

Chapter Eight - Vocabulary

The academic word list

Here are the headwords of Coxhead's New Academic Word List (2000) divided into sublists.

1) analyse, approach, area, assess, assume, authority, available, benefit, concept, consist, constitute, context, contract, create, data, define, derive, distribute, economy, environment, establish, estimate, evident, export, factor, finance, formula, function, identify, income, indicate, individual, interpret, involve, issue, labour, legal, legislate, major, method, occur, percent, period, policy, principle, proceed, process, require, research, respond, role, section, sector, significant, similar, source, specific, structure, theory, vary

2) achieve, acquire, administrate, affect, appropriate, aspect, assist, category, chapter, commission, community, complex, compute, conclude, conduct, consequent, construct, consume, credit, culture, design, distinct, element, equate, evaluate, feature, final, focus, impact, injure, institute, invest, item, journal, maintain, normal, obtain, participate, perceive, positive, potential, previous, primary, purchase, range, region, regulate, relevant, reside, resource, restrict, secure, seek, select, site, strategy, survey, text, tradition, transfer

3) alternative, circumstance, comment, compensate, component, consent, considerable, constant, constrain, contribute, convene, coordinate, core, corporate, correspond, criteria, deduce, demonstrate, document, dominate, emphasis, ensure, exclude, framework, fund, illustrate, immigrate, imply, initial, instance, interact, justify, layer, link, locate, maximise, minor, negate, outcome, partner, philosophy, physical, proportion, publish, react, register, rely, remove, scheme, sequence, sex, shift, specify, sufficient, task, technical, technique, technology, valid, volume

4) access, adequate, annual, apparent, approximate, attitude, attribute, civil, code, commit, communicate, concentrate, confer, contrast, cycle, debate, despite, dimension, domestic, emerge, error, ethnic, goal, grant, hence, hypothesis, implement, implicate, impose, integrate, internal, investigate, job, label, mechanism, obvious, occupy, option, output, overall, parallel, parameter, phase, predict, principal, prior, professional, project, promote, regime, resolve, retain, series, statistic, status, stress, subsequent, sum, summary, undertake

5) academy, adjust, alter, amend, aware, capacity, challenge, clause, compound, conflict, consult, contact, decline, discrete, draft, enable, energy, enforce, entity, equivalent, evolve, expand, expose, external, facilitate, fundamental, generate, generation, image, liberal, license, logic, margin, medical, mental, modify, monitor, network, notion, objective, orient, perspective, precise, prime, psychology, pursue, ratio, reject, revenue, stable, style, substitute, sustain, symbol, target, transit, trend, version, welfare, whereas

6) abstract, accurate, acknowledge, aggregate, allocate, assign, attach, author, bond, brief, capable, cite, cooperate, discriminate, display, diverse, domain, edit, enhance, estate, exceed, expert, explicit, federal, fee, flexible, furthermore, gender, ignorant, incentive, incidence, incorporate, index, inhibit, initiate, input, instruct, intelligence, interval, lecture, migrate, minimum, ministry, motive, neutral, nevertheless, overseas, precede, presume, rational, recover, reveal, scope, subsidy, tape, trace, transform, transport, underlie, utilise

7) adapt, adult, advocate, aid, channel, chemical, classic, comprehensive, comprise, confirm, contrary, convert, couple, decade, definite, deny, differentiate, dispose, dynamic, eliminate, empirical, equip, extract, file, finite, foundation, globe, grade, guarantee, hierarchy, identical, ideology, infer, innovate, insert, intervene, isolate, media, mode, paradigm, phenomenon, priority, prohibit, publication, quote, release, reverse, simulate, sole, somewhat, submit, successor, survive, thesis, topic, transmit, ultimate, unique, visible, voluntary

8) abandon, accompany, accumulate, ambiguous, append, appreciate, arbitrary, automate, bias, chart, clarify, commodity, complement, conform, contemporary, contradict, crucial, currency, denote, detect, deviate, displace, drama, eventual, exhibit, exploit, fluctuate, guideline, highlight, implicit, induce, inevitable, infrastructure, inspect, intense, manipulate, minimise, nuclear, offset, paragraph, plus, practitioner, predominant, prospect, radical, random, reinforce, restore, revise, schedule, tense, terminate, theme, thereby, uniform, vehicle, via, virtual, visual, widespread

9) accommodate, analogy, anticipate, assure, attain, behalf, bulk, cease, coherent, coincide, commence, compatible, concurrent, confine, controversy, converse, device, devote, diminish, distort, duration, erode, ethic, format, founded, inherent, insight, integral, intermediate, manual, mature, mediate, medium, military, minimal, mutual, norm, overlap, passive, portion, preliminary, protocol, qualitative, refine, relax, restrain, revolution, rigid, route, scenario, sphere, subordinate, supplement, suspend, team, temporary, trigger, unify, violate, vision

10) adjacent, albeit, assemble, collapse, colleague, compile, conceive, convince, depress, encounter, enormous, forthcoming, incline, integrity, intrinsic, invoke, levy, likewise, nonetheless, notwithstanding, odd, ongoing, panel, persist, pose, reluctance, so-called, straightforward, undergo, whereby

In groups, for each list, take turns to explain a word or provide a synonym.

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About the academic word list

The Academic Word List contains 570 word families, divided into sublists according to frequency of occurrence in academic texts. The headword is the most common word in the family. For example; *analyse* is the headword of the first word in sublist 1. Members of this family are; *analysed, analyser, analysers, analyses, analysing, analysis, analyst, analysts, analytic, analytical, and analytically.*

Academic word list families

In order to master the AWL (Academic Word List), you will also need to become familiar with the words in each of the 570 semantic fields.

Work with a partner. You are A. Fill in the chart below. (Some boxes will remain empty).

	Noun	Verb	Adjective	Adverb
achieve				
acquire				
administrate				
analyse				
approach				
appropriate				
assume				
benefit				
category				
comment				
compensate				
compute				
concept				
conclude				
consequent				
consist				
constrain				
construct				
consume				
coordinate				
create				
define				
derive				
despite				
distinct				

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Work with a partner. You are B. Fill in the chart below. (Some boxes will remain empty).

	Noun	Verb	Adjective	Adverb
distribute				
economy				
environment				
evident				
export				
identify				
indicate				
individual				
intermediate				
interpret				
legislate				
method				
normal				
participate				
perceive				
period				
regulate				
reside				
respond				
restrict				
select				
significant				
specific				
theory				
vary				

Some headwords in the AWL have no other members in their group whereas others have many. Which of the following AWL words have a relative? Give an example for each one.

adjacent	albeit	behalf	bulk	concurrent	contrary
core	despite	duration	empirical	enormous	equivalent
explicit	furthermore	hence	intermediate	likewise	media
mode	nevertheless	nuclear	overseas	paradigm	phenomenon
plus	pose	prior	protocol	revenue	series
so-called	sole	via	vision	welfare	widespread

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Reporting verbs

On page 27, you were introduced to reporting verbs as a method of citing sources. Some of the words in the Academic Word List are also reporting verbs.

Sort these AWL reporting verbs into synonym groups. (There may be more than one solution).

advocate	assume	assure	challenge	comment	conceive
conclude	confer	confirm	contradict	deduce	define
deny	display	emphasize	estimate	highlight	hypothesize
illustrate	imply	indicate	infer	justify	maintain
negate	perceive	predict	presume	quote	reinforce
reject	respond	reveal			

doubt	
prove	
say	
show	
support	
suggest	
think	

AWL reporting verb writing practice

If you use words from the Academic Word List in your writing, you will appear more scholarly. Practice citing your sources using AWL reporting verbs from above. Use APA format.

Citation 1

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.....

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Citation 2

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.....

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AWL synonyms

Your writing will be more academic if you use academic words. The words in the chart below have synonyms which can be found as headwords among the first three sublists of the Academic Word List. (There may also alternative synonyms in subsequent AWL sublists).

Find the synonym and write it in its appropriate box.

Word	AWL synonym	Word	AWL synonym
big		make	
center		most important	
change		part (noun)	
control		separate (adj.)	
do (survey / experiment)		set up	
difficult		show	
get		small	
give		suitable	
guess		support	
happen		take part	
idea		think	
important		way	

Check with a partner. Did you choose the same words?

AWL synonym substitution practice.

Read the latest draft of your final paper assignment. Identify words which can be replaced by words from the Academic Word List.

<i>My word</i>	<i>AWL synonym</i>	<i>My word</i>	<i>AWL synonym</i>

References

Coxhead, A. (2000). A new academic word list. *TESOL Quarterly*, 34(2), 213-238.

