

FREE RESOURCE · COMMON ENGLISH WORDS

Common English words 111 to 120

The common English words in this set are life, man, change, place, long, between, feel, too, still, problem. Together they are everyday nouns, adjectives and linking words used to describe life, places, feelings and differences. Words like between, still and too show relationships and attitudes, which are important for Speaking Part 3 and for comparing in Writing.

The words

WORD	SOUND	MEANING	EXAMPLE
life noun	/laɪf/	The time between birth and death, or the way someone lives; the state of being alive.	<i>Quality of life is often better in small towns than in capital cities.</i>
man noun	/mæn/	An adult male person.	<i>A young man in my village built a small school for local children.</i>
change verb, noun	/tʃeɪndʒ/	To become different or to make something different; as a noun, the process of becoming different.	<i>Climate change is forcing farmers to grow different crops.</i>
place noun, verb	/pleɪs/	A particular area, building or position; as a verb, to put something in a position.	<i>The festival takes place in the old town every spring.</i>
long adjective, adverb	/lɒŋ/	Measuring a great distance or time; for a large amount of time.	<i>Long working hours can harm both health and family life.</i>
between preposition	/brɪ'twi:n/	In the space or time separating two points, people or things.	<i>There is a big difference between knowing a word and using it well.</i>
feel verb	/fi:l/	To experience an emotion or physical sensation; also to touch something.	<i>Many students feel anxious before an important test, but practice helps.</i>
too adverb	/tu:/	More than is wanted or needed; also means 'as well' (me too).	<i>Housing in the capital is too expensive for most young workers.</i>
still adverb, adjective	/stɪl/	Continuing up to now; or in spite of that; or not moving.	<i>Although he moved abroad, he still phones his parents every Sunday.</i>
problem noun	/ 'prɒbləm/	Something difficult that needs a solution; also a question to be solved.	<i>One serious problem in many cities is the lack of affordable housing.</i>

Exercises

- There are two _____ waiting outside.
a. mans

- b. men
c. man
2. She has lived in London all her _____.
a. life
b. lives
c. lifes
3. The meeting will take _____ on Friday.
a. time
b. part
c. place
4. She still _____ in the same flat.
a. lives
b. live
c. is live
5. Find the mistake and write the right form: (1) I will be (2) at work (3) between nine (4) to five.
6. Which syllable is stressed in **between**? be · tween
7. Put the words in order (one or more words are not needed): festival / place / takes / The / is / old / town. / in / the
8. Correct this: *There are three mans in the room.*
9. Which word ends with the /ŋ/ sound?
a. love
b. long
c. lock

Listening items (1) are online only and are not included in this list.

Practise online, free: hear every example and check your answers at www.ielts-laboratory.co/free-resources/common-english-words-111-120/practice/

IELTS tip. In Speaking, 'quality of life', 'a change in' and 'a serious problem' are useful phrases for topics such as cities and work. In Writing, use 'still' and 'although' to show contrast clearly.

FOR TEACHERS · COMMON ENGLISH WORDS

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AIM	Students understand, pronounce and use the common English words life, man, change, place, long, between, feel, too, still, problem, and avoid the typical mistakes noted for each word.
TIME	20 minutes
LEVEL	B1 to B2 (IELTS 5 to 6.5)
MATERIALS	This worksheet, one copy per learner; the free online practice for the audio

Warm-up

Write the ten words on the board in random order. Students say which ones they use most often in English and what they think each word does in a sentence.

Lesson steps

1. Present the ten words with their British IPA. Model each word, then students repeat chorally and in pairs, paying attention to weak forms and stress.
2. Students read the example sentences aloud, cover them, and make a new sentence about their own life with each word.
3. Students describe how life in their country has changed, using change, still and too at least once each.
4. Run the quiz as a class. For each wrong answer, ask the student to read the watch-out note and explain the rule in their own words.

Extension

Give a list of irregular plurals (man, life, child, woman). Students write one sentence for each and test a partner.

Answer key

1. b) men. The plural of man is men.
2. a) life. 'All her life' is the fixed phrase, with the singular life.
3. c) place. Take place means happen.
4. a) lives. Still goes before the main verb, and she needs -s.
5. Part 4: *to five*. → **and five**. Use between ... and ...
6. be**TWEEN**. Between is stressed on the second syllable: be-TWEEN.
7. The festival takes place in the old town. Take place is active: it does not have a passive form.
8. There are three men in the room. The plural of man is men.
9. b) long. Long ends with /ŋ/ made at the back of the mouth.

Questions learners often ask

Is it life or lives? Life is singular and lives is plural. The plural is said /laɪvz/ with a /v/ sound.

What is the difference between too and very? Very is a strong positive (very good). Too means more than needed, so it is usually a problem (too expensive).

Where does still go in a sentence? Before the main verb, after be, and before not in a negative: 'She still lives here', 'She is still here', 'She still does not know'.

Sources

- Browne, C., Culligan, B. & Phillips, J. (2013). The New General Service List (NGSL) 1.2. newgeneralservicelist.com. CC BY-SA 4.0.
- Swan, M. (2016). Practical English Usage (4th ed.). Oxford University Press.
- Wells, J. C. (2008). Longman Pronunciation Dictionary (3rd ed.). Pearson Longman.

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