

# Advanced Vocabulary Flash Cards

FOR B2 FIRST, C1 ADVANCED & C2 PROFICIENCY  
CAMBRIDGE ENGLISH EXAM PREPARATION



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Over the years, I have taught hundreds of **advanced words** in videos on my YouTube channel "To the Point English with Ben" to help students who are preparing for the Cambridge English Exams. Those videos are extremely useful, but you need to **practise** using the vocabulary to **internalise** and understand the words effectively.

With that in mind, I've created these **bespoke** flash cards which contain the most useful words and phrases from my videos so you can focus on what's really important... using the words in **context!**

*Ben*

# HOW TO USE THE FLASH CARDS:

There are **many ways** you can use flash cards to learn vocabulary – test your memory, match the words to the meaning, practise spaced repetition etc. It's also important to think of your **own examples**.

These flash cards contain a lot of information:

**Part of speech** → Adj

**Word/phrase** → **TRIFLING**

Phonetic transcription → /'traɪ.flɪŋ/

**Definition** → UNIMPORTANT/TRIVIAL.

**Example sentence** → "On the grand scale of things, the president's diet is a trifling issue."

(OFTEN USED IN THE NEGATIVE)

"Climate change is no trifling matter."

## Key:

N = Noun

V = Verb

Adj = Adjective

Adv = Adverb

PV = Phrasal Verb

Adv + Adj

# **INEXTRICABLY LINKED**

/,ɪn.ɪk'strɪk.ə.bli 'lɪŋkt /

**(TWO OR MORE THINGS) CLOSELY  
CONNECTED, CANT BE  
CONSIDERED SEPARATELY.**

"The crime rate is inextricably  
linked to education."

V + N

# **EXTOL VIRTUES**

/ɪk'stəʊl 'vɜː.tʃuːz /

**TO PRAISE THE POSITIVE  
ASPECTS/FEATURES OF SOMEONE  
OR SOMETHING.**

"Nutritionists extol the virtues of  
eating fruit and vegetables every day."

V + N

# REKINDLE PASSION/LOVE

/,ri:'kɪn.dəl 'pæʃ.ən / lʌv /

TO CAUSE STRONG, POSITIVE  
FEELINGS FOR SOMEONE OR  
SOMETHING AGAIN.

"The enthusiastic teacher rekindled  
the student's passion for English."

V + Adj

# RENDER SPEECHLESS

/'ren.dər 'spi:tʃ.ləs/

TO GREATLY SURPRISE SOMEONE  
(POSITIVELY OR NEGATIVELY).

"She was rendered speechless when  
he proposed to her in London.  
He was rendered speechless when  
she said no."

Adv + Adj

# BLISSFULLY UNAWARE

/ˈblɪs.fəl.i ʌn.əˈweər/

NOT KNOWING ABOUT SOMETHING  
UNPLEASANT AND THEREFORE NOT  
AFFECTED BY IT EMOTIONALLY.

"Most people are blissfully unaware  
of how the products they consume  
are produced."

Adv + V

# WHOLEHEARTEDLY AGREE

/ˌhəʊlˈhɑː.tɪd.li əˈɡriː/

TO ENTHUSIASTICALLY SUPPORT  
SOMETHING (TOTALLY AGREE).

"I wholeheartedly agree with your  
views on mobile phone use in  
schools."

Adj

# PARAMOUNT (IMPORTANCE)

*/ˈpær.ə.maʊnt ɪmˈpɔː.təns /*

**VERY IMPORTANT.**

"It is paramount/of paramount importance that you expand your vocabulary before the exam."

Adj

# TRIFLING

*/ˈtraɪ.flɪŋ/*

**UNIMPORTANT/TRIVIAL.**

"On the grand scale of things, the president's diet is a trifling issue."

**(OFTEN USED IN THE NEGATIVE)**

"Climate change is no trifling matter."

Adj

# BAFFLING

*/'bæf.liŋ/*

**DIFFICULT TO UNDERSTAND,  
VERY CONFUSING**

"The exam format can be baffling at first, but over time you'll start to feel more confident."

Adj

# STRAIGHTFORWARD

*/.streɪt'fɔː.wəd/*

**EASY TO UNDERSTAND, NOT  
COMPLICATED**

"The application process should be more straightforward, it's very confusing!"

Adj

# SIZEABLE

*/ˈsaɪ.zə.bəl/*

**LARGE, CONSIDERABLE AMOUNT.  
(OFTEN MONEY)**

"The celebrity made a sizeable donation to charity, and told everyone about it on social media."

Adj

# PALTRY

*/ˈpɔːl.tri/*

**VERY SMALL AMOUNT  
(OFTEN MONEY)**

"Despite all their hard work during the changes, the teachers received a paltry pay rise."

Adj

# QUAINT

/kweɪnt/

**CHARMING/PRETTY IN AN  
OLD-FASHIONED WAY**

"I was born in a lovely quaint village in the countryside but we moved to an industrial town when I was 6."

Adj

# NONDESCRIPT

/ˈnɒn.dɪ.skript/

**HAVING NO INTERESTING OR  
DISTINCTIVE FEATURES.**

"To be honest, the neighbourhood in which I grew up was quite nondescript. I had lots of friends there, though."

Adj

# SWANKY

/ˈswæŋ.ki/

**EXPENSIVE, STYLISH, CLASSY.  
(OSTENTATIOUS)**

"If I won the lottery, I'd buy a huge house in a swanky neighbourhood of Paris or London."

Adj

# TIGHTLY-KNIT

/ˌtaɪtli ˈnɪt/

**HAVING STRONG, FRIENDLY  
CONNECTIONS/BONDS.  
(COMMUNITIES & FAMILIES)**

"The best thing about the place I grew up was the tightly-knit community. Everyone knew each other and helped out when necessary"

Adj

# DRAB

/dræb/

**BORING. WITH LITTLE COLOUR.**

"I would like to move out of the drab town where I live."

"The teacher always wears such drab clothes."

Adj

# BUCOLIC

/bju'kɒl.ɪk/

**RELATING TO THE COUNTRYSIDE.**

"I would love to live in a bucolic region, but it must have a good internet connection!"

Adv

# UNABASHEDLY

/ˌʌn.əˈbæʃt.li/

**WITHOUT EMBARRASSMENT/SHAME.  
UNAPOLOGETICALLY.**

"In the interview, she spoke unabashedly about her struggles with learning English."

Adv

# UNDOUBTEDLY

/ʌnˈdaʊ.tɪd.li/

**CERTAINLY, WITHOUT A DOUBT.**

"It's undoubtedly true that music was better in the past, but there are some good artists around now, too. "

Adv

# FONDLY

*/fɒnd.li/*

**WITH AFFECTION**

"I fondly remember my time at school.  
Especially breaktime, lunchtime and  
home time!"

Adv

# WILLINGLY

*/ˈwɪl.ɪŋ.li/*

**DELIBERATELY. GLADLY.  
(OF ONE'S FREE WILL)**

"Many people willingly give their time  
and money in order to help others who  
are in need."

V

# SHIRK

/ʃɜ:k/

**AVOID OR NEGLECT  
(USUALLY RESPONSIBILITIES/DUTIES)**

"If the president were to shirk his responsibilities, it would have serious consequences internationally."

V

# HINDER

/'hɪn.də/

**TO MAKE SOMETHING DIFFICULT  
TO OBSTRUCT/BE AN OBSTACLE TO**

"Nerves can help you to focus your studies and prepare effectively. However, excessive nerves can hinder your performance on exam day."

v

# DREAD

/dred/

**TO FEAR/WORRY ABOUT SOMETHING  
THAT IS GOING TO HAPPEN**

"I'm dreading the Speaking part of  
the exam, but I've prepared well so I  
should be ok."

v

# THRIVE

/θraɪv/

**TO GROW/DEVELOP STRONGLY.  
TO FLOURISH. BE SUCCESSFUL.**

"Although many businesses struggled  
during the pandemic, others thrived  
and are now in an even better  
situation than before."

V

# CRAVE

/kreɪv/

**TO HAVE A STRONG DESIRE FOR  
SOMETHING.**

"Many social media users crave the attention of others so they post silly videos to get more views."

V

# CHERISH

/'tʃer.ɪʃ/

**TO FEEL GREAT AFFECTION FOR.  
TO HOLD DEAR.**

"I cherish the memories of my childhood summer holidays in England with my family."

PV

# RAMP UP

/ræmp ʌp/

**TO INCREASE THE AMOUNT / EXTENT/  
INTENSITY OF SOMETHING.**

"The local council is ramping up efforts to reduce traffic congestion in the city centre."

PV

# CLAMP DOWN ON

/klæmp daʊn ɒn/

**TO TAKE STRONG ACTION TO STOP  
OR LIMIT AN ACTIVITY/BEHAVIOUR.**

"The examination board is clamping down on cheating."  
"Schools must clamp down on mobile phone use in classes."

PV

# STEM FROM

/stem from/

**TO BE CAUSED BY /  
TO ORIGINATE FROM.**

"Many issues in later life stem from some kind of childhood trauma."

PV

# IRON OUT

/aɪən aʊt/

**TO RESOLVE DIFFICULTIES  
OR PROBLEMS.**

"Before we move forward with the project, we need to iron out the issues with the catering service: I prefer chocolate biscuits to plain!"

PV

# WEIGH IN

/weɪ ɪn/

**TO GIVE ONE'S OPINION DURING AN ARGUMENT/DISCUSSION.**

"You both make excellent points but, if you don't mind me weighing in, I think you're both wrong."

PV

# TURN OUT

/tɜːn aʊt/

**TO PROVE TO BE / TO HAVE A PARTICULAR (UNEXPECTED) RESULT.**

"I was sure I would struggle with the speaking paper, but it turned out to be my best part of the exam. "

PV

# COME ACROSS

/kʌm ə'krɒs/

**TO APPEAR TO BE A CERTAIN WAY.  
TO GIVE A PARTICULAR IMPRESSION.**

"Sometimes, my uncle comes across as a bit grumpy, but actually he's very cheerful and friendly."

PV

# CLAM UP

/klæm ʌp/

**TO BE UNABLE TO SPEAK DUE TO  
BEING NERVOUS OR EMBARRASSED.**

"I'm worried that I'll clam up in the speaking paper of the exam, but my teacher told me to take deep breaths and stay focused."

PV

# KNUCKLE DOWN

/ˈnʌk.əl daʊn/

**TO START WORKING OR STUDYING  
HARD/SERIOUSLY.**

"You need to knuckle down and revise  
the grammar. Your exam is in just  
two weeks!"

PV

# CROP UP

/krɒp ʌp/

**TO APPEAR/OCCUR UNEXPECTEDLY.**

"I always plan to study in the  
evenings but something inevitably  
crops up and distracts me."

PV

# NARROW DOWN

*/ˈnær.əʊ daʊn/*

**TO REDUCE THE NUMBER OF OPTIONS  
OR POSSIBILITIES (OFTEN IN A LIST)**

"It's almost impossible to decide with  
so many options on the table. Let's  
narrow them down to our top 3  
biscuits!"

PV

# FACTOR IN

*/ˈfæk.tər ɪn/*

**TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT  
(ESPECIALLY IN CALCULATIONS).**

"When deciding which holiday  
destination we can afford, we need  
to factor in insurance costs...  
and suntan lotion."

PV

# SPLASH OUT

/splæʃ aʊt/

**TO SPEND A LOT OF MONEY ON  
SOMETHING EXTRAVAGANT.**

"Sometimes, I feel like really splashing out and buying myself a huge ultra HD flat-screen TV to watch soap operas."

PV

# FORK OUT

/fɔ:k aʊt/

**TO SPEND A LOT OF MONEY ON  
SOMETHING RELUCTANTLY/UNWILLINGLY.**

"Every winter, I have to fork out on a new pair of slippers because I can't find my old ones. I suspect Amy eats them."

PV

# GLOSS OVER

/glɒs 'əʊ.vər/

**TO TREAT A PROBLEM, ERROR OR EMBARRASSING SITUATION WITH LESS IMPORTANCE THAN IT DESERVES.**

"In the meeting, my boss glossed over the poor results this quarter and instead spoke for half an hour about the renovations to the canteen."

PV

# DWELL ON

/dwell ɒn/

**TO SPEND TOO MUCH THINKING OR TALKING ABOUT SOMETHING NEGATIVE.**

"You mustn't dwell on the fact that you didn't get the job. Keep trying and I'm sure you'll be successful soon!"

N

# WANDERLUST

*/ˈwɒn.də.lʌst/*

**A STRONG DESIRE TO TRAVEL**

"My wanderlust is always with me and I have to get on a plane to travel abroad every few months."

Adj

# PERTINENT

*/ˈpɜː.tɪ.nənt/*

**RELEVANT TO THE MATTER  
UNDER DISCUSSION**

"You make a pertinent point, and I agree with it to a certain extent"

V

# BAMBOOZLE

/bæm'bu:zəl/

**TO TRICK SOMEONE BY  
CONFUSING THEM**

"The scammer bamboozled his victim with financial jargon in order to get her bank details."

Adj

# FERVENT

/'fɜ:.vənt/

**HAVING STRONG FEELINGS.  
PASSIONATE.**

"I'm a fervent believer that the harder you work, the luckier you get"

Adj

# WHIMSICAL

/ˈwɪm.zɪ.kəl/

**CAPRICIOUS, PLAYFUL, NOT SERIOUS**

"The whimsical description of the author's childhood makes the book a joy to read."

Adj

# FACETIOUS

/fəˈsiː.ʃəs/

**TREATING A SERIOUS TOPIC IN AN INAPPROPRIATELY HUMOUROUS WAY.**

"I don't mean to be facetious, but if I were president of the USA, I'd make everyone travel by bike."

