PTE Vocabulary List 2026

300+ academic words by theme, with collocations and example sentences

The words that keep turning up in PTE lectures, reading passages and essay prompts, sorted into nine themes. Each one comes with the word it usually travels with and a short sentence you can say out loud.

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How to use this list

Don't try to memorise 300 words from a page. Learn each word with its partner. A collocation is a pair of words that native speakers put together, like *conduct a survey* or *a sharp increase*. Learn the pair and you hear it faster in a lecture. You also choose the right word faster in a Fill in the Blanks gap.

1. Read the example sentence aloud twice.
2. Cover the collocation column and say the pair from memory.
3. Write one sentence of your own about your life, your city or your work.
4. Tick the word only when you can spell it without looking.

Type key: n = noun, v = verb, adj = adjective, adv = adverb, prep = preposition, conj = conjunction, phr v = phrasal verb, pl = plural. We use UK spelling (analyse, stabilise, favour) throughout.

Words most students already half-know

Most of these words will look familiar. That is the point. In the test you don't get time to think about a word you only half-know, so the aim here is to make them automatic.

Research and study (34 words)

Word	Type	Collocation	Example sentence
hypothesis	n	*test a hypothesis*	The team tested the hypothesis on two groups of farmers.
data	n	*collect data*	Researchers collected data from 400 households in Chitwan.
analyse	v	*analyse the results*	We analysed the results before writing the report.
evidence	n	*strong evidence*	There is strong evidence that sleep improves memory.
method	n	*research method*	Each research method has its own limits.
sample	n	*a sample of*	A sample of 200 students completed the survey.
survey	n	*conduct a survey*	The council conducted a survey of local businesses.
findings	n	*key findings*	The key findings were shared with the ministry.
conclude	v	*conclude that*	The authors concluded that the drug was safe.
indicate	v	*results indicate*	The results indicate a link between diet and mood.
significant	adj	*statistically significant*	The difference between the groups was not statistically significant.
theory	n	*develop a theory*	Darwin developed his theory over many years.
assess	v	*assess the impact*	The study assessed the impact of the new road.
investigate	v	*investigate the causes*	Engineers investigated the causes of the collapse.
source	n	*primary source*	Letters and diaries are primary sources for historians.
variable	n	*control a variable*	In a fair test you control every variable but one.
interpret	v	*interpret the data*	Two teams interpreted the same data differently.
approach	n	*take an approach*	The authors took a practical approach to the problem.
concept	n	*key concept*	Supply and demand is a key concept in economics.

Word	Type	Collocation	Example sentence
framework	n	*theoretical framework*	The thesis uses a clear theoretical framework.
procedure	n	*follow a procedure*	Every lab assistant follows the same safety procedure.
estimate	v	*roughly estimate*	Experts roughly estimate the cost at two million dollars.
identify	v	*identify a pattern*	The software identified a pattern in the traffic data.
publish	v	*publish findings*	The group published its findings in a medical journal.
review	n	*literature review*	Her literature review covers fifty earlier studies.
experiment	n	*carry out an experiment*	Students carried out an experiment on plant growth.
observe	v	*closely observe*	Biologists closely observed the birds for a whole season.
valid	adj	*valid argument*	A valid argument needs reliable evidence behind it.
reliable	adj	*reliable source*	Check that a website is a reliable source before you quote it.
demonstrate	v	*clearly demonstrate*	The trial clearly demonstrated the value of early treatment.
illustrate	v	*illustrate a point*	The lecturer used a map to illustrate her point.
assumption	n	*make an assumption*	Do not make assumptions about what the reader already knows.
criteria	n (pl)	*meet the criteria*	Only twelve projects met the funding criteria.
phenomenon	n	*natural phenomenon*	An eclipse is a natural phenomenon that people once feared.

Change and trends (34 words)

Word	Type	Collocation	Example sentence
increase	n	*a sharp increase*	There was a sharp increase in rice prices last year.
decline	n	*a steady decline*	The bar chart shows a steady decline in smoking.
fluctuate	v	*fluctuate widely*	Exchange rates fluctuated widely during the crisis.
trend	n	*an upward trend*	Online shopping continues its upward trend.
rise	v	*rise steadily*	Sea levels have risen steadily since 1900.
fall	n	*a dramatic fall*	The graph shows a dramatic fall in sales in March.
peak	v	*peak at*	Visitor numbers peaked at 5,000 in July.
stabilise	v	*prices stabilise*	Prices stabilised after the harvest.
transform	v	*completely transform*	Mobile banking has completely transformed village shops.
shift	n	*a major shift*	There has been a major shift towards remote work.
expand	v	*expand rapidly*	The city expanded rapidly after the new highway opened.
reduce	v	*significantly reduce*	The new rules significantly reduced waiting times.
decrease	v	*decrease gradually*	Birth rates decreased gradually over three decades.
grow	v	*grow rapidly*	The tourism sector grew rapidly after 2015.
evolve	v	*evolve over time*	Languages evolve over time as people borrow words.

Word	Type	Collocation	Example sentence
modify	v	*slightly modify*	The engineers slightly modified the original design.
adapt	v	*adapt to change*	Small firms must adapt to change quickly.
emerge	v	*emerge as*	Solar power has emerged as a cheap source of energy.
gradual	adj	*gradual improvement*	The patient showed a gradual improvement over the week.
rapid	adj	*rapid growth*	Rapid growth put pressure on schools and hospitals.
constant	adj	*remain constant*	The temperature remained constant throughout the test.
projection	n	*population projection*	Population projections suggest the city will keep growing.
proportion	n	*a large proportion*	A large proportion of graduates work overseas.
percentage	n	*the percentage of*	The percentage of women in parliament has doubled.
period	n	*over a period of*	Data were collected over a period of ten years.
overall	adj	*overall trend*	The overall trend was positive despite a dip in 2020.
approximately	adv	*approximately half*	Approximately half of the respondents agreed.
substantial	adj	*substantial increase*	Exports saw a substantial increase after the trade deal.
minimal	adj	*minimal change*	There was minimal change in the second quarter.
accelerate	v	*accelerate growth*	Lower interest rates can accelerate growth.
persist	v	*problems persist*	Water shortages persist in many hill districts.
revise	v	*revise a forecast*	The bank revised its forecast downwards.
surge	n	*a surge in demand*	A surge in demand pushed up flight prices.
plateau	v	*plateau at*	Her reading score plateaued at 65 for two months.

Cause and effect (33 words)

Word	Type	Collocation	Example sentence
cause	v	*directly cause*	Heavy rain directly caused the landslide.
effect	n	*have an effect on*	Noise can have an effect on concentration.
impact	n	*a major impact*	The new airport had a major impact on local jobs.
result in	phr v	*result in delays*	Poor planning resulted in long delays.
consequence	n	*serious consequences*	Cutting forests has serious consequences for wildlife.
contribute	v	*contribute to*	Several factors contributed to the company's failure.
factor	n	*a key factor*	Cost is a key factor when students choose a university.
influence	n	*strong influence*	Parents have a strong influence on career choices.
lead to	phr v	*lead to problems*	Stress can lead to poor sleep.
affect	v	*badly affect*	The drought badly affected wheat farmers.
trigger	v	*trigger a response*	The announcement triggered an angry response.

Word	Type	Collocation	Example sentence
outcome	n	*a positive outcome*	Early support often leads to a positive outcome.
derive	v	*derive from*	Many English words derive from Latin.
stem from	phr v	*stem from a problem*	Most of the complaints stemmed from poor communication.
generate	v	*generate income*	Tourism generates income for remote villages.
implication	n	*important implications*	The findings have important implications for teachers.
attribute	v	*attribute to*	The rise was attributed to lower fuel prices.
prompt	v	*prompt a change*	The accident prompted a change in the law.
induce	v	*induce sleep*	Some medicines induce sleep as a side effect.
correlation	n	*a strong correlation*	There is a strong correlation between income and health.
due to	prep	*due to bad weather*	The flight was cancelled due to fog.
consequently	adv	*and consequently*	Fees rose, and consequently fewer students enrolled.
thus	adv	*and thus*	The bridge was closed and thus traffic moved slowly.
hence	adv	*hence the delay*	The data were incomplete, hence the delay.
stimulate	v	*stimulate growth*	Tax cuts are meant to stimulate growth.
enhance	v	*enhance performance*	Regular practice enhances performance in speaking tasks.
hinder	v	*hinder progress*	A lack of funding hindered progress on the dam.
undermine	v	*undermine confidence*	Repeated errors undermine public confidence.
alter	v	*alter the course of*	The discovery altered the course of medicine.
benefit	n	*a major benefit*	A major benefit of cycling is the low cost.
drawback	n	*the main drawback*	The main drawback of the plan is its cost.
mechanism	n	*the underlying mechanism*	Scientists still debate the underlying mechanism.
yield	v	*yield results*	The new method yielded better results.

Comparison and contrast (33 words)

Word	Type	Collocation	Example sentence
similar	adj	*similar to*	Nepali grammar is similar to Hindi grammar in many ways.
contrast	n	*in contrast*	In contrast, rural areas saw little growth.
differ	v	*differ from*	Spoken English differs from written English.
whereas	conj	*X, whereas Y*	Cities grew, whereas villages lost people.
compare	v	*compared with*	Compared with 2010, fewer people smoke today.
distinction	n	*draw a distinction*	The writer draws a distinction between facts and opinions.
equivalent	adj	*equivalent to*	One mile is roughly equivalent to 1.6 kilometres.
identical	adj	*almost identical*	The two reports were almost identical.

Word	Type	Collocation	Example sentence
comparable	adj	*comparable to*	Rents in the new suburb are comparable to those in the city centre.
distinct	adj	*distinct from*	Each dialect is distinct from the others.
alternative	n	*a viable alternative*	Buses are a viable alternative to private cars.
superior	adj	*superior to*	The new model is superior to the old one in speed.
inferior	adj	*inferior to*	Cheap materials are often inferior to local stone.
relative	adj	*relative to*	Rents are high relative to wages.
correspond	v	*correspond to*	Each colour on the map corresponds to a region.
diverse	adj	*a diverse range*	The course attracts a diverse range of students.
uniform	adj	*a uniform standard*	Schools should follow a uniform standard for exams.
parallel	n	*draw a parallel*	Historians draw a parallel between the two wars.
likewise	adv	*and likewise*	Likewise, the second group improved after training.
conversely	adv	*and conversely*	Conversely, prices fell in the north.
nevertheless	adv	*; nevertheless,*	The task was hard; nevertheless, most students finished.
despite	prep	*despite the rain*	Despite the rain, the match went ahead.
while	conj	*while some*	While some critics praised the film, others found it slow.
outweigh	v	*outweigh the risks*	The benefits of the vaccine outweigh the risks.
favour	n	*in favour of*	Most residents voted in favour of the new park.
preference	n	*a strong preference*	Students showed a strong preference for online notes.
counterpart	n	*its counterpart*	The Australian minister met her Nepali counterpart.
disparity	n	*a wide disparity*	There is a wide disparity between urban and rural incomes.
balance	n	*strike a balance*	Students must strike a balance between work and study.
vary	v	*vary considerably*	Fees vary considerably between universities.
exceed	v	*exceed expectations*	Sales exceeded expectations in the first month.
match	v	*closely match*	The two sets of results closely matched.
discrepancy	n	*a discrepancy between*	Auditors found a discrepancy between the two accounts.

Environment (34 words)

Word	Type	Collocation	Example sentence
pollution	n	*air pollution*	Air pollution in Kathmandu is worst in winter.
emission	n	*carbon emissions*	Factories and cars produce most carbon emissions in the city.
climate	n	*climate change*	Climate change is melting Himalayan glaciers.
sustainable	adj	*sustainable development*	Sustainable development meets today's needs without harming the future.

Word	Type	Collocation	Example sentence
renewable	adj	*renewable energy*	Wind and solar are forms of renewable energy.
conservation	n	*wildlife conservation*	Wildlife conservation brings tourists to Chitwan.
habitat	n	*natural habitat*	Rhinos need a natural habitat with tall grass.
species	n	*endangered species*	The law protects endangered species from trade.
ecosystem	n	*fragile ecosystem*	Wetlands are fragile ecosystems.
deforestation	n	*widespread deforestation*	Widespread deforestation lets heavy rain wash the soil away.
resource	n	*natural resources*	Water is one of our most valuable natural resources.
waste	n	*reduce waste*	Restaurants can reduce waste by cooking smaller portions.
recycle	v	*recycle plastic*	Many cities now recycle plastic bottles.
drought	n	*severe drought*	A severe drought ruined the maize crop.
flood	n	*flash flood*	A flash flood destroyed the bridge overnight.
biodiversity	n	*loss of biodiversity*	The loss of biodiversity worries farmers who depend on bees.
contaminate	v	*contaminate water*	Factory waste contaminated the river water.
erosion	n	*soil erosion*	Terraced fields help to prevent soil erosion.
fossil fuel	n	*burn fossil fuels*	Burning fossil fuels releases carbon dioxide.
global warming	n	*tackle global warming*	Every country has a part to play in tackling global warming.
greenhouse gas	n	*a powerful greenhouse gas*	Methane is a powerful greenhouse gas.
preserve	v	*preserve the environment*	We must preserve the environment for our children.
degrade	v	*degrade the land*	Overgrazing degrades the land quickly.
deplete	v	*deplete reserves*	Heavy pumping has depleted groundwater reserves.
extinct	adj	*become extinct*	Many plants could become extinct this century.
footprint	n	*carbon footprint*	Flying increases your carbon footprint.
organic	adj	*organic farming*	Organic farming avoids synthetic pesticides.
agriculture	n	*sustainable agriculture*	Sustainable agriculture keeps the soil healthy.
urbanisation	n	*rapid urbanisation*	Rapid urbanisation has filled the valley with concrete.
landfill	n	*landfill site*	The landfill site is almost full.
disposal	n	*waste disposal*	Safe waste disposal is a problem in growing towns.
mitigate	v	*mitigate the effects*	Planting trees can mitigate the effects of flooding.
toxic	adj	*toxic chemicals*	Toxic chemicals leaked into the lake.
environmental	adj	*environmental protection*	Environmental protection costs money in the short term.

Health and medicine (33 words)

Word	Type	Collocation	Example sentence
disease	n	*chronic disease*	Diabetes is a chronic disease that needs daily care.
diagnosis	n	*early diagnosis*	Early diagnosis makes treatment easier.
treatment	n	*receive treatment*	She received treatment at a hospital in Bharatpur.
symptom	n	*a common symptom*	Fever is a common symptom of infection.
nutrition	n	*poor nutrition*	Poor nutrition slows children's growth.
obesity	n	*childhood obesity*	Childhood obesity is rising in many cities.
infection	n	*the spread of infection*	Hand washing limits the spread of infection.
immune	adj	*immune system*	Sleep keeps the immune system strong.
mental health	n	*support mental health*	University counsellors support students' mental health.
prevention	n	*disease prevention*	Disease prevention is cheaper than cure.
patient	n	*treat a patient*	Nurses treated each patient with care.
therapy	n	*physical therapy*	Physical therapy helped him walk again.
vaccine	n	*develop a vaccine*	Scientists developed the vaccine in under a year.
epidemic	n	*an epidemic of*	The region faced an epidemic of cholera.
chronic	adj	*chronic pain*	Chronic pain can affect a person's mood.
physical	adj	*physical activity*	Children need some physical activity every day.
medication	n	*prescribe medication*	The doctor prescribed medication for her blood pressure.
recovery	n	*make a full recovery*	Most patients make a full recovery within weeks.
clinical	adj	*clinical trial*	The clinical trial included 3,000 volunteers.
lifestyle	n	*a healthy lifestyle*	A healthy lifestyle includes regular exercise.
diet	n	*a balanced diet*	A balanced diet includes vegetables and protein.
hygiene	n	*personal hygiene*	Personal hygiene lowers the risk of illness.
sanitation	n	*improve sanitation*	New toilets improved sanitation in the village.
life expectancy	n	*life expectancy rises*	Life expectancy has risen in most countries.
injury	n	*serious injury*	Helmets reduce the risk of serious injury.
surgery	n	*undergo surgery*	He underwent surgery on his knee.
stress	n	*reduce stress*	Walking outdoors can reduce stress.
addiction	n	*drug addiction*	Drug addiction affects whole families.
welfare	n	*public welfare*	Clean water is essential to public welfare.
outbreak	n	*an outbreak of*	An outbreak of flu closed two schools.
susceptible	adj	*susceptible to*	Older people are more susceptible to heatstroke.
cure	n	*find a cure*	Researchers are trying to find a cure for malaria.
healthcare	n	*access to healthcare*	Remote villages have limited access to healthcare.

Technology (33 words)

Word	Type	Collocation	Example sentence
innovation	n	*technological innovation*	Technological innovation changed how farmers sell crops.
device	n	*mobile device*	Most students read on a mobile device.
digital	adj	*digital literacy*	Digital literacy is now taught in primary schools.
artificial intelligence	n	*use artificial intelligence*	Artificial intelligence can sort thousands of images in seconds.
automation	n	*increased automation*	Increased automation has cut jobs in some factories.
software	n	*install software*	The office installed new accounting software.
network	n	*social network*	She found her first job through a social network.
database	n	*access a database*	Students can access the database from home.
online	adj	*online platform*	The course runs on an online platform.
virtual	adj	*virtual reality*	Virtual reality lets trainee surgeons practise safely.
cyber security	n	*invest in cyber security*	Banks invest heavily in cyber security.
privacy	n	*protect privacy*	Users want apps to protect their privacy.
access	n	*internet access*	Internet access is still patchy in the hills.
interface	n	*user interface*	A simple user interface helps older users.
algorithm	n	*design an algorithm*	Engineers designed an algorithm to detect fraud.
download	v	*download a file*	You can download the file from the course page.
upgrade	v	*upgrade the system*	The bank upgraded its system over the weekend.
obsolete	adj	*become obsolete*	Fax machines have become obsolete in most offices.
efficient	adj	*energy efficient*	LED bulbs are more energy efficient than old bulbs.
invention	n	*a great invention*	The printing press was a great invention.
engineering	n	*civil engineering*	Civil engineering covers roads, bridges and dams.
hardware	n	*computer hardware*	Computer hardware gets cheaper every year.
wireless	adj	*wireless connection*	The library offers a free wireless connection.
compatible	adj	*compatible with*	The charger is not compatible with older phones.
implement	v	*implement a system*	The hospital implemented a new booking system.
transmit	v	*transmit data*	Satellites transmit data back to Earth.
platform	n	*digital platform*	Musicians sell songs on digital platforms.
breakthrough	n	*a major breakthrough*	The new battery was a major breakthrough.
electronic	adj	*electronic devices*	Some airlines ask passengers to switch off electronic devices during take-off.
infrastructure	n	*digital infrastructure*	Poor digital infrastructure slows rural business.
manual	adj	*manual labour*	Machines have replaced much manual labour.
simulation	n	*computer simulation*	A computer simulation predicted the path of the flood.

Word	Type	Collocation	Example sentence
robot	n	*industrial robot*	Industrial robots assemble cars in many plants.

Education (33 words)

Word	Type	Collocation	Example sentence
curriculum	n	*national curriculum*	The national curriculum now includes coding.
assignment	n	*submit an assignment*	Submit the assignment through the portal by Friday.
lecture	n	*attend a lecture*	Over 200 students attended the lecture.
tutorial	n	*weekly tutorial*	Weekly tutorials let students ask questions.
semester	n	*first semester*	The first semester ends in June.
enrol	v	*enrol in a course*	She enrolled in a nursing course in Sydney.
graduate	v	*graduate from*	He graduated from Tribhuvan University in 2019.
degree	n	*bachelor's degree*	He finished his bachelor's degree while working part-time.
scholarship	n	*win a scholarship*	She won a scholarship to study engineering.
academic	adj	*academic performance*	Sleep affects academic performance.
qualification	n	*professional qualification*	Accountants need a professional qualification.
literacy	n	*literacy rate*	The literacy rate has improved in rural districts.
discipline	n	*academic discipline*	History is an academic discipline with its own methods.
assessment	n	*continuous assessment*	Continuous assessment reduces exam stress.
plagiarism	n	*commit plagiarism*	Students who commit plagiarism may fail the course.
thesis	n	*write a thesis*	She spent two years writing her thesis.
faculty	n	*faculty member*	Each faculty member holds office hours.
seminar	n	*seminar room*	The seminar room is on the second floor.
undergraduate	adj	*undergraduate student*	Undergraduate students may join the project.
postgraduate	adj	*postgraduate study*	Postgraduate study demands independent research.
campus	n	*on campus*	First-year students usually live on campus.
tuition	n	*tuition fees*	Tuition fees vary between universities.
deadline	n	*meet a deadline*	Plan your weeks so you meet every deadline.
module	n	*core module*	Statistics is a core module in psychology.
instruction	n	*language of instruction*	English is the language of instruction on this course.
knowledge	n	*acquire knowledge*	Children acquire knowledge through play.
skill	n	*develop skills*	Group work helps students develop teamwork skills.
critical thinking	n	*encourage critical thinking*	Good teachers encourage critical thinking about every source.
vocational	adj	*vocational training*	Vocational training prepares students for trades.

Word	Type	Collocation	Example sentence
attendance	n	*compulsory attendance*	Attendance is compulsory at all lab sessions.
grade	n	*final grade*	The project counts towards the final grade.
mentor	n	*act as a mentor*	Senior students act as mentors to new arrivals.
pedagogy	n	*modern pedagogy*	Modern pedagogy puts the learner at the centre.

Society and economy (36 words)

Word	Type	Collocation	Example sentence
community	n	*local community*	The local community raised money for the school.
population	n	*ageing population*	Japan has an ageing population.
policy	n	*government policy*	Government policy shapes housing prices.
inequality	n	*income inequality*	Income inequality has grown in many countries.
poverty	n	*live in poverty*	Millions of people still live in poverty.
migration	n	*rural-urban migration*	Rural-urban migration has emptied many hill villages.
employment	n	*full-time employment*	Graduates hope to find full-time employment.
economy	n	*global economy*	Money sent home by workers abroad links Nepal to the global economy.
culture	n	*traditional culture*	Festivals keep traditional culture alive.
diversity	n	*cultural diversity*	Sydney is known for its cultural diversity.
generation	n	*younger generation*	The younger generation reads the news on phones.
unemployment	n	*high unemployment*	High unemployment pushes young people abroad.
legislation	n	*introduce legislation*	The government introduced legislation on plastic bags.
citizen	n	*senior citizen*	Senior citizens travel free on some buses.
equality	n	*gender equality*	Gender equality starts in the classroom.
government	n	*local government*	Local government repairs most roads.
tradition	n	*a long tradition*	The town has a long tradition of weaving.
urban	adj	*urban area*	Urban areas need better public transport.
rural	adj	*rural area*	Rural areas often lack good hospitals.
housing	n	*affordable housing*	Young families struggle to find affordable housing.
crime	n	*crime rate*	The crime rate fell after street lights were added.
income	n	*household income*	Household income rose by eight per cent.
labour	n	*labour market*	The labour market needs more nurses.
globalisation	n	*effects of globalisation*	Cheap imports are one effect of globalisation.
discrimination	n	*racial discrimination*	The law bans racial discrimination at work.
volunteer	n	*work as a volunteer*	She works as a volunteer at a local clinic.

Word	Type	Collocation	Example sentence
demographic	adj	*demographic change*	Demographic change affects the cost of pensions.
immigrant	n	*recent immigrant*	Recent immigrants often take language classes.
heritage	n	*cultural heritage*	The temples of Bhaktapur are part of Nepal's cultural heritage.
consumer	n	*consumer spending*	Consumer spending rises before Dashain.
taxation	n	*progressive taxation*	Progressive taxation charges higher earners more.
wealth	n	*distribution of wealth*	The distribution of wealth is uneven.
democracy	n	*parliamentary democracy*	In a parliamentary democracy, voters elect the lawmakers.
media	n	*social media*	Social media spreads news quickly.
public	adj	*public transport*	Better public transport would cut traffic.
ethics	n	*professional ethics*	Doctors follow strict professional ethics.

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Spelling traps for Write From Dictation

In Write From Dictation you hear a sentence of 3 to 5 seconds once, then type it. Pearson gives one point for each correct word spelled correctly, and nothing for a misspelled word. One wrong letter costs the whole word.

Word	The trap
accommodation	double c and double m
environment	the n before the m is silent in fast speech
government	same silent n: gover**n**ment
necessary	one c, double s
separate	sep-**a**-rate, not seperate
definitely	ends -itely, not -ately
receive	e before i after c
achieve	i before e
occurred	double c and double r
beginning	double n before -ing
committee	double m, double t, double e
maintenance	main-**te**-nance, not maintainance
pronunciation	pro-**nun**-ciation, not pronounciation
recommend	one c, double m
questionnaire	double n
conscious	-sc- in the middle
library	the first r is easy to drop
February	the first r is easy to drop
Wednesday	silent d
business	busi-, not buisness
successful	double c, double s, one l at the end
address	double d, double s
professor	one f, double s
colleague	double l, ends -eague
guarantee	gu- at the start
privilege	no d: privil**ege**
foreign	silent g
rhythm	rh- at the start, and no vowel between th and m
schedule	sch- at the start
parliament	silent a: parli**a**ment

Words that sound alike

Pair	How to tell them apart
affect / effect	affect is usually the verb, effect the noun
principle / principal	a principle is a rule; a principal is a head teacher, or 'main'
their / there / they're	listen to the meaning, not the sound
weather / whether	whether introduces a choice
advice / advise	advice (s sound) is the noun; advise (z sound) is the verb
lose / loose	lose (z sound) a game; a loose (s sound) button
site / sight / cite	a building site; a beautiful sight; cite a source
complement / compliment	complement completes; a compliment praises

Small words students drop

- Plural **-s**: *The results were*, not *The result were*. If the verb is plural, the noun is too.
- Past **-ed**: *The lecture has been postponed*. The -ed is quiet but it is there.
- Articles: *a*, *an* and *the* are short and easy to miss. Each one is a word, and each word is a point.
- Third-person **-s**: *The library holds*, not *The library hold*.

UK or US spelling? In PTE Academic, Pearson says it accepts US, UK, Australian and Canadian spelling in Write Essay and Summarize Spoken Text if you keep to one. In PTE Core it says the same for Write Email. It does not say the same for Write From Dictation. Pick one spelling style and use it every time.

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4-week study plan

About 20-30 minutes a day, five days a week. Day six is a review day. Day seven is rest.

Week	Themes	Daily task
1	Research and study; Change and trends	14 new words a day. Say every example aloud. Write two sentences of your own.
2	Cause and effect; Comparison and contrast	14 new words a day. Then describe one chart or graph out loud using five of the week's words.
3	Environment; Health and medicine; Technology	20 new words a day. Write one short paragraph a day with at least four of them.
4	Education; Society and economy; spelling traps	14 new words a day plus 6 spelling traps. Ask a friend to read 10 sentences aloud; type them and check every letter.

Review day (day six each week)

Cover the whole table for the week. Read only the word and say its collocation. Any word you miss goes on a list for next week's review day. By the end of week four, that list is your personal weak-word list.

Next step

Practise these spellings with 100 free sentences at ptenepal.com/blog/pte-write-from-dictation-2026-list/. Want a teacher to find your weak words for you? Book a free assessment at ptenepal.com/free-assessment/, or see 1-on-1 coaching at ptenepal.com/coaching/one-on-one/.

Example sentences are written by PTE Nepal for practice. They are not exam questions. PTE format and scoring rules can change; check current details with Pearson.

ptenepal.com



Want a teacher to check your answers?

1-on-1 coaching by the female-led team of Smriti Simkhada, live on Google Meet at a time that works in your time zone.

Plans for your country: ptenepal.com/coaching/one-on-one/

Not sure where you stand yet? Book a free score assessment.

Or message us on WhatsApp: +977 982-523-5082

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