

Dialogue Words:-

Verb	Tone / Use	Example
Yelled	Intense emotion, anger, or urgency	He yelled, "Get out of there!"
Murmured	Soft, gentle, or intimate tone	She murmured, "I missed you."
Grumbled	Irritated, complaining, or reluctant	He grumbled, "This is pointless."
Snapped	Sharp, sudden, often angry response	She snapped, "Mind your own business."
Insisted	Firm repetition, refusal to back down	_____
Declared	Confident, bold, public announcement	She declared, "We will win."
Pleaded	Desperate, emotional request	He pleaded, "Please don't leave."
Mocked	Sarcastic, teasing, or belittling tone	_____
Boasted	Proud, self-satisfied, often arrogant	She boasted, "I knew I'd be top."
Retorted	Sharp or witty comeback, defensive	He retorted, "I never said that."
Admitted	Reluctant confession or honesty	_____
Assured	Calming, persuasive, builds confidence	He assured her, "You'll be fine."
Explained	Clear, calm, informative – perfect for clarification or teaching moments	She explained, "It works like this."
Warned	Cautious, urgent, serious – ideal for highlighting danger or consequences	He warned, "Stay away from the edge."
Growled	Low, threatening tone – suggests anger, menace, or tension	He growled, "Back off."

VOCABULARY BANK

25 words · usable in every essay · learn 20 before your exam

How to use this page: Cover the right column. Say the word out loud. Try to recall the meaning and write a sentence. Aim to use at least 5 of these words in every practice essay you write this week.

EMOTIONS & FEELINGS	
trepidation (n)	fear / nervousness about something ahead <i>"Trepidation settled in her chest as the curtain rose."</i>
composure (n)	calmness and self-control <i>"She lost her composure the moment she saw his face."</i>
humiliation (n)	deep, painful embarrassment <i>"To my considerable humiliation, my knees had begun to tremble."</i>
realisation (n)	the moment of suddenly understanding <i>"The realisation dawned slowly — and then all at once."</i>
anticipation (n)	excited nervousness before something happens <i>"The hall hummed with anticipation."</i>
irreplaceable (adj)	too valuable / important to replace <i>"She stood to lose something irreplaceable."</i>
instinctive (adj)	done without thinking; automatic <i>"She took an instinctive step back."</i>
VERBS — ACTIONS	
erupted (v)	burst out suddenly <i>"The hall erupted."</i>
murmured (v)	said quietly / gently <i>"She murmured without looking up."</i>
surged (v)	moved forward with sudden energy <i>"My teammates surged from the benches."</i>
lingered (v)	stayed longer than expected <i>"The scent lingered in the empty corridor."</i>
trembled (v)	shook slightly from fear or emotion <i>"Her hands trembled as she turned the page."</i>
dispersed (v)	spread out and left <i>"The crowd dispersed. The corridor was just a corridor again."</i>
deflated (v)	lost energy or tension suddenly <i>"She exhaled — long, sharp, deflated."</i>
DESCRIBING PEOPLE & MOMENTS	
composed (adj)	calm and in control of oneself <i>"My opponent — composed, unhurried — settled into position."</i>

deliberate (adj)	intentional; careful and controlled <i>"It dropped with sudden, deliberate precision."</i>
unsteady (adj)	shaky; not stable <i>"He wrote in the unsteady handwriting of someone trying to appear steady."</i>
inevitable (adj)	impossible to avoid; certain to happen <i>"The silence that followed felt inevitable."</i>
deceptively (adv)	in a misleading way — seems one thing but is another <i>"The shuttle arced high, deceptively soft."</i>
fractionally (adv)	by a very small amount <i>"The door stood fractionally open."</i>

SPECIAL / FIGURATIVE VOCABULARY

precision (n)	exactness; perfect accuracy <i>"It dropped with deliberate precision."</i>
particular (adj)	specific in an intense, heightened way <i>"The particular panic of someone about to lose something irreplaceable."</i>
collective (adj)	shared by the whole group <i>"Thirty students with the collective radar of people who sense conflict."</i>
tangible (adj)	real enough to almost touch or feel <i>"There was a tangible sense of relief in the room."</i>
unmasked (adj)	revealed; no longer hidden <i>"Beneath the fury was something rawer: unmasked panic."</i>

PRACTICE — Write one sentence for each word below:

trepidation:

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composed:

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erupted:

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inevitable:

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collective:

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VOCABULARY QUIZ

Test yourself — cover the word list before you start

PART A — Match the word to its meaning (draw a line)

Words are on the LEFT. Meanings are on the RIGHT — but in the wrong order.

1. trepidation	A. real enough to touch or feel
2. composure	B. spread out and left
3. dispersed	C. intentional and carefully controlled
4. deliberate	D. said quietly
5. lingered	E. revealed; no longer hidden
6. inevitable	F. impossible to avoid
7. tangible	G. fear / nervousness about something ahead
8. murmured	H. stayed longer than expected
9. unmasked	I. excited nervousness before something
10. anticipation	J. calmness and self-control

PART B — Fill in the blank

Word Bank: *trembled · humiliation · anticipation · collective · deceptively*

1. The room fell into a _____ silence; no one wanted to be the first to speak.
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2. The shuttle arced high, _____ soft, before dropping at the far corner of the box.
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3. To my considerable _____, I had been carrying the wrong bag for the entire morning.
.....
4. The crowd waited with barely contained _____ as the final scores were announced.
.....
5. Her hands _____ as she turned the envelope over and saw her own name.
.....

PART C — Write your own sentence

Use each of the words below in a sentence that could appear in one of your three model essays.

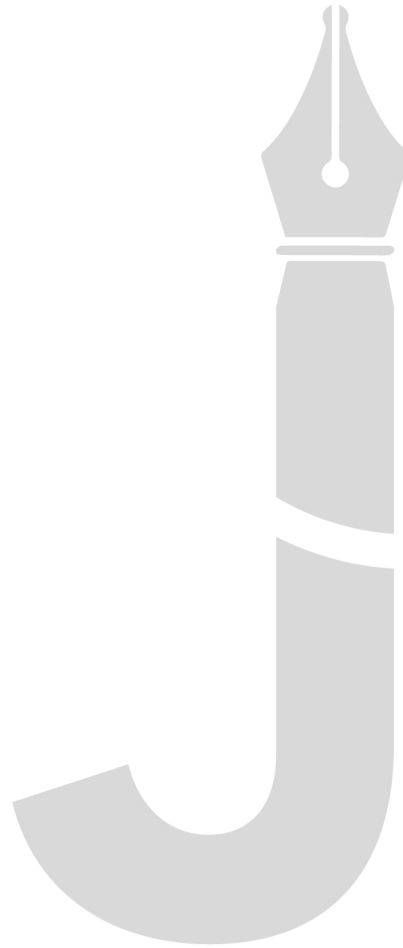
surged:
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irreplaceable:
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particular:

PART A ANSWERS: 1-G · 2-J · 3-B · 4-C · 5-H · 6-F · 7-A · 8-D · 9-E · 10-I **PART B ANSWERS:** 1-collective · 2-deceptively · 3-humiliation · 4-anticipation · 5-trembled

Miss Jay | O & A Level English | englishwithjaweria



Flashback: Entering the Past

"The bittersweet scent of **[object/smell]** acted as a key, unlocking a door to a time I thought I had locked away."

"The **[object]** was a silent passenger from my past, dragging me back to the day everything changed."

"For a fleeting moment, the present dissolved, replaced by the grainy footage of a distant memory."

"The familiar melody was a tether, pulling me back through the fog of years to that one summer evening."

Foreshadowing: Hinting at the Future

"I didn't know it then, but that was the final time the sun would shine on our innocence."

"The laughter felt hollow, as if the walls themselves knew of the storm brewing just beyond the horizon."

"It was a small, seemingly insignificant mistake—a single loose thread that would eventually unravel my entire world."

"The air grew heavy with the unspoken weight of what was to come, though I chose to ignore the warning."

General Time Travel & Transitions

"Time, usually a slow crawl, suddenly became a thief, stealing away the minutes until only silence remained."

"The seasons blurred into a kaleidoscope of shifting colors, marking the years I spent waiting for an answer."

"In the relentless march of time, the sharp edges of my grief eventually wore down into a dull ache."

"The minutes bled into hours, bridging the gap between who I was then and the person I was forced to become."

Failure

- I made several attempts to _____, yet each one fell short in its own quiet way.
- Despite my persistence, my efforts to _____ brought me no closer to what I hoped for.
- I kept trying to push _____ forward, but it resisted every step.

Building Tension

- As I approached _____, a subtle tension settled in the air around me.
- Something about the way _____ unfolded made my breath catch for a moment.
- A quiet stillness surrounded me while I waited for _____ to reveal itself.

Realization

- A clear understanding dawned on me the moment I noticed _____.
- It became evident, almost unexpectedly, that _____.
- A simple shift in perspective made me realize what _____ truly meant.

Transition / Moving Forward

- Before I could think twice, the situation had already carried me toward _____.
- In a matter of moments, everything shifted when _____ came into view.
- Little did I know that _____ would steer the rest of the day in a new direction.

Subtle Emotions

- A quiet sense of reassurance settled in as _____ unfolded.
- A faint uneasiness brushed against me when I considered _____.
- A gentle mix of curiosity and hesitation followed me as I moved toward _____.

People / Setting Description

- There was a calm steadiness in the way _____ entered the scene.
- The surroundings carried a muted energy, as though waiting for _____ to occur.
- A certain ease accompanied _____, giving the moment a grounded feel.

Ending a Scene

- And just like that, the moment passed, leaving the atmosphere noticeably lighter.
- The scene dissolved gradually as we drifted back into the rhythm of _____.
- Within minutes, the entire incident felt distant, as though already slipping into memory.

Light, Reflective Conclusions

- Looking back, the sequence of events remains surprisingly vivid.
- Even now, I remember the quiet way in which _____ settled into place.
- It remains a small but distinct fragment of that day, preserved in the back of my mind.

5 Sound Effect Words (Onomatopoeia)

These are chosen because they work in realistic settings, sound sophisticated, and can be used across all three essay types.

1. Hummed Not just for machines — a room *hums*, a crowd *hums*, silence before something happens *hums*. "*The sports hall hummed with anticipation.*" Why it's good: it suggests energy without being dramatic. Examiners specifically cited this word in the 2025 specimen essay that scored 25/25.

2. Crackled Works for fire, paper, a phone line, a PA system, dry leaves. "*The intercom crackled once, then went silent.*" Why it's good: creates tension in one word. Signals something is about to happen.

3. Drummed Fingers drumming, rain drumming, feet drumming on a floor. "*Rain drummed against the single high window.*" Why it's good: adds rhythm to a sentence. Pairs beautifully with pathetic fallacy.

4. Buzzed A phone, a classroom before a teacher enters, a flickering light, a crowd. "*The flickering streetlamp buzzed like a dying insect.*" Why it's good: works as pure onomatopoeia AND inside a simile simultaneously. Double mark value.

5. Clattered Chairs, trays, bags, keys — anything dropped or knocked in a moment of panic or urgency. "*She clattered through the door, breathless.*" Why it's good: conveys movement and emotion at the same time without stating either one directly.

10 Descriptive Phrases by Setting

Each phrase is designed to be memorisable, reusable, and immediately atmosphere-building.

HOSPITAL / MEDICAL

"The smell of antiseptic hung in the air like a warning." — smell + simile in one line. Sets dread without stating it.

"The corridor was too bright, too white, too quiet — the kind of quiet that asks questions you are not ready to answer." — tripling + pathetic fallacy. Works for any waiting room or tense indoor space.

SCHOOL / CLASSROOM / EXAM HALL

"Thirty chairs scraped the floor in unison, a sound like something beginning whether you were ready or not." — sound + meaning layered together. Works for any moment of collective action.

"The clock on the wall ticked with the particular loudness of things that know they are being watched." — personification of an object. Examiner-level technique. Works anywhere there is time pressure.

SPORTS HALL / COMPETITION VENUE

"The hall was humid and loud — the kind of loud that wraps around you and makes it hard to think." — two adjectives + extension. Grounds the setting immediately.

"From somewhere in the crowd, a parent called out something encouraging; the sound reached her as though from a different world entirely." — distance and dissociation. Works when a character is overwhelmed or focused.

CORRIDOR / OUTDOOR SCHOOL SETTING

"The corridor emptied around them the way corridors do when people sense something is about to be said that cannot be unsaid." — crowd behaviour as atmosphere. No description needed — just observation.

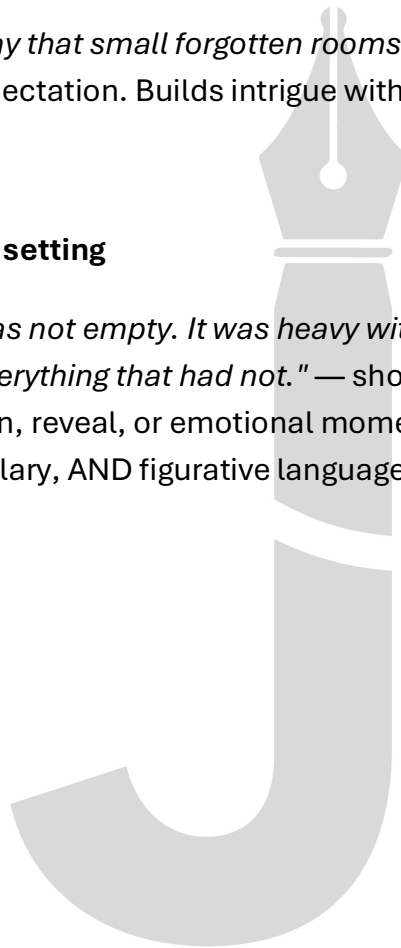
"Outside, the afternoon light had turned to amber — the kind that makes everything look like a memory before it has even finished happening." — pathetic fallacy + full circle potential. Reusable for ANY ending paragraph.

STOREROOM / SMALL ENCLOSED SPACE

"The room was dark in the way that small forgotten rooms are — not threatening, just patient." — contrast with expectation. Builds intrigue without melodrama.

UNIVERSAL — works in any setting

"The silence that followed was not empty. It was heavy with everything that had been said, and heavier still with everything that had not." — short sentence + extension. Works after any confrontation, reveal, or emotional moment. Earns marks under sentence structures, vocabulary, AND figurative language simultaneously.



SENSORY DESCRIPTIONS

5 sentences that fit any topic

Smell

"There was a smell she could not immediately name — faintly chemical, like old photographs left too long in a closed room."

WHY IT WORKS

Smell is the sense most praised in examiner reports as a discovery trigger. Vague enough to fit any storeroom, hospital, old building, or unfamiliar space.

O / IG Writing Paper · Use in any essay type

Sound

"The noise from the corridor swelled and faded in waves, as though the world outside was breathing."

WHY IT WORKS

Works as a contrast device — noisy outside vs. quiet inside. Fits any scene where a character is alone, hiding, or in a private moment.

Sight

"The light through the single high window lay flat and grey across the floor — the ordinary, unheroic light of a day that did not care what had just happened."

WHY IT WORKS

Pathetic fallacy without being obvious about it. The grey light reflects emotional uncertainty. Fits any aftermath scene — post-argument, post-result, post-discovery.

Touch

"The worn cord brushed against her hip — a small, familiar pressure that was somehow enough to steady her."

WHY IT WORKS

Physical comfort through an object. The object can be anything — a notebook cord, a bag strap, a letter, a phone. Grounds the character in a moment of high emotion.

Atmosphere

"The room was very quiet. Not the comfortable kind of quiet — the kind that sits between two people who both have something to say and neither is ready to say it."

WHY IT WORKS

Pure atmosphere, no single sense. Builds tension between characters without action or dialogue. Fits any confrontation, awkward meeting, or emotional standoff.