

FREE RESOURCE · COMMON ENGLISH WORDS

Common English words 161 to 170

The ten words in this set (home, never, include, course, house, report, group, case, woman, around) are very common in IELTS topics such as housing, study and the family. Many have a near twin that learners mix up, like home and house or course and coarse, so learning their partners matters as much as learning the meaning.

The words

WORD	SOUND	MEANING	EXAMPLE
home noun, adverb	/həʊm/	the place where you live; also, to or at the place where you live.	<i>Working from home saves commuters a lot of time.</i>
never adverb	/ˈnevə/	at no time; not ever.	<i>I have never travelled outside my own country.</i>
include verb	/ɪnˈkluːd/	to have something as one part of a whole.	<i>The course includes a short research project.</i>
course noun	/kɔːs/	a series of lessons on a subject; also, a direction or way of acting.	<i>She took a short course in marine biology last year.</i>
house noun, verb	/haʊs/	a building where people live, usually for one family; as a verb, to provide a place for people or things.	<i>House prices have risen faster than wages in many cities.</i>
report noun, verb	/rɪˈpɔːt/	a spoken or written account of what was found or done; to give such an account.	<i>According to the report, bus use has fallen in rural areas.</i>
group noun, verb	/gruːp/	a number of people or things that belong together.	<i>A small group of students collected the data for the project.</i>
case noun	/keɪs/	a particular situation or example; a legal matter; a container (a suitcase, a pencil case).	<i>In this case, the government chose to subsidise train fares.</i>
woman noun	/ˈwʊmən/	an adult female person.	<i>More women than men now study medicine at some universities.</i>
around adverb, preposition	/əˈraʊnd/	on all sides of; in different places; also, about or approximately.	<i>Tourists walk around the old town to see the markets.</i>

Exercises

- After the lecture, I went _____ and slept for two hours.
 - to home
 - home

- c. at home
2. I have _____ eaten sushi before.
- a. never
 - b. not never
 - c. ever
3. Find the mistake and write the right form: (1) Take a coat (2) in case of (3) it rains (4) this evening.
4. Put the words in order (one or more words are not needed): a small garden / Our new house / include / includes
5. Correct this: *She goes to home by bus every evening.*
6. Which syllable is stressed in **report**? re · port
7. Which word has the same vowel sound as the first vowel in woman?
- a. good
 - b. guess
 - c. green
8. Last year she took a _____ in marine biology.
- a. cause
 - b. course
 - c. coarse
9. We walked _____ the old town for two hours.
- a. between
 - b. among
 - c. around

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-161-170/practice/

IELTS tip. In Speaking Part 1, questions about your home are common. Answer with a full phrase: I live in a flat with my family, and I have lived there for about five years. In Writing, use house prices and the housing market instead of the cost of houses to sound more natural.

FOR TEACHERS · COMMON ENGLISH WORDS

Common English words 161 to 170

AIM	Learners recognise, pronounce and use ten high-frequency words (home, never, include, course, house, report, group, case, woman, around) accurately in IELTS-style sentences.
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

Ask learners to draw their home in one minute and describe it to a partner in two sentences. Note any use of house, home or flat for later.

Lesson steps

1. Show the ten words on the board. Learners sort them into three groups: I use it, I know it but do not use it, I am not sure. Compare answers in pairs.
2. Use the Hear audio. Drill each word chorally, then individually, marking the stressed syllable. Pay attention to: the /ʊ/ in woman and the /ɪ/ in women, the stress in report, and the s and z endings of house.
3. Learners read the collocations and example sentences, then close the page and rebuild three collocations from memory. Check the watch-out notes together.
4. Learners complete the ten-item quiz alone, then explain to a partner why each wrong option is wrong.

Extension

Learners write a four-sentence paragraph about their home town using include, around, never and in case, and swap with a partner to check word choice.

Answer key

1. b) home. Home is an adverb here, so we say went home with no preposition.
2. a) never. Never already has a negative meaning, so we do not add not. Ever is used in questions, not in this kind of statement.
3. Part 2: *in case of* → **in case**. Before a clause like it rains we say in case. In case of is followed by a noun, such as in case of fire.
4. Our new house includes a small garden. The subject is singular, so the verb includes ends in s. The form include does not fit here.
5. She goes home by bus every evening. Home needs no to after a verb of movement.
6. re**PORT**. Both the noun and the verb are stressed on the second syllable: re-PORT.

7. a) good. Woman starts with the short /ʊ/ of good. Green has a long /i:/, and guess has /e/.
8. b) course. A course is a series of lessons. Coarse means rough, and cause means a reason.
9. c) around. Around means in different parts of a place. Between and among need two or more separate things.

Questions learners often ask

What is the difference between home and house? A house is a building. Home is the place where you live and belong, and it can be a flat, a room or a city. We say go home and at home with no extra word.

Is in case the same as if? No. If gives a condition. In case means you do something now because something might happen later, like taking a coat in case it rains.

How do I say the plural of woman? Women is said /'wɪmɪn/. The first vowel changes from /ʊ/ to /ɪ/, which is easy to miss in fast speech.

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 edition. Oxford University Press.

Written by Will Salisbury · IELTS Laboratory · ielts-laboratory.co/free-resources/common-english-words-161-170 · Free to copy for classroom use.