

Master Lecture: How to Use Formal Verbs in IELTS Writing for Band 9

The first rule: Band 9 is not about difficult words

Many IELTS students believe that they need to replace every simple verb with an extremely complicated one. This is a mistake.

A Band 9 writer does **not** write:

The government must *ameliorate* the detrimental ramifications of ubiquitous traffic congestion.

A strong Band 9 writer is more likely to write:

The government must **address** the serious problems caused by traffic congestion.

The second sentence is clearer, more natural, and more precise.

The Band 9 principle

Simple idea + precise formal verb + clear development = powerful IELTS writing

For example:

Basic English	Formal IELTS Verb	Better Band 9 Use
make better	improve / enhance	The policy could enhance educational opportunities.
deal with	address / tackle	Governments must address the housing crisis.
make less	reduce / diminish	The measure could reduce carbon emissions.
show	demonstrate / illustrate	The data demonstrates a significant increase.
say	argue / claim / state	Many experts argue that prevention is more effective than treatment.
cause	lead to / trigger / contribute to	Excessive consumption can contribute to environmental damage.

How to use formal verbs precisely

1. Learn the meaning, not just the translation

For example:

- **increase** = بڑھانا / اضافہ کرنا
- **enhance** = معیار یا قدر کو بہتر بنانا

- **promote** = فروغ دینا

These words are related, but they are not interchangeable.

2. Learn the grammar pattern

For example:

- **encourage someone to do something**
- **enable someone to do something**
- **prevent someone from doing something**
- **contribute to + noun / gerund**
- **result in + noun**
- **result from + noun**
- **lead to + noun**
- **associate something with something**

3. Use formal verbs naturally

Do not force advanced vocabulary into every sentence. A Band 9 essay needs a mixture of simple, formal, and academic language.

4. Learn verbs in context

Never memorise only:

alleviate = کم کرنا

Instead learn:

alleviate poverty

alleviate pressure on hospitals

alleviate traffic congestion

5. Avoid using a word if you are unsure

Accuracy is more valuable than artificial sophistication.

200 MOST USEFUL FORMAL VERBS FOR IELTS WRITING

A. Verbs for Giving Opinions and Arguments

#	Formal Verb	Urdu Meaning	Band 9 Example
1	argue	دلیل دینا / مؤقف اختیار کرنا	Many researchers argue that early intervention is more effective than attempting to solve problems after they have become severe.
2	assert	زور دے کر کہنا	Supporters assert that governments have a moral responsibility to provide essential healthcare to all citizens.
3	claim	دعویٰ کرنا	Critics claim that excessive regulation can discourage innovation and economic growth.
4	contend	مؤقف اختیار کرنا / دلیل دینا	Some economists contend that higher taxes are necessary to fund public services.
5	maintain	برقرار رکھنا / مؤقف پر قائم رہنا	Advocates of this approach maintain that practical experience is as valuable as academic qualifications.
6	suggest	تجویز دینا / ظاہر کرنا	The findings suggest that regular exercise can significantly improve mental well-being.
7	propose	تجویز پیش کرنا	Several experts have proposed stricter regulations to control industrial pollution.
8	advocate	حمایت کرنا	Many environmentalists advocate greater investment in renewable sources of energy.
9	recommend	سفارش کرنا	Health professionals recommend limiting children's exposure to digital screens.
10	emphasise	زور دینا	Governments should emphasise the importance of preventive healthcare.
11	highlight	نمایاں کرنا	The recent crisis highlights the need for stronger international cooperation.
12	acknowledge	تسلیم کرنا	Although technology offers considerable benefits, it is important to acknowledge its potential social consequences.
13	recognise	تسلیم کرنا / پہچاننا	Policymakers must recognise that economic growth alone does not guarantee social progress.

#	Formal Verb	Urdu Meaning	Band 9 Example
14	question	سوال اٹھانا	Critics have questioned whether the proposed policy would genuinely benefit low-income families.
15	challenge	چیلنج کرنا	This evidence challenges the assumption that longer working hours always increase productivity.
16	support	حمایت کرنا	The available evidence strongly supports the argument that education reduces poverty.
17	oppose	مخالفت کرنا	Some citizens oppose the construction of new airports because of their environmental impact.
18	defend	دفاع کرنا	Governments often defend higher public spending by pointing to its long-term social benefits.
19	justify	جواز پیش کرنا	Such a substantial investment can be justified if it produces lasting improvements in public health.
20	demonstrate	ثابت کرنا / ظاہر کرنا	Numerous studies demonstrate that a balanced diet plays a crucial role in preventing disease.

B. Verbs for Change and Development

#	Formal Verb	Urdu Meaning	Band 9 Example
21	increase	بڑھنا / بڑھانا	Governments should increase investment in affordable public transportation.
22	rise	بڑھنا	Housing costs have risen dramatically in many major cities.
23	grow	بڑھنا	Public concern about climate change continues to grow .
24	expand	پھیلانا / بڑھانا	Universities should expand access to online learning opportunities.
25	enhance	بہتر بنانا	International cooperation can enhance the effectiveness of environmental policies.
26	improve	بہتر بنانا	Better infrastructure could improve the quality of life in rural communities.

#	Formal Verb	Urdu Meaning	Band 9 Example
27	strengthen	مضبوط بنانا	Governments should strengthen laws designed to protect vulnerable groups.
28	develop	ترقی دینا / تیار کرنا	Schools must develop students' ability to think critically.
29	advance	آگے بڑھانا	Technological innovation continues to advance the field of modern medicine.
30	promote	فروغ دینا	Public campaigns can promote healthier lifestyles among young people.
31	facilitate	آسان بنانا	Digital technology can facilitate communication between individuals living in different countries.
32	accelerate	تیز کرنا	Government funding could accelerate the transition towards renewable energy.
33	transform	تبدیل کرنا	The internet has transformed the way people access information and communicate.
34	evolve	ارتقا پانا	Educational systems must evolve in response to changing labour-market demands.
35	modify	ترمیم کرنا / تبدیل کرنا	Existing policies should be modified to reflect current social realities.
36	adapt	خود کو ڈھالنا	Companies must adapt to rapidly changing consumer preferences.
37	reform	اصلاح کرنا	Many governments are attempting to reform their education systems.
38	modernise	جدید بنانا	Public institutions should modernise their services through digital technology.
39	diversify	متنوع بنانا	Countries should diversify their energy supplies to reduce dependence on fossil fuels.
40	progress	ترقی کرنا	Societies cannot progress unless all citizens have access to quality education.

C. Verbs for Reduction and Control

#	Formal Verb	Urdu Meaning	Band 9 Example
41	reduce	کم کرنا	Higher taxes on tobacco may reduce smoking rates.
42	decrease	کم ہونا / کم کرنا	Effective public transport can decrease dependence on private vehicles.
43	decline	کمی ہونا	The use of printed newspapers has declined considerably in recent decades.
44	diminish	گھٹانا	Renewable energy can diminish a country's reliance on imported fuel.
45	alleviate	کمی کرنا / کم کرنا	Affordable housing schemes could alleviate financial pressure on low-income families.
46	mitigate	شدت کم کرنا	Governments must take action to mitigate the effects of climate change.
47	minimise	کم سے کم کرنا	Strict safety regulations can minimise the risk of workplace accidents.
48	curb	روکنا / قابو کرنا	Higher prices may help curb excessive consumption of unhealthy food.
49	restrain	قابو میں رکھنا	Effective laws are required to restrain irresponsible corporate behaviour.
50	limit	محدود کرنا	Parents should limit children's daily screen time.
51	restrict	پابندی لگانا / محدود کرنا	Governments may restrict access to dangerous substances.
52	prevent	روکنا	Early education can help prevent many social problems from developing later in life.
53	eliminate	ختم کرنا	Technology alone cannot eliminate unemployment.
54	eradicate	جڑ سے ختم کرنا	International cooperation is essential to eradicate extreme poverty.
55	combat	مقابلہ کرنا	Governments should combat corruption through greater transparency.

#	Formal Verb	Urdu Meaning	Band 9 Example
56	tackle	نمٹنا	Authorities must tackle the underlying causes of urban crime.
57	address	مسئلے سے نمٹنا	Policymakers need to address the shortage of affordable housing.
58	counter	مقابلہ کرنا / رد عمل دینا	Public awareness campaigns can counter the spread of misinformation.
59	discourage	حوصلہ شکنی کرنا	Higher parking fees may discourage people from driving into city centres.
60	deter	باز رکھنا	Severe penalties can deter individuals from committing serious offences.

D. Verbs for Cause, Effect and Relationships

#	Formal Verb	Urdu Meaning	Band 9 Example
61	cause	سبب بننا	Prolonged unemployment can cause serious financial and psychological difficulties.
62	lead to	کا باعث بننا	Excessive dependence on cars can lead to severe traffic congestion.
63	result in	کے نتیجے میں ہونا	Poor planning may result in the inefficient use of public funds.
64	result from	سے پیدا ہونا	Many health problems result from poor dietary habits.
65	contribute to	حصہ ڈالنا / سبب بننا	Industrial activity can contribute to serious environmental damage.
66	trigger	شروع کرنا / پیدا کرنا	A sudden economic crisis may trigger widespread unemployment.
67	generate	پیدا کرنا	Tourism can generate substantial income for local communities.
68	produce	پیدا کرنا	Long working hours may produce negative consequences for family life.

#	Formal Verb	Urdu Meaning	Band 9 Example
69	affect	متاثر کرنا	Air pollution can seriously affect children's health.
70	influence	اثر انداز ہونا	Parents strongly influence the behaviour and attitudes of their children.
71	determine	تعیین کرنا	Social background should not determine a child's educational opportunities.
72	shape	تشکیل دینا	Education plays a central role in shaping an individual's future prospects.
73	reinforce	مزید مضبوط کرنا	Positive role models can reinforce desirable behaviour among young people.
74	undermine	کمزور کرنا	Persistent corruption can undermine public trust in government institutions.
75	reflect	عکاسی کرنا	Consumer choices often reflect wider social and cultural values.
76	indicate	ظاہر کرنا	The statistics indicate a gradual decline in the birth rate.
77	reveal	ظاہر کرنا / آشکار کرنا	Recent research reveals a strong connection between poverty and poor health.
78	illustrate	وضاحت کرنا / مثال دینا	The sharp increase in online sales illustrates changing consumer behaviour.
79	correlate with	باہمی تعلق رکھنا	Higher levels of education often correlate with improved employment opportunities.
80	stem from	سے پیدا ہونا	Many social inequalities stem from unequal access to education.

E. Verbs for Government and Policy

#	Formal Verb	Urdu Meaning	Band 9 Example
81	implement	نافذ کرنا	Governments should implement policies that encourage sustainable consumption.

#	Formal Verb	Urdu Meaning	Band 9 Example
82	introduce	متعارف کرانا	Authorities could introduce stricter environmental regulations.
83	enforce	سختی سے نافذ کرنا	Existing laws must be effectively enforced to reduce illegal activity.
84	regulate	ضابطے کے تحت لانا	Governments should regulate industries that pose risks to public health.
85	allocate	مختص کرنا	More public funds should be allocated to primary education.
86	fund	مالی معاونت کرنا	The government should fund research into renewable technologies.
87	subsidise	مالی رعایت دینا	Authorities could subsidise public transport to make it more affordable.
88	invest	سرمایہ کاری کرنا	Countries must invest heavily in education and healthcare.
89	prioritise	ترجیح دینا	Governments should prioritise essential services over unnecessary prestige projects.
90	authorise	اجازت دینا	Authorities should not authorise projects that may cause irreversible environmental damage.
91	prohibit	پابندی لگانا	Governments may need to prohibit particularly harmful industrial practices.
92	ban	پابندی لگانا	Some countries have banned smoking in enclosed public spaces.
93	monitor	نگرانی کرنا	Independent organisations should monitor the implementation of environmental laws.
94	evaluate	جائزہ لینا	Governments must evaluate the long-term effectiveness of public policies.
95	revise	نظر ثانی کرنا	Educational curricula should be regularly revised to meet modern needs.

#	Formal Verb	Urdu Meaning	Band 9 Example
96	abolish	ختم کرنا	Some people believe that governments should abolish unnecessary bureaucratic procedures.
97	establish	قائم کرنا	Authorities should establish clear standards for online education.
98	coordinate	ہم آہنگ کرنا	Governments must coordinate their efforts to respond effectively to global crises.
99	intervene	مداخلت کرنا	The state should intervene when market forces create serious social inequality.
100	govern	حکمرانی کرنا / کنٹرول کرنا	Clear ethical principles should govern the use of artificial intelligence.

F. Verbs for Education and Learning

#	Formal Verb	Urdu Meaning	Band 9 Example
101	educate	تعلیم دینا	Schools should educate students about the consequences of irresponsible behaviour.
102	teach	سکھانا	Universities should teach practical skills alongside theoretical knowledge.
103	train	تربیت دینا	Employees should be regularly trained to use new technologies.
104	instruct	ہدایات دینا / تعلیم دینا	Teachers should instruct learners in how to evaluate information critically.
105	inform	آگاہ کرنا	Public campaigns can inform citizens about the dangers of excessive consumption.
106	raise awareness of	آگاہی پیدا کرنا	Schools can raise awareness of environmental issues among younger generations.
107	acquire	حاصل کرنا	Students should acquire practical skills that are relevant to the modern workplace.

#	Formal Verb	Urdu Meaning	Band 9 Example
108	gain	حاصل کرنا	Young people can gain valuable experience through voluntary work.
109	master	مہارت حاصل کرنا	Learners must master fundamental skills before attempting more advanced tasks.
110	develop	ترقی دینا	Education should develop creativity rather than merely reward memorisation.
111	cultivate	پروان چڑھانا	Schools should cultivate independent thinking and intellectual curiosity.
112	stimulate	تحریک دینا	Challenging activities can stimulate children's interest in learning.
113	foster	فروغ دینا	Collaborative projects can foster teamwork and communication skills.
114	encourage	حوصلہ دینا	Teachers should encourage students to question widely accepted assumptions.
115	enable	قابل بنانا	Digital resources enable students to access information instantly.
116	equip	تیار کرنا / صلاحیت دینا	Education should equip young people with skills required for the future.
117	prepare	تیار کرنا	Universities must prepare graduates for an increasingly competitive labour market.
118	motivate	ترغیب دینا	Meaningful feedback can motivate students to improve their performance.
119	inspire	متاثر کرنا / تحریک دینا	Effective teachers can inspire students to pursue ambitious goals.
120	assess	جانچنا	Schools should assess students through a variety of methods rather than relying solely on examinations.

G. Verbs for Research, Evidence and Analysis

#	Formal Verb	Urdu Meaning	Band 9 Example
121	analyse	تجزیہ کرنا	Researchers must analyse the underlying causes of social inequality.
122	examine	غور سے جائزہ لینا	The government should examine the long-term consequences of this decision.
123	investigate	تحقیق کرنا	Scientists continue to investigate the causes of climate-related disasters.
124	explore	کھوج لگانا / جائزہ لینا	Policymakers should explore alternative approaches to urban development.
125	identify	شناخت کرنا	It is essential to identify the root causes of the problem before proposing solutions.
126	observe	مشاہدہ کرنا	Researchers have observed significant changes in consumer behaviour.
127	measure	پیمائش کرنا	Governments should measure progress using social as well as economic indicators.
128	compare	موازنہ کرنا	It is difficult to compare the effectiveness of these systems without reliable data.
129	contrast	فرق واضح کرنا	The study contrasts the experiences of rural and urban populations.
130	evaluate	جانچنا	Authorities must evaluate whether the benefits justify the considerable financial cost.
131	assess	اندازہ لگانا / جانچنا	Policymakers should assess the potential risks before implementing the policy.
132	verify	تصدیق کرنا	Information should be carefully verified before it is shared online.
133	substantiate	ثبوت سے ثابت کرنا	Such claims must be substantiated by reliable scientific evidence.
134	confirm	تصدیق کرنا	Further research is required to confirm these preliminary findings.

#	Formal Verb	Urdu Meaning	Band 9 Example
135	disprove	غلط ثابت کرنا	New evidence may eventually disprove widely accepted assumptions.
136	derive	اخذ کرنا	Important conclusions can be derived from a careful analysis of the available data.
137	interpret	تشریح کرنا	Statistics should be interpreted within their wider social context.
138	calculate	حساب لگانا	Governments must calculate the long-term cost of maintaining ageing infrastructure.
139	quantify	مقداری طور پر ناپنا	It is difficult to quantify the psychological impact of social isolation.
140	document	دستاویزی ثبوت دینا	Numerous studies have documented the harmful effects of prolonged exposure to pollution.

H. Verbs for Society and Human Behaviour

#	Formal Verb	Urdu Meaning	Band 9 Example
141	participate	حصہ لینا	Citizens should be encouraged to participate actively in local decision-making.
142	engage in	/ شامل ہونا مصروف ہونا	Young people should engage in activities that develop both physical and social skills.
143	cooperate	تعاون کرنا	Nations must cooperate to address problems that extend beyond national borders.
144	collaborate	مل کر کام کرنا	Universities and industries should collaborate to promote innovation.
145	interact	باہمی رابطہ کرنا	Face-to-face environments allow children to interact more naturally with others.
146	communicate	رابطہ کرنا	Digital technology has fundamentally changed the way people communicate .
147	adapt	خود کو ڈھالنا	Migrants often need time to adapt to unfamiliar cultural norms.

#	Formal Verb	Urdu Meaning	Band 9 Example
148	adopt	اختیار کرنا	Consumers should adopt more sustainable purchasing habits.
149	abandon	ترک کرنا	Society must gradually abandon environmentally destructive practices.
150	pursue	حاصل کرنے کی کوشش کرنا	Many young people pursue higher education to improve their career prospects.
151	attain	حاصل کرنا	Economic growth alone cannot guarantee that individuals will attain a high quality of life.
152	achieve	حاصل کرنا	Governments must take coordinated action to achieve long-term sustainability.
153	maintain	برقرار رکھنا	Individuals should maintain a healthy balance between work and personal life.
154	preserve	محفوظ رکھنا	Governments have a responsibility to preserve cultural heritage for future generations.
155	protect	حفاظت کرنا	Strong legislation is required to protect consumers from exploitation.
156	safeguard	تحفظ فراہم کرنا	Effective regulations can safeguard the rights of vulnerable employees.
157	respect	احترام کرنا	Economic development should respect the cultural traditions of local communities.
158	comply with	پابندی کرنا / عمل کرنا	Companies must comply with environmental standards.
159	violate	خلاف ورزی کرنا	Employers should be penalised if they violate basic labour rights.
160	discriminate against	امتیازی سلوک کرنا	No institution should discriminate against individuals on the basis of their background.

I. Verbs for Problems and Solutions

#	Formal Verb	Urdu Meaning	Band 9 Example
161	resolve	حل کرنا	International cooperation may be necessary to resolve complex global disputes.
162	solve	حل کرنا	Technology can help solve certain practical problems, although it cannot address every social issue.
163	overcome	قابو پانا	With adequate support, disadvantaged students can overcome financial barriers to education.
164	remedy	ازالہ کرنا	Governments should take immediate action to remedy the weaknesses of the current system.
165	rectify	درست کرنا	Authorities must rectify the mistakes that contributed to the crisis.
166	resolve	تنازع ختم کرنا	Dialogue is often more effective than violence in resolving political conflicts.
167	manage	انتظام کرنا	Cities must manage population growth more effectively.
168	handle	نمٹنا	Schools should teach students how to handle pressure and failure constructively.
169	cope with	مقابلہ کرنا	Many families struggle to cope with rapidly rising living costs.
170	respond to	جواب دینا / رد عمل دینا	Governments must respond to public concerns in a timely and transparent manner.
171	confront	سامنا کرنا	Modern societies must confront the challenges created by demographic change.
172	avoid	بچنا	Preventive policies can help societies avoid more serious problems in the future.
173	remedy	تدارک کرنا	Investment in infrastructure could remedy many of the deficiencies affecting rural areas.
174	compensate for	ازالہ کرنا	Financial assistance may compensate for the disadvantages faced by low-income students.

#	Formal Verb	Urdu Meaning	Band 9 Example
175	offset	تلافی کرنا	Renewable energy can help offset the environmental damage caused by industrial activity.
176	recover from	سے بحال ہونا	Communities may take years to recover from the effects of a major natural disaster.
177	withstand	برداشت کرنا / مقابلہ کرنا	Modern infrastructure must be designed to withstand increasingly extreme weather conditions.
178	endure	برداشت کرنا	Many workers are unwilling to endure poor working conditions for long periods.
179	sustain	برقرار رکھنا	Governments must develop policies capable of sustaining economic growth without damaging the environment.
180	balance	توازن قائم کرنا	Policymakers must balance economic priorities with environmental responsibilities.

J. Advanced High-Value Band 9 Verbs

#	Formal Verb	Urdu Meaning	Band 9 Example
181	exacerbate	مزید خراب کرنا	Poor urban planning can exacerbate existing traffic and housing problems.
182	deteriorate	خراب ہونا	Air quality may deteriorate rapidly if industrial emissions remain uncontrolled.
183	compel	مجبور کرنا	Economic hardship may compel individuals to leave their home countries.
184	oblige	پابند / مجبور کرنا	Governments should oblige large corporations to disclose their environmental impact.
185	allocate	مختص کرنا	Public authorities must allocate resources according to genuine social priorities.
186	integrate	ضم کرنا	Schools should integrate digital literacy into the wider curriculum.

#	Formal Verb	Urdu Meaning	Band 9 Example
187	incorporate	شامل کرنا	Urban planners should incorporate green spaces into future development projects.
188	supplement	تکمیل کرنا / اضافی طور پر شامل کرنا	Online courses should supplement , rather than completely replace, traditional classroom instruction.
189	replace	تبدیل کرنا	Automation may eventually replace certain repetitive forms of manual labour.
190	supplement	اضافہ کرنا / پورا کرنا	Practical training can supplement theoretical knowledge acquired at university.
191	allocate	تقسیم کرنا / مختص کرنا	Schools should allocate sufficient time to both academic and creative subjects.
192	prioritise	ترجیح دینا	Governments must prioritise long-term social benefits over short-term political popularity.
193	anticipate	پیش بینی کرنا	Policymakers should anticipate future demographic changes before they become problematic.
194	foresee	پیشگی اندازہ لگانا	It is impossible to foresee every consequence of rapid technological change.
195	accommodate	جگہ / سہولت فراہم کرنا	Public infrastructure must accommodate the needs of an ageing population.
196	allocate	مختص کرنا	Greater funding should be allocated to research into clean energy technologies.
197	generate	پیدا کرنا	Investment in tourism can generate employment in economically disadvantaged regions.
198	suppress	دبانا / روکنا	Governments should not suppress legitimate public criticism.
199	reinforce	مضبوط کرنا	Consistent parental guidance can reinforce positive social behaviour.

Formal Verb Urdu Meaning Band 9 Example

200	prioritise	ترجیح دینا	To achieve sustainable progress, governments must prioritise education, healthcare, and environmental protection.
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How to Use These 200 Verbs Like a Band 9 Candidate

1. Do not memorise the list alphabetically

Learn the verbs by **function**:

- **Opinions:** argue, assert, contend, claim
- **Problems:** address, tackle, combat, resolve
- **Solutions:** implement, introduce, establish
- **Reduction:** mitigate, alleviate, curb, minimise
- **Change:** transform, enhance, reform, modernise
- **Cause and effect:** lead to, result in, trigger, contribute to
- **Evidence:** demonstrate, indicate, reveal, illustrate
- **Education:** foster, cultivate, equip, enable
- **Government:** allocate, regulate, enforce, prioritise

This makes vocabulary easier to recall during the exam.

The Most Important Band 9 Verb Patterns

Pattern 1: Verb + that clause

- argue that
- claim that
- suggest that
- demonstrate that
- indicate that
- acknowledge that

Example:

Numerous studies **demonstrate that** regular physical activity can improve both physical and psychological health.

Pattern 2: Verb + noun

- address a problem
- tackle an issue
- alleviate poverty
- mitigate the effects
- enhance quality
- promote development

Example:

Governments should **address the underlying causes of poverty** rather than merely providing temporary financial assistance.

Pattern 3: Verb + to + infinitive

- encourage people **to use**
- enable students **to access**
- compel individuals **to leave**
- allow citizens **to participate**

Example:

Affordable public transport would **encourage commuters to reduce** their dependence on private vehicles.

Pattern 4: Verb + from + gerund

The most important:

prevent someone/something from doing

Strict regulations can **prevent companies from exploiting** vulnerable workers.

Pattern 5: Cause-and-effect structures

Lead to

Excessive screen time can **lead to** social isolation.

Result in

Poor planning may **result in** significant financial losses.

Result from

Many health problems **result from** unhealthy lifestyles.

Contribute to

Industrial emissions **contribute to** climate change.

Stem from

Social inequality often **stems from** unequal access to resources.

20 Powerful Verb Upgrades for IELTS Writing

Basic Verb	Band 9 Alternative
make better	enhance / improve
make worse	exacerbate
make less	reduce / diminish / alleviate
deal with	address / tackle
solve	resolve / remedy
stop	prevent / curb / deter
show	demonstrate / indicate / reveal
say	argue / claim / assert
help	facilitate / enable
make people do	compel / encourage
give	provide / allocate
start	initiate / introduce
change	transform / modify / reform
keep	maintain / preserve / sustain

Basic Verb	Band 9 Alternative
get	obtain / acquire / attain
use	utilise / employ
think	believe / contend / maintain
support	advocate / endorse
control	regulate / monitor
protect	safeguard / preserve

A Band 9 Example Paragraph

Question:

Some people believe that governments should invest more money in public transport than in building new roads. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

Weak version:

Governments should spend more money on public transport because it is good. It can reduce traffic. It can also reduce pollution. Roads are important, but public transport is better.

Band 9-style version:

I largely agree that governments should **prioritise** investment in public transportation rather than continuously **allocate** substantial public funds to the construction of new roads. Efficient and affordable transport networks can **encourage** commuters to **reduce** their reliance on private vehicles, thereby **alleviating** traffic congestion and **mitigating** harmful emissions. Furthermore, expanding road networks may simply **generate** additional demand for cars, whereas investment in rail and bus systems can **facilitate** a more sustainable form of urban development.

Notice the verbs:

prioritise → allocate → encourage → reduce → alleviate → mitigate → generate → facilitate

This is how formal vocabulary creates a powerful paragraph without sounding unnatural.

Final Advice for International IELTS Students

To achieve a high score in IELTS Writing, do not try to use all 200 verbs in one essay.

That would be a disaster.

Instead:

Learn 10 verbs every day.

Learn their Urdu meanings.

Learn their grammar patterns.

Learn their common collocations.

Write one original sentence for each verb.

Use only the verbs that fit naturally.

Remember:

Band 9 vocabulary is not about using the most difficult word. It is about using the most precise word.

For example:

- Do not automatically use **exacerbate** when **worsen** is clearer.
- Do not automatically use **utilise** when **use** sounds more natural.
- Do not force advanced vocabulary.
- Use it where it genuinely improves precision.

The Golden Formula

Simple Idea → Precise Formal Verb → Clear Explanation → Logical Result

For example:

Governments should **implement** stricter environmental regulations because weak legislation allows industries to **generate** excessive pollution, which can **undermine** public health and **exacerbate** climate-related problems.

This is the level of precision IELTS students should aim for.

STOP USING BASIC VERBS EVERYWHERE.

START USING THE RIGHT VERB FOR THE RIGHT IDEA.

PRECISION = POWER.

POWERFUL WRITING = HIGHER BANDS.

