Writing Task 1: the ‘lexical resource’ score

In this lesson we will do three things:

2. Move from grammar to vocabulary, looking at the ‘vocabulary mindset’ and ‘trigger words’.
3. Look at the ‘lexical resource’ (vocabulary) descriptors in detail.

1) Homework review: complex sentences

The first roundabout is at the intersection of City Road and Hospital Road, **while** the second is at the other end of Hospital Road, at the junction with the hospital ring road.

In 2007, staff and visitors used the same car park, **which** was situated to the east of Hospital Road and accessed via the ring road.

It is stated several times in the article that the market will be open until New Year’s Day, **when** in fact it is due to finish much earlier than this, on the 22nd of December.

It is vital that you give accurate information to readers **who** follow your travel advice.

2) Moving to a ‘vocabulary mindset’

I explain the vocabulary mindset in the video lesson.

I also mention the idea of ‘trigger words’. In my opinion, this is a more practical way to think about grammar for the purposes of the IELTS test.

3) The lexical resource descriptors (how vocabulary is scored)

Remember:

- There are no half bands for the four criteria
- So, you can’t get a 6.5 for lexical resource (vocabulary)
**Homework: Answer the following questions after watching the video lesson**

1. What is the vocabulary mindset?
2. What do I mean by ‘trigger words’?
3. What is the difference between bands 7 and 9, in terms of ‘less common vocabulary’?
4. Give one example of a phrase that shows awareness of style?
5. Why is paraphrasing such a useful skill with regard to your vocabulary score?

### Lexical resource

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Band 9</th>
<th>Band 8</th>
<th>Band 7</th>
<th>Band 6</th>
<th>Band 5</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• uses a wide range of vocabulary with very natural and sophisticated control of lexical features; rare minor errors occur only as 'slips'</td>
<td>• uses a wide range of vocabulary fluently and flexibly to convey precise meanings</td>
<td>• skilfully uses uncommon lexical items but there may be occasional inaccuracies in word choice and collocation</td>
<td>• produces rare errors in spelling and/or word formation</td>
<td>• uses an adequate range of vocabulary for the task</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• uses a sufficient range of vocabulary to allow some flexibility and precision</td>
<td>• uses less common lexical items with some awareness of style and collocation</td>
<td>• may produce occasional errors in word choice, spelling and/or word formation</td>
<td>• attempts to use less common vocabulary but with some inaccuracy</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• makes some errors in spelling and/or word formation, but they do not impede communication</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• makes some errors in spelling and/or word formation, but this is minimally adequate for the task</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• uses a limited range of vocabulary, but this is minimally adequate for the task</td>
<td>• may make noticeable errors in spelling and/or word formation that may cause some difficulty for the reader</td>
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Academic writing task 1 sample answer:

The maps illustrate some changes that were made to a city hospital's transport infrastructure between the years 2007 and 2010.

It is noticeable that three main modifications were made to the hospital's vehicle access. These involved the building of a new bus station, new roundabouts and new parking facilities.

Looking at the changes in more detail, we can see that in 2007 there were three bus stops on either side of Hospital Road. These were no longer present in 2010, and instead we see the addition of a bus station on the west side of Hospital Road. This bus station is accessed via two new roundabouts; the first roundabout is at the intersection of City Road and Hospital Road, while the second is at the other end of Hospital Road, at the junction with the hospital ring road.

The two maps also show that changes were made to public and staff parking areas. In 2007, staff and visitors used the same car park, which was situated to the east of Hospital Road and accessed via the ring road. However, by 2010 this original car park had become a designated area for staff parking only. A new car park, located on the east side of the ring road, provided parking for members of the public.

General writing task 1 sample answer:

Dear Sir or Madam,

I am writing to bring to your attention a significant error in your recent article about festivals in Manchester.

The mistake relates to the dates of the Manchester Christmas Market. It is stated several times in the article that the market will be open until New Year’s Day, when in fact it is due to finish much earlier than this, on the 22nd of December.

People who read your magazine and decide to visit the market in the last week of December are going to be sorely disappointed. Your error could spoil a Christmas outing or family trip for many tourists, and this could lead to complaints and bad publicity for the city.

I hope you will rectify this problem by publishing a correction in the next issue of your magazine and on the home page of your website. It is vital that you give accurate information to readers who follow your travel advice.

I trust you will act quickly to correct the mistake.

Yours faithfully,

Paul Jones