

FREE RESOURCE · COMMON ENGLISH WORDS

Common English words 191 to 200

The ten words in this set (since, run, under, turn, few, bring, early, hand, state, move) include several that decide the grammar of a whole sentence, such as since with the present perfect and few versus a few. Learning the phrase around each word is the fastest way to use it correctly in IELTS.

The words

WORD	SOUND	MEANING	EXAMPLE
since preposition, conjunction	/sɪns/	from a time in the past until now; also, because.	<i>Public interest in recycling has grown since the new scheme began.</i>
run verb	/rʌn/	to move fast on foot; to manage or operate something.	<i>She runs a small business that sells handmade furniture.</i>
under preposition	/ʻʌndə/	below or beneath; less than; affected by (under pressure).	<i>Many students feel under pressure during exam season.</i>
turn verb, noun	/tɜ:n/	to move in a new direction; to change; a chance to do something in order.	<i>Cheap flights have turned travel into a mass activity.</i>
few determiner	/fju:/	a small number; hardly any.	<i>Few young people read a newspaper every day.</i>
bring verb	/brɪŋ/	to carry or take something with you to a place.	<i>New technology can bring real benefits to rural communities.</i>
early adjective, adverb	/ˈɜ:li/	near the start of a period; before the usual time.	<i>Early childhood is the best time to start learning a new language.</i>
hand noun, verb	/hænd/	the part of the body at the end of the arm; to pass something to someone.	<i>On the one hand, cars are convenient; on the other hand, they pollute the air.</i>
state noun, verb	/steɪt/	a country or region with its own government; a condition; to say formally.	<i>The report states that water use is rising in many regions.</i>
move verb, noun	/mu:v/	to change place or position; to change home.	<i>Many families move to the capital to find work.</i>

Exercises

- I have lived in this town _____ 2015.
 - for
 - since
 - from

2. There was _____ traffic, so we arrived early.
- a. little
 - b. few
 - c. a few
3. Find the mistake and write the right form: (1) I have lived (2) here (3) since (4) five years.
4. On the one hand, cars are convenient; on the other _____, they cause pollution.
- a. side
 - b. way
 - c. hand
5. Put the words in order (one or more words are not needed): off / ran out of / time / We
6. Correct this: *She bringed her laptop to class.*
7. Which word has the same vowel sound as the first vowel in early?
- a. girl
 - b. eight
 - c. ear
8. She was _____ pressure before the exam.
- a. beneath
 - b. under
 - c. below
9. The report _____ that water use is rising.
- a. says to
 - b. tells
 - c. states
10. Which word has the same vowel sound as hand?
- a. bad
 - b. bed
 - c. bird

Practise online, free: hear every example and check your answers at www.ielts-laboratory.co/free-resources/common-english-words-191-200/practice/

IELTS tip. In Writing Task 1, use since with the present perfect to describe change up to now: Sales have risen since 2015. In Speaking Part 1, avoid the mistake I live here since by saying I have lived here since 2019.

FOR TEACHERS · COMMON ENGLISH WORDS

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AIM	Learners recognise, pronounce and use ten high-frequency words (since, run, under, turn, few, bring, early, hand, state, move) 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

Learners complete this sentence three times with true information: I have lived in... since... . Check that the present perfect and since are both used.

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 /ɜ:/ in early, turn and bring (/ɪŋ/ ending), and the final /d/ in hand and the cluster in state.
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 short paragraph on two sides of an issue (cars or public transport), using on the one hand, on the other hand, a few and few correctly.

Answer key

1. b) since. Since is used with a point in time such as 2015. For is used with a length of time such as five years.
2. a) little. Traffic is uncountable, so we use little. Few and a few are for countable nouns.
3. Part 3: *since* → **for**. Five years is a length of time, so we use for. Since needs a starting point.
4. c) hand. The fixed phrase is on the other hand. Side and way do not appear in this phrase.
5. We ran out of time. Ran out of means used all of something. The word off does not fit in this sentence.
6. She brought her laptop to class. Bring is irregular. The past form is brought.
7. a) girl. Early and girl share the long /ɜ:/ . Ear has /ɪə/, and eight has /eɪ/.
8. b) under. The fixed phrase is under pressure. Below and beneath are not used in this phrase.

9. c) states. State that means say formally and clearly. We do not say tells that or says to that.

10. a) bad. Hand and bad both have the short /æ/. Bed has /e/, and bird has /ɜ:/.

Questions learners often ask

When do I use since and when do I use for? Use since with a starting point (since 2019, since Monday). Use for with a length of time (for five years, for six months). Both usually go with the present perfect.

What is the difference between few and a few? Few means almost none and sounds negative. A few means some and sounds positive. Both are used with countable nouns.

Why is on the other hand useful in IELTS? It lets you show a second view in Writing Task 2 and Speaking Part 3, usually after on the one hand or a first point.

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.

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