

FREE RESOURCE · COMMON ENGLISH WORDS

Common English words 71 to 80

The common English words in this set are then, also, into, only, look, want, give, first, new, way. Together they are common words for ordering events, adding information and describing wants, actions and methods. Linking words such as then and also, and verbs such as want, give and look, help you tell a clear story in Speaking Part 2.

The words

WORD	SOUND	MEANING	EXAMPLE
then adverb	/ðen/	After that, or at that time. It is also used in 'if ... then' to show a result.	<i>First we interviewed ten residents, and then we compared their answers.</i>
also adverb	/ 'ɔ:lsəʊ/	In addition. It usually goes in the middle of a sentence before the main verb or after be.	<i>The scheme will reduce traffic and will also improve air quality.</i>
into preposition	/ˈɪntu:/	To the inside of something, or showing a change of form (turn into). Before a consonant it is often said /ˈɪntə/.	<i>Many old factories have been turned into apartments and offices.</i>
only adverb, adjective	/ˈəʊnli/	And no more than; or the single one (the only child).	<i>The only problem with the plan is the cost.</i>
look verb	/lʊk/	To direct your eyes at something; also to seem (look tired).	<i>Researchers look at how children learn language by listening.</i>
want verb	/wɒnt/	To have a wish for something.	<i>Most young people want a job that is interesting and well paid.</i>
give verb	/ɡɪv/	To hand something to someone, or to provide something.	<i>Teachers should give students clear examples to follow.</i>
first adjective, adverb, number	/fɜ:st/	Coming before all others in order; or for the first time.	<i>First of all, I would like to explain why I chose this topic.</i>
new adjective	/nju:/	Not existing before, or not used before; recently made or discovered.	<i>New technology has changed how people shop and how they travel.</i>
way noun	/weɪ/	A method of doing something, or a path or direction.	<i>One way to reduce stress is to take a short walk after lunch.</i>

Exercises

- Cook the rice for ten minutes, and _____ add the vegetables.
a. than

- b. then
- c. there
2. The scheme reduces traffic and _____ improves air quality.
- a. also
- b. than
- c. into
3. She is the _____ person in my class who speaks Russian.
- a. into
- b. also
- c. only
4. Find the mistake and write the right form: (1) I want (2) that you (3) help me (4) with this.
5. Which word has the same vowel sound as 'want'?
- a. went
- b. wait
- c. watch
6. Which word has the same vowel sound as 'new'?
- a. now
- b. blue
- c. know
7. Put the words in order (one or more words are not needed): a / English. / is / There / way / new / learn / for / to
8. Correct this: *Please give me some advices.*
9. Which syllable is stressed in **also**? al · so
10. I look forward to _____ you next week.
- a. see
- b. seeing
- c. saw

Practise online, free: hear every example and check your answers at www.ielts-laboratory.co/free-resources/common-english-words-71-80/practice/

IELTS tip. In Speaking Part 2, then, first and also help you tell a story in order. In Writing, use also sparingly and put it in the right position; 'and also' repeated too often can sound heavy.

FOR TEACHERS · COMMON ENGLISH WORDS

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AIM	Students understand, pronounce and use the common English words then, also, into, only, look, want, give, first, new, way, 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 the story of their last holiday using first, then, also and finally, then a partner retells it.
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 with only in different places. They explain how the meaning changes each time.

Answer key

1. b) then. Then shows the next step in order. Than is for comparing.
2. a) also. Also adds a second result before the verb.
3. c) only. 'The only person' means there is just one.
4. Part 2: *that you* → **you to**. Use want + person + to + base verb.
5. c) watch. Want and watch both have the short /ɒ/. Went has /e/ and wait has /eɪ/.
6. b) blue. New and blue both have the long /u:/ sound (with /j/ in new).
7. There is a new way to learn English. A way to do something.
8. Please give me some advice. Advice is uncountable, so it has no plural -s.
9. **AL**so. Also is stressed on the first syllable: AL-so.
10. b) seeing. After 'look forward to', use an -ing form.

Questions learners often ask

What is the difference between then and than? Then is about time or order (and then I left). Than is for comparing (bigger than).

Where does only go in a sentence? Put only directly before the word you want to limit. Moving it changes the meaning.

Is it give advice or give advices? Advice is uncountable, so it is always give advice, with no -s.

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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