A Network of English Vocabulary

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This article deals with categories of English vocabulary which college students need when they go to English-speaking countries.

Abbreviations : Am = American English
Br = British English
J = JACET (Japan Association of College English Teachers)
S = spoken (S1 means 1,000 spoken vocabulary range in Longman)
W = written (W1 means 1,000 written vocabulary range in Longman)

A Network of Vocabulary

Category A: travel
Category B: weather
Category C: education
Category D: environment
Category E: traffic
Category F: business
Category G: society
Category H: bank
Category I: medicine
Category J: religion
Category K: supermarket
Category L: post office
Category M: restaurant
Category N: broadcasting
Category O: energy
Category P: law
Category Q: other (nouns)
Category R: daily activities ((verbs))
Category S: important words ((adjectives))
Category T: important words ((adverbs))

References

*Macmillan English Dictionary* (2002) has a list of 2,500 words for definitions. Some of them are: blame, bomb, crash, effort, existence, experience, experiment, genetic, government, injure, injury, lawyer, policy, polite, politics, religion, status, temporary, thumb, toe, transparent, transportation, vehicle.

*Longman English Dictionary* has a list of 2,000 words for definitions. Some of them are: approval, attitude, awkward, celebrate, ceremony,
confidence, decay (J6), insurance, interrupt, politics (S3, W1, J4), substance, vehicle, Words in bold type are keywords for students who plan to study abroad. Words with asterisks are outside of the four-thousand vocabulary range and are additional vocabulary.

Category A: travel 「旅行」

immigration; customs 「税関」; quarantine [no level in L, J] 「検疫」;
baggage claim area: a place where passengers pick up their baggage 「荷物受け取り場所」; embarkation [no level in L, J] 「搭乗」
*compartment [J6]; taxi 「滑走する」; runway 「滑走路」 (J7); cabin attendant
*hangar: a shelter for airplanes 「格納庫」; destination (J3)
*turbulence: sudden violent movements of air 「乱気流」
brochure: a pamphlet or a booklet (L-S3, J5) 「パンフレット」
itinerary: a plan of one’s trip (no level in L, J) 「旅程」
bureau de change((Br)): money exchange ((Am)) cf. bureau (J4) 「両替所」
insurance: an arrangement in which you regularly pay an insurance company an amount of money so that they will give you money if something you owe is damaged (L-S1, W2, J4) 「保険」
*jet lag: fatigue experienced by a traveler who flies through several time-zones 「時差後遺症」
time difference; daylight saving(s) time [ summer time ((Br))] 
transfer: a ticket which enables a passenger to change to another bus 「乗り換え切符」

Category B: weather 「天候」

climate; frigid; temperate; arid; tropical; subtropical; lightning (J6) 「雷」;
thunder; tornado; hail; hurricane; typhoon; cyclone; flood
trade wind: a wind which is created by the rotation of the earth and blows toward the Equator「貿易風」
the summer solstice: the longest summer day [no level in L, J]「夏至」
the winter solstice「冬至」

Category C: education「教育」
*tuition (J8); fee; *bursar; dean; remittance; registration; elective; required;
*dormitory [residence hall] [no level in L, J]; due date; semester; term ((Br));
psychology; economics; linguistics; logic; biology; math(ematics); algebra; architecture; ethics; anthropology; archeology; physics; chemistry; P.E.= physical education「体育」; credit「単位」; *stipend: money paid regularly to a student「奨学金」「給付金」
*tenure: the period of time during which a teacher has a job「終身在職権」
*enrollment: the number of students registered「学生登録数」
*matriculation: being registered at a university「入学」
faculty (S3, J3): 1) a department「学部」2) the teaching staff「教授陣」
professor; associate professor ((Am)); senior lecturer ((Br))「准教授」;
assistant professor ((Am)); lecturer; assistant administration「法人事務職員」

Category D: environment「環境」
bush; grove; wood(s); forest
*garbage (S2, J8); litter (J3); rubbish; combustible [burnable]
greenhouse effect; *photochemical smog「光化学スモッグ」; exhaust gases
World Heritage: e.g. Hiroshima is registered [listed] as a World Heritage
Site [is on a World Heritage list]
ozone hole; ozone layer

Category E: traffic
traffic jam [congestion/tie-up]; toll gate; ticket 「駐車違反通知」; driver’s license ((Am)) [driving license ((Br))]; casualty (J4)
PED XING ((Am)): a pedestrian crossing
SUV: a sport-utility vehicle
dead end ((Am)) [cul-de-sac ((Br)) 「行き止まり」]
intersection: a place where two streets cross each other (J3) 「交差点」

Category F: business
agenda: a list of items to be discussed (S3, W3, J4) 「議題」
budget: an estimate of the amount of money to be spent (S2, W1, J4) 「予算」
resume [personal history/curriculum vitae/CV] 「履歴書」
personnel: persons employed in a business (W3, J4) 「人事」
convention: a large meeting for an organization (W2, J4) 「大会」
commuter: a person who travels to and from work (J7)
deficit: the amount by which something is less than you need (W2, J4) 「赤字」
merger: the process of combining two companies or organizations (W3, J4) 「合併」
client: someone who pays for the service of a professional person (S2, W2, J4) 「顧客」
ads (S2, W2, J3): short for advertisements (S3, J3) 「広告」

Category G: society
Am sales tax; Br VAT (= value added tax): GST = goods and service tax in Canada, Australia, and New Zealand

kitchen utensils: microwave oven; refrigerator; blender; rice cooker

utility: a public service such as electricity or water (W3, J4)「公共料金」

vandalism: a willful destruction of public facilities (no level in L, J)「公
共物破壊行為」

*arson: an act of setting fire to a house, building or property
*bribery: the crime of giving [receiving] money or presents to someone to ask for [do some] favor

mugging: an attack on someone in a public place in order to steal his or her possessions and run away (no level in L, J)「強奪」

real estate; landlord (J4); landlady

DV = domestic violence「家庭内暴力」

STD = sexually transmitted disease「性行為感染症」

senior citizen: an old person who is at 65 or over

nursing home: a home equipped and staffed to care for elderly people
day-care center: a place where small children are cared for during the day while their parents are at work

illiterate: unable to read and write (no level in L, J)

*ghetto; apartheid「人種隔離政策」; segregation

*sexual harassment

*euthanasia: mercy killing「安楽死」

PG = parental guidance (for movie rating)

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Category H: bank

teller [bank clerk]: a clerk who receives and pays out money in a bank (no
level in L, J)「銀行窓口係」

passbook: a bank book (no level in L, J)「銀行通帳」
currency; savings account; checking account; deposit; withdraw; balance
ATM = an automated teller machine
central bank; city bank [commercial bank]; savings bank
exchange rate「為替レート」; bills
American coins: penny [1-cent piece]; nickel [5-cent piece]; dime [10-cent piece]; quarter [25-cent piece]

Category I: medicine
*tetanus「破傷風」; *asthma「喘息」; *leukemia「白血病」; fever (J5)「熱」; cancer「がん」; *tuberculosis (J8)「結核」; *tonsillitis「扁桃腺炎」; *mumps「おたふくかぜ」; *measles「はしか」; *pneumonia (J8)「肺炎」; *diabetes「糖尿病」; *angina「狭心症」; *hepatitis (J7)「肝炎」; cough; dizzy (J8); vomit; *nausea「吐き気」; gargle「うがいをする」
temperature; thermometer (no level in L, J)「体温計」「寒暖計」; *stethoscope「聴診器」; hospital; physician; surgeon; nurse; pharmacy「薬局」(no level in L, J)
ambulance: a vehicle which carries a sick or injured person to a hospital (J4)「救急車」; prescription (J5): a particular medicine ordered by a doctor「処方箋」
ER ((Am))= an emergency room in a hospital ; medication (S3, J7)
Medicare: the US medical system for old people
Medicaid: the US medical system for poor people

Category J: religion
Christianity: Catholicism and Protestantism; Christian
Islam: Sunnism and Shiitism ; Muslim: a person who believes in Islam
Buddhism: Hinayana「上座仏教」and Mahayana「大乗仏教」: Buddhist
Judaism; Hinduism; Taoism; Confucianism; Mormonism: a religion founded by Joseph Smith (1805–1844), usually called the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints

synagogue for the Jews; temples for Buddhists and Mormons; shrine for Shintoists and Confucianists; the Bible; the Koran; the Sutras

Category K: supermarket

aisle (J7) 通路; quick check [express gate];
produce: fruit and vegetables (J1) 农産物

detergent (no level in L, J) 洗剤

shoplifting: the crime of stealing things from a store (no level in L, J) 引き

beverage: a drink (no level in L, J) 飲料

dairy: milk products (J5) 乳製品

stationery: materials for writing (no level in L, J) 文房具

frozen food 冷凍食品

cottage cheese

cottage pie (Br); black pudding (Br);

pretzel [no level in L, J]
greeting cards

Category L: post office

postage: the amount of money to send a letter (no level in L, J) 郵便料金

surface mail: mail by boat or by truck [van]; metered mail

express mail [special delivery] 速達

commemorative stamp: a stamp issued on a special occasion (no level in L, J) 記念切手
mail carrier ((Am)); postman ((Br))

Category M: restaurant
shrimp 「布えび」; prawn 「中えび」; lobster; halibut 「おひょう」; salmon; trout; tuna; cod 「たら」; herring 「にしん」; octopus 「たこ」; squilla 「じゃこ」; red snapper 「黒鰭」; *cuttlefish; *squid 「いか」

entree: the main dish (no level in L, J) 「主料理」
garnish: something added to a dish
specialty 「お勧め料理」
BLT: a sandwich filled with bacon, lettuce and tomato
voucher: a coupon (J6)

Category N: broadcasting

soap opera: a serialized melodrama
quiz; talk show; sports coverage 「スポーツ実況放送」
anchor person [broadcaster]
prime time

Category O: energy

power plant [station] 「発電所」: thermal (J6) 「火力の」; *hydroelectric 「水力の」; nuclear
reactor 「炉」; fallout: ash 「死の灰」; radioactive materials 「放射性物質」
solar energy 「太陽熱エネルギー」

Category P: law

district court; high court; supreme court
lawyer; prosecutor 「検事」 (W2, J6); attorney 「弁護士」 (S2, W1, J4)
jury: a group of people chosen to judge in a court of law (W2, J4) 「陪審」;
juror (W3) 「陪審員」; plaintiff (J4) 「原告」; defendant (J4) 「被告」
capital punishment: the death penalty for a crime 「死刑」「極刑」
guilty: having broken a law (S3, W3, J2)
suit: a lawsuit or a case in a court of law (S2, W2, J2) 「訴訟」
*unanimous: all agreeing (J8) 「満場一致」

Category Q: other (nouns)
glossy; textured [matte] in photography
exposure 「露出」
banner headline
lead 「リード」; column; editorial: 「社説」
cell phone [mobile phone] 「携帯電話」

Category R: daily activities (verbs)
some echoic verbs: gargle (no level in L, J)< 「がらがらうがいをする」
sizzle (no level in L, J)< 「じゅーじゅー焼く、いためる」
simmer (no level in L, J)< 「ことごと煮る」
action verbs: put on
take off
stroke: pass the hand over gently (J6)
stumble: catch the foot on the ground (J5)
trip: catch one’s foot and lose one’s balance (S2, J1)
confirm e.g. confirm one’s reservation (S3, W2, J3)
subscribe e.g. subscribe to the magazine (J7)
expire: come to an end (J7)

Category S: important words (adjectives)
available (S2, W1, J2)
e.g. This book is no longer available.
eligible (J5)
e.g. Foreign students are not eligible for a loan.
inevitable: said of something that is not avoided (J4)
valid: good; effective (J4)
e.g. Your visa is not valid now.

Category T: important words (adverbs)
  approximately (J4)
  fortunately (J3)
  recently (S2,W1,J1)
  lately (S2,J6)
  simultaneously (no level in L, J)

References

JACET 8000 English Words (Kirihara: 2005)
COCA (=Corpus of Contemporary American English)
COBUILD CORPUS (The Bank of English)