This criteria focuses on the range of vocabulary a candidate uses. Generally the wider the range of vocabulary or expression used correctly and appropriately, the better a candidate will score, except where the various aspects of vocabulary listed here.

Collocation

Make

- a case for
- a phone call
- the changes
- a decision

Do

- your homework
- experiment
- your level

There are no collocation rules that can be learned, they are learned through awareness and experience.

Less Common Vocabulary or Expressions

There is no list of these here to use. If you feel confident, look into some idiomatic expressions, but not just the usual ones, and be very clear the context in which these should be used.

For instance:

- food for thought
- a man / woman of many talents
- a force to be reckoned with
- I can’t stand the smell of hamburgers

Paraphrasing

Don’t Give Up

It’s difficult

It’s expensive

It’s a healthy

Inappropriate

It’s too much

It’s something you can use

It’s a way of

It’s a kind of

When you practice your speaking, don’t give up if you can’t find the right word, keep trying to explain what you mean – that’s a valuable skill.

Use these phrases like these:

- It’s something you use to heat up food quickly when you have little time. [microwave]

Words or expressions which have a similar meaning – these are often important in all modules of the IELTS test – a thesaurus can help develop more awareness of this.

Synonyms

I would like to work for a large company / giant firm when I gain experience.

Our goal / target / objective is to reduce debts to a minimum.

The results / findings / outcomes of many investigations make the same conclusion.

The accuracy of a synonym is often dependent on context.

YOU CAN IMPROVE ALL THE ABOVE SKILLS IF YOU PRACTICE AND ACTIVATE YOUR VOCABULARY

http://esol.britishcouncil.org/activate-your-vocabulary

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