

FREE PTE STUDY PDF

PTE Vocabulary List PDF with Meanings

312 high-frequency academic words for PTE, each with a plain meaning and an example sentence, plus 100 collocations, 100 spellings and 32 practice questions with answers.

What's inside

1. Academic words for Fill in the Blanks	2
2. Collocations	23
3. Write from Dictation spellings	29
4. Essay and summary vocabulary	32
5. Practice with answers	35

Practice these words in real PTE questions with instant AI scoring

- ✓ Real computer-based test interface
- ✓ Instant AI scoring on every answer
- ✓ Practice for every question type

[Take a PTE mock test on Gurully →](#)**150+**

Full-length mock tests

30k+

Practice questions

SECTION 1

Academic words for Fill in the Blanks

312 words that appear often in the academic texts PTE Reading uses, grouped by theme and listed A to Z. Learn each meaning, then read the example aloud.

How to use this list

Cover the Meaning column and test yourself. Mark the words you miss and revise only those the next day. Ten new words a day covers this list in about a month.

Science and environment (79 words)

Word	Meaning	Example sentence
absorb	to take in a liquid, gas or energy	Dark surfaces absorb more heat than light-coloured ones.
abundant	existing in large amounts	Fresh water is abundant in the region.
accumulate	to gather or build up over time	Dust accumulates quickly in dry weather.
adapt	to change in order to suit new conditions	Desert plants have adapted to survive with very little water.
aquatic	living or growing in water	Aquatic plants release oxygen that fish need to survive.
arid	very dry, with little rain	Few crops can grow in such an arid climate without irrigation.
biodiversity	the variety of living things in an area	Tropical rainforests contain the highest levels of biodiversity on land.
catalyst	a substance that speeds up a chemical reaction	The metal acts as a catalyst without being used up itself.
chronic	lasting for a long time or recurring often	Regular exercise can help people manage chronic back pain.
coastal	on or near the coast	Rising sea levels threaten many low-lying coastal communities.
combustion	the process of burning	The combustion of coal releases large amounts of carbon dioxide.
compound	a substance made of two or more elements	Salt is a compound formed from sodium and chlorine.

Word	Meaning	Example sentence
conservation	the protection of plants, animals and natural areas	Conservation programmes have helped the turtle population recover slowly.
contagious	easily spread from one person to another	The illness is highly contagious during its first few days.
contaminate	to make something dirty or poisonous	Chemical waste from the factory contaminated the local water supply.
deforestation	the cutting down of large areas of forest	Deforestation reduces the amount of carbon that forests can store.
degradation	the process of becoming worse in quality	Overgrazing has led to serious land degradation in the area.
density	how much mass something has for its size	Oil floats on water because it has a lower density.
depletion	a reduction in the amount of something	The depletion of groundwater is a serious concern for farmers.
deteriorate	to become worse	Air quality deteriorated during the dry season.
diminish	to become smaller or less	The effect of the drug diminishes over time.
disperse	to spread over a wide area	Wind helps to disperse the seeds far from the parent plant.
dissolve	to mix completely into a liquid	Sugar dissolves more quickly in hot water than in cold water.
dosage	the amount of medicine to be taken	Doctors may adjust the dosage according to the patient's weight.
drought	a long period with little or no rain	The prolonged drought caused severe crop losses across the region.
ecosystem	all living things in an area and their environment	Removing a single predator can disturb the balance of an entire ecosystem.
emission	gas or energy that is sent into the air	The city aims to cut vehicle emissions by expanding its tram network.
emit	to send out gas, heat, light or sound	Older cars tend to emit more harmful gases than newer models.
equilibrium	a state of balance between opposing forces	The ecosystem eventually returned to a natural equilibrium.

Word	Meaning	Example sentence
erosion	the gradual wearing away of land or rock	Coastal erosion has pushed several cliffside homes closer to the sea.
evaporate	to change from a liquid into a gas	In hot weather, water in shallow ponds can evaporate within days.
evolve	to develop gradually over a long time	Whales are thought to have evolved from land-dwelling mammals.
extinction	the complete disappearance of a species	Habitat loss has pushed several frog species towards extinction.
fertile	able to produce good crops or plants	The river valley has fertile soil that supports rice farming.
fluctuate	to change often in amount or level	Vegetable prices fluctuate with the seasons.
fossil	the preserved remains of an ancient living thing	The fossil revealed that the region was once covered by sea.
friction	the force that resists movement between surfaces	Friction between the tyres and the road helps a car to stop.
genetic	relating to genes or inherited features	Eye colour is largely determined by genetic factors.
geological	relating to the study of rocks and the earth	Geological surveys identified the area as earthquake prone.
glacier	a large, slowly moving mass of ice	The glacier has retreated significantly over the past century.
habitat	the natural home of a plant or animal	Wetlands provide an important habitat for many species of birds.
hazardous	dangerous, especially to health or safety	Workers must wear protective clothing when handling hazardous materials.
humid	warm and containing a lot of moisture	The humid conditions encourage mould to grow on stored food.
immune	protected against a particular disease	Most people become immune to the virus after one infection.
insulate	to cover something to stop heat escaping	Insulating the roof can greatly reduce winter heating costs.
irrigation	supplying water to land to help crops grow	Efficient irrigation systems can reduce water waste on farms.

Word	Meaning	Example sentence
magnitude	the great size or importance of something	Engineers underestimated the magnitude of the flood risk.
marine	relating to the sea and its living things	Marine biologists are monitoring the health of the coral reef.
metabolism	the chemical processes that turn food into energy	Physical activity can increase the speed of your metabolism.
microscopic	too small to be seen without a microscope	Microscopic algae form the base of many ocean food chains.
migrate	to move from one region to another seasonally	Many birds migrate south to escape the cold winter months.
mitigate	to make less severe	Trees help mitigate the effects of heat.
molecule	the smallest unit of a chemical substance	A water molecule consists of two hydrogen atoms and one oxygen atom.
mutation	a change in the genetic structure of something	A small mutation allowed the bacteria to resist the antibiotic.
nutrient	a substance that living things need to grow	Leafy vegetables are rich in nutrients such as iron and calcium.
offspring	the young of a person, animal or plant	Many birds feed their offspring for several weeks after hatching.
organism	a single living plant, animal or cell	Scientists studied how the organism survives in extremely cold water.
particle	a very small piece of matter	Fine dust particles can enter the lungs and cause breathing problems.
pathogen	a tiny organism that causes disease	Washing hands regularly reduces the spread of common pathogens.
phenomenon	an event or fact that can be observed	Bird migration is a seasonal phenomenon.



Try these words in real PTE questions on the test interface

Real exam interface, instant AI scoring, and a detailed report after every attempt.

Start practicing →



Word	Meaning	Example sentence
pollutant	a substance that makes air, water or land dirty	Plastic is one of the most common pollutants found in oceans.
precipitation	rain, snow or hail that falls	Annual precipitation in the desert is less than a few centimetres.
predator	an animal that hunts and eats other animals	Foxes are the main predator of rabbits in this area.
radiation	energy that travels as waves or particles	Sunscreen protects the skin from harmful ultraviolet radiation.
renewable	able to be replaced naturally and used again	Solar and wind power are the fastest growing renewable energy sources.
respiratory	relating to breathing	Air pollution is linked to a rise in respiratory illnesses.
sediment	sand, stones or mud that settle in water	Layers of sediment slowly build up at the bottom of the lake.
species	a group of living things that can breed together	Researchers discovered a new species of beetle in the forest.
spectrum	a complete range of related qualities or things	The survey covered a broad spectrum of opinions on renewable energy.
sustainable	able to continue without causing harm	Sustainable fishing protects future stocks.
symptom	a sign of an illness or problem	A persistent cough can be an early symptom of lung disease.
synthesise	to produce a substance by chemical means	Plants synthesise sugars using sunlight, water and carbon dioxide.
terrain	an area of land and its physical features	The rocky terrain made it difficult to build roads in the region.
terrestrial	living on land rather than in water	The study compared terrestrial and marine reptiles.
toxic	poisonous and harmful to living things	Some cleaning products release toxic fumes when they are mixed.
vegetation	plants in general, especially in one area	Dense vegetation covers the lower slopes of the mountain.
velocity	the speed of something in a particular direction	The velocity of the river increases after heavy rainfall.

Word	Meaning	Example sentence
viable	able to work successfully	Solar power is now a viable option for homes.
yield	the amount of crop or product produced	New farming methods have doubled the wheat yield per hectare.

Tip

Science passages often describe change. Learn the verbs that go with it, such as decline, fluctuate and accumulate, and notice which ones need an object.

Society and economy (80 words)

Word	Meaning	Example sentence
adjacent	next to or near	The library is adjacent to the main hall.
affluent	having a lot of money; wealthy	Affluent suburbs tend to have better funded public facilities.
affordable	cheap enough for most people to buy	The city plans to build more affordable housing near train stations.
allocate	to give a share for a purpose	The council allocated funds to public transport.
asset	something valuable that a person or company owns	The company's most valuable asset is its skilled workforce.
census	an official count of a country's population	The latest census showed a sharp rise in single-person households.
charitable	relating to helping people in need	The foundation supports charitable projects in rural communities.
civic	relating to a town and its citizens	Volunteering is often seen as an important civic responsibility.
cohesion	the state of people being united and connected	Community festivals can strengthen social cohesion in diverse areas.
commerce	the activity of buying and selling goods	The canal became an important route for commerce between towns.
commodity	a raw material or product that is traded	Coffee is one of the most widely traded commodities in the world.
commute	to travel regularly between home and work	More people now commute by bicycle to save time and money.

Word	Meaning	Example sentence
compatible	able to work or exist together	The software is compatible with older devices.
competitive	trying hard to be more successful than others	The job market for graduates has become highly competitive.
compliance	the act of obeying a rule or law	Inspectors check restaurants for compliance with hygiene standards.
congestion	a state of being overcrowded, especially with traffic	Traffic congestion in the city centre is worst during rush hour.
consumption	the using up of goods, energy or resources	Electricity consumption usually peaks during the hottest months.
conventional	usual or traditional	Conventional farming relies on chemical fertilisers.
currency	the system of money used in a country	Travellers should exchange some currency before they arrive.
deficit	the amount by which spending exceeds income	The club ran a deficit after ticket sales fell.
demographic	relating to the structure of a population	Demographic changes mean the country will need more aged care workers.
diversity	a range of different people or things	The university values the cultural diversity of its students.
dwelling	a house or place where someone lives	The census counted every occupied dwelling in the district.
elderly	old, or past middle age	The programme provides home visits for elderly residents living alone.
enterprise	a business or company	Small enterprises employ a large share of the local workforce.
entrepreneur	a person who starts and runs a business	The young entrepreneur launched a recycling service for local cafes.
expenditure	the total amount of money spent	Household expenditure on energy has risen considerably this year.
export	to sell goods to another country	The region exports most of its fruit to neighbouring countries.
fiscal	relating to government money and taxes	The council introduced fiscal measures to reduce its debt.

Word	Meaning	Example sentence
globalisation	the growing connection of economies worldwide	Globalisation has made it easier for companies to hire overseas.
heritage	traditions and buildings passed down from the past	The old market hall is protected as part of the town's heritage.
household	all the people living together in one home	The average household now owns more than one computer.
implement	to put a plan into action	The school implemented a new timetable.
incentive	something that encourages a person to act	Lower fares are an incentive for people to use public transport.
inequality	an unfair difference between groups in society	The report highlights growing income inequality in large cities.
inflation	a general rise in prices over time	High inflation reduces the value of people's savings.
infrastructure	basic systems such as roads, power and water	Investment in rural infrastructure improved access to local markets.
labour	work, or the people who do it	A shortage of skilled labour has delayed several building projects.
legislation	a law or a set of laws	New legislation requires all new homes to have smoke alarms.
liability	a debt or legal responsibility for something	The firm's liabilities now exceed the value of its assets.
logistics	the organisation of moving and storing goods	Efficient logistics allow online orders to arrive the next day.
monetary	relating to money or a currency	The central bank adjusted monetary policy to control rising prices.

Join thousands of PTE students practicing on Gurully every day

Start practicing →

150+

Full-length mock tests

30k+

Practice questions

99%

Real exam simulation

15k+

Sign in daily

Word	Meaning	Example sentence
monopoly	complete control of a market by one company	A monopoly can lead to higher prices and less choice.
mortgage	a loan used to buy a house	Many young couples struggle to save a deposit for a mortgage.
municipal	relating to a town or city government	The municipal library offers free language classes for adults.
occupation	a person's job or profession	Please state your current occupation on the application form.
outsource	to pay an outside company to do work	The firm decided to outsource its customer service to a specialist.
pension	regular money paid to someone after retirement	Many workers worry that their pension will not cover living costs.
poverty	the state of being very poor	Access to education is one of the best ways to reduce poverty.
predominantly	mainly	The workforce is predominantly young.
prevalent	common in a place or at a time	Mobile payments are prevalent in large cities.
procurement	the process of buying supplies for an organisation	The hospital reviewed its procurement process to reduce costs.
productivity	the rate at which work or goods are produced	Flexible working hours have improved staff productivity.
profitable	making money for a business	The bakery became profitable within its first two years.
prosperity	the state of being successful and wealthy	Trade with neighbouring regions brought prosperity to the port town.
recession	a period when economic activity falls sharply	Many small businesses closed during the recession.
regulate	to control something using rules	Strict rules regulate the use of pesticides near rivers.
residential	consisting mainly of houses rather than businesses	Heavy trucks are not permitted on residential streets.
retail	the sale of goods directly to the public	Online shopping has transformed the retail industry.

Word	Meaning	Example sentence
revenue	money that a business or government receives	The museum's revenue increased after it introduced evening tours.
rural	relating to the countryside	Rural students sometimes travel long distances to reach school.
sanitation	systems for clean water and waste removal	Improved sanitation has greatly reduced the spread of disease.
scarcity	a situation where something is hard to find	Water scarcity affects millions of people in dry regions.
sector	a distinct part of a country's economy	The tourism sector has recovered strongly in recent months.
shortage	a situation where there is not enough of something	A shortage of nurses has increased waiting times at hospitals.
stakeholder	a person with an interest in an organisation	The council consulted local stakeholders before approving the new park.
subsidy	money paid to reduce the cost of something	Farmers receive a subsidy to help cover the cost of fertiliser.
substantial	large in size or importance	The study found a substantial rise in costs.
surplus	an amount that is more than what is needed	The farm sells its surplus milk to a nearby cheese maker.
tariff	a tax paid on imported or exported goods	The new tariff made imported steel more expensive for builders.
taxation	the system of collecting taxes	Fair taxation helps fund public hospitals and schools.
transaction	an act of buying, selling or exchanging money	Most transactions at the market are now made by card.
undermine	to weaken gradually	Poor sleep can undermine memory.
unemployment	the state of not having a paid job	Unemployment fell as new factories opened in the region.
urban	relating to a town or city	Urban areas often experience higher temperatures than the countryside.
volunteer	to offer to do something without payment	Several students volunteer at the animal shelter every weekend.

Word	Meaning	Example sentence
wage	money paid regularly for work	The average hourly wage in the sector has risen slightly.
welfare	the health, safety and happiness of people	The charity works to improve the welfare of homeless families.
wholesale	the sale of goods in large amounts to traders	The shop buys its vegetables at wholesale prices from the market.
widespread	found in many places or among many people	The change received widespread support.

Tip

Many of these words have a noun and an adjective form. In Fill in the Blanks, the word before and after the blank tells you which form is needed.

Education and research (77 words)

Word	Meaning	Example sentence
abstract	a short summary of a research article	Read the abstract first to decide if the paper is relevant.
ambiguous	having more than one possible meaning	The question was ambiguous, so answers varied.
analyse	to examine something in detail	Researchers analysed the survey responses to identify common themes.
annotate	to add notes explaining a text	Annotating key passages helps students remember what they read.
anonymous	with a name that is not made known	All survey responses were kept anonymous to protect privacy.
appendix	extra information at the end of a document	The full interview questions are included in the appendix.
aptitude	a natural ability to do something well	She showed an early aptitude for mathematics and music.
archive	a collection of historical records	The historian spent months searching the city's newspaper archive.
assess	to judge the quality or level of something	Teachers assess students' progress through regular short quizzes.

Word	Meaning	Example sentence
benchmark	a standard used for comparison	The national average serves as a benchmark for school performance.
bias	an unfair preference that affects judgement	Researchers took steps to reduce bias in selecting participants.
bibliography	a list of sources used in a text	Include all books and articles you read in the bibliography.
campus	the land and buildings of a university	The campus has several libraries and a large sports centre.
citation	a reference to the source of information	Every quotation in the essay must include a citation.
cite	to mention a source as evidence	The author cites several studies to support her argument.
coherent	logical and well organised	She gave a coherent explanation of the results.
comprehensive	including nearly everything	The report gives a comprehensive review of the data.
consent	permission to do something	Parents gave written consent for their children to take part.
correlation	a connection between two things that change together	The study found a strong correlation between sleep and exam results.
criterion	a standard used to judge something	Originality is an important criterion for marking the projects.
curriculum	the subjects taught in a school or course	Coding has been added to the primary school curriculum.
dataset	a collection of related data	The team analysed a large dataset of hospital admission records.



Practice PTE on the go with the Gurully app

Scan a code with your phone camera, or tap a store button if you are reading this on your phone.



Download on the
App Store



Get it on
Google Play

Word	Meaning	Example sentence
discipline	a particular area of academic study	Psychology draws on ideas from several other disciplines.
discrepancy	a difference between things that should match	There was a discrepancy between the two figures.
dissertation	a long piece of writing for a degree	Her dissertation examined the effects of noise on concentration.
empirical	based on observation or experiment	The theory lacks empirical support.
enrol	to officially join a course or institution	Over a thousand students enrol in the online course each term.
ethical	relating to what is morally right	The study received ethical approval before any data was collected.
evaluate	to judge the value or quality of something	The team evaluated the programme after its first full year.
experimental	relating to scientific tests	The experimental group received extra reading support each week.
faculty	a group of related departments in a university	The faculty of science has opened a new research centre.
finding	information discovered as a result of research	The main finding was that regular breaks improved concentration.
framework	a basic structure of ideas or rules	The study used a clear framework to analyse classroom behaviour.
hypothesis	an idea that can be tested	The experiment tested a new hypothesis.
inquiry	a formal investigation or question	The study began as an inquiry into student wellbeing.
interpret	to explain the meaning of something	Students must interpret the graph and describe the main trends.
investigate	to examine facts carefully to find the truth	Scientists are investigating why bee numbers have fallen.
journal	a magazine that publishes academic articles	Her research was published in a leading medical journal.
laboratory	a room used for scientific work	Samples were sent to the laboratory for further testing.

Word	Meaning	Example sentence
lecturer	a person who teaches at a university	The lecturer explained the theory using simple everyday examples.
limitation	a weakness or restriction in something	One limitation of the study was its small sample size.
literacy	the ability to read and write	The programme aims to raise adult literacy in remote villages.
manuscript	a written text before it is published	The author submitted the manuscript to the journal for review.
methodology	the set of methods used in a study	The researchers explained their methodology in the second chapter.
numeracy	the ability to work with numbers	Strong numeracy skills are essential for careers in finance.
observation	the act of watching something carefully	Classroom observation revealed how students interacted in groups.
paraphrase	to express someone's ideas in different words	Learning to paraphrase helps students avoid copying sources.
participant	a person who takes part in something	Each participant completed a short memory test before the interview.
pedagogy	the method and practice of teaching	Modern pedagogy encourages students to learn through solving problems.
plagiarism	using another person's work as your own	Universities use software to detect plagiarism in student essays.
postgraduate	relating to study after a first degree	He enrolled in a postgraduate course in public health.
preliminary	coming before the main part	Preliminary results look promising.
prerequisite	something required before something else can happen	Basic algebra is a prerequisite for the advanced statistics module.
proficiency	a high level of skill or ability	Applicants must show proficiency in English to join the course.
publication	the act of printing or releasing written work	The article was revised several times before publication.
qualitative	relating to qualities rather than numbers	Interviews provided qualitative insights into students' experiences.

Word	Meaning	Example sentence
quantitative	relating to amounts that can be measured	Quantitative data was collected through an online questionnaire.
replicate	to repeat a study to check its results	Other scientists were unable to replicate the original findings.
respondent	a person who answers a survey	Most respondents said they preferred studying in the morning.
revise	to change something to improve it	Students revised their essays after receiving feedback from tutors.
sample	a small group chosen to represent a larger one	The study used a sample of five hundred secondary students.
scholarship	money given to a student to pay for study	She won a scholarship to study engineering at a leading university.
scope	the range of things a study deals with	The scope of the project was limited to primary schools.
seminar	a small class for discussing a topic	Students must prepare a short presentation for each weekly seminar.
statistical	relating to the collection and analysis of numbers	Statistical tests showed that the difference was not significant.
summarise	to give the main points briefly	Summarise the lecture in no more than one paragraph.
syllabus	a list of topics covered in a course	Check the syllabus to see which topics will be examined.
terminology	special words used in a particular subject	Medical terminology can be confusing for patients.
theoretical	based on ideas rather than practice	The course balances theoretical knowledge with practical laboratory work.
thesis	a long research paper for an advanced degree	He spent three years writing his thesis on coastal ecology.
tuition	teaching, or the fee paid for it	Rising tuition fees have discouraged some students from applying.
tutorial	a lesson given to a small group of students	Tutorials give students a chance to ask detailed questions.
undergraduate	a university student studying for a first degree	Most undergraduates complete their degree in three or four years.

Word	Meaning	Example sentence
validate	to prove that something is accurate or acceptable	The new test was validated against established reading assessments.
variable	a factor that can change in an experiment	Temperature was the only variable changed during the experiment.
verify	to check that something is true or correct	Journalists should verify facts before publishing a story.
vocational	relating to skills needed for a particular job	Vocational courses prepare students for careers such as plumbing.

Tip

Research texts use hedging words such as suggest, indicate and tend. They are common answers in Reading Fill in the Blanks.

Thinking and argument (76 words)

Word	Meaning	Example sentence
abrupt	sudden and unexpected	The abrupt change in policy surprised many teachers.
accelerate	to happen or make happen more quickly	Warmer temperatures have accelerated the melting of sea ice.
acknowledge	to accept that something exists or is true	The authors acknowledge that their sample was quite small.
advocate	to publicly support an idea or plan	Health experts advocate shorter screen time for young children.
alleviate	to make pain or a problem less severe	New bus routes should alleviate overcrowding on the trains.
anticipate	to expect or predict	Researchers anticipate a rise in demand.



Practice Fill in the Blanks with instant AI scoring

Thousands of practice questions on the real PTE test interface.

Start practicing →



Word	Meaning	Example sentence
arbitrary	based on chance rather than reason	The deadline seemed arbitrary and was not explained to students.
assert	to state something firmly as true	The author asserts that early reading shapes later success.
assume	to accept something as true without proof	Many people assume that older workers resist new technology.
categorise	to put things into groups by type	The responses were categorised into positive and negative comments.
clarify	to make something easier to understand	The tutor clarified the difference between the two theories.
compelling	very convincing and hard to ignore	The study provides compelling evidence that exercise improves mood.
concede	to admit that something is true	The writer concedes that the plan would be expensive.
conclusive	proving something beyond doubt	There is still no conclusive evidence that the drug works.
consensus	general agreement among a group	There is a broad scientific consensus that the climate is warming.
considerable	large in size, amount or importance	The project required a considerable amount of time and effort.
consistent	always behaving or happening in the same way	The findings are consistent with previous studies in other countries.
contend	to argue that something is true	Some economists contend that higher wages boost spending.
contradict	to say or show the opposite of something	The latest results contradict earlier research on the topic.
controversial	causing strong public disagreement	The proposal to close the library proved highly controversial.
credible	able to be believed or trusted	Use credible sources such as peer-reviewed articles in your essay.
crucial	extremely important for success	Early diagnosis is crucial for treating the disease effectively.
decline	to become smaller, fewer or weaker	Birth rates have declined steadily in many wealthy countries.

Word	Meaning	Example sentence
deduce	to reach an answer through careful reasoning	Detectives deduced the time of the event from the evidence.
demonstrate	to show clearly that something is true	The experiment demonstrates how heat affects the speed of reactions.
dismiss	to decide that something is not worth considering	Early critics dismissed the theory as unrealistic.
dispute	to argue that something is not true	Few scientists dispute the link between smoking and lung disease.
distinguish	to recognise the difference between things	Children learn to distinguish between fact and opinion.
drastic	extreme and having a strong effect	Drastic cuts in funding forced the clinic to reduce its hours.
elaborate	to explain something in more detail	Could you elaborate on the methods used in your study?
emphasise	to give special importance to something	The report emphasises the need for early intervention.
enhance	to improve the quality or value of something	Good lighting can enhance concentration in study spaces.
escalate	to become greater or more serious	The minor disagreement quickly escalated into a serious conflict.
exacerbate	to make a bad situation worse	Lack of sleep can exacerbate feelings of stress and anxiety.
explicit	stated clearly and in detail	The instructions give explicit guidance on how to format references.
facilitate	to make a process easier	Online forums facilitate discussion between students outside class.
feasible	possible and practical	A four-day week may be feasible for some firms.
fundamental	forming the basic and most important part	Reading is a fundamental skill for success in every subject.
hinder	to make progress slow or difficult	Poor internet access can hinder students' learning at home.
illustrate	to explain something using examples or pictures	The lecturer used a simple diagram to illustrate the process.

Word	Meaning	Example sentence
impede	to delay or block progress	Heavy snow impeded efforts to repair the damaged power lines.
implicit	suggested but not stated directly	There was an implicit criticism of the policy in his comments.
imply	to suggest something without saying it directly	The results imply that diet plays a larger role than expected.
inevitable	certain to happen	Some delay was inevitable after the storm.
infer	to reach a conclusion from evidence	From the data, we can infer that demand will continue to grow.
inherent	existing as a natural part of something	Risk is inherent in any investment.
integral	necessary and important as part of a whole	Fieldwork is an integral part of the geography course.
intensify	to become stronger or more extreme	Competition between online retailers has intensified in recent years.
justify	to give good reasons for something	The council must justify the high cost of the new bridge.
logical	following clear and sensible reasoning	A logical structure makes an essay easier to follow.
marginal	very small and not very important	The new design led to only a marginal improvement in speed.
modify	to change something slightly	The teacher modified the task for students who needed extra support.
negligible	so small that it is not important	The effect of the change on overall costs was negligible.
notion	an idea or belief	The notion that talent is fixed is widely questioned.
objective	based on facts rather than personal feelings	Reporters should give an objective account of events.
overlook	to fail to notice or consider something	Planners often overlook the needs of cyclists in busy areas.
paradox	a situation with two opposite but true features	It is a paradox that more choice can make people less happy.

Word	Meaning	Example sentence
perceive	to understand or see something in a particular way	Many employees perceive remote work as more productive.
perspective	a particular way of thinking about something	Travel can give young people a broader perspective on life.
persuasive	able to make people believe or do something	Her persuasive speech convinced the committee to fund the project.
plausible	seeming reasonable or likely to be true	The researchers offered a plausible explanation for the decline.
plummet	to fall very quickly and suddenly	Sales of printed maps plummeted after navigation apps appeared.
premise	an idea on which an argument is based	The argument rests on the premise that people act rationally.
prioritise	to decide which things are most important	Good students learn to prioritise tasks when deadlines approach.
profound	very great or deep	The invention had a profound impact on trade.
rationale	the reasons behind a decision or belief	The essay explains the rationale for introducing school uniforms.
refute	to prove that a claim is wrong	New evidence refuted the idea that the disease was inherited.
reinforce	to make an idea or feeling stronger	Regular practice reinforces new vocabulary in long-term memory.
rigorous	very careful, thorough and exact	All new medicines must pass rigorous safety testing.
speculate	to guess possible answers without firm evidence	Scientists can only speculate about why the species disappeared.

See how your vocabulary scores in a full PTE mock test

[Take a mock test →](#)

150+

Full-length mock tests

99%

Real exam simulation

15k+

Sign in daily

Word	Meaning	Example sentence
stabilise	to become steady and stop changing	Food prices finally stabilised after a period of rapid growth.
stance	a publicly stated opinion on an issue	The school has taken a firm stance against bullying.
subjective	based on personal feelings rather than facts	Judging artwork is often a subjective process.
surge	to increase suddenly and strongly	Demand for electric bicycles surged as fuel prices rose.
transform	to change something completely	Smartphones have transformed the way people access information.
valid	based on sound reasoning and acceptable	The examiner accepted her point as a valid argument.

Tip

These words help in Write Essay as well as Reading. Use two or three of them accurately rather than many of them loosely.

Tip

Read the whole sentence before choosing. The word after the blank often decides the answer: a noun after the blank usually needs an adjective in it.

Common mistake

Picking a word that fits the meaning but not the grammar. "Substantially" and "substantial" share a meaning, but only one fits before a noun.



Learn PTE words anywhere with the Gurully app

Short daily practice sessions on your phone, wherever you are.



Download on the
App Store



Get it on
Google Play

SECTION 2

Collocations

A collocation is a pair of words that naturally go together. In Fill in the Blanks, several options can be grammatical, but only one forms the natural collocation. Here are 100 to learn.

Collocation	Use it when	Example sentence
a common misconception	a widely held false belief	It is a common misconception that bats are blind.
a considerable amount of	describing a large quantity	The renovation required a considerable amount of time and money.
a crucial step	a very important stage	Peer review is a crucial step in academic publishing.
a demand for	people want or need something	There is a growing demand for skilled software engineers.
a detailed analysis	examining something very carefully	The report provides a detailed analysis of spending patterns.
a direct consequence	a result caused immediately	Flooding was a direct consequence of the blocked drains.
a fundamental difference	a basic, deep difference	There is a fundamental difference between the two theories.
a gradual decrease	falling slowly over a period	Researchers recorded a gradual decrease in rainfall across the region.
a growing number of	an amount keeps increasing	A growing number of employees now work from home.
a heated debate	an argument with strong feelings	The proposal sparked a heated debate among residents.
a high proportion of	a large part of a total	A high proportion of graduates find work within six months.
a key factor	naming a very important cause	Motivation is a key factor in learning a new language.
a lack of	not having enough of something	A lack of sleep can affect concentration in class.
a link between	two things are connected	Studies suggest a link between screen time and poor sleep.

Collocation	Use it when	Example sentence
a long-term effect	results lasting far into future	Poor diet in childhood can have long-term effects on health.
a major concern	describing a serious worry	Water shortages are a major concern for farmers.
a marked improvement	a clear, noticeable positive change	Test scores showed a marked improvement after the new programme.
a practical solution	an answer that works in reality	Shared bicycles offer a practical solution to short city journeys.
a rapid expansion	growing in size very quickly	The region experienced a rapid expansion of its tourism industry.
a reliable source	information you can trust	Students should cite reliable sources in their essays.
a sharp decline	something falls quickly and suddenly	There has been a sharp decline in bee populations.
a significant increase	a large rise	There was a significant increase in online sales.
a solution to	the answer for a problem	Researchers are searching for a solution to plastic pollution.
a steady rise	gradual, continuous increase over time	The graph shows a steady rise in online shopping.
a strong correlation	two variables are closely linked	The study found a strong correlation between income and health.
a valid argument	reasoning that is logical and sound	Both sides presented valid arguments during the seminar.
a wide range of	many different kinds	The museum offers a wide range of exhibits.
achieve a goal	successfully completing an aim	Careful planning helped the team achieve its goal ahead of schedule.
address an issue	dealing with a problem directly	The new policy aims to address the issue of rising rents.
adopt an approach	choosing a method to follow	Many schools have adopted a more practical approach to science.
an advantage over	one thing is better than another	Bilingual applicants often have an advantage over other candidates.

Collocation	Use it when	Example sentence
an alternative to	another option you could choose	Solar power offers a clean alternative to coal.
an integral part of	something is essential to a whole	Fieldwork is an integral part of the geography course.
bear in mind	remembering something important to consider	Bear in mind that costs may rise over time.
broadly similar	alike in the main points	The two surveys produced broadly similar findings.
carry out an experiment	doing a scientific test	The students carried out an experiment to measure plant growth.
cast doubt on	making something seem less certain	The latest results cast doubt on the original theory.
closely related to	strongly connected	Stress is closely related to poor sleep.
collect data	gathering information for research	Researchers collected data from over two thousand participants.
conduct a survey	asking many people set questions	The council conducted a survey to measure public satisfaction.
conduct research	carrying out a study	The team conducted research on sleep habits.
deeply concerned	feeling very worried about something	Scientists are deeply concerned about rising ocean temperatures.
draw a conclusion	deciding something from evidence	It is too early to draw a conclusion.
draw a distinction between	showing how two things differ	The author draws a clear distinction between weather and climate.
draw attention to	making others notice something	The report draws attention to the shortage of qualified nurses.
draw on experience	using what you learned before	Good teachers draw on experience to support struggling students.
entirely different	completely not the same	The second experiment produced entirely different results.
exert pressure on	trying hard to influence someone	Consumers can exert pressure on companies to reduce packaging.

Collocation	Use it when	Example sentence
express concern about	saying you feel worried	Parents expressed concern about the amount of homework set.
face a challenge	dealing with a difficult situation	Small businesses face a serious challenge when energy prices rise.
fill a gap	providing something that is missing	The new course fills a gap in local training options.
follow guidelines	obeying official advice or rules	All staff must follow safety guidelines in the laboratory.
gain experience	learning through practice over time	Internships allow graduates to gain experience in a real workplace.
gain insight into	understanding something better	The survey gave researchers insight into buying habits.
give rise to	something causes a new situation	Rapid urban growth has given rise to serious traffic problems.
have an impact on	causing an effect	Tourism has an impact on local prices.
heavily dependent on	needing something a great deal	The island is heavily dependent on tourism.
highly effective	something works very well	Spaced repetition is a highly effective way to memorise vocabulary.
highly unlikely	something will almost certainly not happen	It is highly unlikely that prices will fall next month.
increasingly popular	more people like it over time	Plant-based meals are becoming increasingly popular with young adults.
largely responsible for	the main cause of something	Vehicle emissions are largely responsible for poor air quality.
lay the foundation for	creating the basis for later success	Early reading habits lay the foundation for academic achievement.



Try these words in real PTE questions on the test interface

Real exam interface, instant AI scoring, and a detailed report after every attempt.

Start practicing →



Collocation	Use it when	Example sentence
make a contribution	adding something useful or valuable	Volunteers make a valuable contribution to local communities.
make a decision	choosing after thinking carefully	The board will make a decision after reviewing the evidence.
make an effort	trying hard to do something	Visitors should make an effort to learn a few local phrases.
make progress	moving forward	Students made steady progress over the term.
meet a deadline	finishing work on time	The team worked late to meet the submission deadline.
meet a requirement	satisfying a rule or condition	Applicants must meet the minimum language requirement for entry.
meet the demand	supplying what is needed	Farms struggled to meet the demand for rice.
offer an explanation	giving reasons for something	The study offers a clear explanation for the falling birth rate.
pay attention to	watching or listening carefully	Candidates should pay attention to the exact wording of questions.
place emphasis on	treating something as especially important	The curriculum places strong emphasis on critical thinking skills.
play a role in	being one part of a result	Diet plays a role in long-term health.
pose a threat	something creates danger	Rising seas pose a threat to coastal towns.
provide evidence	showing facts that support claims	The findings provide evidence that sleep improves memory.
put forward a proposal	suggesting a plan formally	The student union put forward a proposal for longer library hours.
raise a question	making people think about something	The results raise important questions about online privacy.
raise awareness	helping people know more	The campaign raised awareness of recycling.
reach a consensus	a group finally agrees together	After a long discussion, the panel managed to reach a consensus.
reach an agreement	agreeing after discussion	The two sides reached an agreement.

Collocation	Use it when	Example sentence
readily available	easy to get or find	Fresh vegetables are not readily available in remote areas.
reduce the risk of	making something bad less likely	Regular exercise reduces the risk of heart disease.
relatively small	small when compared with others	Only a relatively small number of students chose the option.
remarkably consistent	staying the same to a surprising degree	Her results remained remarkably consistent across all trials.
run the risk of	an action might cause harm	Students who skip revision run the risk of failing.
seek advice	asking an expert for guidance	First-year students are encouraged to seek advice from tutors.
set a target	deciding on a measurable aim	The company has set a target of zero waste.
shed light on	helping to explain something unclear	New fossils may shed light on how early birds evolved.
solve a problem	finding an answer to difficulty	Engineers worked together to solve the drainage problem.
statistically significant	a result unlikely to be chance	The difference between the two groups was statistically significant.
strike a balance	finding a fair middle position	Workers often struggle to strike a balance between work and family.
strongly opposed to	disagreeing with something very firmly	Many residents are strongly opposed to the new motorway.
suffer a setback	progress is suddenly stopped	The project suffered a setback when funding was withdrawn.
take action	doing something to change things	Local authorities must take action to protect wildlife habitats.
take into account	considering a factor	Planners must take traffic into account.
take responsibility for	accepting duty or blame	Each team member takes responsibility for one section of the project.
test a hypothesis	checking an idea with research	The scientists designed a trial to test their hypothesis.

Collocation	Use it when	Example sentence
the underlying cause	the hidden, basic reason	Doctors try to identify the underlying cause of the symptoms.
undergo a change	experiencing a transformation over time	The city centre has undergone a dramatic change in recent decades.
widely accepted	agreed by most people	The theory is widely accepted today.

Words with fixed prepositions

dependent on · responsible for · consistent with · capable of · contribute to · focus on · result in · interfere with · aware of · in response to · accustomed to · associated with · based on · beneficial to · committed to · comparable to · concerned about · derived from · eligible for · essential for · exposed to · familiar with · involved in · prior to · relevant to · rely on · subject to · superior to · in contrast to · in favour of · with regard to · comply with

SECTION 3

Write from Dictation spellings

In Write from Dictation every word is checked, so one spelling slip costs marks. These 100 words are often misspelled. Write each one twice from memory.

A to Z			
absence	acceptable	accidentally	accommodation
achievement	acknowledge	acquaintance	acquire
address	advertisement	aggressive	amateur
analyse	apparent	appreciate	approximately
argument	atmosphere	auxiliary	beginning
believe	business	calendar	category
characteristic	colleague	commitment	committee
conscientious	conscious	consensus	controversy
convenient	criticism	curriculum	deceive
definitely	desperate	development	dilemma
disappear	disappoint	discipline	embarrass

A to Z

emphasise	entrepreneur	environment	equipment
especially	exaggerate	existence	February
foreign	fulfil	government	guarantee
harass	hierarchy	immediately	independent
indispensable	laboratory	library	licence
maintenance	manoeuvre	millennium	mischievous
necessary	neighbour	noticeable	occasion
occurred	occurrence	opportunity	parallel
parliament	particularly	perseverance	persuade
possession	privilege	pronunciation	psychology
questionnaire	receive	recommend	referred
relevant	rhythm	schedule	separate
successful	sufficient	temperature	threshold
tomorrow	until	vacuum	Wednesday

Words that sound alike

Pair	How to tell them apart
affect / effect	Affect is usually a verb; effect is usually a noun.
principal / principle	Principal is the head or main; principle is a rule or belief.
complement / compliment	Complement completes something; compliment is praise.

Join thousands of PTE students practicing on Gurully every day

Start practicing →

150+

Full-length mock tests

30k+

Practice questions

99%

Real exam simulation

15k+

Sign in daily

Pair	How to tell them apart
stationary / stationery	Stationary means not moving; stationery is paper and pens.
accept / except	Accept means receive; except means not including.
lose / loose	Lose is the opposite of win or find; loose means not tight.
imply / infer	A speaker implies a meaning; a listener infers it from what was said.
fewer / less	Use “fewer” with countable nouns and “less” with uncountable nouns.
ensure / insure	“Ensure” means make certain; “insure” means protect with an insurance policy.
eminent / imminent	“Eminent” means famous and respected; “imminent” means about to happen.
discreet / discrete	“Discreet” means careful and private; “discrete” means separate and distinct.
adverse / averse	“Adverse” describes harmful conditions; “averse” describes a person who dislikes something.
continual / continuous	“Continual” means repeated with breaks; “continuous” means without any interruption.
economic / economical	“Economic” relates to the economy; “economical” means saving money or resources.
precede / proceed	“Precede” means come before; “proceed” means continue or move forward.
advice / advise	“Advice” is the noun; “advise” is the verb, pronounced with a z sound.
cite / site	You “cite” a source as evidence; a “site” is a place or location.
raise / rise	You “raise” something by lifting it; things “rise” by themselves without an object.
historic / historical	“Historic” means important in history; “historical” means connected with the past.
comprise / compose	The whole “comprises” its parts; the parts “compose” the whole.

Tip

Listen for small endings such as plural -s and past tense -ed. They are easy to miss and each one counts.

Common mistake

Mixing British and American spellings in one answer, for example “organise” and “color”. Pick one style and stay with it.

SECTION 4

Essay and summary vocabulary

Linking words show how your ideas connect. Use a range, but only where the meaning is right. A wrong linker hurts more than a simple one.

Purpose	Words and phrases	Example sentence
Add an idea	furthermore, in addition, moreover	In addition, remote work cuts travel time.
Contrast	however, whereas, on the other hand	Cities offer jobs, whereas villages offer space.
Cause	because of, due to, owing to	Traffic grew due to cheaper fuel.
Effect	therefore, consequently, as a result	Costs rose; consequently, sales fell.
Example	for instance, such as, a case in point is	Renewable sources such as wind are growing.
Opinion	in my view, I firmly believe, it seems to me	In my view, the benefits outweigh the costs.
Concession	although, despite, admittedly	Despite the cost, the plan is worth funding.
Conclusion	in conclusion, overall, to sum up	Overall, the advantages are clear.

Tip for Summarize Written Text

Joining words such as while, which and because let you combine the main ideas of a passage into a single, well-linked summary.

Common mistake

Starting every paragraph with "Moreover". Vary your linkers and match each one to its purpose in the table above.

Upgrade everyday words in your essay

Instead of	Try	Example sentence
show	demonstrate, indicate	The data indicate a clear upward trend.
think	argue, maintain	Some argue that tuition fees should fall.
get	obtain, acquire	Students acquire skills through regular practice.
help	facilitate, support	Technology can facilitate learning at home.
big	significant, considerable	The project needs a considerable amount of money.
bad	detrimental, harmful	Constant noise is detrimental to concentration.

Instead of	Try	Example sentence
good	beneficial, advantageous	Daily exercise is beneficial to health.
a lot of	numerous, a great deal of	Numerous studies support this view.
make worse	exacerbate, worsen	Overcrowding exacerbates the housing problem.
look at	examine, analyse	This essay examines both points of view.
very important	crucial, vital	Clean water is vital for public health.
problem	challenge, issue	Housing costs remain a major challenge.
nowadays	in recent years, currently	In recent years, online learning has grown rapidly.
many people	a large proportion of people	A large proportion of people now shop online.
a lot (more)	considerably, substantially	Prices have risen considerably since last year.
about	approximately, roughly	Approximately half of the respondents preferred online lessons.
start	commence, initiate	Construction of the new campus will commence next spring.
end	conclude, terminate	The researchers concluded the trial after twelve months.
use	utilise, employ	Many farmers now employ drones to monitor their crops.
need	require, necessitate	The course requires a high level of written English.
try	attempt, endeavour	The study attempts to explain changes in consumer behaviour.
find out	discover, ascertain	Scientists sought to ascertain the cause of the decline.
go up	rise, escalate	Housing costs have escalated in most coastal cities.
go down	decline, decrease	Unemployment declined steadily over the following decade.
change	alter, modify	The government modified the policy after public consultation.
keep	retain, maintain	Companies offer training to retain their most skilled staff.

Instead of	Try	Example sentence
enough	sufficient, adequate	Many households lack adequate access to fresh water.
main	primary, principal	Cost is the primary reason students choose local universities.
also	moreover, furthermore	Moreover, the scheme reduced waste by a third.
but	however, nevertheless	The plan is expensive; nevertheless, it has wide support.
so	therefore, consequently	Demand increased sharply; consequently, prices rose.
talk about	discuss, examine	This essay will examine the benefits of remote learning.
give	provide, offer	Libraries provide free internet access to local residents.
clear	evident, apparent	It is evident that technology has transformed education.
hard	challenging, demanding	Nursing is a demanding but rewarding profession.

Tip

One or two upgraded words per paragraph is plenty. Accuracy matters more than how rare a word is.

Common mistake

Using a formal word with the wrong grammar, for example “facilitate students to learn” instead of “facilitate learning”.



Practice PTE on the go with the Gurully app

Scan a code with your phone camera, or tap a store button if you are reading this on your phone.



Download on the
App Store



Get it on
Google Play

SECTION 5

Practice with answers

Task type: Reading & Writing: Fill in the Blanks. Choose the best word for each of the 32 blanks.
Answers and explanations follow the last question.

1. The new policy is expected to have a _____ effect on household budgets.

☐ A. substantial

☐ B. substance

☐ C. substantially

☐ D. substantiate

2. Many species are struggling to _____ to rapid changes in their habitat.

☐ A. adopt

☐ B. adapt

☐ C. adept

☐ D. adaptation

3. Researchers need more _____ evidence before the theory can be accepted.

☐ A. empirical

☐ B. empire

☐ C. empirically

☐ D. emperor

4. Urban gardens can help _____ the effects of extreme heat in cities.

☐ A. mitigate

☐ B. migrate

☐ C. militate

☐ D. motivate

5. The town's economy is heavily dependent _____ tourism.

☐ A. in

☐ B. on

☐ C. of

☐ D. from

6. Rising sea levels _____ a serious threat to low-lying islands.

☐ A. make

☐ B. do

☐ C. pose

☐ D. give

7. The two reports show a _____ between their sales figures, so one of them must be wrong.

☐ A. discrepancy

☐ B. discretion

☐ C. discipline

☐ D. distinction

8. Before the main study, the team carried out a _____ survey with fifty students.

☐ A. preliminary

☐ B. premature

☐ C. prevalent

☐ D. predominant

9. Regular exercise has a positive _____ on both physical and mental wellbeing.

A. impact

B. impacted

C. impactful

D. impactfully

10. Prices of fresh produce rose _____ during the dry season, worrying many households.

A. sharp

B. sharpen

C. sharpness

D. sharply

11. Many international students find it difficult to adapt _____ the demands of university study.

A. with

B. to

C. for

D. at

12. Scientists _____ a series of experiments to test the safety of the new vaccine.

A. took

B. held

C. carried out

D. kept

13. The committee asked for expert _____ before making a final decision on the proposal.

A. advise

B. advisable

C. adviser

D. advice

14. The new parking policy proved highly _____ in reducing traffic congestion during peak hours.

A. effect

B. effective

C. effectively

D. effectiveness

15. Local councils must _____ that all public buildings are accessible to people with disabilities.

A. ensuring

B. ensures

C. ensure

D. ensured

16. The rise in childhood obesity has been attributed _____ changes in diet and daily activity.

A. to

B. for

C. with

D. by

17. Recent surveys show that _____ people are reading printed newspapers than a decade ago.

A. less

B. little

C. lesser

D. fewer

18. Rapid _____ of the city has placed great pressure on housing, roads and public transport.

A. develop

B. development

C. developed

D. developmental

19. Researchers have recorded a _____ decline in bird populations across the northern region.

A. tall

B. loud

C. sharp

D. thick

20. Access _____ clean drinking water remains a serious challenge in many rural communities.

A. of

B. for

C. at

D. to

21. From the survey data, we can _____ that younger users strongly prefer mobile devices.

A. infer

B. imply

C. refer

D. confer

22. In her lecture, the speaker _____ attention to the widening gap between rich and poor.

A. made

B. drew

C. took

D. got

23. The two studies reached _____ different conclusions despite using very similar research methods.

A. entire

B. entirety

C. entireness

D. entirely

24. The cost of living continues to _____, putting extra pressure on young families every month.

A. raise

B. arise

C. rise

D. rose

25. Students who take part _____ extracurricular activities often develop stronger social and leadership skills.

A. in

B. on

C. at

D. for

26. Clean water is _____ for all living organisms, so its conservation must be a priority.

A. essence

B. essentially

C. essentialise

D. essential

27. Cycling to work is an _____ way to travel, as it saves money on fuel and parking.

A. economic

B. economical

C. economy

D. economist

28. Governments must _____ a balance between economic growth and protection of the natural environment.

A. hit

B. beat

C. strike

D. knock

29. The university introduced new support services in _____ to feedback from first-year students.

A. response

B. respond

C. responsive

D. responded

30. The _____ of the recycling scheme depends largely on cooperation from local residents.

A. succeed

B. successful

C. success

D. successfully

31. The advisory board _____ twelve members, each representing a different academic department.

A. comprises

B. composes

C. consists

D. constitutes

32. Online learning has become _____ popular among working adults who need flexible study schedules.

A. increase

B. increasingly

C. increasing

D. increased



Practice Fill in the Blanks with instant AI scoring

Thousands of practice questions on the real PTE test interface.

Start practicing →



Answers and explanations

1. A. substantial

The blank sits between “a” and the noun “effect”, so it needs an adjective. Only “substantial” is an adjective.

2. B. adapt

“Adapt to” means change to suit new conditions. “Adopt” means take up, and “adept” is an adjective meaning skilled.

3. A. empirical

An adjective is needed before “evidence”. “Empirical evidence” is a fixed academic collocation.

4. A. mitigate

“Mitigate” means make less severe, which fits “the effects of extreme heat”. “Militate” looks similar but means to have a strong effect against something.

5. B. on

“Dependent” always takes “on”. Learn adjectives with their prepositions, not alone.

6. C. pose

“Pose a threat” is the natural collocation. The other verbs fit the grammar, but none of them forms a natural phrase with “threat”.

7. A. discrepancy

A “discrepancy” is a difference between things that should match. The clue is “so one of them must be wrong”.

8. A. preliminary

“Preliminary” means coming before the main part, which matches “before the main study”.

9. A. impact

After the article and adjective “a positive”, a noun is needed, and “impact on” is a natural collocation. “Impactful” is an adjective, so it cannot follow another adjective here.

10. D. sharply

An adverb is needed to describe how prices rose, so “sharply” is correct. “Sharp” is an adjective and cannot modify the verb “rose” in this sense.

11. B. to

The verb “adapt” is followed by “to” when describing adjusting to new conditions. “Adapt with” is not a standard combination.

12. C. carried out

We “carry out” experiments; this is the fixed collocation. “Held” collocates with meetings or events, not experiments.

13. D. advice

“Advice” is the uncountable noun, so it fits after “expert” without an article. “Adviser” is a countable noun and would need “an” before “expert”.

14. B. effective

After “proved highly”, an adjective is needed, so “effective” is correct. “Effectively” is an adverb and cannot follow the linking verb “proved”.

15. C. ensure

A modal verb such as “must” is always followed by the base form, so “ensure” is correct. “Ensures” adds an ending that modals never take.

16. A. to

The structure is “attribute something to a cause”, so “to” is correct. “By” would wrongly suggest that the changes did the attributing.

17. D. fewer

“People” is a countable plural noun, so “fewer” is required. “Less” is used with uncountable nouns such as time or money.

18. B. development

After the adjective “rapid” and before “of”, a noun is needed, so “development” is correct. “Developmental” is an adjective and cannot be the subject.

19. C. sharp

“A sharp decline” is a common collocation meaning a sudden, large fall. “Tall” describes physical height and never collocates with “decline”.

20. D. to

The noun “access” is followed by “to” when naming what can be reached or used. “Access of” is not used in this meaning.

21. A. infer

Readers or researchers “infer” a conclusion from evidence. “Imply” means to suggest something indirectly, which is what the data does, not the researchers.

22. B. drew

“Draw attention to” is the fixed collocation meaning to make people notice something. “Made attention” is not natural English.

23. D. entirely

An adverb is needed to modify the adjective “different”, so “entirely” is correct. “Entire” is an adjective and cannot modify another adjective.

24. C. rise

“Rise” is intransitive and needs no object, which fits here. “Raise” needs an object, as in “raise prices”, so it is wrong in this sentence.

25. A. in

The phrase is always “take part in” something. “Take part on” is not a correct combination.

26. D. essential

After the verb “is”, an adjective is needed, and “essential for” is a natural combination. “Essentially” is an adverb and does not fit this position.

27. B. economical

“Economical” means saving money, which matches the context. “Economic” relates to the economy as a whole, so it does not fit here.

28. C. strike

“Strike a balance” is the fixed collocation meaning to find a fair middle position. “Hit a balance” is not used in English.

29. A. response

The fixed phrase “in response to” requires the noun “response”. “Respond” is a verb and cannot follow the preposition “in”.

30. C. success

After “the” and before “of”, a noun is required, so “success” is correct. “Successful” is an adjective and cannot act as the subject.

31. A. comprises

The whole “comprises” its parts, so “comprises twelve members” is correct. “Consists” would need “of” after it to be grammatical.

32. B. increasingly

An adverb is needed to modify the adjective “popular”, so “increasingly” is correct. “Increasing” is an adjective form and cannot modify another adjective.

Your score

27 or more correct: strong vocabulary for this task. 19 to 26: revise Sections 1 and 2. Fewer than 19: learn ten words a day from Section 1 and retest in two weeks.

See how your vocabulary scores in a full PTE mock test

[Take a mock test →](#)

150+

Full-length mock tests

99%

Real exam simulation

15k+

Sign in daily

Practice on the real PTE test interface

Every question type, the exact on-screen layout and timing, and instant AI scoring on each answer.

150+

Full-length mock tests

30k+

Practice questions

99%

Real exam simulation

15k+

Sign in daily

Take a PTE mock test on Gurully →



Practice on the go with the Gurully app

Scan a code with your phone camera, or tap a button if you are reading this on your phone.



Download on the
App Store

iOS App



Get it on
Google Play

Android App

Full guide on the blog: gurully.com/blog/vocabulary-for-pte