



WORDS THAT HELP YOU GAIN HIGH
SCORE

IELTS VOCABULARY BY TOPICS

- CRIME AND PUNISHMENT
- MEDIA AND ADVERTISINGBY
- THE ENVIRONMENT
- BUSINESS AND MONEY
- GOVERNMENT
- SPORT AND EXERCISE
- SPACE EXPLORATION

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CRIME AND PUNISHMENT

1. crime of passion

Meaning: refers to a crime, especially murder, caused by sexual jealousy

Example: People who carry out crimes of passion often regret their actions later, when they reflect on what they have done.

2. to serve a prison sentence

Meaning: to carry out confinement in prison as a punishment

Example: They are serving long prison sentences for their part in the assassination.

3. to turn to crime/ drugs

Meaning: To start committing crimes or using drugs.

Example: During periods of high youth unemployment, some youngsters turn to crime to obtain money.

4. to be tough on crime

Meaning: To punish crime severely

Example: The crime rate is likely to fall if governments take strong measures to be tough on crime.

5. to contest the verdict

Meaning: not agree with the decision of the jury after the trial of a case

Example: In many countries, the accused person has the right to contest the verdict which was reached in the court.

6. to take into consideration

Meaning: to think about a particular fact or detail and allow it to have some influence when you are making a decision

Example: The previous criminal records of those who are found guilty must be taken into consideration when a sentence is passed.

7. to reintegrate back into society/ community

Meaning: to restore someone through education or therapy

Example: There is an increasing focus among policy-makers and practitioners on identifying programs and strategies that will help prisoners successfully reintegrate back into their communities without re-offending.

8. to be soft on crime

Meaning: not to impose strict punishments on offenders

Example: In order to deter criminals effectively, governments must not follow policies which are soft on crime.

9. a policy of zero tolerance

Meaning: a policy of applying laws very strictly, so that every illegal action is punished, even if it is not very serious

Example: I would argue that the most effective way to reduce crime is to implement a policy of zero tolerance.

10. a chance of rehabilitation

Meaning: a chance of helping someone to have a normal life after serving a prison sentence

Example: We should give ex-offenders a chance of rehabilitation and teach them how to become useful members of society.

11. to embark on something

Meaning: To start something new

Example: Young people sometimes embark on a life of crime as a result of the bad influence of criminals whom they know.

12. to make a fresh start

Meaning: to try something new after making mistakes in one's life

Example: I believe that people should have the opportunity to make a fresh start after they are released from prison.

13. to act as a deterrent

Meaning: a measure which makes somebody less likely to do something

Example: Longer prison sentences would act as a deterrent and would be one useful measure to tackle rising crime.

14. to release back into society.

Meaning: to give freedom to prisoners who have finished their sentences.

Example: He was released back into society after serving two years of a five-year sentence.

15. corporal punishment

Meaning: to punish by physically harming the offender

Example: Many schools have abandoned the policy of corporal punishment for children who misbehave and prefer to give extra work or detention after school instead.

16. drug trafficking

Meaning: importing and selling illegal drugs

Example: Some people argue that legalising drugs would put an end to the evil of drug trafficking and the violence associated with it.

17. a non-custodial sentence

Meaning: a sentence which is not served in prison

Example: There is a wide range of non custodial sentences which a court may give to offenders, including: fines, probation orders or community service orders.

18. to be found guilty

Meaning: the court decided that the person did commit the crime

Example: If people are found guilty of committing serious offences, heavy punishments should be imposed.

19. the full weight of the law

Meaning: all the strictest punishments available according to the laws of a country.

Example: In order to deter crime, the full weight of the law must be imposed for all serious offences.

20. to impose a ban on sth

Meaning: to enforce an official rule which says that something is not allowed

Example: Most governments have imposed a ban on the sale of tobacco to those aged under 16.

21. to convict a criminal

Meaning: to find an offender guilty and to punish them

Example: Once the courts have convicted a criminal, the punishment should be severe.

22. law-abiding citizens

Meaning: people who obey and respect the law

Example: The government could take some effective steps to protect law-abiding citizens.

23. to enforce the law

Meaning: to make sure that the law is obeyed

Example: The role of the police and the courts is to enforce the law.

24. capital punishment

Meaning: punishment by death

Example: In some states of America, those who commit murder are sometimes sentenced to capital punishment.

25. forensic evidence

Meaning: connected with the scientific tests conducted by the police when investigating a crime

Example: Modern police methods include the use of forensic evidence, such as DNA samples, to investigate crimes.

26. to install surveillance cameras

Meaning: to put cameras in a place where a crime is likely to be committed

Example: The security company has installed surveillance cameras at all the entrances and exits of the shopping mall.

27. to put on probation

Meaning: to make a convicted person see an official at regular intervals to check on their good behavior, as an alternative to going to prison

Example: The young offender was put on probation, as his crime was not serious enough to send him to prison.

28. to punish wrongdoers

Meaning: to punish people who do something illegal

Example: Stricter measures must be introduced by governments to punish wrongdoers.

29. to arrest suspects

Meaning: to stop and hold people who the police think may have committed a crime

Example: The government should give the police greater powers to arrest suspects.

30. the letter of the law

Meaning: the exact wording of the law, without considering any excuses

Example: I believe that the courts must apply the strict letter of the law and impose the harshest possible sentences on criminals.

MEDIA AND ADVERTISING

1. to broadcast propaganda

Meaning: to send out a programme on television or radio that may be false or exaggerated in order to gain support for a political leader, a party, etc

Example: The media in North Korea **broadcast propaganda** every day about the dangers of war with South Korea and the USA.

2. a leading article

Meaning: a piece of writing which deals with the most important news item of the day.

Example: Newspapers in my country often have **a leading article** on some sensational crime that has been committed.

3. editorial policy

Meaning: the policy of the newspaper, as decided by the person in charge of producing the newspaper

Example: The **editorial policy** of a newspaper determines whether serious news items are reported in a responsible way.

4. sensational journalism

Meaning: reporting which tries to get your interest by presenting facts or events as more shocking or worse than they are.

Example: Unfortunately, **sensational journalism** has resulted in much public distrust of the media.

5. to carry a story

Meaning: to include an item in a news report

Example: The media nowadays **carries too many stories** about celebrities and trivia and not enough serious news.

6. news coverage

Meaning: the reporting of news and sport in newspapers, tv, or radio.

Example: The US presidential election received global **news coverage**, so that the whole world became interested in the outcome.

7. to make front page headlines

Meaning: to be an important item of news in the newspapers, on radio or TV.

Example: It seems that every insignificant event in the lives of celebrities **makes front page headlines**.

8. breaking news

Meaning: newly received information about an event that is currently taking place

Example: One disadvantage of the printed media is that it is unable to carry the latest **breaking news** stories.

9. up to the minute

Meaning: having the latest information

Example: Newspapers are unable to provide **up to the minute** news coverage of events as they happen.

10. stale news

Meaning: information that is no longer interesting or new, because it has already been reported

Example: Newspapers have now become only a source of **stale news**, which is a major reason why they have become less popular.

11. falling circulation

Meaning: the decline in the number of copies of a newspaper sold each day

Example: As a result of their **falling circulation**, newspapers are losing advertising

revenue.

12. celebrity endorsement

Meaning: A form of brand or advertising campaign that involves a well known person using their fame to help promote a product or service

Example: **Celebrity endorsement** by famous TV stars is commonly used by companies to encourage consumers to trust and buy their products.

13. to subscribe to a magazine

Meaning: to pay money regularly in order to receive a copy of a magazine

Example: Those with a strong interest in a particular field sometimes prefer **to subscribe to a magazine** which has articles relating to that area.

14. the financial/business sections

Meaning: Newspapers have increasingly turned to providing expert, detailed analysis of recent events, for example in their **financial or business sections**.

15. online advertising

Meaning: advertising a product or service on the internet

Example: The growing popularity of **online advertising** has resulted in a loss of revenue for the printed media in general.

16. to slash the prices of products

Meaning: to reduce the price dramatically

Example: Supermarkets, for example, always carry huge in-store advertisements when they **slash the prices of products**.

17. to be wary of something

Meaning: not completely trusting or certain about something

Example: Consumers must always **be wary of** the claims made in advertisements, because such claims are often exaggerated or untrue.

18. to promote their products

Meaning: to make products popular by advertising them

Example: Most large enterprises contract specialist marketing companies **to promote their products**.

19. to buy goods impulsively

Meaning: to buy things suddenly without any planning and without considering the effects they may have

Example: Advertising motivates consumers **to buy goods impulsively**.

20. to be swayed by advertisements

Meaning: to be influenced to buy things as a result of advertising

Example: If consumers **were** not easily **swayed by advertisements**, the advertising industry would not exist.

21. market research

Meaning: the action of collecting information about what people buy

Example: In deciding how to promote their products or services, businesses should first conduct **market research**.

22. a price war

Meaning: a situation in which companies or shops continually reduce their prices in order to attract customers away from their competitors

Example: Advertising plays a key role in **price wars** between supermarkets.

23. to launch a product

Meaning: to introduce a new product

Example: Companies have recognised that the services of the marketing industry are essential **to launch a new product** successfully.

24. target audience

Meaning: consumers whom businesses aim at when selling their products

Example: Companies which sell soft drinks, like Coca Cola, aim mainly at a **target audience** of children and adolescents.

25. brand awareness

Meaning: the action of bringing the name of a company to the attention of the public

Example: Advertising, not the quality of the product, is responsible for creating **brand awareness** among consumers, as can be seen by the success of market leaders such as Nike or Coca Cola.

26. prime time television

Meaning: the hours during which most people are watching TV

Example: Although advertising on **prime time television** is expensive, it is guaranteed to reach a large audience.

27. the electronic media

Meaning: broadcast media which use electronic technology, such as the internet, television, radio, DVDs, etc.

Example: In contrast, to print media, **the electronic media** are growing in popularity, especially among the youth.

28. to impose regulations on

Meaning: to control something by means of rules

Example: Governments must **impose regulations on** the advertising industry in order to protect consumers.

29. commercial advertising

Meaning: advertising on the radio or television, between or during programmes.

Example: **Commercial advertising** on television provides the revenue for most TV channels.

30. telemarketing

Meaning: a method of selling things or taking orders for sales by telephone

Example: **Telemarketing** has become a growth industry, employing millions of people across the world.

THE ENVIRONMENT

1. to discharge chemical waste

Meaning: to dispose of waste products from chemical processes.

Example: Nowadays, more and more company and industrial zones have been discharging chemical waste into rivers, causing death to many fish and other aquatic animals.

2. environmental degradation

Meaning: the process or fact of the environment becoming worse

Example: Africa is a continent in which environmental degradation is evident in the spread of deserts and the extinction of animal species.

3. to take action on global warming

Meaning: to do what has to be done on problems related to global warming

Example: There have been numerous international conferences to warn of the dangers, but many governments have refused to take action on global warming.

4. to be bio-degradable

Meaning: a substance or chemical that can be changed to a natural harmless state by the action of bacteria

Example: Most plastics are not biodegradable, and remain as waste products in the environment for thousands of years.

5. to deplete natural resources

Meaning: To reduce the amount of natural resources.

Example: Timber companies must not be allowed to deplete natural resources by

cutting down trees without planting new trees to replace them.

6. **ozone layer depletion**

Meaning: refers to a steady decline in the total amount of ozone in the Earth's atmosphere

Example: Ozone layer depletion has the effect of allowing harmful radiation from the sun to penetrate the atmosphere and this increases the risk to humans of skin cancer.

7. **an ecological crisis**

Meaning: a serious situation that occurs when the environment of a species or a population changes in a way that destabilizes its continued survival

Example: Environmental degradation caused by human activity is provoking **an ecological crisis** which threatens our existence.

8. **carbon footprint**

Meaning: a measure of the amount of carbon dioxide that is produced by the daily activities of a company or person

Example: By providing subsidies, governments should encourage companies to reduce their **carbon footprint** through energy efficiency or other 'green measures'.

9. **to cut down on emissions**

Meaning: to reduce the amount of gases sent out into the air

Example: People must be made aware of the need **to cut down on emissions** from their cars if we are to reduce air pollution.

10. to fight climate change

Meaning: To try to prevent changes in climate patterns, such as rainfall, temperature and winds.

Example: Unless we consume less of the Earth's natural resources, it will be impossible **to fight climate change** and safeguard our future.

11. to reduce the dependence/reliance on fossil fuels

Meaning: to decrease people's consumption of fossil fuels, like oil, coal or gas.

Example: Governments must invest heavily in solar and wind energy projects in order **to reduce our dependence/reliance on fossil fuels**.

12. to alleviate environmental problems

Meaning: to make bad environmental problems less severe

Example: Everyone can assist in the effort **to alleviate environmental problems** in the local community through simple actions such as recycling waste or planting a tree in their garden.

13. to throw one's weight behind sth

Meaning: To use one's influence to help support

Example: The council is **to throw its weight behind** a campaign to save one of the borough's best-loved beauty spots.

14. to hold sbdy accountable for + noun/gerund

Meaning: to consider someone responsible for something; to blame something on someone

Example: Companies which discharge chemical waste from their factories into the sea or into rivers must **be held accountable for** their actions and be fined heavily.

15. to achieve sustainable development

Meaning: economic development that is achieved without depleting natural resources

Example: Organic methods must be introduced everywhere in order **to achieve sustainable development in agriculture.**

16. alternative energy sources

Meaning: refers to any energy source that is an alternative to fossil fuel

Example: Clean energy which does not pollute the Earth can only come from greater reliance on **alternative energy sources.**

17. food miles

Meaning: Distance food has to travel between where it is grown or made and where it is consumed

Example: We can all reduce our carbon footprint by flying less, and reduce our **food miles** by buying local produce.

18. captive breeding

Meaning: the reproduction of animals in confinement, not in their natural habitats.

Example: A successful **captive breeding** programing zoos has resulted in an increase in the world's panda population.

19. to stem from

Meaning: to be caused by Example: Scientists say that global warming partly **stems from** the increase in car exhaust emissions.

20. environmental impact assessment

Meaning: a study into how a development, like a new road, a new dam or other construction activity will affect the plants, animals and local communities living in an area.

Example: The government must commission an independent **environmental impact**

assessment whenever a new development is proposed.

21. the greenhouse effect

Meaning: the natural process by which the sun warms the surface of the Earth.

Example: Our burning of fossil fuels is increasing **the greenhouse effect** and making the Earth hotter, endangering all life on the planet.

22. global warming

Meaning: the process by which the Earth is getting hotter, as a result of the greenhouse effect – in particular the increase in carbon dioxide in the air.

Example: Perhaps the major environmental challenge which faces humanity today is **global warming**, because it threatens our survival.

23. habitat destruction

Meaning: the process that occurs when a natural habitat, like a forest or wetland, is changed so dramatically by humans that plants and animals which live there.

Example: The elephant population in the world is declining because of **habitat destruction** caused by human exploitation of the environment.

24. endangered species

Meaning: plants or animals that only exist in very small numbers, so that in future they may disappear forever

Example: One example of an **endangered species** is the lowland gorilla, which has almost disappeared as a result of the destruction of its forest habitat.

25. on the brink of extinction

Meaning: an animal or plant which has almost disappeared from the planet

Example: Before the captive breeding program in zoos, the giant panda was **on the brink of extinction**

26. renewable energy

Meaning: energy is renewable when its source, like the sun or wind, cannot be exhausted or can easily be replaced (like wood, as we can plant trees for energy)

Example: More funding is required from government funds to help companies to develop **renewable energy**, such as companies which produce solar panels for buildings.

27. wind farms

Meaning: an area of land on which there are a lot of windmills or wind turbines for producing electricity

Example: **Wind farms** should be constructed in mountainous areas or in the sea, close to land.

28. environmentally friendly

Meaning: behavior or products that do not harm the environment

Example: We can help to protect the environment by using detergents and cosmetics that are **environmentally friendly**.

29. toxic waste

Many species of fish are endangered as a result of the **toxic waste** dumped by industries into the rivers and the sea.

30. the green movement

Meaning: all the organisations concerned with the protection of the environment

Example: Individuals should join one of the organisations which form part of **the green movement**, in order to campaign for changes in official policy on the environment.

BUSINESS AND MONEY

1. To take something into consideration/ account

Meaning: to consider or remember something when judging a situation

Example: No business will succeed if it fails **to take** the needs of customers **into account/into consideration**.

2. To break into a market

Meaning: to enter a market with the connotation that entrance to the industry was difficult.

Example: It is difficult **to break into the market** for designer sportswear because there is too much competition from leading brands like Nike.

3. To keep someone's word

Meaning: to uphold one's promise; to do as one says

Example: I lent him a lot of money, so I hope that he **keeps his word** and repays the loan.

4. To reach a consensus

Meaning: to come to an agreement

Example: The directors of the company have **reached a consensus** on the new business plan.

5. To make the most of something

Meaning: to make something appear as good as possible; to exploit something; to get as much out of something as is possible.

Example: They designed the advertisements **to make the most of** the product's features.

6. To go out of business

Meaning: if a company goes out of business, it stops doing business permanently, especially because it has failed

Example: If we sold food at those prices we'd soon **go out of business**.

7. To do market research

Meaning: to collect information about what people buy and why they choose it.

Example: Advertising companies do a lot of **market research** before they design promotion campaigns.

8. To make cutbacks

Meaning: to decrease, to reduce

Example: The company **made cutbacks** at their stores in New York and many employees were dismissed.

9. To manage expectations

Meaning: Seek to prevent disappointment by establishing in advance what can realistically be achieved or delivered by a project, undertaking, course of action, etc.

Example: the company needs to **manage the expectations** of investors by presenting a realistic figure for next year's estimated profits.

10. To make a calculation

Meaning: to assess a situation and figure out (or guess) the outcome

Example: We cannot **make a precise calculation** of the price until we have all the costs.

11. To pay in arrears

Meaning: refers to making a payment to a supplier later than the terms of the arrangement under which goods or services were purchased from the supplier.

Example: The company **pays one month in arrears** to all its suppliers and employees.

12. To buy at auction

Meaning: to buy something at a usually public sale of goods or property, where people make higher and higher bids (= offers of money) for each thing, until the thing is sold to the person who will pay most

Example: **Buying** a property **at an auction** can be a nerve-wracking or exhilarating experience.

13. To squander a chance/ savings

Meaning: to waste money or supplies, or to waste opportunities by not using them to your advantage

Example: James **squandered all his savings** in an unsuccessful business venture to sell ice cream in Alaska.

14. Overhead cost

Meaning: refers to regular costs required to run a business, such as rent, electricity, wages etc

Example: An increase in rents in the shopping mall increased the **overhead costs** of all the shops which operated there.

15. A takeover

Meaning: an act of taking over a company by buying its shares

Example: Sony made a successful **takeover** of the broadcasting company CBS.

16. A merger

Meaning: the action of joining two or more businesses into one

Example: The directors of *Kentucky Fried Chicken* and *Burger King* are considering a **merger** of the two companies.

17. A heavy workload

Meaning: having many tasks to perform

Example: Many employees of the company take time off work because of illness and stress due to the **heavy workload**.

18. Compensation

Meaning: something that somebody gives you [usually money] because they have hurt you or damaged something that you own

Example: I received a large sum of money as **compensation** for the injury which I sustained at work.

19. Revenue

Meaning: the money that a government receives from taxes or which a company receives from its business

Example: The tax **revenues** of the government have fallen as a result of the economic crisis.

20. White-collar

Meaning: working in an office, not a factory

Example: The insurance company is offering some **white-collar jobs** if you want to apply.

21. Blue-collar

Meaning: connected with people who do physical work in industry

Example: He's a **blue-collar worker** in a car factory.

22. To run your own business

Meaning: to have a business which you own

Example: I was tired of working for other people, so I decided **to run my own business**.

23. To earn a living

Meaning: to earn money

Example: I used to **earn a living** as a teacher, but now I sell used cars.

24. Enhance their public image

Meaning: to make their company appear more attractive to people

Example: In order to **enhance their public image**, some companies donate large sums of money to charities.

25. To grow a business

Meaning: to expand a business, usually a new one

Example: The company started one year ago with only one shop, but they have **grown the business** and now have ten shops.

26. To gain a competitive edge

Meaning: to achieve an advantage over another company or organization, often by providing the same goods or services at a lower price

Example: The high quality of *VW* cars, combined with their affordable price, has enabled the company **to gain a competitive edge** over all its rivals in world markets.

27. Maximize profits

Meaning: to increase profits to the highest possible level

Example: The company has hired a marketing consultant to recommend how to **maximize profits** next year.

28. To conduct a business

Meaning: to operate a business in a particular way

Example: It is important to **conduct a business** with honesty in order to gain the confidence of customers

29. To be made redundant

Meaning: to lose one's job

Example: The car factory has closed and 1000 employees have **been made redundant**.

30. Pension scheme

Meaning: a system in which you and your employer pay money regularly into a fund, to use when you retire from work

Example: One of the benefits of working for a big corporation is that such large companies usually provide a good **pension scheme**.

GOVERNMENT

1. to abide by

Meaning; (formal) to accept and act according to a law, an agreement, etc.

Example: Motorists who do not **abide by** the rules of the road should be severely punished.

2. parliamentary democracy

Meaning: a system of government in which candidates are voted to represent the people of a country in a national parliament or assembly

Example: Freedom of speech is usually one of the rights enjoyed by citizens in a **parliamentary democracy**.

3. to adhere to

Meaning: to behave according to a particular law, rule, set of instructions,

Example: Governments which fail **to adhere to** their election promises generally become unpopular very quickly.

4. constitutional government

Meaning: connected with the laws which a country is governed by

Example: The media have an important role to play in reporting on the actions of politicians, to ensure the proper functioning of **constitutional government**.

5. the executive branch

Meaning: that part of the government organisation responsible for implementing laws and decisions

Example: The enforcement of policies affecting schools and hospitals is the responsibility of **the executive branch** of the government.

6. the legislative branch

Meaning: that part of the government responsible for making laws

Example: Laws relating to human rights have been passed by **the legislative branch** of many national governments.

7. the separation of powers

Meaning: the principle that separates government authority into three branches – legislative (the Parliament or Senate), executive (the President or Ministers) and the judiciary (the judges and courts).

Example: In the USA, the independence of the courts from the government is safeguarded by **the separation of powers**

8. to adopt policies

Meaning: to start to use particular policies

Example: In order to deal with traffic congestion, the government must **adopt policies** to restrict the use of private cars.

9. to impose spending cuts

Meaning: to introduce new rules to spend less money on something

Example: It is essential for the authorities **to impose spending cuts** on space programs in order to fund health services.

10. to raise taxes on

Meaning: to increase the amount of tax on something

Example: Governments should **raise taxes on** cigarettes to persuade more people to give up smoking.

11. to curb public spending on

Meaning: to restrict what the government spends on something

Example: I would argue that it is preferable **to curb public spending on** building new roads rather than to impose spending cuts on education.

12. to allocate resources to

Meaning: to make money and materials available to do something

Example: If governments **allocate more resources to** improving public transport, this will reduce the problem of traffic congestion in cities.

13. to introduce restrictions on

Meaning: to limit what people can do or what can happen

Example: The government must **introduce restrictions on** smoking in public places.

14. to infringe on/upon something

Meaning: to limit somebody's legal rights

Example: Governments must sometimes **infringe upon individual freedoms** in the wider interests of society.

15. to be a government priority

Meaning: something which is so important that the government should deal with it first.

Example: In developing countries, spending on health and education should **be top government priorities**.

16. to prioritize expenditure on

Meaning: to put the need to spend money on certain things first

Example: I believe that it is important **to prioritize expenditure on** medical research in order to save lives.

17. to provide funding for

Meaning: to give money to enable something to be done

Example: **Providing funding for** health care must be a priority of governments.

18. high on the agenda

Meaning: something which is among the first things in the list of actions to be taken

Example: The rehabilitation of prisoners must be **high on the agenda** of prison authorities everywhere.

19. to exert pressure on

Meaning: to use power to influence somebody or something

Example: Environmental organisations should **exert pressure on** governments to invest in renewable energy projects.

20. to form a pressure group

Meaning: to organize a group of people who try to influence the government to achieve the action that they want.

Example: Activists in my country have **formed a pressure group** to persuade the government to close nuclear power stations.

21. to provide public subsidies for

Meaning: to give government money to reduce the costs of services or to produce goods in order to keep the price low

Example: In order to promote agriculture that is environmentally-friendly, the government should **provide public subsidies for** organic farmers.

22. international bodies

Meaning: organizations which operate in many countries

Example: National governments ought to give funds to **international bodies**, like the Red Cross and the United Nations, to deal with emergency situations.

23. national and local authorities

Meaning: government organizations acting at a national level or within a smaller, local area

Example: Tackling crime is a responsibility of both **national and local authorities**.

24. non-governmental organizations: NGOs

Meaning: a charity or association that is independent of government or business

Example: Individuals could donate money to **NGOs** to help others in need of food, shelter and medical services.

25. to campaign for something

Meaning: to take part in a series of activities in order to achieve a specific aim.

Example: People who are concerned about the environment should **campaign for** stricter controls on pollution.

26. government decision-making

Meaning: the process of deciding about something official

Example: Pressure groups are sometimes able to influence **government decision-making**.

27. to impose an official ban on

Meaning: to say or declare that something is not allowed

Example: Governments ought **to impose an official ban on** the use of mobile phones on public transport.

28. government sponsorship

Meaning: the act of providing financial support by the government

Example: **Government sponsorship** of the arts is necessary if creative talent is to be encouraged.

29. a welfare state

Meaning: a taxation system which allows governments to provide for the economic and social well-being of its citizens

Example: In order to eradicate poverty, I believe that a **welfare state** should be established in all developing countries.

30. a stopgap measure

Meaning: a policy or action adopted for a short time until some more permanent solution is found

Example: Building more prisons will not solve the problem of rising crime rates, but it is a **stopgap measure** which the government must take to protect ordinary citizens.

SPORT AND EXERCISE

1. to take up sport/to take up exercise

Meaning: to start doing a sport, to start doing exercise

Example: Governments should provide sports facilities to encourage more people to **take up sport**.

2. to get into shape

Meaning: to become fit

Example: If people have a sedentary lifestyle, they must do regular exercise **to get into shape**.

3. to keep fit

Meaning: to stay in good physical condition

Example: A healthy diet and plenty of exercise are essential for people **to keep fit**.

4. to exert oneself

Meaning: to make a big physical effort to do something

Example: I believe that sports professionals deserve high salaries, because constant hard training is necessary so that they can **exert themselves** to the limit when they compete.

5. to work out at the gym

Meaning: to train the body by physical exercise at the gym

Example: As part of a healthy lifestyle, people of all ages should **work out at the gym** on a regular basis.

6. to be out of condition

Meaning: to be physically unfit

Example: One of the causes of obesity is that many people **are out of condition** and fail to exercise regularly.

7. to be in the peak of condition

Meaning: to be in the best possible physical condition

Example: Sports professionals should receive high salaries, because they must always **be in the peak of condition** in order to perform at the highest levels.

8. to take gentle exercise

Meaning: to do exercise which is not physically demanding or tiring

Example: Even the elderly can keep fit by **taking gentle exercise**, like jogging or even a walk in the park.

9. alternative forms of exercise

Meaning: taking exercise in less common ways, involving the mind as well as the body

Example: **Alternative forms of exercise**, such as yoga and tai chi, are popular in my country among people of all ages.

10. to outlaw dangerous sports

Meaning: to ban or prohibit sports which have a high risk of causing injury

Example: I believe that the government should **outlaw dangerous sports** because participants may suffer serious injuries.

11. on safety grounds

Meaning: for reasons of safety

Example: Boxing is a very dangerous sport and must be outlawed **on safety grounds**.

12. a high/low probability of injury

Meaning: you are very likely/not very likely to be injured

Example: If anyone plans to take up mountaineering or skydiving, they should be aware that there is **a high probability of injury**.

13. life-threatening injuries

Meaning: injuries which are so serious that the person may die

Example: Paragliding and cliff-jumping are two examples of extreme sports in which **life-threatening injuries** are sustained all too often by those who take part.

14. an extreme sport

Meaning: a sporting activity which is very dangerous

Example: Personally, I cannot understand why some people take up **an extreme sport**, and they should consider all the risks first.

15. essential sports gear

Meaning: the equipment and clothing needed to practice a particular sport

Example: In order to reduce the risks associated with dangerous sports, participants should undergo rigorous training and use all the **essential sports gear** required.

16. to take sensible precautions

Meaning: to do something in advance in order to prevent problems or to avoid danger

Example: Anyone engaging in an extreme sport must **take sensible precautions** and seek expert advice.

17. to foster a competitive spirit

Meaning: encourage the desire to beat others in a sports event

Example: The problem with encouraging sport at school is that it **fosters a competitive spirit** among students, instead of teaching children simply to do the best that they can in all aspects of life.

18. the Olympic ideal

Meaning: the ultimate goal is not to win but to know that you have taken part and done your best in a competition

Example: Unfortunately, professional sport is just another branch of the entertainment industry, and **the Olympic ideal** has been lost.

19. a win-at-all-costs attitude

Meaning: an idea that a match or competition must be won, using all possible means

Example: Youth sport is being ruined by **a win-at-all-costs attitude**, which includes cheating and breaking the rules in order to achieve victory.

20. be disqualified from participating

Meaning: not to be allowed to join a competition

Example: Sportsmen or sportswomen who take drugs should **be disqualified from participating** in sport for a long time.

21. performance-enhancing drugs

Meaning: drugs which improve the ability of a sportsperson to compete

Example: Athletes who take **performance-enhancing drugs** are not only cheating, but they also set a bad example for young people.

22. to fail a drugs test

Meaning: to fail an examination before or after a competition to make sure that you have not taken illegal drugs to improve your performance

Example: Cycling is a sport which has been discredited in recent years, as so many competitors have **failed drugs tests**.

23. to use illegal substances

Meaning: to use drugs or medicines which are not allowed under the rules of a competition

Example: In professional sport, it has become increasingly common **to use illegal substances** in order to win at all costs.

24. to place too much value on sport

Meaning: to regard sport as too important

Example: I would argue that schools **place too much value on sport** in the curriculum, and participation in sport should be an out-of-school activity.

25. a sports fan

Meaning: a person who takes a keen interest in sport

Example: While I think that it is healthy to be **a sports fan**, people should remember that for most people, sport is just entertainment, not a matter of life and death.

26. to set a record

Meaning: to achieve the best result ever achieved in a sport

Example: Real Madrid have **set a record** for the number of goals scored in a match.

27. sports coverage

Meaning: the activity of reporting news related to sport

Example: Many top sports stars are now known to millions of people around the world because of global **sports coverage** by the media.

28. sports commentators

Meaning: people who are experts on sport and talk or write about it in the media

Example: Not only sports stars, but even some **sports commentators** have become well-known celebrities.

29. sports merchandising

Meaning: the activity of selling products connected with a sport or sportsperson

Example: **Sports merchandising** is a multi-billion dollar business worldwide, in the form of t-shirts and sports equipment.

30. the endorsement of sporting goods

Meaning: an advertising statement, usually by a famous sportsperson, saying that they use or like a particular product.

Example: In addition to their fabulous salaries, sports celebrities also make a great deal of money through their **endorsement of sporting goods** such as trainers or even casual clothes or deodorants!

SPACE EXPLORATION

1. The space race

Meaning: competition between the US and the Soviet Union in the 1950s and 60s to be the first to explore space

Example: **The space race** in the 1950s marks an important point in the development of space exploration

2. A space probe

Meaning: a type of space craft that does not have a person inside

Example: **Space probes** can be sent to far distances for long periods of time to gather information about different areas in space.

3. A lunar module

Meaning: a small craft used for travelling between the moon and the larger space craft orbiting the moon.

Example: When the first men walked on the moon they came out of the **lunar module**. The first man to walk on the moon said "One small step for a man, one giant leap for mankind."

4. To put into orbit

Meaning: To send something into space, following a curved path of a planet or an object as it moves around a star, a moon or a planet

Example: A new satellite has been **put into orbit** around the earth.

5. Manned space flight

Meaning: a voyage into space which has a person to control it

Example: As **manned space flights** are so dangerous, many checks must be carried out first.

6. To launch a space rocket

Meaning: to send a rocket into space

Example: Nowadays, men **launch space rockets** – not ships – to discover new worlds.

7. The cosmos

Meaning: the universe, especially when it is thought of as an ordered system

Example: Although the challenge of exploring and understanding **the cosmos** is exciting, it is also very expensive

8. To pour money into space research

Meaning: to spend enormous amounts of money on space research

Example: Some people argue that it is wasteful **to pour money into space research**.

9. A test flight

Meaning: a flight during which a space craft or part of its equipment is tested

Example: **Test flights** add to the huge costs of space exploration.

10. A space shuttle

Meaning: a spacecraft designed to be used, for example, to travel between the earth and a space station

Example: The first **space shuttle** was front-page news, but now people are no longer excited by the concept.

11. A space station

Meaning: a large structure that is sent into space and remains above the earth as a base for people working and travelling in space

Example: Even maintaining an **international space station** is so expensive that the costs must be shared by several countries.

12. Space voyages

Meaning: journeys into space

Example: Public interest in the early **space voyages** was unprecedented.

13. Space tourism

Meaning: travelling to space as a form of vacation/holiday

Example: Billionaires are the only people who are likely to experience **space tourism** in the foreseeable future.

14. To discover the mysteries of the universe

Meaning: to find out more about space

Example: Space exploration is an essential element in our attempt **to discover the mysteries of the universe**.

15. Space missions

Meaning: flights into space

Example: Recent **space missions** have begun to explore Mars and more distant parts of the universe.

16. The conquest of space

Meaning: the act of gaining control over the difficult task of exploring space

Example: **The conquest of space** is a challenge that continues to inspire the public imagination.

17. To be an inspiration to

Meaning: to make somebody excited about something, especially thinking of the future

Example: The images of the first men on the moon **were an inspiration to** people, and made them more hopeful about the future.

18. Spacesuits and helmets

Meaning: the clothing worn by astronauts.

Example: Astronauts must find it difficult to carry out maintenance tasks during space flights wearing uncomfortable **spacesuits and helmets**.

19. Vacuum-packed food

Meaning: a space that is completely empty of all substances, including all air or other gas

Example: During manned space flights, astronauts have to live off **vacuum-packed** food.

20. Weightless conditions

Meaning; having no weight or appearing to have no weight. As a result, astronauts appear to float in space.

Example: Astronauts work in **weightless conditions**, which must make even routine tasks very difficult.

21. To endure hardships and discomforts

Meaning: to experience and deal with conditions that are unpleasant

Example: I doubt that space tourism will have mass appeal in the future. Travellers would have **to endure hardships and discomforts** such as weightless conditions, vacuum-packed food and wearing spacesuits and helmets.

22. To float through space

Meaning: to move slowly in the air

Example: Space tourism would be really boring, simply **floating through space** and looking out of the window of the spacecraft.

23. Zero gravity

Meaning: having no force to pull objects to the ground, so that they float.

Example: Living in conditions of **zero gravity** in space must be extremely tiring and uncomfortable.

24. Satellite technology

Meaning: the technology of sending electronic devices into space for communications purposes

Example: **Satellite technology** has resulted in huge advances in communications and information-gathering.

25. A spin-off

Meaning: a useful result of an activity that was designed to produce something different

Explanation: Space programs have produced **spin-offs** that have revolutionized modern life, such as satellite television and communications.

26. To make space travel commercially viable

Meaning: to make space travel a success financially

Example: Holidays in space are just fantasy. It is doubtful if it will ever be possible **to make space travel commercially viable**.

27. The quest for a new homeland

Meaning: the search for a new place to inhabit

Example: As humans are destroying their own planet, **the quest for a new homeland** in the universe is essential.

28. Alien life forms

Meaning: creatures from another world

Example: One of the most exciting possibilities of the space program is finding **alien life forms** on other planets.

29. Extraterrestrial life

Meaning: life that may exist on another planet

Example: The quest for **extraterrestrial life** will prove that humans are not alone in the universe.

30. In the realm of science fiction

Meaning: only possible in science fiction stories, only fantasy

Example: Most of the arguments in favour of space programs are **in the realm of science fiction**.