

150 MOST COMMON IELTS SPELLING MISTAKES

IELTSCHARLIE



Hi!

If you are aiming for Band 7 or higher in IELTS Writing, you must make sure your spelling is really good.

The band descriptors for IELTS Writing state that if you make more than occasional vocabulary errors (which includes spelling), then you probably won't get Band 7 for Lexical Resource.

So be careful with your spelling!

Spelling is also important in the IELTS Reading and Listening Tests - in these tests, spelling mistakes are counted as **wrong** answers.

To help you, I've created this list of the 150 most common spelling mistakes that are made in IELTS Writing.



I've created this list using my experience assessing thousands of IELTS essays, reports and letters. I've also used lists of common spelling mistakes, and included the words most likely to be useful in the IELTS Test.

So check that you know the spellings of these words. Even I make mistakes with some of them!

I hope you find it useful!

Charles Cornelius
ieltscharlie.com

CORRECT SPELLING	SPELLING TIPS	COMMON MISSPELLINGS
a lot	must be two words	alot, allot
acceptable	end with -able	acceptible
accidentally	end with -ally	accidentaly, accidently
accommodation	double c, double m	accomodate, accomodation
achieve	i before e	acheive
acknowledge	starts with ack-, end with -dge	acknowlege, aknowledge
acquire	starts with acq-	acquire
across	one c	accross
address	double d, double s	adress, address
advisable	no e after the s	adviseable
affect	affect is a verb (effect is a noun)	effect
aggressive, aggression	double g	agressive, agression
almost	one l, one word	allmost, all most
annually	double n, -ua- in middle	anually, annuaily
apparently	-ent not -ant	apparrantly

CORRECT SPELLING	SPELLING TIPS	COMMON MISSPELLINGS
appearance	ends with -ance	appearence
argument	no e after the u	arguement
basically	ends with -ally	basicly
beginning	double n before the -ing	begining
believe	i before e	beleive, belive
benefit	-e- in the middle	benifit
business	begins with busi-	buisness
category	-e- in the middle	catagory
changeable	-e- in the middle	changable
chief	-ie- in the middle	cheif
colleague	-ea- in the middle	collegue
coming	one m	comming
committed	double m, double t	commited, comitted
committee	double m, double t, double e	commitee
comparison	ends with -ison	comparsion

CORRECT SPELLING	SPELLING TIPS	COMMON MISSPELLINGS
completely	ends with -ely	completly
concede	end with -cede	conceed, consede
conscious	-sc- in the middle	conciuous
consensus	-s- in the middle	concensus
controversy	-o- in the middle	contraversy
curiosity	-os- in the middle	curiosity
definite, definitely	-ite- not -ate-	definate, definately
difference	-er- in the middle	diffrence
dilemma	-mm- not -mn-	dilemna, dilema
disappear	one s, double p	dissappear
disappoint	one s, double p	dissappoint
disastrous	no -e- in the middle	disasterous
embarrass	double r, double s	embarass
environment	n before the m	enviroment
equipment	no t in the middle	equiptment

CORRECT SPELLING	SPELLING TIPS	COMMON MISSPELLINGS
exceed	double e in the middle	excede
existence	ends with -ence	existance
experience	-ence at the end	experiance
extreme	-eme at the end	extreem
familiar	ends with -iar	familiar
fascinating	c after the s	facinating
finally	double l	finaly
foreign	e before i	foriegn
foreseeable	begins with fore-	forseeable
forty	begins with for-	fourty
forward	begins with for-	foward
friend	i before e	freind
fulfil	one l in the middle, one l at the end	fullfil
further	begins with fur-	futher
government	n before the m	goverment

CORRECT SPELLING	SPELLING TIPS	COMMON MISSPELLINGS
grateful	-ate- in the middle, one l at the end	gratefull, grateful
guarantee	u after the g, -a- in the middle	garantee, garentee
guidance	-ance at the end	guidence
happened	ends with -ened	happend
hierarchy	e after i, r before the ch	heirarchy, hierachy
hygiene	y after h, i before e	hygine, higeine, hygeine
ignorance	ends with -ance	ignorence
immediately	ends with -ely	immediatly
independent	ends with -ent	independant
intelligence	double l, ends -ence	inteligence, intelligance
interrupt	double r	interupt
knowledge	remember the d	knowlege
leisure	e before i	liesure
library	-rar- in the middle	libary, liberry
lose	one o (loose is an adjective)	loose

CORRECT SPELLING	SPELLING TIPS	COMMON MISSPELLINGS
maintenance	-ten- in the middle, -ance at the end	maintainance, maintnance
miniature	-ia- in the middle	miniture
mischievous	-ie- in the middle, no i before the o	mischievious, mischevious
misspell	double s, double l	mispell, misspel
necessary	one c, double s	neccessary
neighbour	-ei- after the n, -ou- in UK spelling	nieghbor
noticeable	remember the middle e	noticable
occasion	double c, one s	ocassion, occassion
occasionally	double c, one s, -ally at end	ocasionally, occasionally
occurred, occurring	double c, double r	ocured, occuring
occurrence	double c, double r, -ence at end	occurance, occurence
omission	one m, double s	ommision, omision
original	-igi- in the middle	orignal
parliament	-ia- in the middle	parliment
perceive	e before i	percieve

CORRECT SPELLING	SPELLING TIPS	COMMON MISSPELLINGS
persistent	ends with -ent	persistant
personnel	double n, single l	personell, personel
piece	i before e	peice
politician	ends with -ian	politican
possession	double s twice	posession
practise	verb ends -ise in UK English	practice
precede	-ede at the end	preceed
preferred, preferring	one f, double r	prefered, prefering, preffered
principle	ends -ple (principal means 'main')	principal
privilege	-ivi- in the middle, no d	privelege, privileged
professor	one f, double s, -or at end	professer, proffesor
promise	-ise at end	promiss
pronunciation	-nun- in the middle	pronounciation
propaganda	begins with propa-	propoganda
protester	ends -er	protestor

CORRECT SPELLING	SPELLING TIPS	COMMON MISSPELLINGS
publicly	ends with -cly	publically
quarantine	a in the middle	quarentine
questionnaire	double n, e at the end	questionaire, questionnair
queue	double -ue-	que, cue
readable	ends with -able	readible
really	double l	realy
receive	e before i	recieve
recommend	one c, double m	recomend, reccommend
reference	-er- in the middle, ends -ence	referance, refrence
referred, referring	one f, double r	refered, refering, reffered
relevant	-ends -ant	relevent
religious	ends with -gious	religous
remember	-mem- in the middle	rember, remeber
repetition	e after the p	repitition
resistance	ends with -ance	resistence

CORRECT SPELLING	SPELLING TIPS	COMMON MISSPELLINGS
restaurant	-au- in the middle	restarant, restaraunt
rhyme	begins with rhy-	ryme, rime
rhythm	begins with rhy-, no vowel before m	rythm, rythem, rythym
secretary	e in the middle, ends with -ary	secratary, secretery
sense	ends with -se	sence
separate	-par- in the middle	seperate
similar	ends with -ar	similer
skilful	one l in the middle (in UK English), one l at the end	skilfull (American: skillful)
successful	double c, double s, one l	succesful, successfull
surprise	r before the p	suprise
tendency	ends with -ency	tendancy
therefore	e in the middle, e at the end	therefor, therfore
threshold	one h in the middle	threshold
tomorrow	one m, double r	tommorow, tommorrow
tongue	begins with ton-, ends with -gue	tounge

CORRECT SPELLING	SPELLING TIPS	COMMON MISSPELLINGS
truly	no e	truely
twelfth	f in the middle	twelth
underrate	double r	underate
unforeseen	e in the middle	unforseen
unfortunately	ends with -ely	unfortunatly
until	one l at the end	untill
usable, useable	-able at the end	usible
vehicle	ends with -le	vehical
weather	no h, -ea- after w	wether, whether
welfare	one l, -re at the end	wellfare, welfair
wherever	one e in the middle	whereever
whether	h after the 2	wether
which	begins with wh-	wich
withhold	double h in the middle	withold
writing	no e	writeing