19 Actions andProcesses

In the IELTS exam, there is often a question involving objects or machines and how they work, or descriptions of natural processes (usually in the reading paper).

The clues for this crossword puzzle all describe different processes. The key words in bold can all be found in your Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English. Do the crossword with a partner, then use the dictionary to look up the key words and their sample sentences. You’ll find the answers to the crossword in the sample sentences. The first clue has been filled in to start you off.

Clues across

3. Plants absorb _____ from the soil. (9)
5. The new (computer) _____ will enable data to be processed more speedily. (7)
6. Push the green _____ to start the engine. (6)
9. Connect the _____ to the CD player. (8)
10. The _____ rotates on its axis once every 24 hours. (5)
11. Let me get all my bits and _____ together. (6)
13. An average household _____ will burn for about six hours. (6)
15. You need a special tool to bend the ____. (5)
17. The candle ignited the plastic and started a small ____. (4)

Clues down

1. In the process, light _____ converts to heat ____. (6)
2. Did you ever get the _____ (you took) developed? (8)
4. _____ contracts as it cools. (5)
6. Check and adjust the ____ (on your car) regularly. (6)
7. (When the tanker hit the rocks,) _____ was released into the sea. (3)
8. Water expands as it ____. (7)
9. (During the day) the _____ evaporates moisture on the leaves. (3)
12. These gates regulate the amount of _____ flowing into the canal. (5)
14. The boiler burns oil to produce ____. (4)
16. The gaseous metal is cooled and _____ zinc. (6)
18. Snow falling on the mountainsides is compressed into ____. (3)

The puzzle is easier to solve if you understand how a word is frequently and typically found with certain other words. You can access thousands of these word combinations by clicking “Phrase bank” on the CD-ROM.
Teacher’s Notes

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Time: 20–30 minutes

Aims:
• To help IELTS students review useful words for describing actions and processes.
• To encourage students to use a monolingual dictionary to look up meanings and to see examples of words in context.

1. Ask students to think of a simple object (e.g. a ballpoint pen) and how it works (the end of the pen is **pushed** onto a piece of paper, a small ball **rolls/rotates** and **releases** ink from a chamber onto the paper).

2. Divide the class into pairs. Explain that the crossword clues all describe different processes and contain a key word in bold.

3. If students are stuck or want to check their answers, they should look up the key word in bold. The sample sentences in the dictionary match the crossword clues.

4. Review the advantages of using a monolingual dictionary (not only for different meanings, but for examples).

Answers:

Across

3. nutrients; 5. network; 6. button; 9. speakers; 10. earth
11. pieces; 13. candle; 15. steel; 17. fire

Down

1. energy; 2. pictures; 4. metal; 6. brakes; 7. oil; 8. freezes
9. sun; 12. water; 14. heat; 16. liquid; 18. ice