

FREE RESOURCE · COMMON ENGLISH WORDS

Common English words 131 to 140

The common English words in this set are point, little, help, ask, meet, start, talk, something, put, another. Together they are high-frequency verbs and nouns for talking, helping, asking, starting and sharing ideas. Words like point, ask and talk help you take part in discussion questions in Speaking Part 3 and set out arguments in Writing Task 2.

The words

WORD	SOUND	MEANING	EXAMPLE
point noun, verb	/pɔɪnt/	A particular idea or fact in a discussion; a position or moment; or a mark or score. As a verb, to show with a finger.	<i>Another point worth making is that online lessons save travel time.</i>
little adjective, determiner	/ˈlɪtl/	Small in size; or, without 'a', hardly any (little time).	<i>Little is known about how very young children learn grammar.</i>
help verb, noun	/help/	To make it easier for someone to do something; also the support given.	<i>Volunteers help elderly people to learn how to use their phones.</i>
ask verb	/ɑːsk/	To put a question to someone, or to request something.	<i>If you do not understand a question in Part 1, you can politely ask for it to be repeated.</i>
meet verb	/miːt/	To see and speak to someone for the first time or by arrangement.	<i>Schools must meet the needs of students with different abilities.</i>
start verb, noun	/stɑːt/	To begin doing something; or to begin to happen.	<i>I started learning English when I was seven years old.</i>
talk verb, noun	/tɔːk/	To speak to someone, or to give a speech.	<i>In Part 2, you will talk about a person who has influenced you.</i>
something pronoun	/ˈsʌmθɪŋ/	A thing that is not named or known exactly.	<i>I would like to learn something new every month.</i>
put verb	/pʊt/	To move something to a place or position; or to express in words.	<i>Many cities have put limits on the number of cars in the centre.</i>
another determiner, pronoun	/əˈnʌðə/	One more, or a different one.	<i>Another reason for the change is the rising cost of fuel.</i>

Exercises

- I need some _____ with my homework.
a. helps

- b. help
c. a help
2. Could you ask the teacher _____ more time?
a. for
b. to
c. at
3. She has very _____ time to practise, so her progress is slow.
a. few
b. little
c. a little
4. Find the mistake and write the right form: (1) In (2) my point (3) of view, (4) this is a good plan.
5. Which word has a silent 'l'?
a. tell
b. talk
c. tall
6. Which syllable is stressed in **another**? a · noth · er
7. Put the words in order (one or more words are not needed): like / would / I / another / new. / learn / to / something
8. Correct this: *I saw interesting something yesterday.*
9. Could you please _____ your phone away?
a. do
b. put
c. make

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-131-140/practice/

IELTS tip. In Speaking Part 3, 'from my point of view' and 'another point is...' help you organise an opinion. In Writing, use 'a little' and 'little' with care, because they change the meaning completely.

FOR TEACHERS · COMMON ENGLISH WORDS

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AIM	Students understand, pronounce and use the common English words point, little, help, ask, meet, start, talk, something, put, another, 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 give a one-minute opinion on a topic, using 'from my point of view' and 'another point is', then a partner asks a follow-up question.
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 students a text with ask/tell mistakes and little/a little mistakes. They find and fix them.

Answer key

1. b) help. Help is uncountable here.
2. a) for. Ask for means request something.
3. b) little. 'Very little' means hardly any time. 'Very a little' is not possible, and few is for countable nouns.
4. Part 1: *In* → **From**. The correct phrase is 'from my point of view'.
5. b) talk. The l is silent in talk. It is pronounced in tall and tell.
6. a**NOTH**er. Another is stressed on the second syllable: a-NOTH-er.
7. I would like to learn something new. Adjectives come after something.
8. I saw something interesting yesterday. The adjective comes after something.
9. b) put. Put something away is the fixed phrase.

Questions learners often ask

What is the difference between a little and little? 'A little' is positive and means some. 'Little' is negative and means hardly any.

Is it ask for or ask to? Ask for a thing (ask for help). Ask someone to do something (ask him to help).

How do I say talk? Say /tɔ:k/ with a long vowel and no l sound. It sounds like 'tork' without the r in British English.

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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