

THEMES IN ESSAY WRITING (KENYAN SYLLABUS)

Themes are categorized in two: a happy and sad occasion

HAPPY OCCASIONS

CELEBRATIONS

Wedding

Relevant Vocabulary

Bride (noun)

The woman getting married

Groom (noun)

The man getting married

Bridesmaid (noun)

A woman, usually a close friend or relative of the bride, who accompanies the bride and helps her on her wedding day. It is typical for a bride to have 3-5 bridesmaids.

Maid of honor (noun)

The main bridesmaid. If she is married, she is referred to as the matron of honor.

Best man (noun)

A male friend or relative that helps the groom on his wedding day.

Bride's parents (noun)

The bride's parents are referred to as the *mother of the bride* and the *father of the bride*.

Groom's parents (noun)

The groom's parents are referred to as the *mother of the groom* and the *father of the groom*.

Flower girl (noun)

A little girl, often a relative of the bride or groom, who carries flowers at the start of the ceremony.

Ring bearer (noun)

The person who takes care of the rings until they are needed in the ceremony. Often a young boy who is a relative of the bride or groom.

Other important people at the wedding are:

Guests (noun)

The people who attend the wedding

Officiator (noun)

The person who performs the ceremony and officially marries the bride and groom

Photographer (noun)

Someone hired by the bride and groom to take pictures

Wedding planner (noun)

Someone hired to plan the wedding and who takes care of logistical details on the big day

Witness (noun)

Someone who observes the ceremony and signs the marriage certificate

Usher (noun)

The person who takes care of seating the guests before the ceremony

Wedding Attire

Bridesmaid's dress (noun)

It is traditional for bridesmaids to wear matching dresses

Bouquet (noun)

Flowers carried by the bride

Engagement ring (noun)

The ring given to the bride when the groom first asks to marry her

Lace (noun)

Cotton or silk that has been woven into a special pattern. Often used to decorate the bride's dress

Sequins (noun)

Sparkly disks often used to decorate the bride's dress

Suit (noun)

A combination of jacket and trousers worn on formal occasions. At a wedding, typically worn by the groom

Train (noun)

A long piece of fabric at the back of the bride's dress that trails along the ground

Tuxedo (noun)

A black suit worn by men at very formal occasions

Wedding gown (noun)

A more formal word for the bride's dress

Wedding ring (noun)

The ring exchanged by the bride and groom during the ceremony. Sometimes called a wedding band

Veil (noun)

A piece of transparent material that covers the bride's face at the start of the ceremony

The Ceremony

Aisle (noun)

The passage in the middle of a church or temple. It is traditional for the bride to walk down the aisle with her father or another close relative.

Confetti (noun)

Small pieces of paper thrown by the guests after the ceremony for good luck. Sometimes rice is thrown instead of confetti.

To exchange vows (verb)

The bride and groom each make a speech where they speak about their feelings for each other. When they do so, they are said to be exchanging vows.

To say "I do" (verb)

When the officiator asks the couple if they are ready to accept the responsibilities of marriage, it is traditional for the bride and groom to say, "I do."

To swear (verb)

To promise. Often the officiator will ask the couple if they swear to protect one another.

Wedding bells (noun)

At a white wedding, after the ceremony bells will ring. This is a sign that the couple is officially married.

Other expressions you may hear at a wedding are:

Please rise. (Please stand up, because the ceremony is about to begin.)

Do you take this man to be your lawfully wedded husband? and Do you take this woman to be your lawfully wedded wife? (Are you ready to accept the responsibilities of marriage?)

If there are any objections to this marriage, speak or forever hold your peace!

You may now kiss the bride. (The most romantic part of the ceremony.)

I now pronounce you husband and wife. (*Pronounce* here means "officially announce.") This marks the end of the ceremony and is usually met with applause.)

The Reception

After the ceremony, it is traditional to celebrate the marriage with a party (called "the reception"). Wedding receptions usually involve a special meal followed by speeches, music and dancing. Useful words for the reception are:

Band or live band (noun)

A group of musicians hired to play music

Buffet (noun)

A meal where guests serve themselves

Wedding cake (verb)

The traditional dessert at a wedding. Usually the wedding cake has miniature figurines of the bride and groom on top.

Order of Wedding Ceremony

Processional

The processional begins with bridesmaids and groomsmen walking down the aisle, typically paired up. The maid of honor and best man walk down after all other bridesmaids and groomsmen have made their way down the aisle. The ring bearer will then carry the rings to the altar, followed by the flower girl.

In a traditional Christian processional, the bride is walked down the aisle by her father while the groom waits at the altar. In a traditional Jewish processional, the groom's parents escort him down the aisle, followed by the bride being escorted down the aisle by her parents.

Opening Remarks

Next, come the opening remarks. These include any words of welcome that the officiant may express. Typically, they begin with "Dearly beloved, we are gathered here today..." or some may just address the crowd as "Friends and family...".

The officiant may then share the significance of marriage with the crowd or a small antidote of your love story. You can delegate what you would prefer your officiant to open with ahead of time if you wish to do so.

Readings

A few people may be invited up to share or exchange readings at this point in the ceremony. Whether these readings are religious, spiritual, or excerpts from your favorite romance novel, you can tailor the readings to reflect you and your partners idea of love and marriage.

Officiant Addresses the Couple

The officiant will then address the couple, emphasizing the significance of the responsibilities or marriage and vows in which the couple is about to take.

Exchange of Vows

The wedding vows provide the couple with a great opportunity to add a personal touch to the ceremony. Couples may choose to write their own vows to each other, exchange how they first met and reflect on their relationship or use the traditional phrasing guided by the officiant. This is your opportunity to make a special promise to your love, so plan how you wish to express this feeling in advance.

Ring Exchange

Right after the vows comes the ring exchange. The officiant will prompt the ring bearer to present the rings. Typically, you will say “With this ring, I thee wed...”. Remember to place the ring on your partner’s left hand, as this side is closer to the heart. The bride’s wedding band will be placed on the same finger as the engagement ring.

Pronouncement Of Marriage

Once the rings have been properly placed, the officiant will pronounce you and your love husband and wife. Now it’s time to officially seal the deal.

Unity Ceremony

Some couples opt to have a unity ceremony after the first kiss. Some unity ceremony ideas include the mixing of two different colors of sand or water to symbolize two becoming one or a candle lighting.

Closing Remarks

The officiant will end the ceremony with a few closing words. For a religious ceremony, he or she will also include a blessing for the couple to have a long and happy marriage.

The Recessional

The bride and groom are the first to exit during the recessional. They are then followed by the flower girl and the ring bearer. The maid of honor and best man will then make their way down

the aisle, followed by the remaining bridesmaids and groomsmen. The bride and groom's parents will then exit. The guests should be the last to exit and will make their way to the cocktail hour or reception.

SOCCER

A writer is expected to narrate a story about soccer using the right vocabulary and expressions.

The writer should make the story full of action and make the reader feel as though they were watching the match. The candidate must fully show in writing they fully understand the subject matter.

Vocabulary and expression on soccer

- Pitch
- Referee
- Linesmen
- Centerline
- Touchline
- Goal area
- Penalty area
- Corners
- Free kick
- Volley
- Banana kick
- Bicycle kick
- Scissors
- Block busters
- Offside
- Off side trap
- Text book soccer
- Sea saw battle
- Water – tight defense
- Defense which brooked no mistake/nonsense
- In the ensuing goal mouth melee
- It was an epic sapping duel
- Their sworn arch rivals had qualified to the finals

- Our marauding strikers weaved past their porous defense
- Opponents' top marksman unleashed a grass cutter which went straight into the net.
- The goal hungry forwards pitched a constant tent in our box
- Their left lanky midfielder danced to our goal mouth and send the goal mouth and send the goal keeper the wrong side.
- The visiting defending champions looked like a pale shadow of themselves.
- They were beaten fair and square.
- Indefatigable striker was fouled at the penalty spot.
- Our talisman was about to take a penalty, he took a deep breath as if it was his last one on earth; it was good.
- Their top flight strikers met the solid defense.
- Our defense was caught flat footed with a very clinical counter – attack.
- For sure revenge is a meal best served cold
- They had tik – tak passes akin a PlayStation.
- Tension was high as it was a decisive moment, one of the giant teams had to exit the competition in penalty shout outs with abated breath.
- They hit wood work several times but their luck never stood.

ATHLETICS

athlete: a trained person in sports who takes part in track and field comeptions

- **baton:** a short tube passed from runner to runner in a race
- **bell lap:** the final lap in a race
- **decathlon:** an athletic event in which competitors take part in ten sports events
- **discus throw:** a sports event of throwing the discus
- **false start:** an invalid start of a race in which one of the competitors starts too early – before the official signal has been given
- **hammer throw:** a sports event of throwing the hammer
- **heptathlon:** an athletic event in which competitors take part in seven sports events
- **high jump:** a sports event in which competitors jump over a bar
- **hurdles:** a series of frames that runners must jump over
- **javelin throw:** a sports event of throwing the javelin
- **lane:** parallel lines on a running track
- **long jump (triple jump):** a sports event of jumping as far as possible in one leap (in three leaps)
- **pole-vault:** a sports event in which competitors leap over a high bar with the aid of a long and flexible pole
- **relay:** a race of teams of runners passing batons to each other on a team

- **shot put:** a sports event of throwing a very heavy metal ball
- **starting blocks:** blocks for keeping runner's feet in a fixed position at the start
- **steeplechase:** a sports event in which runners must clear hurdles and water jumps
- **track:** an oval shaped piece of ground for athletes to run
- **track shoes (track spikes):** sports shoes for running competitions on a track

MUSIC FESTIVALS

Vocabulary

- Troupe
- Value
- Curtain raiser
- Set piece
- Audience
- Marshal
- Rehearsal
- Ceremony
- Actress
- Auditorium
- Costumes
- Props
- Theatre

JOURNEY

Air Travel Vocabulary

Here are twenty words and terms often used in air travel.

1	Aisle	<i>n.</i> corridor in aeroplane between the seats [there are usually one or two]
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2	baggage claim	<i>n.</i> place where passengers go to find their luggage (cases etc) at the end of a flight
3	Board	<i>v.</i> to get on or enter an aeroplane - on board <i>adv.</i>
4	boarding pass	<i>n.</i> special ticket showing that passenger has checked in and may board plane
5	check in	<i>v.</i> to register for a flight, inc. checking of tickets, passports, luggage etc - <i>also n.</i>
6	Confirmation	<i>n.</i> passenger's telephone validation of return reservation; reconfirmation
7	departures board	<i>n.</i> large display in airport showing times, destinations etc of departing flights
8	Domestic	<i>adj.</i> national, not international [a domestic flight is entirely within one country]
9	duty free	<i>adj.</i> [of products: cigarettes, perfume etc] not taxable; exempt from customs taxes
10	excess baggage	<i>n.</i> luggage that is more than the permitted or allowed weight
11	Flight	<i>n.</i> an aeroplane scheduled to fly a certain route at a certain time

12	Gate	<i>n.</i> the point in an airport at which a particular flight arrives and departs
13	hand luggage	<i>n.</i> light bags, briefcases etc that may be carried on board by passengers
14	IATA	<i>abbr.</i> International Air Transport Association
15	immigration officer	<i>n.</i> government official responsible for checking passengers' passports
16	jet lag	<i>n.</i> extreme tiredness etc after a long flight between extreme time zones
17	Runway	<i>n.</i> the strip on which planes land and take off
18	Stopover	<i>n.</i> a break for a day or two on an international flight
19	Ticket	<i>n.</i> receipt for transportation etc. An air ticket has one coupon for each journey
20	Transit	<i>n.</i> A transit passenger is one stopping at an airport that is not his destination

My First Flight by Aeroplane

sample

My father took us on a pleasure trip to Katmandu, the Capital of Nepal. We went by air. We had got reservation of tickets long in advance. We reached India Gandhi International Airport two and half-hours earlier than the scheduled flight-time. We had to complete some customs and other formalities before emplaning.

Our plane was ready for **flight**. It was a very big and spacious aeroplane with luxurious seats. It looked so royal, impressive and wonderful. It was for the first time that I had seen aeroplanes. I was really excited and full of many expectations. Our seats were near the windows, which gave us a fine view of the outside world.

The pilot started the engines which gave out a loud roar, and then it began to move. Soon it was airborne and flew higher and higher. I looked through the window and enjoyed the panoramic view of the city. The river Yamuna looked like a silver-thread broken here and there. The people looked like dots and buildings like toys. I was filled with great joy and thrill. Our plane flew smoothly and glided through the air like a bird. The trees, houses, buildings, rivers etc., seemed flying away backward with a great speed. Small woolly clouds floated around us making the view that of a fairyland. The plane glided at area speed so smoothly that I hardly felt any movement and motion, but a very gentle push. The landscape below presented an enchanting sight.

Soon we were over the Himalayan Mountains. The snowcapped peaks, clothed in soft clouds here and there, presented a wonderful sight beyond words. I took out the binoculars to have a close and better look of the majestic peaks, mighty rivers, valleys and forests. As I viewed these, a strange and pleasant sensation ran through my spine. In the sun-light, the snow-covered mountain-peaks looked as if they were of gold. They changed colours along with the change in the degrees of sunshine and shadows of clouds.

In no time we reached our destination, and our plane began circling over the Tribunal Airport. The landing was very smooth and comfortable. A very intimate friend of my father lived in Katmandu. He was already there at the airport to receive us. It was a very pleasant and new experience for me to fly over to Katmandu from New Delhi. It looked like a short but a wonderful dream. Can I ever forget this experience? No, never. It has left an indelible impression on my mind.

A Journey by Car

My father bought a new car one day. We were all very excited. He promised to take us to Melaka to visit my grandparents the coming Sunday.

Sunday morning was bright and breezy. We hopped into the brand new car and soon we were heading out of Petaling Jaya towards the **expressway**. My mother sat in the front passenger seat while my father drove. I sat behind with my younger sister.

As it was Sunday the roads were not very busy. Soon we were on the expressway travelling at a leisurely pace. My father is a careful driver and he does not drive too fast or dangerously. This proved to be good for there was a speed-trap manned by the police along the expressway. I saw some cars stopped by the police. They had obviously been speeding.

Driving along the expressway tend to be **monotonous**. I actually fell asleep once we passed Seremban.

When I awoke, we were already at the Ayer Keroh toll gate. My father paid the toll and steered the car towards Melaka Town. On the way we passed many interesting sights. My father promised to **stop by** on our way home. We had to visit our grandparents first.

We left Ayer Keroh and all its factories behind as we journeyed into the town itself. Like all towns, there were many cars and other vehicles. Also there were many tourists. Melaka has many places of historical interest and thus this was not surprising.

Finally we arrived at my grandparents' house in Klebang Besar. The journey had taken about two hours. We stepped out of the car. My grandparents greeted us happily.

A Picnic by the Sea

Teluk Kemang is about 12 kilometres from Port Dickson town in Negeri Sembilan. It is a popular beach where many people go to and relax on.

It was on one of the days of the Chinese New Year holidays that we had a picnic at Teluk Kemang. I went there with my uncle and his family. There were five of us, my uncle, his wife, their two young children and me. My uncle drove us there in his car.

We arrived there at about ten in the morning. The beach was already crowded with other holiday-makers. Anyhow we managed to get a place in the shade of a large tree and we put our things there. My aunt **laid out** a **mat** for us to sit on.

In double-quick time we were enjoying ourselves in the sea, except my aunt. She just sat on the mat watching us.

The water was cool and refreshing and I loved splashing it on my cousins. However the hot sun above can be quite uncomfortable. So after about an hour or so, my uncle told us to sit in the shade for a while. The sun was getting increasingly hot. So we reluctantly came out of the sea.

In the shade of some trees we built some sandcastles.

Time passed so quickly. Soon we heard my aunt calling us to have lunch. We ran to her and helped ourselves to the delicious curry she had brought. Then we had several glasses of ice-cold drink from the Thermos flask.

After lunch we played a while more in the sea. The sun was just too hot. So we walked over to one of the hotels nearby and washed ourselves with clean freshwater.

When we returned, my aunt had already packed everything in the car. So all of us got into the car and my uncle drove us back home to Seremban.

My First Ride on a Ferry

The first time I ever rode on a ferry was when I took one to cross from Butterworth to Penang Island. My family and I had gone to Penang for a holiday.

We arrived at the Ferry Terminal just as the sun was setting. My father paid the fare at one of the toll-booths and we were **ushered** into a lane. We had to stop behind a row of cars to await the arrival of the next ferry.

Presently a light yellow ferry arrived. Cars and motorcycles sped out of it. Then the green light came for us to board. My father carefully drove the car onto the lower deck of the ferry. It was an exciting new experience for me. I noticed the words "Pulau Undan" on a wall of the ferry.

As soon as the ferry was filled with cars and motorcycles on the lower deck, it left the terminal and proceeded towards the island. I stood at the front end of the ferry and watched the water **churn** and twirl as the ferry cut through it.

I could see the island a short distance ahead of us. To our left spanned the Penang Bridge. The setting sun cast a red glow on the whole scene and I must say that it was beautiful.

My sister and I climbed up the stairs to the upper deck. It was filled with passengers who either sat on the seats there or **loitered around** the area.

Soon the short ride ended. We hurried back down to the lower deck and got into our car when we saw Penang Island loom closer and closer.

Finally the ferry docked and my father followed the row of cars out of the ferry. The car bumped a bit on the uneven **ramp** but soon we were on Penang itself. My first ferry ride was over.

A PRIZE GIVING DAY

Vocabulary and expressions

- Prizes/presents/rewards
- D – Day
- The prize winner
- The chief guest/guests
- Principal
- Sitting arrangement
- Entertainment
- Speeches
- Trophies

- Plays, songs, skits, dancers.
- Arrival of guests
- Guests visiting different places in the school
- Lunch served from classes/dining hall.

SAD OCCASIONS

ACCIDENTS (ROAD)

Types of accidents

a collision = when two vehicles drive into each other.

a mid-air collision = when two planes collide in the air

a head-on collision = when two cars collide front to front

a car crash = when there's a serious car accident - involving another car or object, or not involving anything else

a derailment = when a train comes off the rails

a (multiple) pile-up = when more than one car crashes into another car, especially on a busy road or motorway

Describing an accident

- An accident **occurred / happened** between two cars **travelling in the same / opposite direction**. One car was **travelling at speed** (at X miles per hour)
- As the driver was **rounding the corner**, he **drove straight into** another car which was **on the wrong side of the road**. The driver **lost control of the car** and **ploughed into the other lane / overturned/ drove into an oncoming vehicle / into a tree**.
As the driver **was overtaking** another / **went through a red light** / he drove straight into oncoming traffic
A lorry **jackknifed, spilling its load over the road**.
A car **skidded** on a wet / oily surface and the driver lost control.
The **brakes failed** / the car driver **misjudged the distance**.
- The car **was speeding / doing 80mph** in a 30mph area.
The driver was **under the influence of alcohol / drugs / on his mobile phone** at the time.
- The **accident was due to pilot / human error**.
- **The results of an accident**
- There were no **fatalities** (people killed)
Five people were **taken to hospital with major / minor injuries / for shock**.
The driver was **shaken, but unhurt**.
The passengers were **escorted safely from** the train.
Firecrews had to **cut the passengers out of the wreckage**.
The car was **a write-off**. (The damage was so bad there was no point in claiming insurance)
Fortunately, there was only **minimal damage / we escaped with only a couple of scratches** on the bodywork.

Vocabulary and expressions on accidents

- Head on collision.
- Swerving of a vehicle.
- Skidding and veering off the road.
- Speeding car.
- Morning at a neck break speed/ supersonic speed.
- The road meandered down the treacherous terrain.
- It was an unending slope
- Black spot.
- Loud bang
- Our once posh car was reduced to nothing but a mangled wreck.
- Glasses were all over.
- Bodies were strewn on the ground.
- Blood was oozing from their bodies at the rate of a leaking pot/faulty tap.
- The driver of the ill – fated bus was wallowing in miasma of illicit brew/cheap liquor.
- The killer vehicle was towed to the police station.
- Tyre burst.
- Paramedics were busy trying to save lives.
- Pickpockets were shamelessly rummaging pockets, wallets and pulses of the survivors and the fatalities.
- The last time I had glanced at the speed odometer I had seen flashes like.
- I am coming home lord
- Fare thee well
- Speeding kills
- Sweet memories
- Welcome heaven
- Prior to the accident we had received several warnings from other motorists flashing at our wreck less driver.
- The powerful airbags saved their lives.
- They escaped death with skins of their teeth/whisker
- It is sad their lived were put to a stop by a careless driver.
- Scores of people lost the battles of their lives.
- Their lives were put to sudden halt.
- Survivors were rushed to hospital and are fighting for their lives at the HDU (high dependency unit) ICU (intensive care unit)
- Some are under life supporting machine
- Our dotting uncle travelled on a ticketless journey/passed on/crossed the cliff/passed away, travelled to the west.

- It was a grisly road carnage
- It was a grotesque sight.
- Some metals had been dislodged in their bodies.
- The wedding of the two love birds was a shattered dream.
- The journey was catastrophic.
- It was a bloody scene/gory
- Stretchers
- Ambulances
- First aid
- Red cross personnel
- Slam on brakes
- Run over
- Lose control.
- Road rage
- Poor visibility
- Injured
- Unhurt (unscathed)
- Over turn.
- Misjudge.
- Written off.
- Car crash.
- Bizarre.
- Encounter.
- Dreadful, sudden, grievous, catastrophe.
- The traffic police arrived at the scene.
- It was hours of the morning, ungodly hour.
- Severe injuries.
- It was sheer luck.
- Traumatic experience.
- Unavoidable.
- Unexpected, untimely death.
- Mysterious.
- Wreckage, rescuers, onlookers, blind corner

NATURAL CALAMITIES

Caught in a storm

Black clouds gathered above us, but we were too intent on playing football. We hoped that the clouds would go away so that we could continue playing.

Our hopes were **dashed** when suddenly heavy rain began to pour. In a few seconds we were all soaked to the skin. To make matters worst, lightning flashed dangerously close to us. The deafening thunder and howling wind did not help either.

We ran towards a large tree under which we had parked our bicycles. The tree provided some shelter from the rain and we were tempted to remain under it. However we knew that it was dangerous to stay under a tree during a thunderstorm. So we got on our bicycles and pedalled off.

There was no other shelter available nearby. So I, for one, decided to go home. Since I was already completely wet, I might as well go home instead of seeking shelter.

It was just about the fiercest storm I had ever been in. The driving rain made cycling difficult as I could not see more than a couple of metres in front of me. A car flashed past me. It was too close for comfort. Perhaps the driver did not even see me. So I thought it was better to stop somewhere before I got hit by another car.

Luckily I found a bus-stop with a roof. I hurried gladly under the roof even though I had to share it with a dozen other people who were also soaked to the skin. It was a bit of a squeeze but no one complained.

For an hour the storm lashed everything around us. We were silent spectators to an awesome display of power by nature. I felt very small and **vulnerable**, even afraid; but I could do nothing but watch.

Finally the rain slowed down to a **drizzle** and the wind died down. I could still hear distant thunder but the worst of the storm was over. So happily I got on my bicycle and pedalled home.

A COURT SCENE/ POLICE STATION

Vocabulary and expressions

- Judge, magistrate, justice.
- Prosecutor
- Plaintiff
- Complainant
- Cross – examination
- Examination in chief
- Charge sheet
- Crime office
- C.I.D – criminal investigation department

- Occurrence book (O.B)
- Police cell/ custody
- Behind bars
- Arrest
- Police inspector
- Police constable
- Petty crime office/petty offenders
- Investigating office
- Flying squad
- Evidence
- Exhibit
- Testify
- Dock
- Litigant/ litigator
- Lawsuit
- Proof beyond doubts
- Felony
- Embezzlement
- Misappropriation
- Corruption
- Condemn
- Capital offence
- Remand
- Guilty
- Plead not guilty
- Corroborative evidence
- Defense lawyer
- Gavel
- Severe punishment
- Get away with the offense
- Make away with cash
- Case which attracted politicians' businessmen and senior government officials or high ranking government officials.
- Members of the fourth estate were barred from attending
- O.C.S – officer commanding police station
- O.C.P.D – officer commanding police division.
- D.C.I.O – District criminal investigation officer
- P.P.O – Provincial Police Officer

- NSIS
- Secret service
- Detectives
- FBI – federal Bureau of Investigations
- CIA
- Drug peddlers
- Drug barons
- Jail birds
- Serial killers
- Robbery with violence
- Deadly cache/arsenal;
- Ammunition
- Armed robbers
- Most wanted criminals
- AK 47 riffles, G3 rifles, Israel submachine gun – UZI, MI6 rifles.
- 24 rounds of ammunition
- Armory
- Spend cartridges were found
- Heavy gunfire/ gun fight
- Gun- toting thing/ goon/ rascal, gun wielding robber
- A criminal on the loose/ at large
- Disappeared into the thin air
- There was a blood bathe at the scene
- They exchanged fire
- Some robbers escaped with gunshot wounds.
- Apprehend/ arrest.
- Detain
- Sentenced
- Trial
- Accused
- Witnesses
- Jail/ jailed.

ENGLISH REVISION- KEY AREAS

Sound Verbs

- *Buzz* - Bees buzz as they fly about collecting pollen.
- *Hum* - I like to hum as I do the cleaning around the house.
- *Boo* - The crowd booed the politician to show their displeasure.

- *Howl* - Sarah howled in pain when she stubbed her toe on the door.
- *Whimper* - The dog whimpered because it missed its owner.
- *Crunch* - The icy snow crunched underneath my feet as I walked across the field.
- *Whoosh* - The air left the tire with a great whoosh.
- *Screech* - The crow screeched in the distance when it saw the people approaching.
- *Whir* - The computer whirred as it processed the data.
- *Grind* - Don't grind your teeth! You'll wear them down.
- *Gurgle* - I could hear the small brook gurgling in the background.
- *Chirp* - The little songbird chirped happily from the bush.
- *Rattle* - The broken part rattled inside the gadget.
- *Neigh* - The horse neighed as it came to a stop.
- *Squeak* - The little mouse squeaked as it looked for food throughout the house.
- *Splash* - Tom splashed loudly when he jumped into the swimming pool.
- *Ping* - The modem pinged as it connected to the network.

- *Puff* - I stood puffing hard after the two-mile run.
- *Clatter* - The dishes clattered in the kitchen while he cleaned up after dinner.
- *Thud* - The book dropped onto the floor with a loud thud.
- *Moo* - The cow mooed loudly as it tried to scare the men walking through the field.
- *Tinkle* - The crystal glass tinkled lightly when I toasted with my wife.
- *Clang* - Could you please be quiet? You're clanging those pots and pans and it's driving me crazy!
- *Hiss* - The snake hissed at the hiker to warn him away.

WAYS OF WALKING

- **walk:** move on one's feet.
We walked to town.
- **limp:** walk unevenly because one leg is hurt.
That man is hurt, he's limping.
- **hobble:** walk with difficulty.
The old man hobbled along the street with the aid of his stick.
- **stagger:** walk unsteadily as if about to fall.
He was so drunk that he staggered all the way home.
- **stumble:** stagger.
She stumbled upstairs and into bed.
- **lurch:** stagger.
The drunken man was lurching along the street.
- **tiptoe:** walk on the tips of one's toes.
She tiptoed to the bed so as not to wake the baby.
- **stroll:** walk for pleasure.
They strolled around the park.
- **amble:** walk at a slow, leisurely pace.
They ambled along for miles.



- **saunter:** stroll.
They sauntered around the park.
- **wander:** move without a fixed purpose or destination.
They enjoy wandering through the countryside.
- **roam:** wander.
They roamed through the streets for hours.
- **ramble:** walk for pleasure with no particular destination.
He likes rambling around in the country.
- **mooch:** wander, walk slowly without any purpose.
John mooched about the shops.
- **meander:** walk in a slow, relaxed way instead of taking the most direct way possible. (Rivers also meander).
As I was sitting in the park, I watched as couples seemed to meander around happily.
- **stride:** walk with long steps.
She strode across the fields.
- **strut:** walk in a proud way, with the chest out and trying to look important.
He strutted past us, ignoring our greeting.
- **swagger:** walk proudly, strut.
After winning the first prize, the player swaggered about proudly.
- **stalk:** walk in a proud or angry way, with long steps.
The teacher turned and stalked out of the classroom.
- **sashay:** walk in a confident way, moving the body from side to side, especially so that people look at you.
The models sashayed down the aisle showing their clothes.
- **trudge:** walk slowly and with effort because one is tired.
We were very tired after trudging through the deep snow for two hours.
- **shuffle:** walk very slowly and noisily, without lifting one's feet off the ground.
His legs were aching so much that he shuffled to bed.
- **stump:** walk heavily and stiffly.
They stumped up the hill.
- **plod:** walk with heavy steps or with difficulty.
Labourers plodded home through the muddy fields.
- **pace:** walk with regular steps.
He paced up and down the platform, waiting for the train.
- **march:** walk with regular steps of equal length.
Demonstrators marched through the streets of the city.
- **parade:** walk or march together to celebrate or protest.
Demonstrators paraded through the streets of the city.
- **crawl:** move slowly with the body close to the ground or on hands and knees.
A baby crawls before he can walk.
- **toddle:** walk with short unsteady steps.
Her two-year-old son toddled into the room.

- **edge:** move gradually with small movements.
Paul decided to edge away from the crowd.
- **creep:** move slowly and quietly with the body close to the ground.
The cat crept silently towards the bird.
- **sneak:** go quietly and secretly in order to avoid being seen or heard.
The boy sneaked in without paying.
- **pad:** walk softly and quietly.
The child padded barefoot down the stairs.
- **prowl:** walk slowly and quietly because you are involved in a criminal activity or because you are looking for something.
Street gangs usually prowl this alley.
- **slide:** move smoothly over a surface.
I was sliding on the ice.
- **slip:** slide accidentally.
She slipped on the ice and broke her leg.
- **dash:** move quickly and suddenly, rush.
I must dash or I'll miss the train.
- **dart:** move quickly and suddenly in the specified direction.
She darted away when I came in.
- **scamper:** run quickly and playfully.
The children were scampering up the steps.
- **sprint:** run very quickly for a short distance.
The kids sprinted down the stairs.
- **jog:** run slowly and steadily, as a way of exercising.
She goes jogging everyday.
- **trip over:** catch one's foot on something and stumble or fall.
He tripped over the step and fell.
- **scuttle:** move quickly with short steps, because you are afraid or do not want to be noticed.
The mouse scuttled off when we entered the room.
- **scurry:** move quickly with short steps, because you are in a hurry.
He was late so he had to scurry off to work.
- **skip:** move forward with quick steps and jumps.
The child skipped with joy towards his father.
- **lope:** run with long steps.
The man loped off after the ball.
- **lollop:** run with long awkward steps.
The dog came lolloping down the path.
- **tear:** run or move quickly in a dangerous or careless way.
When the storm started, they tore back into the house.
- **rush:** hurry, move quickly because you need to get somewhere soon.
She was late so she decided to rush off down the hall.
- **hop:** move by jumping on one foot.
The man hopped down the road after hurting his foot.
- **trip:** walk with short quick steps, usually as young girls do.
The little girl tripped happily up the road.

- **lunge:** make a sudden movement towards somebody or something.
The boxer lunged forward and grabbed his opponent by the arm.
- **scramble:** climb up or down, or over something quickly and with difficulty.
They had to scramble up to the top of the hill to see the view.
- **hike:** take a long walk in the mountains or countryside, as an adventure.
The group hiked up to the top of the hill.
- **trek:** hike; make a long, difficult journey on foot.
For ten days she trekked across the mountains of China.
- **paddle (GB), wade (US):** walk for pleasure without shoes or socks in water that is not very deep.
The children were paddling in the lake.
- **waddle:** walk with short steps, moving the body from one side to another, used especially to talk about birds or people with fat bodies.
The fat man waddled off to the restaurant for lunch.
- **prance:** walk with high steps or large movements, in a confident way.
She pranced around her room, pretending to be an actress.
- **frogmarch:** force somebody to walk by holding his arms tightly by his side, usually because of bad behaviour.
The prefect frogmarched the boy to the detention room.

WAYS OF SPEAKING

- **speak:** make use of words in a normal voice.
May I speak to George?
- **talk:** speak to give information, say things.
What are they talking about?
- **hesitate:** be slow to speak (or act) because one is uncertain or unwilling to talk.
He hesitated before answering my question.
- **whisper:** speak softly, without vibrating the vocal cords, privately or secretly.
She whispered the secret word in my ear.
- **hiss:** say something in a loud whisper. (Snakes also hiss).
'Get out!' she hissed at me furiously.
- **mumble:** speak unclearly, so that others can't hear.
He mumbled something at me which I didn't understand.
- **mutter:** speak in a low voice, which is hard to hear.
She was muttering something to herself as she went out.
- **murmur:** speak in a soft, quiet voice that is difficult to hear clearly.
The classmates murmured during the test.

- **hum:** make a low continuous sound, when you take a long time deciding what to say.
She hummed at the beginning of the oral exam.
- **grunt:** make short sounds or say a few words in a rough voice, when you don't want to talk. (Pigs also grunt).
She grunted a few words and left the table.
- **stammer:** speak with pauses and repeating the same sound or syllable, habitually or from fear or excitement.
'P-p-please give me the p-p-pen,' he stammered.
- **stutter:** stammer.
'P-p-please give me the p-p-pen,' he stuttered.
- **quaver:** speak tremulously, because you are nervous or upset.
Her voice quavered for a moment but then she regained control.
- **lisp:** speak with /th/ sounds instead of /s/ sounds.
You're very thilly, Thimon. (You're very silly, Simon.)
- **babble = gabble = gibber = jabber:** talk foolishly, in a way difficult to understand.
Her fever made her babble without stopping.
- **ramble:** talk continuously, in a confused way.
Stop rambling and get to the point, please!
- **slur:** speak unclearly, without separating the words correctly.
He was so drunk that he slurred to the bartender for more.
- **chat:** have a friendly informal conversation.
They chatted away in the corner.
- **chatter:** talk quickly and at length about something unimportant.
Please stop chattering, I'm trying to listen to the TV!
- **gossip:** talk about the affairs of other people.
She was gossiping about her neighbours all day.
- **call:** speak in a loud clear voice, shout, cry.
They called for help.
- **shout:** speak in a loud voice, in anger or to get attention.
He had to shout because the music was too loud.
- **whoop:** shout loudly and happily.
The children whooped when we entered the fair.
- **cry (out):** make a sharp noise, in pain or surprise.
She cried out in terror when the old man appeared suddenly.
- **yell:** cry out loudly, in fear, pain or excitement.
She yelled in terror when she saw the dead cat.
- **scream:** cry out very loudly on a high note, in fear, pain, anger or laughter.
The baby was screaming the whole day.
- **shriek:** scream.
The men shrieked with laughter.
- **bellow:** shout in a deep voice.
The captain bellowed orders at the crew.
- **squeak:** speak in a high-pitched voice.
She squeaked out a few words nervously.

- **squeal:** speak in a high-pitched voice, with longer and louder sounds than in a squeak.
'Let me go!' she squealed.
- **whine:** complain in a sad, annoying voice about something.
'I don't want to go,' whined Peter.
- **chirp / chirrup (GB):** speak in a happy high voice.
'All finished!' she chirped.
- **cheer:** shout because of happiness.
The public cheered when the team appeared.
- **croak:** speak with a deep hoarse voice.
She had such a terrible cold that she could only croak.
- **blurt out:** say something suddenly and tactlessly.
She blurted out the bad news before I could stop her.
- **snap:** say something quickly in an angry way.
'What do you want?' the waiter snapped.
- **splutter:** talk quickly in short confused phrases, in anger or surprise.
'But... what... where... how could you?' she spluttered.
- **bark (out):** say something quickly in a loud voice.
'What do you want?' the shop assistant barked.

Common Personification Examples

The following are some everyday [examples of personification](#) you'll hear people say, or see in a book. Each example shows an object exhibiting a human [character trait](#).

- Lightning *danced* across the sky.
- The wind *howled* in the night.
- The car *complained* as the key was roughly turned in its ignition.
- Rita heard the last piece of pie *calling* her name.
- My alarm clock *yells* at me to get out of bed every morning.
- The avalanche *devoured* anything standing in its way.
- The door *protested* as it opened slowly.
- My house is a friend who *protects* me.
- The moon *played hide and seek* with the clouds.
- The approaching car's headlights *winked* at me.
- The camera *loves* her since she is so pretty.
- The stairs *groaned* as we walked on them.
- Our vacuum *hums* a happy tune while it cleans.
- My flowers were *begging* for water.
- The ivy *wove its fingers* around the fence.
- The thunder was *grumbling* in the distance.
- The cactus *saluted* those who drove past.
- The wildfire *ran* through the forest at an amazing speed.
- The moon *smiled* at the stars in the sky.
- The leaves *waved* in the wind.
- Time *flies* when you're having fun.

Animal Metaphors

- The classroom was a zoo.
- The alligator's teeth are white daggers.
- She is a peacock.
- My teacher is a dragon.
- Mary's eyes were fireflies.
- The computers at school are old dinosaurs.
- He is a night owl.
- Maria is a chicken.
- The wind was a howling wolf.
- The ballerina was a swan, gliding across the stage.
- Jamal was a pig at dinner.
- The kids were monkeys on the jungle gym.
- My dad is a road hog.
- The stormy ocean was a raging bull.
- The thunder was a mighty lion.



Nature Metaphors

- The snow is a white blanket.
- He is a shining star.
- Her long hair was a flowing golden river.
- Tom's eyes were ice as he stared at her.
- The children were flowers grown in concrete gardens.
- Kisses are the flowers of affection.
- The falling snowflakes are dancers.
- The calm lake was a mirror.
- You are my sunshine.
- The moon is a white balloon.
- Her tears were a river flowing down her cheeks.
- The road ahead was a ribbon stretching across the desert.
- Donations to the charity were a tsunami.
- The park was a lake after the rain.
- The sun is a golden ball.
- The clouds are balls of cotton.
- The lightning was fireworks in the sky.
- That lawn is a green carpet.

- The stars are sparkling diamonds.
- Ben's temper was a volcano, ready to explode.
- Those best friends are two peas in a pod.

Everyday Metaphors

- John's suggestion was just a Band-Aid for the problem.
- The cast on his broken leg was a plaster shackle.
- Laughter is the music of the soul.
- America is a melting pot.
- Her lovely voice was music to his ears.
- The world is a stage.
- My kid's room is a disaster area.
- Life is a rollercoaster.
- Their home was a prison.
- His heart is a cold iron.
- At five o'clock, the interstate is always a parking lot.
- Books are the keys to your imagination.
- Her angry words were bullets to him.
- Your brain is a computer.
- The car was a furnace in the sun.
- Thank you so much, you are an angel.
- My baseball coach is an ogre.
- He is a walking dictionary.
- My big brother is a couch potato.
- The teenager's stomach was a bottomless pit.
- I am so excited. My pulse is a race car.
- Toddlers are rug rats.