



FREE RESOURCE · COMMON ENGLISH WORDS

Common English words 291 to 300

The ten words in this set (actually, rather, view, together, consider, price, parent, hard, party, local) help you give opinions and describe society in IELTS. Several are false friends or word-form traps: actually does not mean currently, parent does not mean relative, and hardly is not the adverb of hard.

The words

WORD	SOUND	MEANING	EXAMPLE
actually adverb	/ 'æktʃuəli/	in fact; used to give a true or surprising detail.	<i>People expect cities to be noisy, but some are actually quiet at night.</i>
rather adverb	/ 'rɑːðə/	to some degree; instead of; preferably.	<i>Many commuters would rather take the train than drive.</i>
view noun, verb	/ vjuː/	an opinion; what you can see from a place; to look at.	<i>In my view, governments should invest more in rail travel.</i>
together adverb	/ tə'geðə/	with each other; at the same time or place.	<i>Families who eat together tend to talk more.</i>
consider verb	/ kən 'sɪdə/	to think carefully about something; to regard as.	<i>Have you considered studying abroad?</i>
price noun	/ praɪs/	the amount of money that something costs.	<i>House prices have doubled in the city centre over the period.</i>
parent noun	/ 'peərənt/	a mother or father.	<i>Parents play a key role in a child's early education.</i>
hard adjective, adverb	/ hɑːd/	difficult; firm; with great effort.	<i>Students who work hard usually improve steadily.</i>
party noun	/ 'pɑːti/	a social event; a political group.	<i>The ruling party promised to lower taxes for families.</i>
local adjective	/ 'ləʊkl/	belonging to the area where you live; not national.	<i>Local shops often struggle to compete with large supermarkets.</i>

Exercises

1. I expected a difficult exam, but it was _____ quite easy.
 - a. actual
 - b. actually
 - c. at present

2. I would _____ walk than take the bus.
- a. rather
 - b. prefer
 - c. better
3. Find the mistake and write the right form: (1) In my (2) point of view, (3) the plan (4) is too expensive.
4. She works very _____ and always finishes early.
- a. hardly
 - b. harder
 - c. hard
5. Have you _____ studying abroad?
- a. planned about
 - b. thought
 - c. considered
6. Correct this: *She works hardly in the garden.*
7. Which syllable is stressed in **together**? to · ge · ther
8. My _____, my mother and father, both work in education.
- a. cousins
 - b. parents
 - c. relatives
9. Which word ends with the same sound as ice?
- a. size
 - b. prize
 - c. price
10. Everyone enjoyed the _____ food at the fair.
- a. local
 - b. locals
 - c. locally

Practise online, free: hear every example and check your answers at www.ielts-laboratory.co/free-resources/common-english-words-291-300/practice/

IELTS tip. In Speaking Part 3, start with In my view or From my point of view to show your opinion clearly. In Writing Task 2, use consider doing and rather than to compare options without repeating the same linkers.

FOR TEACHERS · COMMON ENGLISH WORDS

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AIM	Learners recognise, pronounce and use ten high-frequency words (actually, rather, view, together, consider, price, parent, hard, party, local) 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 complete: In my view, the most important thing parents can teach their children is... and then to give one reason.

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 /ɑ:/ in hard and party, the stress in together and consider, and the /s/ ending of price.
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 opinion paragraph on local government, using view, rather than, consider and local, and read it aloud.

Answer key

1. b) actually. Actually shows something surprising. Actual is an adjective, and at present refers to time.
2. a) rather. Would rather is followed by the base verb and than. Prefer and better do not fit the pattern.
3. Part 1: *In my* → **From my**. The phrase is from my point of view. In my view is also correct, but in my point of view is not.
4. c) hard. Hard is the adverb. Hardly means almost not at all.
5. c) considered. Consider is followed directly by an -ing form.
6. She works hard in the garden. Hard is the adverb meaning with effort. Hardly means almost not.
7. to**GE**ther. The stress is on the middle syllable: to-GE-ther.
8. b) parents. Parents are your mother and father. Relatives and cousins are other family members.

9. c) price. Price ends with /s/, like ice. Prize and size end with /z/.

10. a) local. Local is the adjective before a noun. Locally is an adverb.

Questions learners often ask

Does actually mean currently? No. Actually means in fact. For now, say at the moment, currently or nowadays. Spanish, Portuguese and Italian speakers should watch for this.

Is a cousin a parent? No. A parent is a mother or father. A cousin is a relative.

Do I say work hard or work hardly? Say work hard. Hardly means almost not, so she hardly works means she works very little.

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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