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To: IELTS Prep Group  
Subj: IELTS Reading lesson 9-7-2016

## Lesson Objective

The student shall be able to use “power words” as part of their oral vocabulary, read and comprehend both social and business language and demonstrate effective oral communication skills

## Section One

### Vocabulary

#### Evaluation Criteria

- Ability to understand definitions of English vocabulary

#### MATCH THE WORD WITH THE CORRECT DEFINITION

VOCABULARY	DEFINITIONS
A. ACTIVIST (Noun)	1. a course of action adopted and pursued by a government, ruler, political party, etc.
B. POLICY (Noun)	2. The set of circumstances or facts that surround a particular event, situation, etc.
C. CORRELATION (Noun)	3. Capable of being believed; believable.
D. SWATH (Noun)	4. a person who speaks or writes in support or defense of a person, cause, etc.
E. DECOMMISSION (Verb)	5. No longer used; obsolete or obsolescent.
F. CONTEXT (Noun)	6. To eye; look or stare at.
G. CREDIBLE (Adjective)	7. An especially active, vigorous advocate of a cause, especially a political cause.
H. ADVOCATE (Noun)	8. To deactivate; shut down.
I. ANTIQUATED (Adjective)	9. A person who suffers from a destructive or injurious action or agency.
J. SIGNIFICANT (Adjective)	10. To move or induce to action.
K. VICTIM (Noun)	11. important; of consequence
L. PROMPT (Verb)	12. A strip, belt, or long and relatively narrow extent of anything.
M. OGLE (Verb)	13. mutual relation of two or more things, parts, etc.

## Section Two

### Reading Comprehension and Pronunciation skills.

#### Evaluation Criteria

- Ability to effectively read and comprehend written English in a social or business environment.

#### ARTICLE 1

#### 3 QUESTIONS FOR HIGH SCHOOL TEACHERS TO ASK BEFORE DITCHING HOMEWORK

Yahoo News

1. A Texas teacher's no-homework policy [went viral this month](#) after a parent shared the news on Facebook.

Brandy Young teaches second grade at Godley Elementary School in Texas, but some [high school teachers](#) may be wondering if it makes sense to stop assigning homework to their teenage students.

They should ask themselves the following questions to make the decision.

<b>Mon</b> 5-6pm Math review 7-8pm Study	<b>Tue</b> 5-6pm English review 7-8pm Study	<b>Wed</b> 5-6pm Projects 7:30-8pm Book Rep.
<b>Thur</b> 3pm Projects 7:30-8pm Book Rep.	<b>Fri</b> 5-6pm English review 7:30-8pm Book Rep.	<b>Sat</b> 5-6pm Math review 7-8pm Study

Why do I want to eliminate homework? Ramy Mahmoud, a science teacher at [Williams High School](#) in Plano, [Texas](#), says simply appeasing parents because of pushback may not be the best idea, but teachers who want to change their homework policy to increase equity among students are on the right track.

Throughout his 12-year high school teaching career, he's given lots of homework and no homework -- now he gives some.

Mahmoud says assigning no homework was successful since it helped maintain equity -- every student had the opportunity to get the resources he or she needed to be successful, which isn't always possible with homework. Students have different support systems and environments at home, which may give some teens an advantage when completing homework.

Alice Keeler, a former high school math teacher at a charter school in California, said via email she taught students math without homework and saw no drop in test scores -- but rather an increase in positive relationships with students and parents.

While the research she read showed homework was correlated with minor improvements, she said, correlation is not causation. She said homework causes severe stress and family fighting. It is not worth it to her.

If teachers are considering significantly changing their homework policy, Mahmoud encourages them to have a discussion with their school's administration beforehand.

### Questions

- A. How long has Ramy Mahmoud been teaching?
- B. Why did Mahmoud say that assigning no homework was successful?
- C. What did Alice Keeler say was the benefit of not assigning homework?

2. How will I make sure students receive adequate instruction without homework? When Mahmoud stopped assigning homework, he found himself running out of time to cover everything in class to the depth that he wanted to.

Now, he leads a "[flipped classroom](#)." At home, students complete assignments that introduce them to concepts that will be covered in depth in class the next day, says Mahmoud, who also teaches aspiring educators at the Teacher Development Center at the [University of Texas--Dallas](#).

Keeler said teachers considering eliminating homework need to think about how students can be more actively involved in their learning so they get the independent practice they need.

Teachers also could consider how to use technology to increase efficiency to allow more time to engage with material -- for example, distribute directions so students are never sitting and waiting for the teacher to say what to do next, said Keeler, who now teaches aspiring teachers in the credential program at [California State University--Fresno](#).

### Questions

- A. What is a "flipped classroom"?
- B. Where does Alice Keeler teach at now?

3. Are there benefits to homework for high schoolers? High schoolers need some homework because they need to learn how to study independently, says Harris Cooper, a professor of psychology and neuroscience at [Duke University](#) and author of "The Battle Over Homework: Common Ground for Administrators, Teachers, and Parents."

When they go to college, they'll spend less time in class and more time studying on their own.

Teachers should be concerned about the amount of homework they assign, he says. Be mindful of work students will receive in other classes and consider coordinating homework assignments with other teachers, if possible, so that students don't get overloaded.

Teachers could also consider long-term assignments -- the kind of work students will do in college and in the workforce -- and stick to the 10-minute rule: Typically, students should receive 10 minutes of homework for each grade they are in. A ninth grader, for example, should have no more than 90 minutes of homework a night, he says.

"Homework can be like medicine," he says. "If you don't take enough, it has no effect. If you take too much, it can kill you. So get the dose right."

### Questions

- A. What is one of the benefits to doing homework according to Harris Cooper?
- B. What is the 10-minute rule?
- C. What is the analogy between homework and taking medicine?
- D. What do you think about homework?

## ARTICLE 2

### TYPHOON HITS NORTHERN JAPAN, THREATENING TO BRING FLOODS

*Yahoo News*

TOKYO (AP) — A typhoon slammed into northern Japan on Tuesday evening, threatening to bring floods to an area still recovering from the 2011 tsunami.

Typhoon Lionrock made landfall near the city of Ofunato, about 500 kilometers (310 miles) northeast of Tokyo. It's the first time a typhoon has made landfall in the northern region since 1951, when the Japan Meteorological Agency started keeping records.

Even before it made landfall, the storm had already paralyzed traffic, caused blackouts and prompted officials to urge residents to evacuate. It was packing winds up to 126 kilometers (78 miles) per hour Tuesday evening.



More than 170,000 people were subject to evacuation, including 38,000 in Ofunato, according to the Fire and Disaster Management Agency. More than 10,000 homes in the northern region were without electricity, with power lines damaged from the winds.

The March 2011 earthquake and tsunami left more than 18,000 people dead in the wide swaths of Japan's northern coast, including 340 in Ofunato.

As of Tuesday evening, Typhoon Lionrock had brought 15 centimeters (6 inches) of rainfall to the region over the past 24 hours, and was expected to dump up to 8 centimeters (3 inches) of rain per hour in some areas, the meteorological agency said, urging residents to use caution and stay away from the coastline.

Major airlines canceled more than 100 flights to and from the northern region. Bullet train services in the Tohoku and Hokkaido regions were suspended.

At the Fukushima nuclear power plant, decimated by the 2011 disaster, some outdoor decommissioning work was suspended as a precaution.

### Questions

- A. What is the Typhoon named?
- B. Where did the Typhoon make landfall?
- C. What were some of the impacts the storm had before making landfall?
- D. How many people died in the March 2011 Typhoon?
- E. How many flights were cancelled due to the Typhoon?
- F. What is the worst natural disaster you have been in?

## ARTICLE 3

### 6 THINGS YOU SHOULD UNLEARN TO SUCCEED AT WORK

*Money News*

Life has a way of instilling lessons in us that don't always apply in every context. That's especially true when it comes to work: You may have habits or ways of thinking that served you well in school or beyond, but which will actually hold you back in your professional life. Here are six of the most common things you may need to unlearn in order to [succeed at work](#).



1. Thinking that being thorough is always better. You might assume that of course your boss wants to know every detail about the situation you're emailing her about – being thorough is good, right? – But in most cases, most managers [just want the upshot](#). You'll generally do better if you focus on high-level takeaways and save background and details for when and if they're specifically requested, especially when you're communicating in email. That can be a hard lesson to learn if you're naturally thorough – but remember that it's not that your boss doesn't want you to be thorough. Rather, it's that she trusts you to gather the details and then curate the most important points for her.

2. Figuring that guessing at an answer is better than nothing. Sometimes when people feel put on the spot by a question from a colleague or boss, they respond by giving their best guess. That can be fine if you're upfront about the fact that it's a guess. But if you present your guess as a certainty, it can be disastrous since people may act on the potentially wrong information you've provided. Instead, it's far better to acknowledge when you don't know something, and say that you'll find out and come back with the answer.

#### Questions

- A. Based on the article, is being too detailed something good?
- B. Is it better to make an educated guess or be honest and admit when you do not know something?

3. Thinking that appearing impartial will make you more credible. People often assume that appearing impartial and perfectly objective will make them come across as more credible, but in fact the opposite can be true. Your boss knows that you have biases because you're human and we all have biases and agendas, and making a point of disclosing those conveys that you're being open and transparent. For example, if you're recommending that your department purchase a new software, it's fine to say, "I have a bias in favor of this software because it will make my life significantly easier, although I know that not everyone will like it as much as I do." Or if you're sharing concerns with your boss about someone you manage, you might say, "I want to be transparent that Jane really gets under my skin at times, and it's possible that's influencing my take on this situation." Good bosses will appreciate the full disclosure.

4. Assuming it's normal to not get along with co-workers. Whether or not you like every co-worker or enjoy working with them, part of what you're being paid for is to be pleasant and polite to people and to [maintain decent relationships](#) with them. That doesn't mean that you need to be friends with everyone at work, but it does mean that you need to be cordial and not take out a bad day, a bad mood or a personal dislike on the people you work with.

#### Question

- A. Is being biased a bad thing?
- B. Is it okay to not get along with your co-workers and show it to other people?

5. Thinking it's OK to show that criticism gets you down. Another thing you're being paid for is to take feedback with reasonably good grace. Part of having a job and a boss is that your boss may sometimes point out weaker areas of your work and ask you to do things differently (or simply better). An unspoken part of your employment agreement is that you'll listen with an open mind and not get [defensive or angry or shut down](#).

6. Figuring that perfect is always better than good. Conscientious employees tend to think that "perfect" work is always better than "good enough" work, but very often the opposite is true. Often the time that it would take to perfect a project means that other work will get short shrift, and in many cases getting something done quickly is more important than making it flawless. If you struggle with perfectionism, it can be useful to [ask your manager](#) whether she actually cares about the details you're spending hours to perfect; you might find that she doesn't.

### Question

- A. Should we accept constructive criticism?
- B. All managers look for perfectionism, True or False?

## ARTICLE 4

### INDIA'S CLOTHING GUIDELINES FOR FEMALE TOURISTS STIR BACKLASH FROM FEMINISTS

*Yahoo News*

1. Women visiting India should not wear short skirts or walk alone at night, said the country's tourism minister on Sunday, setting off a wave of headlines and criticism from gender equality advocates.

In a welcome kit presented to foreign arrivals to India, female tourists "are given dos and don'ts," tourism minister Mahesh Sharma explained while discussing tourist security in the north Indian city of Agra, the home of the Taj Mahal. "These are very small things like, they [should not venture out alone](#) at night in small places, or wear skirts, and they should click the photo of the vehicle number plate [of the car they are riding in] whenever they travel and send it to friends."



The safety tips, introduced last year, are part of an effort to reverse the decline in female tourists to India following the fatal gang rape of a Delhi medical student in 2012 and a number of attacks on foreign visitors since then. The guideline to dress modestly and avoid being alone at night echo common advice to female travelers around the world. Coming from an official, however, the tips set off an online furor from women's advocates who argue they reflect an antiquated attitude of victim-blaming and greater concern for policing women's dress and behavior than preventing or punishing assaults themselves.

### Question

- A. What is included in the welcome kit provided to foreign arrivals in India?
- B. What do women's advocates say about this issue?

2. "The minister [doesn't realize the implications](#) of such irresponsible statements," Ranjana Kumari, the director of the Centre for Social Research, a think tank that focuses on gender equality in India, told The Guardian. "The problem is men and boys in India.... It's important for [Sharma] to have said how to punish the perpetrators of crime and stop the nonsense of ogling women and following them."

Since the highly publicized assault and murder of a 23-year-old woman in 2012, there have been some legislative steps taken to offer more protection to women, such as expanding the legal definition of rape and increasing sentences for convictions. Just as important, a cultural shift has also begun, some experts say, after the 2012 incident in particular raised awareness of, and opened up a national discussion on, sexual violence.

"There's a [conversation about rape](#) in India that you'd not been hearing very loudly before," Michael Kugleman, a senior scholar in Asian studies at the Wilson Center, told VICE News last year. "People are more likely to come forward now and report rapes when they happen. They see that it is starting to get attention and it is starting to be condemned."

But gender equality advocates say that while there has been some progress made; there is still a long way to go. An average of [92 women](#) report rapes each day in India, according to 2014 government data. And according to a recent survey, [79 percent](#) of Indian women have experienced some form of public violence or street harassment.

### Question

- A. Who is Ranjana Kumari?
- B. What are some of the legislative steps taken to offer more protection to women?

3. The fatal rape in 2012 "prompted [desperate calls for reform](#), protests and close examination of India's attitudes toward rape," journalist and activist Ruchira Gupta wrote in a 2013 op-ed for CNN. "But after the initial outrage, it seems that the law has only changed on paper."

When one of the four men sentenced to death for the attack told interviewers that "a girl is far more responsible for rape than a boy," and that "[Housework and housekeeping is for girls](#), not roaming in discos and bars at night doing wrong things, wearing wrong clothes," critics pointed out that [he was echoing commonly held views](#). Much of the cultural change that needs to happen, activists say, must come from the top down. But Mr. Sharma, the tourism minister, is far from the first leader to be criticized for "victim-blaming." Other officials who have come under fire include Manohar Lal Khattar, the top elected official of Haryana state, who asserted that "if a girl is dressed decently, a boy [will not look at her](#) in the wrong way."

In 2011, Dinesh Reddy, the director general of the police in the state of Andhra Pradesh, said that "fashionable dresses worn by women, even in rural areas, are [among the factors](#) leading to an increase in rape cases. The police have no control over this matter."

### Question

- A. What did one of the rapist say that people say reflects the need to change the cultural view of the role of women in society
- B. What is victim blaming?
- C. What did Dinesh Reddy say that was so controversial?