forward. Possibly on a good day, you'll get about 7 maybe 7.5. I'd say a 7 because it's not fancy, but the grammar is good. It's perfect. Anyway, let's start.

"While an increasing number of people are moving from developing countries to western countries in order to pursue job opportunities, this is not a method of rich stealing from the poor, but a helpful way for people to find opportunity and success in the West."

Now, my first criticism is that it's taken words directly from the question. The examiner can't give you points if you do that because you've just taken-- you haven't shown your own vocabulary and it's pretty much just a paraphrase.

So, the question, "An increasing amount of people are immigrating from third world to western countries." The start of the essay, "While an increasing number of people are moving from developing countries to western countries in order to pursue job opportunities, this is not a method of rich stealing from the poor but, a helpful way for people to find opportunity and success in the West."

So, we've used stealing. There's plenty of different words for stealing. You could even say method of the rich-- my answer says, "...a method of rich stealing from the poor." That's okay,

but I'm going to make it parallel. I'm going to say, "This is not a method of the rich stealing from the poor." Now it just reads a little better and it's a little smoother and it's easier on the ears.

So, we were looking for another word for stealing. You can say taking or extracting wealth, that's much better, isn't it? "This is not a method of the rich extracting wealth from the poor." You can even say extracting human capital from the poor.

So, once again, although the introduction is fine because we are basically paraphrasing the question, we still want to look for opportunities to substitute vocabulary and use our own vocabulary rather than the vocabulary given to us in the question.

Now, starting with while is good because we are starting with a conjunction there and gets us off to a good start especially if we've used it effectively and correctly, which is exactly what we did because we've said, "While there's an increasing number of people..., this is not..."

So, let's get back to substituting some of these words. Okay, an increasing amount of people is the phrase from the question. In our answer, we've got an increasing number of people. So, we've changed amount to number. A number of people. An amount of people. But what type of people are they? Well, these are migrants. So, let's call them migrants rather than say people.

"While an increasing number of migrants are moving..." There's got to be a more specific term. In the question, it says emigrating. Are transferring, are mobilizing. Maybe I'll just leave that as moving for simplicity. Okay. Also, there's one more opportunity to improve it.

It says-- our answer says, "...from developing countries to western countries in order to pursue new job opportunities..." Well, in the question it says, "...in special job fields such as engineering, computing, and medicine..." So, what are we going to say instead?

Well, we can say, "...from-- let's see, from developing countries to western countries in order to pursue specialist job opportunities..." Although we are using special, we're using a different form. We are saying specialist, which is okay. Or experts or career opportunities in highly specialized fields, or highly specialized job sectors. That's much better.

It's basically the same as special job fields like engineering, computing, medicine. So, there we go. That's the introduction rephrased. So what I'm doing here is just going through looking for opportunities to improve the vocabulary. The basic argument, the basic structure is fine. Perhaps it's a little brief, but it's fine for now.

"Firstly, rich countries are not stealing from the developing world by welcoming these workers because these workers willingly choose to come to western countries such as the United States and Europe." Now, my first critic of this sentence is how many times do we have to say workers? Twice and even worse we said, "...welcoming these workers because these workers willingly choose to come to western countries such as the United States and Europe."

Okay. So, first, can I organize the sentence so I don't have to say these workers twice? Let's have a look. "Firstly, rich countries are not stealing from developing countries-- are not stealing from the developing world by welcoming these workers. This is because they usually or this is because they willingly choose to come to western countries in the United States and Europe."

Much simpler than I thought. We're just going to use they and it's quite straight forward that they refer to these workers because we just mentioned it a few seconds ago. Now, then-- also, another way we can improve it, and this is going to be an improvement for two reasons. We say in the first line, we say, "Firstly, rich countries are not stealing from the developing world."

That's okay. It's clear. The examiner knows where you are going with this. However, we can make it better because we've got a negative construction and the negative constructions can be, in most cases, transformed and we use a negative verb or even better, we could just rephrase it. So let's see.

"Firstly, it is a false accusation to state rich countries are thieving from the developing world by welcoming these workers. This is because they willingly choose to come to western countries."

Okay, so I've replaced stealing by thieving and instead of saying not stealing, it's just kind of-- it's basic, isn't it? Instead of saying that, I'm going to say it's a false accusation.

That's much richer, isn't it? It's much more-- sounds much more sophisticated and this is what we focus on in the sentence guide in the advanced chapters about how we can upgrade your

language using alternatives to negative constructions and using statements and special phrases to get around these basic negative constructions. Let's move on.

I would also probably if I had time rephrase the last part of that sentence, "...western countries like the United States and Europe..." because there are no western countries in the United States. There's only one, but there are western countries in Europe. So, it makes sense for Europe, but it doesn't really make sense for the United States.

Maybe I'll just rephrase it for accuracy and say, "...willingly choose to come to western countries in Europe and the United States." Still not much better. I'll just say, "...willingly choose to come to North America and Europe." So, I kind of made it parallel, which is another technique taught in the course, but basically when I'm making it parallel I'm just saying two continents here: North America and Western Europe.

Yes, that sounds better actually. North America and Western Europe. One two and one two. That's a very crude description of parallelism. Next sentence. "Studies show that public opinion agrees and believes that this increased movement..." How many times are we going to say increased? We've already said it twice and the examiner said it in the question.

So, we've got to find an alternative especially if we've already used it once in our introduction. "Studies show that public opinion agrees and believes that this transfer of human capital... that this-- let's see, that this trend, that this upward trend of professional workers..." That's better, isn't it?

Of professional employees or professional-- what's another word for employees? Workers, contractors, candidates. There are quite a few different ones. I'm just going to go for workers now just for simplicity. "...that this rising trend of professionals..." That's the word. "...that this rising trend of professionals is helpful to the international community."

Is helpful a word that we've got in the question? No. I was going to say if we had helpful in the-- if we would have said it before or if we've got it in the question, we have said it before, so, therefore, next time, I'm just going to say it's beneficial, okay?

"...is beneficial to the international community. Both the workers..." Maybe we can even say the sectors or the industrial sectors the workers work in. I don't know. Anyway, "Both the workers in the western countries benefit from this transition." I haven't really explained why.

So, maybe before going into the fact that it's beneficial or that they both benefit from this transition, I'm going to explain why. It just makes the essay a little bit more coherent, okay? So, "Studies show that this public-- that show the public opinion agrees and believes that this increased movement is helpful to the international community." Good.

"Most people believe it is beneficial because companies can find workers at a lower pay rate and this enables them to grow and expand even faster and eventually employ more people." I've got to really back up with a reasonable claim and a stronger argument. What I've just said. I'll give a reason why the public opinion believes that it's better.

"Both the workers and the western countries benefit from this transition." That's just reconfirming what I said before. "Therefore this movement for employment is a good thing." What a horrible way to finish! "...a good thing." How much more basic do you want to make it? Good and thing are amongst the first words we learn when we learn a language.

So, what could we say that is good? Beneficial, I'd say advantageous, tremendous, specific-- no, that's ridiculous. It's a spiffing thing. No, we're going to say, "Therefore, this movement for employment is tremendous-- is a tremendous development for the businesses of these countries, not to mention the-- what's it called when they send money back home? Not to mention the money gained and sent home by the migrants."

It begins with 'r'. Reprimands? No. Retributions? Anyway, I'm just going to add on one final thought there just to give two benefits. "Not only is it beneficial to the workers-- not only is it beneficial for the company, but it's also beneficial for the worker."

Right, I'm pretty certain it's time to end. Now, I'm not going to go any further with this essay analysis, this model essay analysis. It's just going to be more of the same. Looking for opportunities to change, improve, or vary the vocabulary.

Looking for opportunities to improve the style, make the construction sentence, unparalleled structures, and also improving the quality of the argument by giving stronger reasons, more reasons and explaining it. That's a very rough overview.

Now, we'll go into the formula for improving-- for building your vocabulary. So, at the beginning, I said that the lists, it's okay. It's better than nothing. The formula for learning vocabulary is 1) be an active learner. When you hear a term, you write it down and you write it down in the context that you heard it.

2) Increase the frequency of which you hear this vocabulary. This means putting yourself in an immersive environment. So, you listen to BBC or CNN news every morning and you'll hear the type of vocabulary that you need to be scoring a band 7 or above in your writing. Also in your speaking and probably as well in your listening and reading.

If you're hearing it daily and you're writing it down, then you're putting yourself in the best place possible to improve your vocabulary. Just learning a whole new list isn't going to be that effective because you're not really going to learn it in its true context.

If you make your environment immersive i.e. you're always with your headphones listening to my podcast or BBC podcast but just constantly listening. Audio books are really good for this as well because you get addicted, but it's not the type of vocabulary that you're probably going to find. For example, a Harry Potter audio book won't get you that far because you're not going to get questions about dragons, wizards, wands and spells and all that kind of magic vocabulary.

You're probably not going to get that in your IELTS test. You're going to get day-to-day global concerns; global issues vocabulary by listening to the news, BBC, CNN, Fox, all of that stuff. All of that stuff. So, you're actively learning it. You are actively writing it down. You're hearing it and learning it in context.

Then the final step is to reuse it. Reuse it in your essay writing. Go back to your journal where you've got all this new vocabulary. Start using it at least three times just so you are on top of it and it sticks in your mind.

Right, that's everything from me. Thank you very much for being with us today on this tutorial.
Have a great day and good luck with your IELTS preparation.

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