

## The Academic Word List

The most frequently used 2,000 words in the English language - known as the **common core** - cover approximately 75% of texts that learners are going to encounter. However the common core does not include much of the formal language required for high achievement.

Research has identified an **Academic Word List (AWL)**, which relates to words needed by students to access and understand academic texts. It comprises 570 word families that are not in the most frequent 2,000 words of English but which occur reasonably frequently. When added to the common core, this provides access to approximately 90% of texts.

**These words are commonly used in the language of the classroom, and often as command words in questions, but often pass learners by. How can we be sure that all learners will know what we mean by the use of formal language unless we are explicit in our teaching of it?**

This list contains the headwords of the families in the academic word list. The numbers indicate the sub list of the academic word list, with Sub list 1 containing the most frequently occurring words and Sub list 10 the least frequent.

abandon 8	ambiguous 8	author 6	clause 5	concept 1	contrast 4
abstract 6	amend 5	authority 1	code 4	conclude 2	contribute 3
academy 5	analogy 9	automate 8	coherent 9	concurrent 9	controversy 9
access 4	analyse 1	available 1	coincide 9	conduct 2	convene 3
accommodate 9	annual 4	aware 5	collapse 10	confer 4	converse 9
accompany 8	anticipate 9	behalf 9	colleague 10	confine 9	convert 7
accumulate 8	apparent 4	benefit 1	commence 9	confirm 7	convince 10
accurate 6	append 8	bias 8	comment 3	conflict 5	cooperate 6
achieve 2	appreciate 8	bond 6	commission 2	conform 8	coordinate 3
acknowledge 6	approach 1	brief 6	commit 4	consent 3	core 3
acquire 2	appropriate 2	bulk 9	commodity 8	consequent 2	corporate 3
adapt 7	approximate 4	capable 6	communicate 4	considerable 3	correspond 3
adequate 4	arbitrary 8	capacity 5	community 2	consist 1	couple 7
adjacent 10	area 1	category 2	compatible 9	constant 3	create 1
adjust 5	aspect 2	cease 9	compensate 3	constitute 1	credit 2
administrate 2	assemble 10	challenge 5	compile 10	constrain 3	criteria 3
adult 7	assess 1	channel 7	complement 8	construct 2	crucial 8
advocate 7	assign 6	chapter 2	complex 2	consult 5	culture 2
affect 2	assist 2	chart 8	component 3	consume 2	currency 8
aggregate 6	assume 1	chemical 7	compound 5	contact 5	cycle 4
aid 7	assure 9	circumstance 3	comprehensive 7	contemporary 8	data 1
albeit 10	attach 6	cite 6	comprise 7	context 1	debate 4
allocate 6	attain 9	civil 4	compute 2	contract 1	decade 7
alter 5	attitude 4	clarify 8	conceive 10	contradict 8	decline 5
alternative 3	attribute 4	classic 7	concentrate 4	contrary 7	deduce 3

define 1	empirical 7	impact 2	interpret 1	mental 5	panel 10
definite 7	enable 5	implement 4	interval 6	method 1	paradigm 7
demonstrate 3	encounter 10	implicate 4	intervene 7	migrate 6	paragraph 8
denote 8	energy 5	implicit 8	intrinsic 10	military 9	parallel 4
deny 7	enforce 5	imply 3	invest 2	minimal 9	parameter 4
depress 10	enhance 6	impose 4	investigate 4	minimise 8	participate 2
derive 1	enormous 10	incentive 6	invoke 10	minimum 6	partner 3
design 2	ensure 3	incidence 6	involve 1	ministry 6	passive 9
despite 4	entity 5	incline 10	isolate 7	minor 3	per cent 1
detect 8	format 9	income 1	issue 1	mode 7	perceive 2
deviate 8	formula 1	incorporate 6	item 2	modify 5	period 1
device 9	forthcoming 10	index 6	job 4	monitor 5	persist 10
devote 9	found 9	indicate 1	journal 2	motive 6	perspective 5
differentiate 7	foundation 7	individual 1	justify 3	mutual 9	phase 4
dimension 4	framework 3	induce 8	label 4	negate 3	phenomenon 7
diminish 9	function 1	inevitable 8	labour 1	network 5	philosophy 3
discrete 5	fund 3	infer 7	layer 3	neutral 6	physical 3
discriminate 6	fundamental 5	infrastructure 8	lecture 6	nevertheless 6	plus 8
displace 8	furthermore 6	inherent 9	legal 1	nonetheless 10	policy 1
display 6	gender 6	inhibit 6	legislate 1	norm 9	portion 9
dispose 7	generate 5	initial 3	levy 10	normal 2	pose 10
distinct 2	generation 5	initiate 6	liberal 5	notion 5	positive 2
distort 9	globe 7	injure 2	licence 5	notwithstanding 10	potential 2
distribute 1	goal 4	innovate 7	likewise 10	nuclear 8	practitioner 8
diverse 6	grade 7	input 6	link 3	objective 5	precede 6
document 3	grant 4	insert 7	locate 3	obtain 2	precise 5
domain 6	guarantee 7	insight 9	logic 5	obvious 4	predict 4
domestic 4	guideline 8	inspect 8	maintain 2	occupy 4	predominant 8
dominate 3	hence 4	instance 3	major 1	occur 1	preliminary 9
draft 5	hierarchy 7	institute 2	manipulate 8	odd 10	presume 6
drama 8	highlight 8	instruct 6	manual 9	offset 8	previous 2
duration 9	hypothesis 4	integral 9	margin 5	ongoing 10	professional 4
dynamic 7	identical 7	integrate 4	mature 9	option 4	prohibit 7
economy 1	identify 1	integrity 10	maximise 3	orient 5	project 4
edit 6	ideology 7	intelligence 6	mechanism 4	outcome 3	promote 4
element 2	ignorance 6	intense 8	media 7	output 4	proportion 3
eliminate 7	illustrate 3	interact 3	mediate 9	overall 4	prospect 8
emerge 4	image 5	intermediate 9	medical 5	overlap 9	protocol 9
emphasis 3	immigrate 3	internal 4	medium 9	overseas 6	psychology 5

publication 7	revise 8	subsequent 4	undergo 10
publish 3	revolution 9	subsidy 6	underlie 6
purchase 2	rigid 9	substitute 5	undertake 4
pursue 5	role 1	successor 7	uniform 8
qualitative 9	route 9	sufficient 3	unify 9
quote 7	scenario 9	sum 4	unique 7
radical 8	schedule 8	summary 4	utilise 6
random 8	scheme 3	supplement 9	valid 3
range 2	scope 6	survey 2	vary 1
ratio 5	section 1	survive 7	vehicle 8
rational 6	sector 1	suspend 9	version 5
react 3	secure 2	sustain 5	via 8
recover 6	seek 2	symbol 5	violate 9
refine 9	select 2	tape 6	virtual 8
regime 4	sequence 3	target 5	visible 7
region 2	series 4	task 3	vision 9
register 3	sex 3	team 9	visual 8
regulate 2	shift 3	technical 3	volume 3
reinforce 8	significant 1	technique 3	voluntary 7
reject 5	similar 1	technology 3	welfare 5
relax 9	simulate 7	temporary 9	whereas 5
release 7	site 2	tense 8	whereby 10
relevant 2	so-called 10	terminate 8	
reluctance 10	sole 7	text 2	
rely 3	somewhat 7	theme 8	
remove 3	source 1	theory 1	
require 1	specific 1	thereby 8	
research 1	specify 3	thesis 7	
reside 2	sphere 9	topic 7	
resolve 4	stable 5	trace 6	
resource 2	statistic 4	tradition 2	
respond 1	status 4	transfer 2	
restore 8	straightforward 10	transform 6	
restrain 9	strategy 2	transit 5	
restrict 2	stress 4	transmit 7	
retain 4	structure 1	transport 6	
reveal 6	style 5	trend 5	
revenue 5	submit 7	trigger 9	
reverse 7	subordinate 9	ultimate 7	

