



FREE RESOURCE · COMMON ENGLISH WORDS

Common English words 41 to 50

The common English words in this set are know, more, get, who, like, when, think, make, time, see. Together most are everyday verbs and question words that you use to talk about ideas, opinions and what you do. Opinion verbs such as think and know, and flexible verbs such as get, make and see, appear in nearly every Speaking answer.

The words

WORD	SOUND	MEANING	EXAMPLE
know verb	/nəʊ/	To have information in your mind, or to be familiar with a person or place.	<i>As far as I know, the new library opens next month.</i>
more determiner, adverb	/mɔː/	A larger amount or number. It is also used to make comparatives of longer adjectives (more expensive).	<i>More people now work from home than ten years ago.</i>
get verb	/get/	To receive, obtain or become. It has many meanings: get a job, get tired, get to a place.	<i>It takes time to get used to living in a new country.</i>
who pronoun	/huː/	Asks which person (Who is that?), or introduces extra information about a person.	<i>Students who read widely usually write more fluently.</i>
like verb, preposition	/laɪk/	As a verb, to enjoy or find pleasant. As a preposition, similar to (a city like Paris).	<i>I like cities that have a lot of green spaces, like Vienna or Singapore.</i>
when conjunction, adverb	/wen/	At the time that. It also asks about time (When did you arrive?).	<i>When it comes to learning vocabulary, regular review matters more than long sessions.</i>
think verb	/θɪŋk/	To use your mind to form ideas, or to believe something.	<i>I think public libraries are still important in the age of the internet.</i>
make verb	/meɪk/	To create, produce or cause something. It is also used to cause a change.	<i>Online banking has made it easier for people to manage their money.</i>
time noun	/taɪm/	The measure of hours, days and years. It can also mean an occasion (three times) or a period.	<i>Many parents struggle to find enough time for their children.</i>
see verb	/siː/	To notice with your eyes, or to understand (I see). It also means to meet or visit someone.	<i>I can see why people prefer to live near their workplace.</i>

Exercises

1. I don't have much _____ to study today.
a. times

- b. time
- c. a time
2. Working in a team is _____ useful than working alone.
- a. most
- b. more
- c. very
3. I will _____ a decision tomorrow.
- a. make
- b. do
- c. say
4. Find the mistake and write the right form: (1) Foreign students need time (2) to get used to (3) live (4) in a new climate.
5. In which word is the 'k' silent?
- a. keep
- b. kind
- c. know
6. Put the words in order (one or more words are not needed): which / from / is / who / me / teaches / English / The / woman / Canada.
7. Correct this: *I have saw that film twice.*
8. When I _____ university, I will look for a job.
- a. will finish
- b. finished
- c. finish
9. Which word has the same vowel sound as 'make'?
- a. red
- b. rain
- c. rice

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-41-50/practice/

IELTS tip. In Speaking Part 3, 'I think', 'I know that' and 'when it comes to' are useful starters, but vary them so you do not repeat the same opening. In Writing, replace get with a more exact verb such as receive or become.

FOR TEACHERS · COMMON ENGLISH WORDS

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AIM	Students understand, pronounce and use the common English words know, more, get, who, like, when, think, make, time, see, and avoid the typical mistakes noted for each word.
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

Write the ten words on the board in random order. Students say which ones they use most often in English and what they think each word does in a sentence.

Lesson steps

1. Present the ten words with their British IPA. Model each word, then students repeat chorally and in pairs, paying attention to weak forms and stress.
2. Students read the example sentences aloud, cover them, and make a new sentence about their own life with each word.
3. Students give a two-minute talk beginning 'When it comes to...', using think, know, make and see at least once each.
4. Run the quiz as a class. For each wrong answer, ask the student to read the watch-out note and explain the rule in their own words.

Extension

Give students ten sentences using get. They replace get with a more exact verb for a formal essay.

Answer key

1. b) time. Time is uncountable here, with the meaning of hours and minutes.
2. b) more. Long adjectives use more + adjective + than.
3. a) make. We make a decision.
4. Part 3: *live* → **living**. After 'get used to', use an -ing form.
5. c) know. The k is silent in know. It is pronounced in kind and keep.
6. The woman who teaches me English is from Canada. Who + verb describes the woman, then the main verb is.
7. I have seen that film twice. The participle of see is seen.
8. c) finish. After when, use the present simple for a future time.
9. b) rain. Make and rain both have /eɪ/.

Questions learners often ask

Why does think sound different from sink? Think starts with the 'th' sound /θ/, made with the tip of your tongue touching the back of your top front teeth. Sink starts with /s/, made with the tip close to the ridge, touching nothing.

Is it make a decision or do a decision? It is make a decision. Use do for tasks and activities, such as do homework or do research.

Can I use get in an essay? It is better to choose a more exact verb in formal writing, such as receive, obtain or become. Get is fine in Speaking.

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 ed.). Oxford University Press.
- Wells, J. C. (2008). Longman Pronunciation Dictionary (3rd ed.). Pearson Longman.

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