

# Academic vocabulary

Daniel Gerrard

[daniel.gerrard@cjv.muni.cz](mailto:daniel.gerrard@cjv.muni.cz)

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**What is academic vocabulary?**

# Characteristics of academic vocabulary

Academic vocabulary is often described as:

- formal
- precise
- objective
- complex

But what do these terms actually mean? See here for more:

<https://www.monash.edu/rlo/research-writing-assignments/writing/features-of-academic-writing/academic-language>

<http://www.uefap.net/writing/writing-features/writing-features-introduction>

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# **Academic vs. technical vocabulary**

# Academic or technical? (1)

- **Academic vocabulary** (or ‘sub-technical’): Words that are high frequency across a range of academic disciplines and less frequent outside academic discourse.
- **Technical vocabulary**: Words that are high in frequency in a particular subject area and less frequent outside that area (for example, in medicine: ‘pulmonary’, ‘anaemia’).

# Academic or technical? (2)

Firms around the world increasingly deploy political strategies collectively with other firms (e.g., through industry associations) to affect government policy outcomes to their advantage, often reaping significant economic rents when they are successful. The basic logic behind these collective political strategies traces its origins back to the economic theories of regulation and rent-seeking, which consider the government a source of economic rents that are pursued by firms and interest groups.

Taken from <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1057/s41267-019-00238-4>

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# Academic or technical? (3)

Firms around the world increasingly deploy political strategies collectively with other firms (e.g., through industry associations) to affect government policy outcomes to their advantage, often reaping significant economic rents when they are successful. The basic logic behind these collective political strategies traces its origins back to the **economic theories** of regulation and rent-seeking, which consider the government a source of economic rents that are pursued by firms and interest groups.

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# The Academic Word List (AWL)

# What is the AWL?

- 570 most frequent academic word families
- 10 sub-lists (ranked by frequency)
- 10% coverage of written academic texts (40 words per page)
- Developed by Averil Coxhead (2000)
- Aimed at students on English Medium Instruction programmes

(Coxhead 2000; Webb and Nation 2017)

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# Headwords and word families

analyse

analysed

analyser

analysers

analyses

analysing

*analysis*

analyst

analysts

analytic

analytical

analytically

analyze

analyzed

analyzes

analyzing

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**How many do you know already?**

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# Answer key (Test A)

|   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 5 analysis<br>6 income<br>1 environment   | 3 variable<br>6 issue<br>4 method       | 1 site<br>4 maintenance<br>2 commission     | 2 culture<br>6 resource<br>5 evaluation   | 6 volume<br>5 sequence<br>4 fund        |
| 2 alternative<br>1 contribution<br>3 task | 6 cycle<br>1 regime<br>2 status         | 1 commit<br>3 access<br>4 emerge            | 3 conflict<br>6 objective<br>5 psychology | 5 equivalent<br>4 mental<br>1 academic  |
| 4 lecture<br>3 abstract<br>6 fee          | 4 estate<br>1 incentive<br>3 allocation | 6 voluntary<br>2 definite<br>3 hierarchical | 4 eliminate<br>1 confirm<br>2 insert      | 4 intensity<br>6 appendix<br>3 schedule |
| 1 radical<br>3 contemporary<br>5 implicit | 5 attain<br>4 coincide<br>6 distort     | 3 controversy<br>2 team<br>1 accommodation  | 6 reluctant<br>3 odd<br>5 enormous        |   |

# How to use the AWL



TE WHARE WĀNANGA O TE ĪPOKO O TE IKA A MĀUI

## School of Linguistics and Applied Language Studies

Te Kura Tātari Reo

↑ Academic Word List information

| How to use this list

Academic Word List selection

The sublists

The Academic Corpus

References

▶ [School of Linguistics and Applied Language Studies](#) ▶ [Resources and publications](#) ▶ [Academic Word List information](#) ▶ How to use this list

## How to use this list

The headwords of the Academic Word List (AWL) are the stem form of the words. The number after each headword is the sublist the word family is in. The sublists have the word families of the AWL with the most frequently used member of the family in italics. Table 1 on [The Sublists](#) page shows the coverage of the sublists over the [Academic Corpus](#) (a corpus is a body or collection of texts) and the number of pages of text a learner needs to read in order to encounter the words.

## The Words in the academic word list should be learned in several ways

1. Learners should read academic texts and listen to academic lectures and discussions. Where possible, the written and spoken texts should not be too difficult for learners, with no more than about 5% of the running words in the texts being new words for the learners.
2. Learners should have the chance to speak in academic discussion and write academic texts using academic vocabulary.

# Useful links and resources



VICTORIA  
UNIVERSITY  
WELLINGTON  
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School of  
Linguistics and Applied Language Studies  
Te Kura Tātari Reo

Academic Word List

Academic Word List information

Academic Word List sublist families

Academic Word List headwords

Academic Word List most frequent words in sublists

Useful links

[School of Linguistics and Applied Language Studies](#) > [Resources and publications](#) > [Academic Word List](#) > [Useful links](#)

## Useful links

- [Order a copy of the AWL](#)
- [Coxhead, A. \(2006\) \*Essentials of Teaching Academic Vocabulary\*.](#)
  - — Essentials of Teaching Academic English series. Boston: Heinle Cengage

## Dictionaries that Include the academic word list

- [Longman Exams Dictionary](#)
- Oxford Student's Dictionary of English

## Textbooks based on the academic word list

- Coxhead, A. & Nation, P. (2018). [Reading for the academic world, 1, 2, 3](#). Sache, Texas: Seed Learning

# Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary

  analyse *verb*  
(British English)  
(North American English **analyze**)  
BrE /'ænəlaɪz/ ; NAmE /'ænəlaɪz/   
**+ Verb Forms**

1 ★  to examine the nature or structure of something, especially by separating it into its parts, in order to understand or explain it

- **analyse something** *The job involves gathering and analysing data.*
- *He tried to analyse his feelings.*
- *The first step is to define and analyse the problem.*
- *The results must be analysed in detail.*
- **analyse what, how, etc...** *We need to analyse what went wrong.*

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# **Technical vocabulary: business studies**

# Business word list (Coventry University)

100 words that occur more frequently in Business assignments than in the BAWE corpus as a whole

| lemma       | Score |
|-------------|-------|
| employee    | 9.0   |
| customer    | 5.7   |
| company     | 5.6   |
| management  | 5.5   |
| strategy    | 5.2   |
| manager     | 5.0   |
| firm        | 4.9   |
| market      | 4.7   |
| business    | 4.6   |
| performance | 4.1   |

# UEFAP Business studies list

accrual, accrued, administered, administers, advantageous, adverse, adversity, advertisers, affiliate, affiliation, after-sales, alliance, alliances, allied, amalgamation, antitrust, appraisal, appropriated, appropriation, arbitrate, arbitration, arbitrator, arbitrators, ascertain, asset, assets, audit, auditing, authoritarian, autonomy, average-income, award, bad-debt, bankrupt, bankruptcy, barter, benchmark, bid, bidders, bids, bondholder, bondholders, bonuses, bookkeepers, bookkeeping, boss, brand, branded, brands, broker, brokerage, brokering, brokers, budget, budgeting, budgets, bureaucracy, bureaucrats, business-cycle, business-oriented, buy-out, by-product, by-products, campaign, campaigned, campaigns, capital-goods, capitalism, capitalist, capitalistic, capitalists, cartel, cash, cash-disbursements, cash-receipts, causal, centralised, CEO, chairperson, charter, circulate, circulated, circulating, circulation, circulations, clerical, coalition, coercion, coexist, coexists, collaboration, collaborator, collateral, collective-bargaining, column, columns, commensurate, commitment, competitive, competitive-based, competitor, competitors, computerisation, computerised, concessions, conciliation, confidentiality, conflation, conglomerate, conglomerates, conservation, conservatism, conservative, conservatives, consolidated, consolidating, consolidation, consumerism, consumerist, cooperatives, cost-benefit, cost-of-living, cost-price, coupon, coupons, credit, credit-rating, credit-reporting, creditworthiness, cross-holdings, customer-by-customer, cyclical, dealership, debentures, debit, debits, debtor, debtors, decelerating, decentralisation, decentralised, decision-making, deferred-payment, deficit, deficits, deflation, deflations, delegation, demand-pull, demarcate, democracies, democracy, democratic, deposit, deposited, depositing, depositors, deposits, depreciate, depreciated, depreciation, depressions, deregulate, determinant, determinants, devaluation, devaluations, devalue, devalued, differential, direct-mail, discount, discounts, disinvestment, dissolution, dissolve, dissolved, dividend, dividends, door-to-door, double-entry, down-market, downtown, downturns, durable, durables, ecological, econometric, econometricians, econometrics, economise, economy-minded, edict, efficiently, end-product, end-user, enterprise, enterprises, entrepreneur, entrepreneurs, equilibrium, equitable, equities, equity, eurodollar, executive, executives, expenditure, expenditures, fair-trade, fiscal, fixtures, floating-rate, flotation, for-profit, franchise, franchises, franchising, free-enterprise, free-market, free-trade, GDP, GNP, going-concern, gold-exchange, goods, government-issued, government-owned, government-sponsored, gross, hedge, hedging, high-income, hyperinflation, hyperinflations, import, imported, importer, importers, importing, imports, inconvertible-credit, indebtedness, inefficiency, inelastic, inequities, inferior, inflated, inflation, inflationary, inflations, input-output, insolvency, insolvent, inventories, inventory, invoice, just-in-time, laissez-faire, lease, leased, leasing, legal-tender, leveraged, liabilities, liability, liable, life-styles, liquidate, liquidation, liquidator, liquidity, loaned, loaning, longer-term, long-run, long-term, loss-leader, low-income, macroeconomic, macroeconomics, mail-order, managements, managerial, marginalised, marketer, marketers, marketplace, medium-term, memorandum, mercantile, mercantilism, mercantilist, mercantilists, merchandise, merchandiser, merchandisers, merchandising, merchantable, merge, merged, merger, mergers, merging, microeconomic, microeconomics, middle-man, minimum-wage, mismanagement, monetarism, monetarists, monetary, monies, monopolies, monopolise, monopolist, monopolistic, monopoly, multilateral, multinational, multiplier, nationalisation, nationalise, nationalised, negotiable, negotiate, negotiated, negotiating, negotiation, negotiations, niche, non-business, non-business-oriented, non-capitalist, nongovernmental, objectives, oligopolies, oligopoly, on-the-job, optimal, optimise, organisational, outflow, outsourcing, overdraft, overdraw, overhead, over-priced, overproduction, packaged, packaging, partnership, partnerships, patent, patents, payable, personnel, petrodollars, portfolio, post-capitalist, pre-Keynes, premium, premiums, present-day, price-level, price-reduced, privatised, procurement, product-line, product-price, profitability, profitably, profit-and-loss, profit-making, profit-maximisation, profit-seeking, promotional, proprietary, prosperous, protectionism, pro-western, publicised, publicising, publicising, public-relations, quantitative, quota, quotas, ratings, rationing, receivable, receivables, recession, rechargeable, recipient, recipients, reciprocal, reconcile, reconciliation, recourse, recruited, recycling, redundancy, redundant, reference, refineries, reform, refrigeration, refund, refunds, reincorporated, reintegrated, remit, remittances, rental, reorganised, reparations, repay, repayment, replicate, repurchase, reputable, resale, residual, retail, retailer, retailers, retailing, revaluation, revalue, revival, rising-price, sack, saleability, salesmen, salesmanship, salespeople, salesperson, salespersons, seasonal, segment, segmented, segments, self-contained, self-correcting, self-employed, self-interest, self-regulation, self-service, serviceable, shareholder, shareholders, shareholding, shareholdings, shortages, single-entry, single-firm, single-product, small-scale, socialism, socialist, socialists, social-welfare, solvency, solvent, specialises, specialities, speculate, speculating, speculation, spiral, splintered, sponsored, sponsoring, sponsorship, staffing, stagflation, stagnation, stake, stakeholder, standardised, staple, state-of-the-art, statute, statutes, sterling, stockbroker, stockbrokers, stock-exchange, stockholder, stockholders, stock-holders, stock-issuing, sub-contract, sub-contractor, subsidiaries, subsidiary, subsistence, supply-side, surplus, takeover, tangible, tariff, tariffs, taxation, tax-deductible, telemarketers, telemarketing, thrift, tourism, trademark, trademarks, trade-union, transact, transacted, transaction, transactions, underemployment, undertakings, underwrite, underwriters, unskilled, up-market, utility-maximising, VAT, venture, ventures, warehouse, warehouses, warehousing, warranty, watchdogs, wholesaler, wholesalers, wholesaling, workforce