

Academic Language

Recent guidance from The Literacy Trust specified the need for more familiarity with ‘Academic Language’.

When speaking:

- Young people must hear teachers and parents talking formally and using sophisticated, academic language.
- Teachers and parents must correct poor oral skills.
- Students must be reminded that school is a formal environment and that language should be formal.
- ALL answers should be in full sentences. If a student offers an answer that is not a sentence, they should be prompted to put it into a sentence.
- This formal speech, at home when appropriate and in the classroom, will help our young people put their ideas into writing and to express themselves confidently.

Academic Word List

The Academic Word List (AWL) was developed by Averil Coxhead at Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand. It is now used worldwide and is mentioned on many university websites. If we can begin to familiarise students with this language now, it will benefit them through school qualifications, higher and further education and throughout their working life.

The English for Academic purposes (EAP Foundation) website is helpful:

<https://www.eapfoundation.com/about/>

This is a copy of the full AWL. ‘Sublist 1’ has the most frequent words; ‘sublist 10’ has less frequent words.

Sublist 1 of the Academic Word List - Most Frequent Words in Families

This sublist contains the most frequent words of the Academic Word List in the Academic Corpus.

analysis	established	occur
approach	estimate	percent
area	evidence	period
assessment	export	policy
assume	factors	principle
authority	financial	procedure
available	formula	process
benefit	function	required
concept	identified	research
consistent	income	response
constitutional	indicate	role
context	individual	section
contract	interpretation	sector
create	involved	significant
data	issues	similar
definition	labour	source
derived	legal	specific
distribution	legislation	structure
economic	major	theory
environment	method	variable

Sublist 2 of Academic Word List - Most Frequent Words in Families

This sublist contains the second most frequent words in the Academic Word List from the Academic Corpus.

achieve	design	potential
acquisition	distinction	previous
administration	elements	primary
affect	equation	purchase
appropriate	evaluation	range
aspects	features	region
assistance	final	regulations
categories	focus	relevant
chapter	impact	resident
commission	injury	resources
community	institute	restricted
complex	investment	security
computer	items	sought
conclusion	journal	select
conduct	maintenance	site
consequences	normal	strategies
construction	obtained	survey
consumer	participation	text
credit	perceived	traditional
cultural	positive	transfer

Sublist 3 of Academic Word List - Most Frequent Words in Families

This sublist contains the third most frequent words of the Academic Word List in the Academic Corpus.

alternative	emphasis	philosophy
circumstances	ensure	physical
comments	excluded	proportion
compensation	framework	published
components	funds	reaction
consent	illustrated	registered
considerable	immigration	reliance
constant	implies	removed
constraints	initial	scheme
contribution	instance	sequence
convention	interaction	sex
coordination	justification	shift
core	layer	specified
corporate	link	sufficient
corresponding	location	task
criteria	maximum	technical
deduction	minorities	techniques
demonstrate	negative	technology
document	outcomes	validity
dominant	partnership	volume

Sublist 4 of Academic Word List - Most Frequent Words in Families

This sublist contains the fourth most frequent words of the Academic Word List in the Academic Corpus.

access	error	parallel
adequate	ethnic	parameters
annual	goals	phase
apparent	granted	predicted
approximated	hence	principal
attitudes	hypothesis	prior
attributed	implementation	professional
civil	implications	project
code	imposed	promote
commitment	integration	regime
communication	internal	resolution
concentration	investigation	retained
conference	job	series
contrast	label	statistics
cycle	mechanism	status
debate	obvious	stress
despite	occupational	subsequent
dimensions	option	sum
domestic	output	summary
emerged	overall	undertaken

Sublist 5 of Academic Word List - Most Frequent Words in Families

academic	evolution	orientation
adjustment	expansion	perspective
alter	exposure	precise
amendment	external	prime
aware	facilitate	psychology
capacity	fundamental	pursue
challenge	generated	ratio
clause	generation	rejected
compounds	image	revenue
conflict	liberal	stability
consultation	licence	styles
contact	logic	substitution
decline	marginal	sustainable
discretion	medical	symbolic
draft	mental	target
enable	modified	transition
energy	monitoring	trend
enforcement	network	version
entities	notion	welfare
equivalent	objective	whereas

Sublist 6 of Academic Word List - Most Frequent Words in Families

abstract	exceed	migration
accurate	expert	minimum
acknowledged	explicit	ministry
aggregate	federal	motivation
allocation	fees	neutral
assigned	flexibility	nevertheless
attached	furthermore	overseas
author	gender	preceding
bond	ignored	presumption
brief	incentive	rational
capable	incidence	recovery
cited	incorporated	revealed
cooperative	index	scope
discrimination	inhibition	subsidiary
display	initiatives	tapes
diversity	input	trace
domain	instructions	transformation
edition	intelligence	transport
enhanced	interval	underlying
estate	lecture	utility

Sublist 7 of Academic Word List - Most Frequent Words in Families

adaptation	empirical	phenomenon
adults	equipment	priority
advocate	extract	prohibited
aid	file	publication
channel	finite	quotation
chemical	foundation	release
classical	global	reverse
comprehensive	grade	simulation
comprise	guarantee	solely
confirmed	hierarchical	somewhat
contrary	identical	submitted
converted	ideology	successive
couple	inferred	survive
decades	innovation	thesis
definite	insert	topic
deny	intervention	transmission
differentiation	isolated	ultimately
disposal	media	unique
dynamic	mode	visible
eliminate	paradigm	voluntary

Sublist 8 of Academic Word List - Most Frequent Words in Families

abandon	deviation	plus
accompanied	displacement	practitioners
accumulation	dramatic	predominantly
ambiguous	eventually	prospect
appendix	exhibit	radical
appreciation	exploitation	random
arbitrary	fluctuations	reinforced
automatically	guidelines	restore
bias	highlighted	revision
chart	implicit	schedule
clarity	induced	tension
conformity	inevitably	termination
commodity	infrastructure	theme
complement	inspection	thereby
contemporary	intensity	uniform
contradiction	manipulation	vehicle
crucial	minimised	via
currency	nuclear	virtually
denote	offset	widespread
detected	paragraph	visual

Sublist 9 of Academic Word List - Most Frequent Words in Families

<u>accommodation</u>	<u>duration</u>	<u>preliminary</u>
<u>analogous</u>	<u>erosion</u>	<u>protocol</u>
<u>anticipated</u>	<u>ethical</u>	<u>qualitative</u>
<u>assurance</u>	<u>format</u>	<u>refine</u>
<u>attained</u>	<u>founded</u>	<u>relaxed</u>
<u>behalf</u>	<u>inherent</u>	<u>restraints</u>
<u>bulk</u>	<u>insights</u>	<u>revolution</u>
<u>ceases</u>	<u>integral</u>	<u>rigid</u>
<u>coherence</u>	<u>intermediate</u>	<u>route</u>
<u>coincide</u>	<u>manual</u>	<u>scenario</u>
<u>commenced</u>	<u>mature</u>	<u>sphere</u>
<u>incompatible</u>	<u>mediation</u>	<u>subordinate</u>
<u>concurrent</u>	<u>medium</u>	<u>supplementary</u>
<u>confined</u>	<u>military</u>	<u>suspended</u>
<u>controversy</u>	<u>minimal</u>	<u>team</u>
<u>conversely</u>	<u>mutual</u>	<u>temporary</u>
<u>device</u>	<u>norms</u>	<u>trigger</u>
<u>devoted</u>	<u>overlap</u>	<u>unified</u>
<u>diminished</u>	<u>passive</u>	<u>violation</u>
<u>distortion</u>	<u>portion</u>	<u>vision</u>

Sublist 10 of the Academic Word List - Most Frequent Words in Families

This sublist contains the least frequent words of the Academic Word List in the Academic Corpus.

adjacent	enormous	odd
albeit	forthcoming	ongoing
assembly	inclination	panel
collapse	integrity	persistent
colleagues	intrinsic	posed
compiled	invoked	reluctant
conceived	levy	so-called
convinced	likewise	straightforward
depression	nonetheless	undergo
encountered	notwithstanding	whereby

