

# Master IELTS Writing Task 2

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## IELTS Writing Task 2 Collocations



**FORMER IELTS EXAMINERS**

Prepare for {**IELTS**}

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**What are  
collocations  
and why do  
they matter?**

- **groups of words which often appear together**
- **combinations of verbs and nouns/adverbs;  
adjectives and nouns/adverbs**
- **typical of native-speaker writing**
- **often found in formal and academic writing**
- **allow IELTS candidates to express their ideas  
very clearly.**

# IELTS band descriptors writing task 2

## LEXICAL RESOURCE

| BAND | DESCRIPTOR  |
|------|---|
| 9    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Uses a wide range of vocabulary with very natural and sophisticated control of lexical features</li><li>• Rare minor errors occur only as 'slips'</li></ul>   |
| 8    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Uses a wide range of vocabulary fluently and flexibly to convey precise meanings</li><li>• Skilfully uses uncommon lexical items but there may be occasional inaccuracies in word choice and collocation</li><li>• Produces rare errors in spelling and/or word formation</li></ul> |
| 7    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Uses a sufficient range of vocabulary to allow some flexibility and precision</li><li>• Uses less common lexical items with some awareness of style and collocation</li><li>• May produce occasional errors in word choice, spelling and/ or word formation</li></ul>               |
| 6    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Uses an adequate range of vocabulary for the task</li><li>• Attempts to use less common vocabulary but with some inaccuracy</li><li>• Makes some errors in spelling and/or word formation, but they do not impede communication</li></ul>   |

## Verb + noun collocations

We must **address the issue/natter** of discrimination.

Psychologists have been **carrying out research/investigations/studies/experiments** into whether there is a correlation between introversion and altruism. To put it simply, they would like to discover whether individuals who focus inwardly have a greater propensity to act in their own self-interest.

The only **conclusion** which can **be drawn** from the available evidence is that making public transport free for all users is hugely advantageous.

Many experts **express the fear/concern** that genetically-modified crops will eventually damage our ability to produce enough food.

Many **extol the virtues** of going to bed early and getting up early.

It should be the aim of The United Nations, The World Health Organisation and all other multi-national bodies to **eradicate/alleviate poverty** within the next decade.

## Verb + noun collocations

I am convinced that specifically educating teenagers about illegal drugs would **have** a long-term **positive effect**. Doing nothing to address the issue will clearly **have** a **negative effect**.

Teachers can **have** a massive **impact** on their pupils' development.

Unfortunately, householders sometimes fail to **heed warnings** from the police about the security of their property. If doors and windows are not kept locked, burglaries are extremely likely in some areas.

The issue of internet fraud is becoming enormously serious. Thousands of consumers and bank-account holders lose money as a result of online criminals. Surely the powers-that-be need to **introduce/bring in/pass legislation** to tackle this unacceptable situation.

## Verb + noun collocations

Teachers obviously **play** a vital **role/part** in a child's development. It is sometimes debated whether teachers are in fact more important than parents in a child's upbringing.

We need to **pay attention** to experts who predict that within a couple of generations the majority of the jobs which we currently do will be taken by robots.

It is often claimed that meteorites with the potential to crash into our planet **pose** a greater **risk/threat** to our continued existence than almost anything else.

Having considered this matter in some detail, I have **reached** the **conclusion** that it makes sense to educate boys and girls together.

## Verb + noun collocations

Those who work hard should **reap the rewards/benefits**.

There is no doubt that we need to **raise awareness/concerns** about the issue of alcohol abuse. It is a hidden problem, rarely discussed in public, which blights the lives of millions, disrupting families and causing tremendous hardship.

I feel it is essential to **tackle the problem/issue** of homelessness. It is quite simply unacceptable that individuals have to sleep on the streets. Many of them are vulnerable, disabled or elderly.

When considering which car to buy, it is important to **take** fuel efficiency and reliability **into account/consideration**. These factors may not be the first ones which spring to mind, but they will have a significant impact on how much the vehicle eventually costs.



## Adjective + noun collocations

There is an **ongoing/fierce/heated debate** about whether corporal punishment can actually help a school to impose discipline, and whether it has serious **long-term effects** on those beaten, smacked or caned.

Ever since their invention, there have been **bitter/acrimonious arguments** about the merits of nuclear weapons. Some see them as a guarantor of world peace, while others view them as monstrous machines of mass murder.

Whether pregnant women should have the right to have an abortion remains a **contentious issue** in many parts of the world. The idea has both **ardent supporters** and **vehement critics**.

It is my **strongly-held view** that male and female students should be educated separately.

There is a **widely-held view** that doctors and nurses should receive higher salaries.

## Adjective + noun collocations

Cutting the opportunities which children have to learn a foreign language may have **serious/ dire/ unforeseen/ unintended consequences/ repercussions**. When these children become adults, they will probably have a very limited understanding of cultural diversity.

I am convinced that encouraging large multi-national companies to locate their factories in your country by offering them reductions in taxation is a **misguided/ short-sighted approach/ strategy/ policy** which allows these businesses to exploit both the government and workers.

Giving students a punishment of detention can be something of a **double-edged sword**.

I believe that closing our borders to all immigrants would be a tremendously **backward/retrograde step**. We need to embrace diversity and realise that foreigners tend to have an incredibly positive impact on a country.

## Adjective + noun collocations

Quarrels and arguments can cause **irreparable damage** to relationships between family members. As a result of arguments and disagreements, **bitter** family **feuds/disagreements** can develop which take years to resolve.

There is **overwhelming evidence** to suggest that dolphins can form complex mental representations of their surroundings.

Animals make a **valuable contribution** to society. Dogs can be used as guards or to guide blind people, and horses have played an important role in agriculture and farming for centuries.

Tackling bullying at school should be a priority. Asking researchers to look into the causes of this behaviour would be a **positive step**/a step in the right direction/a step forward.

Prophets of doom and gloom generally predict a terribly **bleak future**.

Thanks to **global warming**, our planet has changed irreversibly.

## Adjective + noun collocations

As we use up our **non-renewable/natural resources** and struggle to find new forms of energy, our species probably faces a bleak future unless we can find alternatives, or change our **energy-hungry lifestyles** so as to reduce **carbon emissions** and **greenhouse gases**.

**Technological advances** and **scientific breakthroughs** can be positive or negative: **information technology**, **social media**, **driverless cars**, **gene editing** and **nuclear weapons** all began life in the laboratory.

The **general public** supports reintroducing capital punishment.

It is my **fervent hope/heartfelt wish** that the world will become fairer.

Some claim to have a **deep-rooted/deep-seated animosity** towards migrants.

Many youngsters have a **burning desire** to become celebrities.

**Awareness-raising campaigns** are used to help the public to understand the seriousness of internet fraud.

## Adverb + verb collocations

We need to **radically alter/change** the way we live.

I **fervently hope** that within the next few years, serious attempts will be made to eradicate poverty and reduce the gap between the wealthy and the impoverished.

I **agree wholeheartedly** with those who assert that doctors, nurses and other health workers should be treated better and paid more.

I **vehemently support** the rights of disabled individuals to be treated equally.

Having **closely/seriously/carefully examined** the arguments related to making all public transport free of charge, I have reached the conclusion that it would be an excellent idea in theory but would probably be impractical.

## Adverb + adjective collocations

It is **abundantly clear** that international tourism benefits powerful governments and businesses whilst at the same time leading to the exploitation of those living in newly-created tourist resorts.

It is **blindingly obvious** to anyone who seriously considers the matter that large mammals such as black rhino and polar bears will become extinct soon, unless we radically alter our lifestyle.

Although teenagers definitely need educating about the dangers of driving, it is **entirely inappropriate** for them to be shown video-clips of car-crashes to scare them.

## Adverb + adjective collocations

To say that men have more complex brains than women is **factually inaccurate**; the average man might have a slightly bigger brain, but the number of neural connections - which is what really matters - is **remarkably similar** for males and females.

It is **generally/widely accepted** that girls develop socially at an earlier age than boys. However, it is not known to what extent this difference is genetic.

It is **utterly ridiculous/ludicrous/preposterous** to assert that society is no longer sexist. Figures suggest that only a tiny proportion of leading scientists, business leaders and politicians are women.

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Thanks for watching!



Iain

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