

Objectives

Define

Define lexical resource.

Understand

Understand IELTS band descriptors (5–7+).

Identify

Identify examiner expectations in Speaking & Writing.

Lexical resource = vocabulary
range, accuracy, collocations,
flexibility, natural use.

Band Descriptors Simplified

Band 5: Limited range, frequent repetition, errors.

Band 6: Some variety, occasional misuse.

Band 7+: Wide range, accurate, natural collocations.

Question: *Describe your hometown?*

Context: *Bosaso, commercial city of Puntland, Somalia...*

Band 5 (Limited vocabulary, basic sentences)

Student Response:

"My hometown is Bosaso. It is a city. Many people have small shops. There is an airport and a port. In summer it is very hot. People go to other towns and come back after some months."

Analysis:

- **Vocabulary:** Very basic ("city," "shops," "hot")
- **Collocations:** None
- **Idiomatic expressions:** None
- **Sentence structure:** Simple, repetitive
- **Why Band 5?** Uses limited and simple vocabulary. Meaning is understandable but lacks variety, precision, and natural expressions.

Band 6 (Adequate vocabulary, some collocations)

Student Response:

"I come from Bosaso, a busy commercial city in Puntland. Many people run small businesses there. The city has both an international airport and a seaport. Summers are very hot, so people often move to nearby towns for a few months and then return."

Analysis:

- **Vocabulary:** Some precise words ("busy," "commercial city," "run small businesses")
- **Collocations:** "International airport," "move to nearby towns"
- **Idiomatic expressions:** None
- **Sentence structure:** Mostly simple, slightly more complex with connecting words ("so," "and then")
- **Why Band 6?** Shows adequate range, attempts some precise words and collocations, but vocabulary is still fairly common and lacks flexibility.



Band 7 (Good range, flexible use, natural expressions)

Student Response:

"My hometown is Bosaso, a thriving commercial hub in Puntland where most people operate small businesses. The city boasts both an international airport and a seaport, making it a key trade center. During the scorching summer months, many residents temporarily relocate to nearby towns to escape the heat, returning after about three months. Life in Bosaso is vibrant, and the city never truly sleeps because of its bustling markets."

Analysis:

- **Vocabulary:** Wide range ("thriving," "commercial hub," "boasts," "temporarily relocate," "bustling")
- **Collocations:** "Thriving commercial hub," "bustling markets," "scorching summer months"
- **Idiomatic expressions:** "The city never truly sleeps"
- **Sentence structure:** Complex, connected, natural
- **Why Band 7?** Uses a wide variety of precise vocabulary, natural collocations, idiomatic expressions, and varied sentence structures. Shows flexibility and sophistication.