



FREE RESOURCE · COMMON ENGLISH WORDS

Common English words 231 to 240

The ten words in this set (job, plan, result, away, example, happen, offer, young, close, program) cover work, plans and causes, which are the topics behind many IELTS questions. Common traps are a work for a job, close as /kləʊz/ and /kləʊs/, and programme versus program in British English.

The words

WORD	SOUND	MEANING	EXAMPLE
job noun	/dʒɒb/	the work that you do to earn money; a task.	<i>Many graduates apply for a job abroad in their first year.</i>
plan noun, verb	/plæn/	a set of ideas for what to do; to decide what to do in advance.	<i>I plan to study engineering at a university in Britain.</i>
result noun, verb	/rɪ'zʌlt/	something that happens because of something else; a score; to happen because of something.	<i>Poor sleep can result in lower marks at school.</i>
away adverb	/ə'weɪ/	to or at a distance; not here.	<i>The nearest hospital is about ten minutes away from the village.</i>
example noun	/ɪg'zɑːmpl/	something that shows what others of its type are like.	<i>For example, cities such as Paris have built cycle lanes.</i>
happen verb	/'hæpən/	to take place, especially without being planned.	<i>Accidents often happen when drivers are tired.</i>
offer verb, noun	/'ɒfə/	to say you will give or do something; something that is offered.	<i>Many universities offer scholarships to students from overseas.</i>
young adjective	/jʌŋ/	not old; having lived for a short time.	<i>Young people spend a lot of time online.</i>
close adjective, verb	/kləʊs/ (adjective), /kləʊz/ (verb)	as an adjective, near or very friendly; as a verb, to shut.	<i>The nearest school is close to my home.</i>
program noun, verb	/'prəʊgræm/	a set of instructions for a computer; in British English, a plan or TV show is programme.	<i>The training programme lasts for six months and includes a work placement.</i>

Exercises

1. She is looking for a new _____ in a hospital.
a. work

- b. job
- c. works
2. The new tax _____ in higher prices for farmers.
- a. resulted
- b. resulted from
- c. was resulted
3. The accident _____ outside the school at noon.
- a. took
- b. happened
- c. was happened
4. Find the mistake and write the right form: (1) I (2) plan (3) going (4) to Canada (5) next year.
5. Correct this: *The shop is five minutes away of my house.*
6. In which sentence is close pronounced /kləʊz/, with a z sound?
- a. They are close friends.
- b. Please close the window.
- c. The shop is close to us.
7. In British English, a TV show is spelled _____.
- a. programme
- b. programm
- c. program
8. Put the words in order (one or more words are not needed): to help / the family / helping / They / offered
9. Which syllable is stressed in **example**? ex · am · ple

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-231-240/practice/

IELTS tip. In Writing Task 2, link cause and effect with *as a result* and *result in*. In Speaking Part 1, if you are asked about your job or studies, give a full answer with a reason: *I have a part-time job because I want to be independent.*

FOR TEACHERS · COMMON ENGLISH WORDS

Common English words 231 to 240

AIM	Learners recognise, pronounce and use ten high-frequency words (job, plan, result, away, example, happen, offer, young, close, program) 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 what job they would like in ten years and why, then ask them to say one plan to reach it using plan to.

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 /dʒ/ in job, the /ʌ/ in young, and close /kləʊs/ versus /kləʊz/.
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 six sentences about a job or course they know, using result in, happen, offer to and for example with commas.

Answer key

1. b) job. Job is countable and takes a. Work is uncountable and cannot be used with a.
2. a) resulted. Result in names the effect. The sentence already contains in, so we only need resulted.
3. b) happened. Happen is never passive. Took cannot be used without place.
4. Part 3: *going* → **to go**. Plan is followed by to and the base verb.
5. The shop is five minutes away from my house. After away, the place follows from.
6. b) Please close the window. The verb close (to shut) has the z sound. The adjective close, meaning near, has an s sound.
7. a) programme. Programme is the British spelling for a show or a plan. Program is used for computers.
8. They offered to help the family. Offer is followed by to and the base verb. Helping does not fit.

9. ex**AM**ple. The stress falls on the middle syllable: ex-AM-ple.

Questions learners often ask

Is it a job or a work? Say a job. Work is uncountable and means the activity of working, so you do not say a work.

What is the difference between result in and result from? Result in names what happens afterwards (the effect). Result from names what caused it. Poor diet can result in illness; illness can result from poor diet.

Is it program or programme? In British English use programme for a plan or a TV show, and program only for computer software.

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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