



IELTS VOCABULARY

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[Music]

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.

[Music]

Ben: Hello there, IELTS students. My name is Ben Worthington and in this tutorial, we are looking at some vocabulary related to school and education. You can use this vocabulary not only in your writing exam but also in your speaking exam. Then after we've gone through the list of vocabulary, I'm going to give you some model answers and I'll highlight the vocabulary used. It's going to be the same I gave you in the list before and then I'll break down the answers and just give you a brief overview of why I think it's a good answer and highlight the strategies that you could use in your answers.



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Now, I recommend before we jump into this that you grab a pen and as I've said in previous episodes, to make this into an active listening exercise to get full value out of the tutorial. Write down the words, but don't write them down in English. Write them down in your own language and then later today, just try and translate them back into English. Maybe listen to the tutorial a few times. Listen again and then come back to your list in your own language and then try and translate it. This way it's more likely that you'll remember them. It's more of a challenge and you just get more value from this whole tutorial.

So, if you are listening for the first time, my name is Ben Worthington and I'm from England although some people say I don't sound English anymore. English people say that, but non-native English speakers usually pick up on the English accent, but the reason why English people say I don't sound English is because I speak slower.



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Why do I speak slower? Well, I've been an English teacher for a long time. Nobody understood my normal accent which was Yorkshire and you'll probably hear remnants or little traces of my old Yorkshire accent especially with my vowels like bus, for example, bus. Some of the vowel sounds definitely come out Yorkshire.

Anyway, I moved away from England about 15 years ago and then I started teaching English in Spain and I quickly specialized in IELTS because in IELTS, we know what is working. If I teach you using a different strategy and you fail, then that strategy is useless. Only in exam preparation English can we really tell if what we're doing is effective or not as teachers because we get the scores back. If we're just doing general English or conversation classes, we don't really get that feedback, so it's difficult to improve.

So, I was really determined to help students improve and pass. That's why I started this podcast because every now and again, I will interview experts. I'll get some of the best tips maybe from



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linguistic experts, from pronunciation experts, from polyglots and then test out those tips, test out that advice with my own students and then if it works, I will put it into our online course. So, that's just a brief overview of who I am, where I came from, and how I can help you.

So, if you are struggling with the IELTS, just remember if you go to ieltpodcast.com you can join our online course and we've tested so many different strategies now and we've got it down to a really effective powerful system. We're so confident we've got the guarantee of jump to band 7 or it's free. I'll say that again. We've got the guarantee that we can get you to a 7 or it's free.

Now, I'll be totally honest. There is a small kind of like the small print is that you need to be at 6.5 in the writing. However, we're very confident with our strategies, with the feedback we give, with the whole course that this has gotten students from band 7 up to band 8.5 in the writing. We've got students from 5.5 up to 6.5 even up to 7 in some cases. So, wherever you are-- whatever grade you're at, I'm pretty sure we can help you improve. We put the guarantee on



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from 6.5 to 7 or jump to band 7 or it's free because that's what most students are aiming for and it's just easier to communicate and that's what most of our students are doing.

But as I said, we've gotten students up to 8.5, we got them from 5.5 to 7.5, so it's definitely not impossible. It's just a case of giving feedback-- you writing the essays, us giving you feedback and this is how we improve your scores and your essays.

So, let's jump into it. As I said, today we are focusing on school and education vocabulary. So, let's go. First term. Authentic. Authentic. Is it real? Is it true? Is this authentic ale you could say. Probably not the best for example in a podcast about school and education vocabulary. Is it an authentic textbook or is it a rip-off? Is it a copy? Is it a counterfeit textbook? So, if it's authentic it comes from Cambridge I guess. If it's a rip-off maybe it's a PDF that's been scanned and it's not authentic anymore.



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Let's go. Old-school strict. This is a term and it basically means it's kind of like an old-fashioned style of teaching where the whole classroom was in silence. The teacher probably smashed the ruler on the table possibly even a little bit violent. It's the old-school strict style.

Teacher-centered where the teacher is leading the class and then we've got terms like encourage collaboration. This is where you might be told to break off into partners. Pressure to meet deadlines. Nice little phrase there. We all probably remember maybe at college or especially at uni you'll have some deadlines to meet and you need to-- and that's basically you've got pressure to meet deadlines.

Assignments. Could be homework or essays. Learning expectations. That's a nice term as well. So, this is what the teacher expects from the student. Role plays. Where you're basically acting out a situation. That's popular in language classes and never in my language classes because I thought it was a waste of time. I just remember at our university we got role plays and we never



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did them because the teacher just told us to break off into classes and we just chatted in English. We were supposed to chat about buying groceries in Spanish or whatever and it never happened. So, if you've got super disciplined students then it probably works or very enthusiastic students it probably works, but in my experience, role plays never worked.

Anyway, dictation. This is probably from the old-school style of teaching. The teacher says it and the students have to write it down. This I was a fan of. Maybe you might think my classes were a little bit boring. Maybe they were, but they were definitely effective.

Inspiring. So, this is something that makes you want to improve. You want to do better. Hopefully, I'm inspiring you to improve your IELTS grades, for example. Intonation. We all know what this is. This is like the singing sound of speech I guess and it's very important with teaching. You can control a class with your intonation.



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Then we've got league tables. This is where the schools are ranked like a premier league table where football teams are ranked based on their performance. We've got league tables in the UK for schools as well. Alumni is a formal way to talk about the students who used to go to a certain school. And we've got a boarding school where the students actually sleep and live there during term time.

Extracurricular activity such as-- it's like not activity and it's outside of the curriculum. So, it could be like sport, for example. Then we've got peer group which is like students your own age in your class. So, it might be peer group review where you review each other's coursework. And then we've got remote teaching or remote learning where you're not physically in the university or school or college, but you're at home with your laptop.

All right. So ideally, you've listed those terms in your own language and we'll go through now some sample answers and as I said, I will break down these sample answers just to give you an



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overview. I'll break down these sample answers just to give you an overview of what's happening and maybe the good features and the poor features as well.

So, first question for an IELTS Speaking Part 1 practice test. What did you enjoy most when you were at school? Well, school feels like a long time ago now as I'm currently at university, but I do remember really enjoying English lessons. We were lucky enough to have a native speaking English teacher which was usual, but it gave us the opportunity to be inspired by hearing authentic pronunciation and that teacher told very funny stories to keep us focused.

Excellent. It's a brief answer. We don't have to go into a lot of detail for Part 1. Remember in this section-- in Part 1, we're basically just getting comfortable with the situation and probably tuning in to the examiner's accent or just tuning in to how they speak just so we're avoiding those problems that might come later when we get more technical or more advanced questions. And also, we're just getting familiar with the whole exam environment I guess.



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So, a good start to this answer was at the beginning. It says school feels like a long time ago now. We've got that tiny, tiny-- it's not an anecdote. It's just a reference and we've got a long time ago which is a nice collocation. It's the appropriate use of a collocation there. As-- comparative there-- as I'm currently at university, but I do remember really enjoying English lessons. Beautiful.

We were lucky enough... That's a nice little structure there, but we are answering the question. We've put a little reference to the past and then we answered the question directly basically saying we've got an authentic-- well, we've got a native English speaker and the student liked this because it offered them authentic pronunciation. That's the term I used before; authentic pronunciation. You've heard me talk about authentic material as well. So, yes. Just a brief answer there.



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Next question. Do you think a teacher should be friendly or strict? When I was at school, our teachers were old-school strict and very traditional, so our lessons were teacher-centered. As children, we were not encouraged to ask questions or voice our opinions. However, today thankfully, classes are more student-centered and encourage collaboration and I think a more friendly teacher would be more successful.

IELTS Speaking Part 2. We've got a question. Describe a subject you enjoyed studying at school. You should say when and where you started studying it, what lessons were like, and what made it different from other subjects? Also, explain why you enjoyed the subject.

Let's go. To be honest, I found school pretty challenging for a number of reasons. We moved house quite often back then, so I had to adapt to different teachers, learning expectations, and to make new friends. However, the subject which I always was passionate about was French and I was determined to succeed in this subject.



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I started lessons when I was quite young which is common in the UK as learning languages is actively encouraged, but the standard and expectation was relatively low. So, lessons revolved around role plays asking for ice cream or bread. Our lessons involved a lot of writing and dictation which was hard and I did struggle to see the point of this as what I really wanted to learn was how to communicate and be understood. Our vocabulary was based around the family, food, and travel, and school and so it was quite useful, but not the sort of things that children really want to talk about.

I was motivated as I had already visited France on holidays and so I could see for myself the possible benefits of being able to communicate and make myself understood. The breakthrough for me came when I was around 15 with a teacher called Mrs. Green. She was half French herself, so she spoke beautifully and was rather glamorous too and her lessons were filled with laughter, games, and stories although she was very strict as well. We were all expected to study hard and to succeed in exams. She was inspiring though because she loved her subject.

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Personally, I've always enjoyed listening to languages; to the intonation and sound even if I do not understand. Once I could use the French language I had learnt in school when I visited France and later studied there, the language came alive and all that hard work as a youngster paid off.

Now, working backwards, what I like about this answer is we've got a few different anecdotes. We end with personally which is a great way to start your little anecdote and it's a really valuable opportunity for you to start talking about something personal that happened and also to include the vocabulary from your personal story.

So, in this one, we've got enjoyed listening to languages, to the intonation-- that's a word I told you about before and then it just goes on. Not only does this student say what they liked but another little anecdote about I could use the French I had learnt at school when I went to study in France and lots of different tenses there. It's a nice way to finish.



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So, starting at the beginning, we have talks about why learning French was difficult. To be honest; that's another phrase that's very handy. To be honest, I never really liked sport. To be honest, I loved learning French and also using these little fillers it just gives you time for your brain to get in gear so you can say what you want to say in a calmer, in a more eloquent fashion.

By the way, when you are doing your cue card, don't be afraid of putting in little pauses while you group together your thoughts and you think about your next point that you want to talk about. Putting in pauses is completely natural and adds a little bit of suspense. Of course, don't overdo it because it's going to get a little bit irritating, but just the odd sprinkling of little dramatic pause and then carrying on.

Now here, the student goes through the bullet points very adequately, gives good descriptions, and uses the appropriate vocabulary. So, we're talking about role plays, dictations, strict lessons--



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all of this and also quite a detailed account. The vocabulary was based around family, food, and travel, and school. So, it was quite useful.

Then the final point was what made it different from other subjects. I remember-- the student talks a nice little anecdote. Talks about Mrs. Green. She was half French. She made the language come alive. That's a nice little phrase there to drop in and the student really-- you could feel the excitement here. The student is talking about how Mrs. Green inspired them to become a better tutor and the class was filled with laughter, games, and stories although she was very strict as well.

So, there we've got all the bullet points covered. When and where, the lessons that you liked, what made it different from other subjects, and then explain why you enjoyed the subject. So, a very complete answer. No grammar errors and we've also used the vocabulary that I shared at the end.



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Now then, IELTS Speaking Part 3 styles questions. What are the benefits of a boarding school?

Now, if you don't know what a boarding school is, then you are going to find it very difficult to answer this type of question. So, what could you do if you don't understand what the term is? You could say I'm sorry I'm not entirely sure what a boarding school is, but I think it is this and then give your answer on what you think it is, okay?

That's probably the best thing you can do because saying that you are just kind of like hedging your bets. You're just making sure that okay, I'm not entirely sure, but I think it's this. So, I'm going to base my answer on that and it's not a get-out-of-jail card, but it's much better than just saying what? Or I don't understand. I'm sorry. Because if you say something like I don't understand the question, you'll probably get the same question again.

So, you're best just dealing with it and moving forward with a phrase such as well, to be honest, I'm not entirely sure what a boarding school is, but I'm guessing it's where students maybe live



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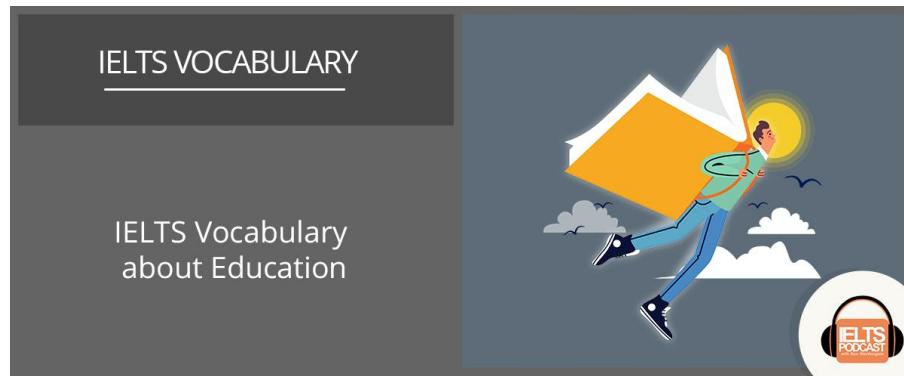
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at the school. So, the benefits of a boarding school would include and then you can start with your answer.

In this case though, the answer I'm going to give you the student does know what a boarding school is. So, as an alumni of a boarding school, I can see the upsides as well as the challenges. In some countries, children as young as eight are sent away to school either because of the high standard of education on offer or because their parents may be working overseas. Many of these schools offer a wide range of ex-curricular activities or extracurricular activities such as golf, photography, or fashion as well as the core academic subjects.

That's a nice phrase there as well; core academic subjects. What are those? Probably math, science, geography, all the traditional ones. Children usually speak of forming lifelong friendships with their peer groups as well as teachers and there is a strong concept of shared experiences.



Quite straightforward. Fortunately, the student had studied at a boarding school in their past, so a very complete answer. We've got the phrases as well: peer group, extracurricular activities, alumni. So, some great vocabulary in there as well and a complete answer.

Next one. What are the advantages of studying a distance learning course? For many people especially students who work or need more flexibility, distance or remote learning is the ideal way to study. There are several benefits that immediately come to mind, not only the cost which is far less than it would be to attend a college with high tuition fees but the ability to study at your own speed. It is usually agreed that some find this method of learning suits them better than sitting in lectures or going to tutorials which demands more self-motivation and discipline.

All right. So, we've got our answer there. We've got high tuition fees. We've got remote learning. It's well constructed and we didn't go off topic by talking about the disadvantages. We just



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focused on the advantages and we answered it adequately. There's no grammar mistakes and we've got a kind like it phrase as well. It is usually agreed.

These are useful for your IELTS Writing Task 2 as well. It is generally believed that... It is usually in this sense. It is usually agreed that some find this method of learning suits them better and it's much better saying it like that than saying everybody knows distance learning is far superior to traditional methods because that's a sweeping generalization. We want to avoid those.

Okay. So, that's my final model IELTS Speaking Part 3 answer. Remember that if you want to continue improving, then I would strongly recommend going to IELTS Podcast, sign up for our email list. You'll get lots of special offers.

Also at the moment, you'll see if you go to ieltpodcast.com we've got a special offer for the essay corrections. We'd love to see your essays and help you improve and this is the first step. This is a really-- if you're curious or if you are thinking about starting to work with us, then if



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And through this way-- through this positive feedback loop you can call it, we do see amazing results and amazing improvements in essay and language writing skills. As you probably know, every month we are interviewing successful students and hopefully, we'll interview you as well soon once you've passed. So, have a look at the course. Have a look at that at ieltpodcast.com at the top and hopefully, we'll see you on the course soon. Take care and good luck with your exam.

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