



FREE RESOURCE · COMMON ENGLISH WORDS

Common English words 51 to 60

The common English words in this set are what, up, some, other, out, good, people, year, take, no. Together they are everyday words for things, people, quantity and quality, and several are used in common phrasal verbs. They give you the basic building blocks to describe your life, your opinions and your surroundings in Speaking Part 1 and Part 2.

The words

WORD	SOUND	MEANING	EXAMPLE
what pronoun, determiner	/wɒt/	Used to ask for information about a thing (What is it?), or to mean 'the thing that' (what I need).	<i>What matters most to me is having time to rest at the weekend.</i>
up adverb, preposition	/ʌp/	Towards a higher place or level. It is also part of many phrasal verbs, such as grow up and give up.	<i>I grew up in a small town near the coast.</i>
some determiner	/sʌm/	An amount or number that is not exact. It is used with uncountable and plural nouns, mostly in positive sentences. In fast speech it is said /səm/.	<i>Some people prefer to live alone, while others like sharing a flat.</i>
other adjective, pronoun	/ʌðə/	Different or additional. 'The other' means the second of two.	<i>On the other hand, cities offer better access to health care.</i>
out adverb, preposition	/aʊt/	Away from the inside of a place, or no longer in a place. It is also part of many phrasal verbs.	<i>The study carried out last year found that many people sleep too little.</i>
good adjective	/gʊd/	Of high quality, pleasant, suitable or healthy.	<i>Regular exercise is good for both the body and the mind.</i>
people noun	/ˈpiːpl/	More than one person; humans in general or a group of persons.	<i>Young people in my country often leave their villages to find work in cities.</i>
year noun	/jɪə/	A period of twelve months. It is also used for age and school level.	<i>The number of cyclists in our city has grown every year since the new lanes opened.</i>
take verb	/teɪk/	To move something with you or pick it up; to need time; to travel by transport; or to accept something.	<i>I usually take the train to the capital, and it takes about an hour.</i>
no determiner, adverb	/nəʊ/	Used before a noun to mean 'not any' (no time). It is also the opposite of yes.	<i>There is no doubt that technology has changed the way we learn.</i>

Exercises

1. She speaks English very _____.
 - a. good
 - b. well
 - c. goods
2. I do not have _____ time to study today.
 - a. some
 - b. any
 - c. no
3. Many _____ in my country enjoy hiking.
 - a. people
 - b. peoples
 - c. a people
4. Find the mistake and write the right form: (1) Many students (2) take part of (3) the school's (4) sports day.
5. Which word has the same vowel sound as 'good'?
 - a. blood
 - b. food
 - c. put
6. Which word begins with the /j/ sound, like 'yes'?
 - a. wear
 - b. year
 - c. hear
7. Put the words in order (one or more words are not needed): prefer / countryside. / people / Some / live / to / the / any / in
8. Which syllable is stressed in **people**? peo · ple
9. Correct this: *He speaks English good.*
10. I wonder _____ she wants for her birthday.
 - a. what does
 - b. what
 - c. does what

Practise online, free: hear every example and check your answers at www.ielts-laboratory.co/free-resources/common-english-words-51-60/practice/

IELTS tip. In Speaking, 'what I like most is...' and 'a lot of people...' are easy, natural openings. In Writing, check people takes a plural verb and that you have used well, not good, after a verb.

FOR TEACHERS · COMMON ENGLISH WORDS

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AIM	Students understand, pronounce and use the common English words what, up, some, other, out, good, people, year, take, no, 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 tell a partner about their childhood using grew up, took part in and no longer, then swap roles.
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 ten gap sentences with good/well and some/any. Students complete them and write two of their own.

Answer key

1. b) well. Speaks needs an adverb, and the adverb of good is well.
2. b) any. In a negative sentence, use any. 'Do not have no' is a double negative.
3. a) people. People is already plural and takes no -s here.
4. Part 2: *take part of* → **take part in**. The phrase is 'take part in'.
5. c) put. Good and put both have the short /ʊ/. Food has /u:/ and blood has /ʌ/.
6. b) year. Year begins with /j/. Wear begins with /w/ and hear with /h/.
7. Some people prefer to live in the countryside. Some + plural noun + prefer + to + base verb.
8. **PEO**ple. People is stressed on the first syllable: PEO-ple.
9. He speaks English well. Use the adverb well to describe the verb speaks.

10. b) what. In an indirect question the normal statement order is used.

Questions learners often ask

Is it people is or people are? People are. The word people is already the plural of person, so it takes a plural verb.

What is the difference between some and any? Use some in positive sentences and offers, and any in questions and negatives: 'I have some time' but 'I do not have any time'.

How do I learn phrasal verbs like give up and find out? Learn each one as a whole unit with a short example sentence, and review them in groups with the same particle, such as up or out.

Sources

- Browne, C., Culligan, B. & Phillips, J. (2013). The New General Service List (NGSL) 1.2. newgeneralservicelist.com. CC BY-SA 4.0.
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- Wells, J. C. (2008). Longman Pronunciation Dictionary (3rd ed.). Pearson Longman.

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