

PRE-INTERMEDIATE WORD LIST

UNIT TWO

Word / Phrase	Part of Speech	Phonetic Spelling	Definition	Sample Sentence
amazing	adjective	/ə'meɪzɪŋ/	very pleasant or enjoyable	The photograph of the mountains is amazing!
architecture	noun [uncount.]	/'ɑ:(r)kɪ'tektʃə(r)/	a particular style or way of designing buildings	I enjoy looking at European architecture.
arts (the)	noun [uncount.]	/,ðə 'ɑ:(r)ts/	activities such as art, music, film, theatre and dance, considered together	I like the arts and literature.
as usual	phrase	/,əz 'ju:ʒʊəl/	used for saying what usually happens	As usual, in the film Homer Simpson encounters lots of problems.
belief	noun [count.]	/bɪ'li:f/	an idea that you are certain is true, especially involving religion or politics	Beliefs and values vary in different cultures.
book club	noun [count.]	/'bʊk ,klʌb/	a group of people who meet regularly to discuss books they have read	I love reading and have joined a book club.
boring	adjective	/'bɔ:ɪŋ/	not at all interesting and making you feel impatient or dissatisfied	I think reality TV shows are boring.
brilliant	adjective	/'brɪljənt/	extremely good or enjoyable	Shakespeare's plays are brilliant.
cinema	noun [count.]	/'sɪnəmə/	a building where you pay to go and watch a film	I like going to the cinema to see foreign-language films.
collage	noun [count.]	/'kɒləʒ/	a picture made by sticking pieces of different materials together on a surface	I have made a collage using photos, drawings and newspaper clippings.
comedy show	noun [count.]	/'kɒmədi ,ʃəʊ/	a funny television programme	My favourite comedy show is <i>Friends</i> .
course	noun [count.]	/kɔ:(r)s/	a series of lessons or lectures in an academic subject or a practical skill	I want to do another language course. I'd like to learn Russian.
culture	noun [count./uncount.]	/'kʌltʃə(r)/	a set of ideas, beliefs and ways of behaving of a particular society	Different characteristics form the culture of a country.
custom	noun [count.]	/'kʌstəm/	something that people do that is traditional or usual	What are the customs of your country?
danger	noun [uncount.]	/'deɪndʒə(r)/	a situation in which something unpleasant might happen	This documentary shows the dangers of pollution.
deal with	phrasal verb	/'di:l ,wɪð/	to be about a subject	The main message of the films deals with important social issues.
dull	adjective	/dʌl/	boring or not interesting	To me, opera is dull. I just don't think it's an interesting art form.
education	noun	/,edʒʊ'keɪʃ(ə)n/	the activity of educating people in schools, colleges and universities and all the policies and arrangements concerning this	Education is very important in most cultures.

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element	noun [count.]	/ˈelɪmənt/	an important basic part of something complicated, for example a system or plan	The film has some serious elements.
encounter	verb	/ɪnˈkaʊntə(r)/	to experience or deal with something, especially a problem	The main character encounters lots of problems.
entertaining	adjective	/,entə(r)ˈteɪnɪŋ/	enjoyable or fun to do	That film was one of the most entertaining films I have seen.
environment (the)	noun [uncount.]	/,ði ɪnˈvaɪrənmənt/	the natural world, including the land, water, air, plants and animals, especially considered as something that is affected by human activity	We need to be made aware of the effect human beings have on the environment.
ethics	noun [uncount.]	/ˈeθɪks/	a set of principles that people use to decide what is right and what is wrong	Doctors have to follow a set of ethics.
exhibition	noun [count.]	/,eksɪˈbɪʃ(ə)n/	a public show where art or other interesting things are put so that people can go and look at them	I really enjoyed the photography exhibition.
fascinating	adjective	/ˈfæsɪneɪtɪŋ/	making you very interested or attracted	The science-fiction book I am reading is fascinating.
fashion	noun [uncount.]	/ˈfæʃ(ə)n/	the activity or business that involves styles of clothes and people's appearance	I'm not interested in fashion – I like to wear what I feel like.
festival	noun [count.]	/ˈfestɪv(ə)l/	a series of performances of films, plays, music or dancing that is usually organised in the same place at the same time each year	Last year I went to a music festival.
fiction	noun [uncount.]	/ˈfɪkʃ(ə)n/	books and stories about imaginary events and people. Books that give facts about real events, things or people are called non-fiction	I like reading fiction, especially thrillers.
focus	verb	/ˈfəʊkəs/	to concentrate on something and pay particular attention to it	The article focused on films from the recent past.
folklore	noun [uncount.]	/ˈfəʊkəlɔ:(r)/	traditional stories, sayings and beliefs from a particular region or community	I am interested in the folklore of other countries.
funny	adjective	/ˈfʌni/	someone or something that is funny makes you laugh	<i>The Simpsons Movie</i> is a very funny film.
great	adjective	/ɡreɪt/	able to do something very well	Jack Nicholson is great in this film.
hilarious	adjective	/hɪˈleəriəs/	extremely funny	<i>The Mask</i> is a hilarious film.
human being	noun [count.]	/,hju:mən ˈbi:ɪŋ/	a person	Human beings have an effect on the environment.
identity	noun [count.]	/aɪˈdentɪti/	the qualities that make someone or something what they are and different from other people	It's important for children to develop their own identity.

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important	adjective	/ɪm'pɔ:(r)t(ə)n/	something that is important has a major effect on someone or something, for example because it affects someone's life or the way a situation develops	The film deals with some of the most important social and political issues of our time.
incredible	adjective	/ɪn'kredəb(ə)l/	used about something that is extremely good	Classical music is incredible to me. I don't understand it, but I really like it!
institution	noun [count.]	/ɪnstɪ'tju:f(ə)n/	an important tradition on which society is based	Most cultures have the institution of marriage.
interesting	adjective	/'ɪntrəstɪŋ/	something that is interesting makes you want to know about it or take part in it	In my opinion, reality TV shows are really interesting because I like to watch real people.
issue	noun [count.]	/'ɪʃu: / or /'ɪsju: /	a subject that people discuss or argue about, especially relating to society, politics etc	I am interested in environmental issues.
knowledge	noun [uncount.]	/'nɒlɪdʒ/	all the facts that are known about different things or about life generally	University courses are about the study of a particular subject rather than the pursuit of knowledge.
laugh	noun [count.]	/lɑ:f/	the sound that you make when you laugh	The film has a lot more laughs than the TV show.
leak	noun [count.]	/li:k/	an amount of liquid or gas that comes out of a hole or crack in something	In the film Homer causes a leak in the nuclear power plant where he works.
legend	noun [count.]	/'ledʒ(ə)nd/	an old story about famous people and events in the past. Legends are not usually true	I have just read the legend of Robin Hood.
literature	noun [uncount.]	/'lɪtrətʃ(ə)r/	stories, poems and plays, especially those that are considered to have value as art and not just entertainment	I have joined a book club to learn about literature.
main	adjective	/meɪn/	most important, largest or most frequently used	The main message of the film deals with social issues.
manners	noun [uncount.]	/'mænə(r)z/	the customs or accepted social behaviour of a particular group of people	Manners, such as 'please' and 'thank you' are very important.
message	noun [count.]	/'mesɪdʒ/	the main idea that you want people to remember from a speech, advertisement, article etc	Under the comedy there is a serious message in the film.
museum	noun [count.]	/mju:'zi:əm/	a building where many valuable and important objects are kept so that people can go and see them	I love looking at old coins and pottery in museums.
nation	noun [count.]	/'neɪʃ(ə)n/	a country that has its own land and government	Students from many nations study at my university.
non-fiction	noun [uncount.]	/nɒn fɪkʃ(ə)n/	writing that is about real people and events, not imaginary ones	I like history and prefer reading non-fiction to fiction.
nuclear	adjective	/'nju:kliə(r)/	relating to energy produced by changing the structure of the central part of an atom	People need to be aware of the dangers of nuclear power.
painting	noun [count.]	/'peɪntɪŋ/	a picture made using paint	Dalí's paintings are very weird.

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photography	noun [uncount.]	/fə'tɒgrəfi/	the skill, job or process of taking photographs or using a camera to record scenes or events for a film or television programme	I've just bought a new camera and want to do a photography course.
political	adjective	/pə'litɪk(ə)l/	relating to politics	This newspaper deals with the political issues of the day.
pollution	noun [uncount.]	/pə'lu:ʃ(ə)n/	the process of damaging the air, water or land with chemicals or other substances	Factories are responsible for a lot of air and water pollution.
power plant	noun [count.]	/'paʊə(r) ,plɑ:nt/	a large building that contains machines which produce power, especially electricity	That power plant produces electricity for the whole county.
problem	noun [count.]	/'prɒbləm/	something that causes trouble or difficulty	I had lots of problems with my new phone.
recently	adverb	/'ri:s(ə)ntli/	at a time that was not long ago or that started not long ago	I've seen a lot of films recently.
recommend	verb	/,rekə'mend/	to advise someone that they should do something	I recommend going to that restaurant.
religion	noun [count.]	/rɪ'lɪdʒ(ə)n/	a system of beliefs in a god or gods that has its own ceremonies and traditions	My girlfriend and I are different religions and our families think it will be a problem.
review	noun [count.]	/rɪ'vju:/	an article in which someone gives their opinion of a play, book, art exhibition etc	I read a terrible review of that film.
ridiculous	adjective	/rɪ'dɪkjʊləs/	silly or unreasonable and deserving to be laughed at	In my opinion, horror films are so ridiculous. They're very unrealistic, so they aren't scary.
ritual	noun [count.]	/'rɪtʃuəl/	a formal ceremony	Some cultures have elaborate marriage rituals.
rubbish	noun [uncount.]	/'rʌbɪʃ/	something that is useless, of no value or of very low quality	I think TV talent shows are rubbish.
sculpture	noun [count.]	/'skʌlptʃə(r)/	a solid object that someone makes as a work of art by shaping a substance such as stone, metal or wood	My favourite form of art is sculpture.
serious	adjective	/'sɪəriəs/	dealing with important, complicated or difficult ideas or subjects	Many comedy films have serious elements.
social	adjective	/'səʊʃ(ə)l/	relating to society and to people's lives in general	Unemployment is a big social problem.
society	noun [uncount.]	/sə'saɪəti/	people in general living together in organised communities, with laws and traditions controlling the way that they behave towards one another	Society has a responsibility towards the homeless.
society	noun [count.]	/sə'saɪəti/	an organisation or club for people who have a particular interest or who take part in a particular activity	I joined a music society to take part in concerts.
strange	adjective	/streɪndʒ/	not familiar or known to you	Dali's paintings have all kinds of strange objects and shapes.
theatre	noun [count.]	/'θɪətə(r)/	a building, room or outside area used for performing plays	I like to go to the theatre to see new plays.

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tone	noun [count.]	/təʊn/	the sound of someone's voice that shows what they are feeling	He has a very aggressive tone of voice.
tradition	noun [count.]	/trə'dɪʃ(ə)n/	a very old custom, belief or story	Eating roast meat on Sunday is a tradition in my country.
values	noun [uncount.]	/'vælju:z/	the principles and beliefs that influence the behaviour and way of life of a particular group or community	Some cultures have a different set of values to ours.
voice	noun [count.]	/vɔɪs/	the sounds that someone makes when they speak	His tone of voice showed he was surprised.
weird	adjective	/wɪə(r)d/	strange and unusual, sometimes in a way that upsets you	That was a weird film – I didn't understand what was happening.

USEFUL EXPRESSIONS

Useful Expressions	Topic / Category	Sample Sentence
He/She lives/lived in ...	Identifying people	She lives in New York.
I can't remember the name of this person/play/city.	Identifying people	I can't remember the name of this person.
That's ... He's/She's/It's ...	Identifying people	That's Brad Pitt. He's American.
The name of that ... is ...	Identifying people	The name of that film is <i>The Hunger Games</i> .
They made a film of this book/play.	Identifying people	They made a film of this book.
... is another ...	Expressing cultural awareness	Bach is another composer.
I suppose ...	Expressing cultural awareness	I suppose family lunches on Sundays are a big part of our culture.
What about ...?	Expressing cultural awareness	What about Christmas Day lunch?
What else?	Expressing cultural awareness	What else?
You know how we ...	Expressing cultural awareness	You know how we celebrate the New Year.