



Word list

Global issues and opportunities

Headword	Part of speech	IPA (UK)	Definition	Example(s)
a skills shortage	phrase	ə skɪlz 'ʃɔ:(r)tɪdʒ	a lack of people who are qualified or able to do particular jobs	Before we can declare a skills shortage, we should double the salary
accommodation	uncountable noun	ə,kəmə'deɪʃ(ə)n	a place for someone to stay, live, or work in	Accommodation like small flats could help reduce homelessness.
acute problem	phrase	ə'kju:t 'prɒbləm	very serious or severe problem	Technological waste, such as computers and phones, is now an acute problem.
adverse circumstances	phrase	'ædvɜ:(r)s 'sɜ:(r)kəmstənsɪz	circumstances likely to cause problems	Despite adverse circumstances, the company has thrived over the last year.
alarming	adjective	ə'la:(r)mɪŋ	frightening or worrying	The education results were alarming.
amusing incident	phrase	ə'mju:zɪŋ 'ɪnsɪd(ə)nt	something that happens which is funny or entertaining	I would like to describe an amusing incident that happened at work.
annoying incident	phrase	ə'noʊɪŋ 'ɪnsɪdənt	an incident that made someone rather angry	I lost my wallet last week. It was an annoying incident, which I
appealing	adjective	ə'pi:lɪŋ	attractive and interesting	Disaster movies are very appealing to many people.
attract	verb	ə'trækt	to make someone interested in something so that they do it or come to see or hear it	Cities are becoming more appealing to young people. The vibrancy attracts them enormously.
awkward situation	phrase	'ɔ:kwəd ,sɪtʃʊ'eɪʃən	a situation that is difficult to deal with	Both sides refuse to talk to each other. It is a rather awkward situation.

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be at a disadvantage	phrase	bi ət ə ,disəd'vɑ:ntɪdʒ	to be experiencing factors that make you less successful	You could be studying engineering right now at university and already be at a disadvantage if your institution isn't prestigious enough.
burglaries	countable noun	'bɜ:(r)glərɪz	instances of the crime of entering a building illegally in order to steal things	There is a lot of crime like burglaries in this area.
burning issue	phrase	'bɜ:(r)nɪŋ 'ɪʃu:	an issue felt extremely strongly	Energy costs have been a burning issue over the last few decades.
cause	noun	kɔ:z	an event, thing, or person that makes something happen	The most likely cause of overcrowding in cities is a rise in birth rates.
circumstances	noun	'sɜ:(r)kəmstənsɪz	facts or conditions that affect a situation	These were the perfect circumstances to write my first novel.
company crisis	phrase	'kʌmp(ə)ni 'kraɪsɪs	an urgent, difficult, or dangerous situation related to an organisation that provides services, or	The number of cars sold fell. It caused a company crisis.
controversial issue	phrase	'kɒntrə'vɜ:(r)ʃ(ə)l 'ɪʃu:	a controversial issue is one that people disagree about or do not approve of	Capital punishment is a controversial issue.
current events	phrase	'kʌrənt ɪ'vents	events happening or existing now, especially news events	I like to read the newspaper every day to keep me up to date on current events.
dangerous situation	phrase	'deɪndʒərəs ,sɪtʃu'eɪʃ(ə)n	a situation likely to have a bad effect or to cause a problem	With very little water, they are in a dangerous situation.
despite the fact that	phrase	dɪ'spaɪt ðə 'fækt ðæt	used for saying that something is true even though another fact makes this seem	He still feels it is true, despite all the evidence against that position.
divisive issue	phrase	dɪ'vaɪsɪv 'ɪʃu:	an issue that people have strong views about and do not agree on	Taxation is a divisive issue that arouses passion.

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due to a lack of	phrase	dju: tʊ ə læk ʌv	because there are not enough	When asked why they don't expect to be able to recruit suitable candidates over the
effective solution	phrase	ɪ'fektɪv sə'lʊ:ʃ(ə)n	a solution that is effective works well and produces the result that was intended	UN leaders are working hard to find an effective solution to the crisis.
encourage	verb	ɪn'kʌrɪdʒ	to suggest that someone does something that you believe would be good	Positive health education on TV can be motivating. It can encourage people to improve their lifestyle.
equipment	uncountable noun	ɪ'kwɪpmənt	the tools, machines, or other things that you need for	There is now no need for people to throw away equipment like
even if	phrase	'i:v(ə)n ɪf	used for emphasising that although something may happen or may be true,	Even if urban dwellers face problems such as overcrowding and traffic congestion, there are many effective solutions
even so	phrase	'i:v(ə)n 'səʊ	used for introducing a statement that seems surprising after what you said before	Many people believe that the changes we see in the world are a result of natural causes. Even so, there is compelling
event	noun	ɪ'vent	something that happens	A series of significant events occurred in the early part of the 19th century, which changed the face of transport
excellent opportunity	phrase	'eksələnt ˌɒpə(r)'tju:nəti	extremely good opportunity	Instead of being seen as a serious problem, the situation should be
faint possibility	phrase	feɪnt ˌpɒsə'bɪləti	very slight chance that something might happen or be true	There is a faint possibility that the plan will succeed.
false impression	phrase	fɔ:ls ɪm'preʃ(ə)n ɪm'preʃ(ə)n	an impression based on a mistake or on wrong information	The media gave the world a false impression of life in the city.
fascinate	verb	'fæsɪneɪt	to attract and interest you very strongly	I found the festive occasion really interesting. It fascinated me so much I had to

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favourable impression	phrase	'feɪv(ə)rəb(ə)l ɪm'preʃ(ə)n	an impression that likes or approves of someone or something	During the job interview, the candidate made a very favourable impression on the interviewer.
festive occasion	phrase	'festɪv ə'keɪz(ə)n	an occasion connected with a festival or celebration, especially Christmas	Christmas is an important festive occasion in my country.
frighten	verb	'fraɪt(ə)n	to make someone feel afraid, especially suddenly	She entered the room suddenly she frightened him.
furniture	uncountable noun	'fɜ:(r)nɪtʃə(r)	the chairs, tables, beds, cupboards etc that you put in a room or house so	Furniture like chairs is made by skilled craftsmen working in wood from different
golden opportunity	phrase	'gəʊld(ə)n ,ɒpə(r)'tju:nəti	a very good chance to do or achieve something	Instead of being seen as a serious problem, the situation should be
good impression	phrase	gʊd ɪm'preʃ(ə)n ɪm'preʃ(ə)n	an impression that likes or approves of someone or something	During the job interview, the candidate made a good impression on the interviewer.
good news for	phrase	gʊd nju:z fə	this is an advantage for	Over a third of respondents said that they would focus more on apprentices and graduates when
graduate	noun	'grædʒuət	someone who has a degree from a university	Over a third of respondents said that they would focus more on apprentices and graduates when
growing problem	phrase	'grəʊɪŋ 'prɒbləm	problem that is becoming larger	Technological waste, such as computers and phones, is now an acute problem.
half of the respondents said	phrase	hɑ:f əv ðə rɪ'spɒndənts sed	one out of every two people who answered the questions said	Half of the respondents said there were shortages or difficulties with specific skills.
ideal situation	phrase	aɪ'diəl ,sɪtʃu'eɪʃ(ə)n	a situation of the best or most suitable type	The fair provides an ideal opportunity for jobseekers and employers to meet.

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imaginative solution	phrase	ɪ'mædʒɪnətɪv sə'luːʃ(ə)n	a solution involving new, different, or exciting ideas	Sometimes imaginative solutions are the answer to problems that seem insurmountable.
impression	noun	ɪm'preʃ(ə)n	an opinion or feeling that you have about someone or something you have	The natural forest made a profound impression on me.
insurmountable problem	phrase	ˌɪnsə(r)'maʊntəb(ə)l 'prɒbləm	a problem that is impossible to deal with successfully	Lack of money proved to be an insurmountable problem.
interesting	adjective	'ɪntrəstɪŋ	something that is interesting makes you want to know about it or take part in it	I found the festive occasion really interesting. It fascinated me so much I had to read more about it.
issue	noun	'ɪʃuː	a problem that needs to be considered	Energy costs have been a burning issue over the last few decades.
it's no surprise (that)	phrase	ɪts nəʊ sə(r)'praɪz (ðæt)	it is not surprising (that)	It's no surprise when companies have problems with
like	phrase	laɪk	such as	Accommodation like small flats could help reduce homelessness.
likely cause	phrase	'laɪkli kɔːz	probably the cause	The most likely cause of overcrowding in cities is a rise in birth rates.
litter	uncountable noun	'lɪtə(r)	things such as pieces of paper that people have dropped on the ground in a public place, making it untidy	Litter like bottles and drinks cans ought to be recycled.
main cause	phrase	meɪn kɔːz	most important cause	In my opinion, the main cause of overcrowding in cities is a rise in birth rates.

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major issue	phrase	'meɪdʒə(r) 'ɪʃu:	important or serious issue	Energy costs have been a major issue over the last few decades.
media	uncountable noun	'mi:diə	ways of communicating information and ideas,	You often see articles about her in media like magazines.
memorable occasion	phrase	'mem(ə)rəb(ə)l ə 'keɪz(ə)n	an occasion worth remembering or easy to remember, because of being special in	My parents and my brother came to my graduation. It was a very memorable occasion.
merchandise	uncountable noun	'mɜ:(r)tʃ(ə)ndaɪz	things that people buy and sell	Merchandise like goods is transported by rail.
motivating	adjective	'məʊtɪ'veɪtɪŋ	making someone feel determined to do something or enthusiastic about doing it	Positive health education on TV can be motivating. It can encourage people to improve their lifestyle.
much as	phrase	'mʌtʃ æz	used for introducing a statement that makes your main statement seem surprising	Much as I approve of the solution to the problem, I don't believe it is the best way to deal with the situation.
nevertheless	adverb	,nevə(r)ðə'les	despite a fact or idea that you have just mentioned	It's a difficult race. Nevertheless, about 1,000 runners participate every year.
nonetheless	adverb	,nʌnðə'les	despite what has just been said	Many people believe that the changes we see in the world are a result of natural causes. Nonetheless, there is compelling evidence to
occasion	noun	ə 'keɪz(ə)n	a special or important time or event	My parents and my brother came to my graduation. It was a very special occasion.

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opportunity	noun	ˌɒpə(r)ˈtjuːnəti	a chance to do something, or a situation in which it is easy for you to do something	Instead of being seen as a serious problem, the situation should be thought of as a golden opportunity.
perfect opportunity	phrase	ˈpɜː(r)fɪkt ˌɒpə(r)ˈtjuːnəti	an opportunity that is completely suitable or right for someone	This is the perfect opportunity to progress
perfect solution	phrase	ˈpɜː(r)fɪkt səˈluːʃ(ə)n	a solution that is completely suitable or right for someone	Unfortunately there is usually no perfect solution to the problem.
please	verb	pliːz	to make someone feel happy and satisfied	Some people find buying consumer goods very satisfying.
political event	phrase	pəˈlɪtɪk(ə)l ɪˈvent	event relating to politics	The fall of the Berlin Wall is one of the important political events of the second half of the 20th century.
probable cause	phrase	ˈprɒbəb(ə)l kɔːz	likely to be the cause	The probable cause of overcrowding in cities is a rise in birth rates.
problem	noun	ˈprɒbləm	something that causes trouble or difficulty	Instead of being seen as a serious problem, the situation should be thought of as a golden opportunity.
rubbish	uncountable noun	ˈrʌbɪʃ	things that you throw away because they are no longer useful	Rubbish like bottles and food tins ought to be recycled.
satisfying	adjective	ˈsætɪsˌfaɪɪŋ	making you feel pleased or happy	Some people find buying consumer goods very satisfying. Sometimes it is just the act of buying that pleases them.
serious problem	phrase	ˈsɪəriəs ˈprɒbləm	a problem bad or dangerous enough to make you worried	Instead of being seen as a serious problem, the situation should be thought of as a golden opportunity.

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shocking	adjective	'ʃɒkɪŋ	something that is shocking makes you feel extremely surprised or upset	The scale of crime in some cities has been shocking. It has even stunned the police.
significant event	phrase	sɪg'nɪfɪkənt ɪ'vent	very large or noticeable	A series of significant events occurred in the early part of the 19th century, which changed
situation	noun	,sɪtʃu'eɪʃ(ə)n	the set of conditions that exist at a particular time in a particular place	If the situation had been different, their plan might have succeeded.
solution	noun	sə'lu:ʃ(ə)n	a way to solve a problem or to deal with a bad situation	UN leaders are working hard to find a peaceful solution to the conflict.
state occasion	phrase	steɪt ə'keɪʒ(ə)n	a state occasion involves a country's government or head	The president is about to start a three-day state visit to Norway.
storms	countable noun	stɔ:(r)mz	occasions when a lot of rain falls very quickly, often with very strong winds or t	The weather deteriorated rapidly with severe storms forecast.
stun	verb	stʌn	to shock and surprise someone so much that they cannot react immediately	The scale of crime in some cities has been shocking. It has even stunned the police.
this implies that	phrase	ðɪs ɪmplaɪz ðæt ...	this means that something is likely to be true	This implies that you could be studying engineering right now at university and already be at a disadvantage if your institution isn't prestigious enough.
trouble	verb	'trʌb(ə)l	to make someone worried	What's wrong? Is something troubling you?

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trying circumstances	phrase	'traɪɪŋ 'sɜ:(r)kəmstənsɪz	circumstances difficult to deal with in a way that makes you annoyed or tired	Despite trying circumstances, the company has thrived over the last year.
unexpected outcome	phrase	ˌʌnɪk'spektɪd 'aʊtˌkʌm	the final result of a process, meeting, activity etc that is surprising, because you did not expect it at all, or you expected it to happen in a different way	The outcome of the talks was not totally unexpected.
unfavourable circumstances	phrase	ˌʌn'feɪv(ə)rəb(ə)l 'sɜ:(r)kəmstənsɪz	unfavourable circumstances are those that involves difficult problems and makes success harder to achieve	Despite unfavourable circumstances, the company has thrived over the last year.
worrying	adjective	'wʌrɪɪŋ	causing you to feel worried	The news on TV is sometimes very worrying.

A General Nouns

Nouns and collocations

adverse/unfavorable/trying	circumstances	(company) crisis
main/likely probable	cause	faint possibility
significant/political/current	event	amusing incident
favorable/false/good	impression	unexpected outcome
burning/controversial/major	issue	
memorable/festive/state	occasion	
golden/excellent/perfect	opportunity	
acute/serious/insurmountable	problem	
ideal/happy/dangerous	situation	
imaginative/effective/perfect	solution	

B Useful expressions

It was to good an opportunity to miss
It was a rather awkward situation
It is a divisive issue that arouses passion
It was an annoying incident
It was the happiest event of her life

C Uncountable nouns with countable nouns as examples

accommodation like flats	cash like coins	clothing like shirts	crime like burglaries
equipment like computers	fruit like oranges	furniture like chairs	
information like bank details	litter like bottles/cans	luggage like suitcases	media like magazines
merchandise like goods	rubbish like bottles	(bad) weather like storms	

D Linking devices

although	but	despite the fact that	even if	even so	however	much as
nevertheless		nonetheless	still	though	while	yet

E Developing ideas by expanding the meaning of adjectives

Adjectives and verbs

alarming	frighten
appealing	attract
interesting	fascinate
motivating	encourage
satisfying	please
shocking	stun
worrying	trouble

F Useful words and phrases from the Reading Passage

a skill shortage be at a disadvantage due to lack of suitably qualified candidates, half of the respondents said ...
it's no surprise when companies have problems with recruiting a new generation of engineers and technicians more
needs to be done to encourage young people to take up ...
there are areas that are harder to recruit they would focus more on ... this implies that ...
which is good news for graduates ...

