

# 4 Adventure

Verbs and nouns associated with travel and adventure | Getting word stress right |  
Choosing vocabulary to express yourself precisely

## Vocabulary

### Verbs associated with travel and adventure:

- **accompany (accompanies, accompanying, accompanied)**  
VERB If you **accompany** someone, you go somewhere with them. [FORMAL] ▪ *Ken agreed to accompany me on a trip to Africa.* ▪ *The Prime Minister, accompanied by the governor, led the President up to the house.*
- **encounter (encounters, encountering, encountered)**  
VERB If you **encounter** problems or difficulties, you experience them. ▪ *Every day of our lives we encounter stresses of one kind or another.* ▪ *Environmental problems they found in Poland were among the worst they encountered.*
- **overcome (overcomes, overcoming, overcame)**  
VERB If you **overcome** a problem or a feeling, you successfully deal with it and control it. ▪ *Molly had fought and overcome her fear of flying.* ▪ *One way of helping children to overcome shyness is to boost their self-confidence.*
- **reschedule (reschedules, rescheduling, rescheduled)**  
VERB If someone **reschedules** an event, they change the time at which it is supposed to happen. ▪ *Since I'll be away, I'd like to reschedule the meeting.* ▪ [+ for] *They've rescheduled the opening for February 14th.*
- **seek (seeks, seeking, sought)**  
VERB If you **seek** something, you try to find it or obtain it. [FORMAL] ▪ *Four people who sought refuge in the Italian embassy have left voluntarily.* ▪ [+ for] *Candidates are urgently*

*sought for the post of Conservative Party chairman.* ▪ *Always seek professional legal advice before entering into any agreement.* ▪ [+ from] *The couple have sought help from marriage guidance counsellors.*

- **venture (ventures, venturing, ventured)**  
VERB If you **venture** somewhere, you go somewhere that might be dangerous. [LITERARY] ▪ *People are afraid to venture out for fear of sniper attacks.*

### Nouns associated with travel and adventure:

- **challenge (challenges)**  
NOUN A **challenge** is something new and difficult which requires great effort and determination. ▪ *I like a big challenge and they don't come much bigger than this.* ▪ *The new government's first challenge is the economy.*
- **destination (destinations)**  
NOUN The **destination** of someone or something is the place to which they are going or being sent. ▪ *Spain is still our most popular holiday destination.* ▪ *Only half of the emergency supplies have reached their destination.*
- **itinerary (itineraries)**  
NOUN An **itinerary** is a plan of a journey, including the route and the places that you will visit. ▪ *The next place on our itinerary was Silistra.*
- **journey (journeys)**  
NOUN When you make a **journey**, you travel from one place to another. ▪ [+ to] *There is an express service from Paris which completes the journey to Bordeaux in under 4 hours.*

## Adjectives to describe experiences:

- **dreary**  
ADJECTIVE If you describe something as **dreary**, you mean that it is dull and depressing. ▀ *a dreary little town in the Midwest*
- **intense**  
ADJECTIVE **Intense** is used to describe something that is very great or extreme in strength or degree. ▀ *He was sweating from the intense heat.* ▀ *His threats become more intense, agitated, and frequent.*
- **pivotal**  
ADJECTIVE A **pivotal** role, point, or figure in something is one that is very important and affects the success of that thing. ▀ *The Court*

*of Appeal has a pivotal role in the English legal system.* ▀ *The elections may prove to be pivotal in Colombia's political history.*

- **profound**  
ADJECTIVE You use **profound** to emphasize that something is very great or intense. ▀ *discoveries which had a profound effect on many areas of medicine* ▀ *The overwhelming feeling is just deep, profound shock and anger.* ▀ *Anna's patriotism was profound.*
- **valuable**  
ADJECTIVE If you describe something or someone as **valuable**, you mean that they are very useful and helpful. ▀ *Many of our teachers also have valuable academic links with Heidelberg University.* ▀ *The experience was very valuable.*

## Practice exercises



1

Listen to speakers 1–6 describing their adventures. Indicate which of the verbs a–g each speaker uses by writing a letter in the spaces below:

<b>a</b> accompany	Speaker 1 _____
<b>b</b> reschedule	Speaker 2 _____
<b>c</b> venture	Speaker 3 _____
<b>d</b> encounter	Speaker 4 _____
<b>e</b> overcome	Speaker 5 _____
<b>f</b> seek	Speaker 6 _____

**Exam tip:** You can improve your mark in the IELTS Speaking exam if you learn to pronounce words correctly.

For multi-syllable words it is important to get the stress pattern right.

When you learn a new word, learn which syllable is pronounced most strongly.

Listen again to speakers 1–6 in Exercise 1. Underline the stressed syllable of each key verb a–f. Practise saying the words out loud.

**Exam tip:** In the IELTS Speaking exam you need to show that you have a broad vocabulary.

In English there are many words that have the same general meaning; however, they may have subtly different definitions.

Example: *challenge* and *obstacle* can both refer to a difficulty. However, if you use the word *challenge*, you imply that you may be able to overcome the difficulty. If you use *obstacle*, you imply that the difficulty is harder to overcome.

Learn to distinguish these subtle differences of meaning to express yourself precisely.

2

Look at these pairs of words with similar meanings. Complete the sentence pairs 1–8 with words from the table.

itinerary	journey
encounter	meet
pivotal	significant
seek	look for
intense	profound
dreary	dull
valuable	priceless
destination	goal

- 1 **a** You can use the expression \_\_\_\_\_ if you are trying to find something.  
**b** \_\_\_\_\_ is a more formal word that you can use if you are trying to find something that is quite important, a job for example.
- 2 **a** If something is \_\_\_\_\_, it is boring and depressing.  
**b** If something is \_\_\_\_\_, it is not interesting or exciting.
- 3 **a** Your \_\_\_\_\_ is the place that you hope to reach.  
**b** Your \_\_\_\_\_ is something that you hope to achieve.
- 4 **a** If you \_\_\_\_\_ someone, you may come across them unexpectedly or because you have arranged to get together.  
**b** If you \_\_\_\_\_ someone, you come across them, usually unexpectedly.
- 5 **a** When you make a \_\_\_\_\_, you travel from one place to another.  
**b** An \_\_\_\_\_ is the plan you make before you travel.
- 6 **a** If something is \_\_\_\_\_, it is very meaningful and may affect the way you think and feel.  
**b** If something is \_\_\_\_\_, it is extreme in strength or degree.
- 7 **a** A \_\_\_\_\_ role, point or figure in something is one that is important.  
**b** A \_\_\_\_\_ role, point or figure in something is one that is very important and affects the success of that thing.
- 8 **a** If something is \_\_\_\_\_, it is very useful and/or worth a lot of money.  
**b** If something is \_\_\_\_\_, it is extremely useful and/or worth a great deal of money.

### 3 Choose words from the table of pairs in Exercise 2 to complete the sentences 1–8.

- 1 According to our \_\_\_\_\_ we should be in Zanzibar by 8.30 Tuesday evening.
- 2 Many people travel to the tropics, \_\_\_\_\_-ing sun and adventure.
- 3 Their \_\_\_\_\_ through Africa was one that they had been looking forward to for years.
- 4 If you travel without making reservations, you are likely to \_\_\_\_\_ problems.
- 5 Our trip to the coast was rather \_\_\_\_\_ as it was overcast and the beaches were dirty.
- 6 Retrieving my stolen passport was a \_\_\_\_\_ moment – after that, everything went smoothly.
- 7 After exploring the caves, we're going to \_\_\_\_\_ my cousin and his wife at the local bar.
- 8 Seeing the poverty in that part of the world was a very \_\_\_\_\_ experience – it made me sad and thoughtful.

## Exam practice: Speaking Part 2

In Part 2 of the IELTS Speaking exam you have to speak for one to two minutes about a topic you are given. You will receive a task card like the one below. You have one minute to prepare what to say and to make a few written notes if you wish.



For this practice exercise, listen to the model answer and write down seven target words from Unit 4 that the speaker uses.

Describe an adventure that you have had, either at home or abroad.

You should say:

what you did

why you did it

how you felt about it

and explain what you learned from the experience.

When you are ready, try the exercise yourself. Before you speak, note down four to eight key words.

**Tip:** Make sure you have studied the definitions and sample sentences for your key words carefully.