

FREE RESOURCE · COMMON ENGLISH WORDS

Common English words 201 to 210

The ten words in this set (money, fact, however, area, provide, name, read, friend, month, large) are everywhere in IELTS: however links ideas in Writing, provide and area appear in essays on society, and month and friend appear in Speaking Part 1. Most mistakes come from punctuation, one irregular past form and one difficult consonant cluster.

The words

WORD	SOUND	MEANING	EXAMPLE
money noun	/ˈmʌni/	what you use to buy things; coins and notes, or an amount in a bank.	<i>Many students find it hard to save money while they study.</i>
fact noun	/fækt/	something that is true and can be checked.	<i>The fact that prices have risen is well known.</i>
however adverb	/haʊ 'evə/	used to show a contrast with what was said before.	<i>Cars are convenient. However, they cause pollution.</i>
area noun	/ˈeəriə/	a region or part of a place; a subject or field.	<i>Housing in urban areas is expensive in most countries.</i>
provide verb	/prə 'vaɪd/	to give or supply what someone needs.	<i>Governments should provide free healthcare for older people.</i>
name noun, verb	/neɪm/	the word that people use to call a person or thing; to give a name to.	<i>The city was named after a river that runs through it.</i>
read verb	/ri:d/	to look at words and understand them.	<i>I read the full report before the meeting yesterday.</i>
friend noun	/frend/	a person you know well and like.	<i>I made many friends during my first year at university.</i>
month noun	/mʌnθ/	one of the twelve parts of a year.	<i>Rents in the city rise by a small amount every month.</i>
large adjective	/lɑ:dʒ/	big in size or number; not small.	<i>A large number of tourists visit the old town each summer.</i>

Exercises

- I have finished the whole novel; I have never _____ such a long one.
 - readed
 - read
 - red

2. How is the past form of read pronounced?
- a. /ri:d/
 - b. /red/
 - c. /reɪd/
3. The company will _____ staff with free training.
- a. offer
 - b. provide
 - c. give
4. Find the mistake and write the right form: (1) Many students study hard. (2) However (3) they still feel (4) nervous.
5. Put the words in order (one or more words are not needed): saving / to save / more money / We need
6. Correct this: *The firm gave the students some moneys.*
7. There is a _____ number of cars in the city centre.
- a. large
 - b. wide
 - c. long
8. She is a close _____ from my primary school.
- a. friendship
 - b. friend
 - c. friendly
9. Please write your full _____ and date of birth.
- a. named
 - b. word
 - c. name

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-201-210/practice/

IELTS tip. In Writing Task 2, however is a clean way to move to the opposing view, as long as you punctuate it correctly. In Speaking Part 1, practise saying month, months and friends slowly so that all final consonants are heard.

FOR TEACHERS · COMMON ENGLISH WORDS

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AIM	Learners recognise, pronounce and use ten high-frequency words (money, fact, however, area, provide, name, read, friend, month, large) 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 say the date today and their birth month aloud. Listen for the /nθ/ cluster in month.

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 final clusters in fact (/kt/) and month (/nθ/), the stress in however, and the vowel change in read.
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 four contrast sentences using however with correct punctuation, then check each other's commas.

Answer key

1. b) read. The participle of read is read. It is spelled the same as the base form but said /red/.
2. b) /red/. The past form read is said /red/, like the colour red.
3. b) provide. Provide someone with something is the fixed pattern. Give staff with and offer staff with are not used.
4. Part 2: *However* → **However**. However at the start of a sentence needs a comma after it. Although and but cannot be used in this way.
5. We need to save more money. Need is followed by to and the base verb, so saving does not fit.
6. The firm gave the students some money. Money is uncountable and has no plural form.
7. a) large. We say a large number of. Long and wide describe length and width, not quantity.
8. b) friend. After close a we need a noun for a person, and that is friend.

9. c) name. A form asks for your name. Named is a verb form, and word is too general.

Questions learners often ask

How do I punctuate however? Start a new sentence with However, followed by a comma, or put a semicolon before it and a comma after it. Do not join two sentences with a comma and however.

Why does read have two sounds? The base form is /ri:d/ and the past and participle are /red/, but both are spelled read. Use the time of the sentence to choose.

Does large mean the same as long? No. Large means big in size or number. Long describes length. Spanish speakers should be careful because largo means long.

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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