

ESSENTIAL ENGLISH CONFUSING WORDS FOR ALL SSC EXAMS

1. Already / Yet

Both **yet** and **already** are used with the **present perfect tense**.

Already is usually used in **positive sentences**.

Yet is usually used in **questions** and **negative sentences**.

For Example:

(a) Have you bought the tickets yet?

(b) Have you packed the bags yet?

It shows that yet is used at the end of the question.

Now see the following Examples.

(a) Yes, I've already bought the tickets.

(b) No, I haven't packed the bags yet.

Use already in the positive answers, and yet in the negative answers.

There is one time you can use already in questions: it's when something happens earlier than expected.

"Have you already finished your homework?!" because you were expecting it to take more time.

2. Also / As well / Too

These words are all used to show similarity or sameness:

(a) Jerry plays soccer. Harry plays soccer, **too**.

(b) Jerry plays soccer. Harry **also** plays soccer.

(c) Jerry plays soccer. Harry plays soccer **as well**.

The only difference is in their **placement in the sentence**.

Too and **as well** are used **at the end of a sentence**. (As well is more formal than too). "**Also**" usually goes before the verb or **adjective**.

The pears are **also** delicious.

The pears are delicious, **too**.

The pears are delicious **as well**.

Now you see, there are many correct ways to say the same thing!



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3. Amount / Number / Quantity

Use **amount with uncountable nouns** – things that cannot be separated or counted.

For example

- (a) This recipe requires a small amount of wine.
- (b) I have a huge amount of work to do this week.

Use **number with countable nouns** – words that can be counted and made plural:

- (a) A number of my friends are teachers.

The word quantity is a more technical/formal word for number or amount, and it is used for things you can measure (usually objects, not people).

- (a) We have a limited quantity of special-edition hats for sale.

hats = countable

- (b) They need a large quantity of cement for the construction.

(or: a large amount of cement)

cement = uncountable

4. Belong to / Belong with / Belong in

Belong to means ownership or possession:

- (a) That's our neighbors' dog. = That dog belongs to our neighbors.

Belong with means that things/people are similar and should be together

For example "You belong with me," it is like saying that it is destiny for the two people to be together.

You can also **use belong with or belong in for putting an object into a category with other, similar objects:**

- (a) That book about humans traveling to Mars doesn't belong in the history section. It belongs with the other science fiction books.

An object belongs **IN** a category, and belongs **WITH** other similar things.

5. Ceiling / Roof

The **upper interior surface of a room** is called the **ceiling**. The **upper exterior surface of a building** is called the **roof**.

A tall apartment building has many ceilings inside it, but it only has one roof, at the very top.

6. Close to / Near / Next to

If two things are next to each other, it means they are immediately beside each other:

Example: There's a bank next to my house.

With the word "next," we always use "to":

If two things are **near or close to each other, it means they are in the same local area (but not immediately beside each other).**

7. Good / Well

Good is an adjective; it describes nouns:

- (a) That's a good idea!
- (b) The food at that restaurant is really good.

Well is an adverb; it describes verbs:

- (a) She performed well in the competition.

Use good before the noun (good idea) or after a form of the verb "to be" (the food is good; the drinks are good; the party was good).

Use well after the verb - He sings well, they dance well, I didn't sleep very well.

8. Insight / Incite

Insight is a noun that means an in-depth understanding:

- (a) The biography offered many insights into the life of a famous artist.

Incite is a verb that means to provoke to action. It is often

used for provoking violent actions such as hatred, riots, and rebellion.

- (a) The community leader's angry words incited a riot.

9. Made of / Made from

Use **made of** to talk **about the material of an object** - wood, plastic, glass, crystal, etc.

- which **has not** gone through very much processing.

- (a) This table is made of wood.
- (b) This shirt is made of cotton.

Use **made from** to talk about one object that came from another, different object:

- (a) This purse is made from recycled plastic bags.
- (b) Cheese is made from milk.

10. Of / From

OF is used for POSSESSION - Who does it belong to?

- (a) A friend of mine
- (b) The color of that car

FROM is used for ORIGIN - Where did it come from?

- (a) I'm from the United States.
- (b) I got this book from the bookstore.



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