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Academic vocabulary (2)

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What is academic vocabulary?



How to use the AWL

 VICTORIA UNIVERSITY WELLINGTON
TE WHARE WĀNANGA O TE ĀPOKO 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

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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 subfamily the word belongs to. 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.

Lexical (content) words vs. function words

Which kind of words are more common in academic texts?

lexical words

nouns

adjectives

verbs

adverbs

function words

prepositions

determiners

primary auxiliaries

pronouns

coordinators

modal auxiliaries

subordinators

adverb particles

Lexical (content) words vs. function words

lexical words (51%)

nouns 30%

adjectives 9%

verbs 8%

adverbs 4%

function words (49%)

prepositions 13.8%

determiners 9.3%

primary auxiliaries 5.8%

pronouns 3.5%

coordinators 3.7%

modal auxiliaries 1.5%

subordinators 1.2%

adverb particles 0.3%

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Phrases for academic writing

The Oxford Phrasal Academic Lexicon (OPAL)

1. *Specifying topics and relations between ideas* 370 phrases / 15 functions

in terms of

in relation to

in/within the context of

with respect to

with regard to

related to

relating to

the relationship between

as to

concerned with

linked to

relevant to

in accordance with

in respect of

from the point of view of

from the perspective of

focus on

in particular

in question

as part of

the question of (whether or not)

the concept of

the idea of

the notion of

the problem of

the issue of

OPAL functions

Specifying topics and relations between ideas
Drawing attention to something or focusing on it
Hedging and expressing degrees of certainty
Explaining and defining
Giving examples or presenting evidence
Expressing aims, causes and effects
Making contrasts
Comparing
Adding
Expressing quantity/degree and increase/decrease
Expressing the existence/non-existence of something
Referring to the text and to other texts
Referring to time
Phrases with (the) (noun) of
Miscellaneous

Academic Phrasebank (1)

Referring to data in a table or chart

| | | |
|---------------------|---|---|
| Table 1 Figure 1 | shows compares presents provides | an overview of ... the experimental data on X. the summary statistics for ... the breakdown of X according to ... the intercorrelations among the nine measures of X. the results obtained from the preliminary analysis of X. |
|---------------------|---|---|

| | |
|---|---|
| The table below illustrates The pie chart above shows The top half of the table shows The bottom half of the table shows | some of the main characteristics of the ... the breakdown of ... |
|---|---|

Academic Phrasebank (2)

Highlighting significant data in a table or chart

What stands out in the table is ...

Closer inspection of the table shows ...

It is apparent from this table that very few ...

The most interesting aspect of this graph is ...

In Fig.10 there is a clear trend of decreasing ...

What is striking about the figures in this table is ...

What is interesting about the data in this table is that ...

The differences between X and Y are highlighted in Table 4.

From the chart, it can be seen that by far the greatest demand is for ...

From this data, we can see that Study 2 resulted in the lowest value of ...

This table is quite revealing in several ways. First, unlike the other tables ...