IELTS NOTE: the goldsmith palm

A lot of fun moments occurred in our classroom, especially in the last session of IELTS the class, Speaking Class, when we played a game named sherd or shed or sherk - I'm totally in lost when recalling the name of the game. The rule of the game described as one person gave a word card then explained the definition of the word using their own sentences without using the same part of word or gesture. The other classmates should guess the word based on the definition given. The hardest part of it that when it comes to explaining an uncommon word such as goldsmith and gorgeous.

Pak Fachri, Bengkulu University, got the word of 'goldsmith'. At first, he did not understand the meaning, so the tutor made an explanation about the word. Pak Fachry then explained the word with these sentences:

A person who is working in a mine, xxxxxx (I forgot), in a gold mine...

Teeet! The tutor suddenly stopped the speak because of a mistake he made that is using some part of the guessed word. The tutor then made her own definition, but, in the end, nobody could guessed the word.

Goldsmith: noun, a person who makes or sells articles of gold. --- dictionary.com

Travel back the time, the first session was dealt with the Reading Task, when it has been suggested to us that we do not need to think deeply, activating our prior knowledge, or involving our emotion. The reason for this suggestion that is to make our eyes and minds only focus on our text and concentrated to make some correlation between the questions and the text. Obviously, clearing the mind out or emptying the glass will lead to correctly answer the question.
There were some sophisticated words we learn in the **Writing Class**, that will be very useful to be used at Task 1 of Writing Test. Instead of write shows, we were suggested to use illustrates, provides information about, informs, or reveals. In addition to that, we were given an illustration of word choices used in **model answer texts** (band of 5, 6, and 7). For instance, do write *somewhere in the vicinity* to replace *about*. Yeah, as **simple** as that - and you will look as **knowledgeable** (in English) person. One information I got that we can use thesaurus.com to find word alternative. The picture below illustrated some word choices of 'illustrates'.

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**The picture below illustrated some word choices of 'illustrates'.**
illuminates

Synonyms for illustrates

- clarify
- delineate
- depict
- embody
- emphasize
- epitomize
- exhibit
- explain
- expose
- highlight
- illuminate
- interpret
- lay out
- manifest
- mark
- mirror
- personify
- point up
- portray
- represent
- reveal
- spotlight
- symbolize
- typify
- allegorize
- clear
- disclose
- elucidate
- evidence
- evince

verb demonstrate, exemplify
In IELTS Writing Test, we need to write a text which is containing 150-250 words depending on the task. How to count the words quickly? It has been said that if one sentence contains fifteen words, we should write at least 10 lines for Task 1. Later, I was informed about the **palm rule** which is when you place your right palm and three fingers of your left over your writing, the text will contain approximately 150 words. Our both palm calculation is near to 200 or 300 words. Will you believe me? Don’t believe me, believe in God! *Tobat* soon.

Note: *a lot of practice using IELTS answer paper for Writing Test will help you to count your number of words as well as to prove the word counting methods.*