



FREE RESOURCE · COMMON ENGLISH WORDS

Common English words 211 to 220

The ten words in this set (business, without, information, open, order, government, word, issue, market, pay) are the vocabulary of most Writing Task 2 essays about work, society and the economy. Learners often meet traps such as informations, goverment and pay vs pay for, and these are all easy to fix once you know the rule.

The words

WORD	SOUND	MEANING	EXAMPLE
business noun	/ˈbɪznəs/	the work of buying and selling; a company.	<i>Small businesses create many jobs in rural areas.</i>
without preposition	/wɪð'aʊt/	not having or not using something.	<i>Some people can study well without any noise around them.</i>
information noun	/ˌɪnfə'meɪʃn/	facts or details about something.	<i>Websites give learners instant information about courses.</i>
open adjective, verb	/əˈpən/	not closed; to make something not closed.	<i>Local libraries are open to everyone in the community.</i>
order noun, verb	/ˈɔːdə/	the way things are arranged; a request for goods; to ask for something to be made or brought.	<i>Governments increase taxes in order to pay for public services.</i>
government noun	/ 'gʌvənmənt/	the group of people who run a country.	<i>The government has introduced a new policy on plastic bags.</i>
word noun	/wɜːd/	a unit of language with a meaning.	<i>In other words, cheaper homes would help young families.</i>
issue noun, verb	/ˈɪʃuː/	a topic or problem that people discuss; to give out officially.	<i>Housing is an important social issue in many cities.</i>
market noun, verb	/ˈmɑːkɪt/	a place or system where goods are bought and sold.	<i>The job market is becoming more competitive for graduates.</i>
pay verb, noun	/peɪ/	to give money for something; money you receive for work.	<i>Employees expect to be paid fairly for overtime.</i>

Exercises

- You can find a lot of _____ on the university website.
 - informations
 - information
 - an information

2. Find the mistake and write the right form: (1) She left (2) the room (3) without (4) no explanation.
3. Students use the library _____ study quietly.
- a. in order for
 - b. to
 - c. for
4. Correct this: *He payed for the tickets yesterday.*
5. Put the words in order (one or more words are not needed): introduce / has introduced / a new policy / The government
6. How many syllables does business have when we say it naturally?
- a. three
 - b. two
 - c. four
7. Which syllable is stressed in **information**? in · for · ma · tion
8. Could you _____ the light, please? It is dark in here.
- a. start
 - b. turn on
 - c. open
9. The plan failed. In _____ words, it was a mistake.
- a. the other
 - b. others
 - c. other
10. Which word ends with the consonants /ld/?
- a. world
 - b. word
 - c. work

Practise online, free: hear every example and check your answers at www.ielts-laboratory.co/free-resources/common-english-words-211-220/practice/

IELTS tip. In Writing Task 2, write the government should or governments should for general claims, and spell government with its n. Use issue and market to describe social and economic topics instead of repeating problem and shop.

FOR TEACHERS · COMMON ENGLISH WORDS

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AIM	Learners recognise, pronounce and use ten high-frequency words (business, without, information, open, order, government, word, issue, market, pay) 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 name one social issue in their country and say one thing the government could do. Note use of government and issue.

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 two-syllable business, the stress in information, and the long vowel /ɜ:/ in word.
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 Task 2 paragraph on the job market, using information, without, in order to and government correctly.

Answer key

1. b) information. Information is uncountable, so it has no plural form and no article a.
2. Part 4: *no explanation*. → **any explanation**. Without already makes the sentence negative, so we use any, not no.
3. b) to. To plus the base verb shows purpose. For study and in order for study do not work.
4. He paid for the tickets yesterday. Pay is irregular: pay, paid, paid.
5. The government has introduced a new policy. Has needs a past participle, which is introduced. The base form does not fit.
6. b) two. We say BIZ-ness, with two syllables, although the spelling looks longer.
7. infor**MA**tion. The main stress is on the syllable before -tion: in-for-MA-tion.
8. b) turn on. We turn on a light. Open and start are not used with lights.

9. c) other. The fixed phrase is in other words.

10. a) world. World ends with /ld/. Word ends with /d/ only, and work ends with /k/.

Questions learners often ask

Is information countable? No. Say some information, a lot of information or a piece of information. Do not write informations.

What is the difference between pay and pay for? You pay a bill, a fee or a person directly, but you pay for things you buy or use, such as pay for a ticket.

How do I use in order to? Use it before a base verb to show purpose: in order to improve results. It is slightly more formal than to alone.

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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