

What is Lexical Range in IELTS Writing?

Worksheet

Lexical Range means using a wide variety of words, avoiding repetition, and choosing topic-specific or academic vocabulary appropriate to your argument. For example, instead of using 'important' repeatedly, employ synonyms like 'critical,' 'essential,' 'pivotal,' or 'vital' — showing precision and sophistication.

Questions

1. Which shows the strongest lexical range?

- A) The good thing about education is important because it is good.
- B) Education fosters informed citizenry through intellectual rigor and pedagogical excellence.
- C) Education is important. It is good for people. Teachers are important.

2. Replacing 'bad' in academic writing, choose the best synonym:

- A) really bad
- B) detrimental
- C) not good
- D) awful

3. What does 'academic register' mean?

- A) A formal, objective tone
- B) Using big words
- C) Repeating key terms
- D) Writing very slowly

4. Topic-specific vocabulary for climate essays includes:

- A) 'good,' 'bad'
- B) emissions, mitigation, carbon footprint, adaptation
- C) thing, stuff, lots of
- D) important, very, really

5. Weak: The problem is serious. It is bad. Young people suffer because of it. We need to fix it.

6. Weak: Good education makes good people. This good thing happens because teachers are good at teaching.

7. Weak: Technology is good for society. It helps people in many ways. But it can also be bad.

8. Define: What is Lexical Range in IELTS?

9. Define: Why is variety important in lexical range?

10. Define: Name five synonyms for 'important.'

Answer Key

1. B) Education fosters informed citizenry through intellectual rigor and pedagogical excellence. — The second uses academic vocabulary (fosters, citizenry, intellectual, pedagogical) without repetition.
2. B) detrimental — 'Detrimental' is formal, precise and topic-appropriate.
3. A) A formal, objective tone — Academic register is formal, objective language appropriate to scholarly contexts.
4. B) emissions, mitigation, carbon footprint, adaptation — Topic-specific words (emissions, mitigation) demonstrate subject knowledge and precision.
5. Issues: repetition ('is'), vague ('it'), informal ('fix'). Strong: The crisis is acute. Adolescents face unprecedented hardship owing to systemic failures. Remedial intervention is imperative. Fix: Replace 'bad' → 'acute'; 'suffer' → 'face hardship'; 'fix' → 'intervention'; formal register.
6. Issues: 'good' × 4, circular logic, weak vocabulary. Strong: Comprehensive education cultivates informed citizens. This transformative outcome derives from educators' pedagogical expertise and commitment. Fix: 'good' → specific synonyms; 'teachers' → 'educators'; formal, academic tone.
7. Issues: vague ('in many ways'), simplistic ('good/bad'). Strong: Technological advancement yields multifaceted societal benefits, from enhanced communication to operational efficiency. Conversely, excessive dependency poses psychological and social detriment. Fix: Specific benefits/harms; formal connectives; academic vocabulary.
8. The variety, precision and academic appropriateness of vocabulary used — a separate scoring criterion.
9. Repetition (e.g., 'good' × 5) signals limited vocabulary; synonyms show command of English.
10. Critical, essential, vital, pivotal, fundamental (or: significant, paramount, central).

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