

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
adjustment
alter
amendment
aware
capacity
challenge
clause
compounds
conflict
consultation
contact
decline
discretion
draft
enable
energy
enforcement
entities
equivalent

evolution
expansion
exposure
external
facilitate
fundamental
generated
generation
image
liberal
licence
logic
marginal
medical
mental
modified
monitoring
network
notion
objective

orientation
perspective
precise
prime
psychology
pursue
ratio
rejected
revenue
stability
styles
substitution
sustainable
symbolic
target
transition
trend
version
welfare
whereas

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

abstract
accurate
acknowledged
aggregate
allocation
assigned
attached
author
bond
brief
capable
cited
cooperative
discrimination
display
diversity
domain
edition
enhanced
estate

exceed
expert
explicit
federal
fees
flexibility
furthermore
gender
ignored
incentive
incidence
incorporated
index
inhibition
initiatives
input
instructions
intelligence
interval
lecture

migration
minimum
ministry
motivation
neutral
nevertheless
overseas
preceding
presumption
rational
recovery
revealed
scope
subsidiary
tapes
trace
transformation
transport
underlying
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

accommodation
analogous
anticipated
assurance
attained
behalf
bulk
ceases
coherence
coincide
commenced
incompatible
concurrent
confined
controversy
conversely
device
devoted
diminished
distortion

duration
erosion
ethical
format
founded
inherent
insights
integral
intermediate
manual
mature
mediation
medium
military
minimal
mutual
norms
overlap
passive
portion

preliminary
protocol
qualitative
refine
relaxed
restraints
revolution
rigid
route
scenario
sphere
subordinate
supplementary
suspended
team
temporary
trigger
unified
violation
vision

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
albeit
assembly
collapse
colleagues
compiled
conceived
convinced
depression
encountered

enormous
forthcoming
inclination
integrity
intrinsic
invoked
levy
likewise
nonetheless
notwithstanding

odd
ongoing
panel
persistent
posed
reluctant
so-called
straightforward
undergo
whereby

