

Live Lesson Notes

Science

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What you will learn:

Useful links to tools
Essential vocabulary
Collocations
Kinds of Science
Idiomatic expressions
Model Answers

Some useful Links

Great **source of collocations** is

<http://www.ozdic.com/collocation-dictionary/science>

Great source of **sample sentences** for any word/phrase

<https://www.english-corpora.org/bnc/>

Click to get a complete **Mock IELTS** Test.

<https://takeielts.net/the-path-to-success-in-the-ielts-test/>

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Introduction

In this free IELTS Speaking lesson on the topic of science, you will learn how to talk about different branches of science, and what kind of science you like.

[Watch the complete video about this topic of science here.](#)

Warm up

Speak out your answer to the following questions!

Do you like science?

What kind of science are you interested in?

Where can we find science in our everyday lives?

Essential Vocabulary

It is essential to build your vocabulary and also to start activating it.

That means you should try making some phrases with the vocabulary below.

Remember to always learn the collocations of new words.

Science (n.)

Scientific (adj.) discoveries, breakthroughs, articles, journals, research

A **scientist** (n. - Person)

MORE COLLOCATIONS

Popular science

= making science popular,
educating the **layman** about science (everyday man in the street)

An **exact** science

= precise science

Hard science

= strong scientific evidence

The science behind_____ is interesting

The science behind painting / printing / forecasting / plastic surgery /
body language / sociology / homeopathy

Examples

I don't understand you, can you say that in layman's terms?

Painting is not an exact science

There is no hard science proving that this method works.

I am not sure about the science behind Covid 19

Science is all around us.

Here are some other ways of saying this....

It's with us **24/7**

It's **omnipresent**

It's **ubiquitous**

We are surrounded by science, **whether it is** in the kitchen or in the
bathroom

It's more a question of where can we not find science?

Kinds of science

Natural science includes both,

- **Life Science**
- **Physical Science**

We also have

Social Sciences which studies human behaviour in fields like,

Education, anthropology, economics, history, political science and sociology

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Branches_of_science

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_life_sciences

A branch of science

A field of science

When you see “**ology**” this means ‘**the study of or knowledge about something**’

Biology = the study of life

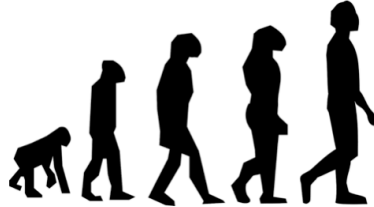
Sociology = the study of society

Criminology = the study of criminal behaviour
(TV series like **CSI** look into how crimes are committed)

Cardiology = Study of the heart

Philology = Study of language

1. Biology



DNA strings or strands

Cloning (Dolly the Sheep was a sheep cloned by scientists in the UK)

To clone = to replicate (make one exactly the same)

A clone (n.)

Darwin's Theory of Evolution - shows how humans have evolved!

Find out more about Biological studies and discoveries below
<https://www.thecompleteuniversityguide.co.uk/student-advice/what-to-study/ten-famous-biological-discoveries>

An interesting story for science students!

<http://www.uvm.edu/~jdion/personal/rabbitandherthesis.html>

2. Chemistry



Nuclear power plants

Some people say nuclear power is dangerous, especially after the disasters at Chernobyl and another recent one in Japan.

Brewing beer - We can use science to do home-brewing

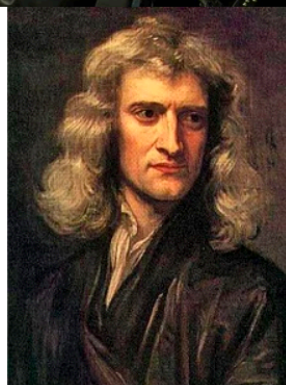
Food science - e.g. plant-based beef. Nowadays, we can buy hamburgers made of vegetables with the same texture as beef.

GM Food

Genetically modified food. This is widely used around the world. One important reason is to help provide enough food for nations where risk of starvation is a problem

<https://www.popsci.com/tags/chemistry/>

3. Physics



Stephen Hawkings

A cosmologist. He made breakthroughs to help us understand the origin of the universe.

The Big Bang Theory gives one explanation of how the universe began (it is also the name of a popular TV comedy series)

<https://www.brainscape.com/blog/2015/06/greatest-modern-physicists/>

Brian Cox

A British Physicist.

He has **popularised science** in the UK and has a podcast where he discusses science with a comedian and a panel of guests, in a very light-hearted way.

The Infinite Monkey Cage (Brian's Podcast)

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m000d720>

Isaac Newton

Another British Physicist from the 17th Century.

I learnt about Newton at school and I just remember he created **the laws of motion.**

These were later replaced (or superseded) by **Einsteins' Law of Relativity**

Other related branches of science

Astronomy -

The First Man (film about Neil Armstrong, the first man on the moon)

Away (Series on Netflix about a voyage to Mars)

The Martian (film directed by Ridley Scott about a botanist living on Mars)

Botany / Geology

Plant Earth

David Attenborough

<https://www.youtube.com/user/BBCEarth>

Examples

A branch of science I am interested in is _____

*I've always been **intrigued by** _____*

(=fascinated in, interested in...)

A whistle stop tour = a quick look

This has been a whistle stop tour of the world of science

Idioms

It's not rocket science

= *It's not difficult*

We are on the same wavelength

= *we think in the same way, we agree*

There is no need to reinvent the wheel

= *don't do something that someone else has already done*

You are trying to blind me with science

= *You are try to impress me or confuse me*

Can you tell me in Layman's terms?

= *Can you say it in a simple way?*

Sample Answers to Student's Questions

Q1. Keith, describe a scientific subject that you learned about in high school, and explain how this subject helped you in your life.

So, when I was at high school, we studied physics.

It was a **mandatory subject**, in fact we had to study all different sciences: physics, chemistry and biology.

but I do remember my physics classes specifically.

On the one hand, because we had a fantastic teacher. He was so **creative and innovative** and he would **have us doing experiments** in the classroom

we just found it, it was a really great way to engage us, to get us interested in physics,

but not only that, the kind of the different experiments and topics we studied in physics, were kind of **relevant to our lives**

whether it was talking about how you build bridges **or** how you build a building **or whether it was** about electronic circuits and how electricity works in the house

and I was fascinated, I was **intrigued by** electricity and how that worked.

Now, as I left school, I began learning to play the guitar and I played the electric guitar and I would often **take apart** my amplifier and my electric guitar, to see how it worked, to see how I could change the sound,

and I kind of **drew on my knowledge** of basic physics from the school, from the classes we had, about how circuits worked, how you could open and close **circuits**

and I just found it really interesting to take apart my guitar or the amplifier and **put it back together** and see what the result was .

I guess it made me into **a kind of mini-scientist** doing mini-research projects but I found it fascinating and that's one way, I guess it kind of helped in my future life with my music as well.

Science and music, two unlikely friends. but there they were.

Q 2. Keith, why are boys more interested in science than girls?

Well, to be honest, I think **it's a bit of a myth** that boys are more interested in science than girls.

I think there are lots of girls who are really interested in science and a lot, especially if they were given the chance, **would study science** and maybe **become scientists**,

but I think it's a very **chauvinistic career** and it's very difficult for women **to break into this career** because it's **a male-dominated career**, by and large.

So, I am not sure it is necessarily true. I think there is **a stereotype of boys being** more interested in science because they are more **practical** and **hands on** whereas women are more emotional,

but again, I think **we are guilty of stereotyping** there.

For example, I know in my country, the government has a big, big push and **a campaign to** encourage girls to study science

and **to take up science subjects** like chemistry, biology or physics

and **it's been met** with a very ,very good attitude, a positive attitude by girls who are interested in science.

So, I am not sure I really agree with your question.