

I'm not a robot



In this section you can do practice tests for all groups of the academic word list. The Academic Word List (AWL) was developed by Averil Coxhead at the School of Linguistics and Applied Language Studies at Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand. The list contains 570 word families which were selected because they appear with great frequency in a broad range of academic texts. The list does not include words that are in the most frequent 2000 words of English (the General Service List), thus making it specific to academic contexts. The AWL was primarily made so that it could be used by teachers as part of a programme preparing learners for tertiary level study or used by students working alone to learn the words most needed to study at colleges and universities. The 570 words are divided into 10 Groups. The Groups are ordered such that the words in the first Group are the most frequent words and those in the last Group are the least frequent. Group 1Practice test sector • available • financial • process • individual • specific • principle • estimate • variables • method • data • research • contract • environment • export • source • assessment • policy • identified • create • derived • factors • procedure • definition • assume • theory • benefit • evidence • established • authority • major • issues • labour • occur • economic • involved • percent • interpretation • consistent • income • structure • legal • concept • formula • section • required • constitutional • analysis • distribution • function • area • approach • role • legislation • indicate • response • period • context • significant • similar • Group 2Practice test community • resident • range • construction • strategies • elements • previous • conclusion • security • aspects • acquisition • features • text • commission • regulations • computer • items • consumer • achieve • final • positive • evaluation • assistance • normal • relevant • distinction • region • traditional • impact • consequences • chapter • equation • appropriate • resources • participation • survey • potential • cultural • transfer • select • credit • affect • categories • perceived • sought • focus • purchase • injury • site • journal • primary • complex • institute • investment • administration • maintenance • design • obtained • restricted • conduct • Group 3Practice test comments • convention • published • framework • implies • negative • dominant • illustrated • outcomes • constant • shift • deduction • ensure • specified • justification • funds • reliance • physical • partnership • location • link • coordination • alternative • initial • validity • task • techniques • excluded • consent • proportion • demonstrate • reaction • criteria • minorities • technology • philosophy • removed • sex • compensation • sequence • corresponding • maximum • circumstances • instance • considerable • sufficient • corporate • interaction • contribution • immigration • component • constraints • technical • emphasis • scheme • layer • volume • document • registered • core • Group 4Practice test overall • emerged • regime • implementation • project • hence • occupational • internal • goals • retained • sum • integration • mechanism • parallel • imposed • despite • job • parameters • approximate • label • concentration • principal • series • predicted • summary • attitudes • undertaken • cycle • communication • ethnic • hypothesis • professional • status • conference • attributed • annual • obvious • error • implications • apparent • commitment • subsequent • debate • dimensions • promote • statistics • option • domestic • output • access • code • investigation • phase • prior • granted • stress • civil • contrast • resolution • adequate Group 5Practice test alter • stability • energy • aware • licence • enforcement • draft • styles • precise • medical • pursue • symbolic • marginal • capacity • generation • exposure • decline • academic • modified • external • psychology • fundamental • adjustment • ratio • whereas • enable • version • perspective • contact • network • facilitate • welfare • transition • amendment • logic • rejected • expansion • clause • prime • target • objective • sustainable • equivalent • liberal • notion • substitution • generated • trend • revenue • compounds • evolution • conflict • image • discretion • entities • orientation • revision • virtually • uniform • predominantly • thereby • implicit • tension • ambiguous • vehicle • clarity • conformity • contemporary • automatically • accumulation • appendix • widespread • infrastructure • deviation • fluctuations • restore • guidelines • commodity • minimises • practitioners • radical • plus • visual • chart • appreciation • prospect • dramatic • contradiction • currency • inevitably • complement • accompany • paragraph • induced • schedule • intensity • crucial • via • exhibit • bias • manipulation • theme • nuclear • abstract • ministry • capable • expert • preceding • display • incentive • inhibition • trace • ignored • incidence • estate • cooperative • revealed • index • lecture • discrimination • analysis • distribution • function • area • approach • role • legislation • indicate • response • period • context • significant • similar • Sublist 2 community • resident • range • construction • strategies • elements • previous • conclusion • security • aspects • acquisition • features • text • commission • regulations • computer • items • consumer • achieve • final • positive • evaluation • assistance • normal • relevant • distinction • region • traditional • impact • consequences • chapter • equation • appropriate • resources • participation • survey • potential • cultural • transfer • select • credit • affect • categories • perceived • sought • focus • purchase • injury • site • journal • primary • coordination • alternative • initial • validity • task • techniques • excluded • consent • proportion • demonstrate • reaction • criteria • minorities • technology • philosophy • removed • sex • compensation • sequence • corresponding • maximum • circumstances • instance • considerable • sufficient • corporate • interaction • contribution • immigration • component • constraints • technical • emphasis • scheme • layer • volume • document • registered • core • Sublist 4 overall • emerged • regime • implementation • project • hence • occupational • internal • goals • retained • sum • integration • mechanism • parallel • imposed • despite • job • parameters • approximate • label • concentration • principal • series • predicted • summary • attitudes • undertaken • cycle • communication • ethnic • hypothesis • professional • status • conference • attributed • annual • obvious • error • implications • apparent • commitment • subsequent • debate • dimensions • promote • statistics • option • domestic • output • access • code • investigation • phase • prior • granted • stress • civil • contrast • resolution • adequate Sublist 5 alter • 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adults • adaptation • quotation • contrary • media • successive • innovation • prohibited • isolated • Sublist 8 practice test highlighted • eventually • inspection • termination • displacement • arbitary • reinforced • denote • offset • exploitation • detected • abandon • random • highlighted • eventually • inspection • termination • displacement • arbitrary • reinforced • denote • offset • exploitation • detected • abandon • random • uniform • predominantly • thereby • implicit • tension • ambiguous • vehicle • clarity • conformity • contemporary • automatically • accumulation • appendix • widespread • infrastructure • deviation • fluctuations • restore • guidelines • commodity • minimises • practitioners • radical • plus • visual • chart • appreciation • prospect • dramatic • contradiction • currency • inevitably • complement • accompany • paragraph • induced • schedule • intensity • crucial • via • exhibit • bias • manipulation • theme • nuclear • abstract • ministry • capable • 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inclination • encountered • convinced • assembly • albeit • enormous • reluctant • posed • persistent • undergo • notwithstanding • straightforward • panel • odd • intrinsic • compiled • adjacent • integrity • forthcoming • conceived • ongoing • so-called • likewise • nonetheless • levy • invoked • colleagues • depression • collapse • sector • available • financial • process • individual • specific • principle • estimate • variables • method • data • research • contract • environment • export • source • assessment • policy • identified • create • derived • factors • procedure • definition • assume • theory • benefit • evidence • established • authority • major • issues • labour • occur • economic • involved • percent • interpretation • consistent • income • structure • legal • concept • formula • section • required • constitutional • analysis • distribution • function • area • approach • role • legislation • indicate • response • period • context • significant • similar • Sublist 2 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(2000). A New Academic Word List. TESOL Quarterly, 34(2), 213-238.
 This PDF contains the Academic Word List (AWL), developed by Averil Coxhead in 2000 at Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand. The list comprises 570 word families that are not specific to any single discipline, organised into 10 sublists according to frequency (Sublist 1 = most frequent). Overall, including all word forms = 3,000 words. Level: **** [B1/B2/C1] TEACHER MEMBERSHIP / INSTITUTIONAL MEMBERSHIP Introduction to the AWL using synonyms: Sublist 1- 4 This is a great lesson to introduce the Academic Word List (AWL). It begins with a small explanation about the AWL. This is then followed with a focus activity on Sublist 1 by identifying possible synonyms – this helps students to become acquainted with the AWL. The final activity is a sentence gap fill sheet to consolidate understanding (two worksheets: difficult or easier). The PDF book includes 4 lessons for Sublist 1-4 and an animated PowerPoint. Time: 30-60 mins per lesson / Example / PPT link in download Level **** [B1/B2/C1] TEACHER MEMBERSHIP / INSTITUTIONAL MEMBERSHIP * Academic Word Formation: Sublist 1- 4 This lesson is a word formation activity. Each table contains approximately 20 verbs and students need to add the corresponding nouns and adjectives. This then follows with a contextualised sentence gap fill using these words and a kinaesthetic activity. Good motivating activity encouraging students to use online dictionaries and help develop academic vocabulary. Time: 30mins Example Level **** [B1/B2/C1] TEACHER MEMBERSHIP / INSTITUTIONAL MEMBERSHIP * This lesson includes the 10 sublists of the Academic Word List put into tables to be cut up and used as a teaching tool. Give out one set of words to a group of 3/4 students and they take it in turns to explain their word using synonyms, explanation and definition. There are lots of other activities included too. Level **** [B1/B2] TEACHER MEMBERSHIP / INSTITUTIONAL MEMBERSHIP Free Download x Memberships (Teacher / Institutional) Full access to everything - £100 / £200 / £550 Join today*x Academic Word game: verbs to nouns 100 high frequency words taken from the Academic Word List and put into grid. In groups of four, students guess the noun for each verb. The objective is to get as many four-in-row as possible. This is a fun lesson to improve awareness of academic words and formality. Example. [webpage]. Level **** [B1/B2/C1] TEACHER MEMBERSHIP / INSTITUTIONAL MEMBERSHIP * Academic Word game: nouns to adjectives 100 high frequency words taken from the Academic Word List and put into grid. In groups of four, students guess the adjective for each noun. The objective is to get as many four-in-row as possible. This is a fun lesson to improve awareness of academic words and formality. Example. [webpage]. Difficult Level **** [B2/C1] TEACHER MEMBERSHIP / INSTITUTIONAL MEMBERSHIP * Academic Word game: word + preposition 100 high frequency words taken from the Academic Word List and put into grid. In groups of four, students guess the corresponding preposition for each word. The objective is to get as many four-in-row as possible. This is a fun lesson to improve awareness of academic words and formality. Example. [webpage]. Level **** [B1/B2/C1] TEACHER MEMBERSHIP / INSTITUTIONAL MEMBERSHIP * Academic Word game: word forms [N/v/adj] 100 high frequency words taken from the Academic Word List and put into grid. In groups of four, students guess the correct form (each word in the grid has an acronym of the word to be guessed). The objective is to get as many four-in-row as possible. This is a fun lesson to improve awareness of academic words and formality. Example. [webpage]. Level **** [B1/B2/C1] TEACHER MEMBERSHIP / INSTITUTIONAL MEMBERSHIP * Collocation (verbs / adjectives) Collocation is words that go naturally together. This sheet refers students to use a collocation website (www.ozdic.com) to ensure fluency through the correct use of adjectives and verbs with key nouns [webpage]. Level **** [B1/B2/C1] TEACHER MEMBERSHIP / INSTITUTIONAL MEMBERSHIP Free Download x Countable & uncountable nouns (General English) A great lesson to improve students' knowledge on countable and uncountable nouns. It begins with a matching activity with a variety of countable & uncountable nouns. It then includes a worksheet on sentences with common noun mistakes. This sheet reinforces quantifiers (some, any, a lot of, much, many, and phrases 'a piece of,' etc...). It finishes with a productive speaking activity. Example. Time: 30 mins Level **** [B1/B2/C1] TEACHER MEMBERSHIP / INSTITUTIONAL MEMBERSHIP Under Review * Countable and uncountable nouns (Academic English) This lesson helps improve students' awareness of countable & uncountable nouns. It includes a language review section, lots of guided practice and freer paragraph writing practice. (example) Time: 60mins. Level **** [B1/B2/C1] TEACHER MEMBERSHIP / INSTITUTIONAL MEMBERSHIP Cohesion & Coherence This worksheet helps to consolidate what 'cohesion' is with a focus on pronouns, word forms and summary nouns. It also includes a coherence sheet on key connections and two practice activities [webpage]. Example Level: **** [B2/C1] TEACHER MEMBERSHIP / INSTITUTIONAL MEMBERSHIP * This worksheet provides an explanation of the key concepts of 'parallelism' and provides an error correction exercise to practise the key concepts. An awareness of this writing element really helps establish unity and readability in sentence structure. Example. Level: **** [B1/B2/C1] TEACHER MEMBERSHIP / INSTITUTIONAL MEMBERSHIP * Memberships (Teacher / Institutional) Full access to everything - £100 / £200 / £550 Join today*x The Academic Word List (AWL) is made up of the 570 most common academic words found in academic texts. As you prepare for the test, get into the habit of learning 10 – 15 of these words every week. In this way, you will be better able to understand academic texts and express yourself in academic language.To help you learn the words on the academic word list, we have built an Android app called Key English [IELTS Vocabulary]. We have organized the vocabulary of the Academic Word List from most to least common. The app enables you to play a range of games with academic vocabulary to help you learn and remember the definitions, examples, synonyms, word-types and spelling Below is the Academic Word List. Download our FREE academic task 1 and task 2 pdf eBooks. Learn from tasks with model answers and explanatory notes.Find out more The Academic Word List is a list of 570 words that appear frequently in all academic texts. This means that they are very general academic words. They are not specially connected with any particular subject and so they are very useful for all students. The list was created by Averil Coxhead, who analysed hundreds of academic texts, from all subject areas, to see which words were common to all these texts. She then divided the 570 words into 10 lists (called sub-lists of the Academic Word List) according to how frequent they are. Sub-list 1 has the most frequent words, and sub-list 10 has the least frequent words. Each sub-list contains 60 words, except sub-list 10, which only has 30. These words are common in academic texts, but they are not so common in everyday writing or speech. This is why they are not so easy to learn, but why at the same time, it is very important for students to learn them. If you do not know these words, you will find academic word at university difficult. If you learn these words well, so that you understand them and use them easily, you will find that studying becomes easier and you should be more successful in your studies. Are there really only 570 words I have to know?It is important to understand that the 570 words are in fact head-words - they are the most common words within a word family. This means that there may be many more related words that you will also need to understand and learn. Here is an example of a word family: The most common word in this family is conclusion and this is the word you will find on the Academic Word List. sub-list 2.The Academic Word List including all the words in the word families is about 3000 words. (You can find full lists on UEFAP and Averil Coxhead's website.) This means that you also need to study how words are built, in order to expand your vocabulary further and to ensure you use words correctly in your writing and speaking.See: word building Websites featuring the Academic Word List (AWL)There are a number of interesting and useful websites which have information about the Academic Word List and exercises and tests to help you learn this vocabulary. Using English for Academic PurposesThis is a comprehensive and authoritative guide to learning academic vocabulary. The pages are clearly laid out and make useful distinctions between the General Service List (GSL), the AWL, subject specific vocabulary and less frequent vocabulary. Vocabulary Levels Test (Productive)This is part of the site created by Tom Cobb, of Quebec University, Canada as a vast and comprehensive resource for vocabulary learning. The University Word List (UWL) is similar to the AWL. The tests are simple to take and give immediate feedback. Vocabulary Exercises for the Academic Word ListThis site, by Gerry Lufon, gives a brief, clear introduction to the AWL and has a huge number of exercises. For the exercises, the word families for each sub-list have been further divided into six groups for ease of study, with three separate gap-fill exercises for each group. Academic VocabularyThis site gives basic information about the AWL and has some unique features. It provides links to printable sub-lists in Word. It also lists the words on the General Service Wordlist. It has exercises and concordances, and some brief but useful information on how to use concordances. Martin McMorro's PodcastsThis site, created by Martin McMorro an English teacher working at Massey University in New Zealand, is not exclusively based upon the AWL, but it does include a focus on basic academic vocabulary. In includes a link to - and tasks based upon - a wide range of authentic listening and reading texts. There is quite a strong emphasis on business. There is also a photo of the day and a bit about New Zealand culture. Exam EnglishThis site has two vocabulary tests based on the AWL. They involve speed reading of 4 definitions against a timer, which can be turned off. Each definition is highlighted in turn as the cursor is run over it. Immediate feedback in the form of a green Correct! that flashes up. An example sentence is given at bottom of the exercise once an answer is chosen. Exercises are divided into 'sets' of 10 questions.Student Tools: Essential Academic Vocabulary - Mastering the Complete Academic Word ListThese pages are a web-based resource for the book Student Tools: Essential Academic Vocabulary - Mastering the Complete Academic Word List by Helen Huntley. The Academic Word ListThis is the website of Averil Coxhead who created the AWL. It gives a useful list of headwords as well as sub-lists of AWL. It explains the rationale behind the AWL and gives lists of all the words in the word families. Collocation (verbs / adjectives) Collocation is words that go naturally together. This sheet refers students to use a collocation website (www.ozdic.com) to ensure fluency through the correct use of adjectives and verbs with key nouns [webpage]. Level **** [B1/B2/C1] TEACHER MEMBERSHIP / INSTITUTIONAL MEMBERSHIP Free Download x Countable & uncountable nouns (General English) A great lesson to improve students' knowledge on countable and uncountable nouns. It begins with a matching activity with a variety of countable & uncountable nouns. It then includes a worksheet on sentences with common noun mistakes. This sheet reinforces quantifiers (some, any, a lot of, much, many, and phrases 'a piece of,' etc...). It finishes with a productive speaking activity [webpage] example Time:30 mins Level **** [B1/B2/C1] TEACHER MEMBERSHIP / INSTITUTIONAL MEMBERSHIP * Countable and uncountable nouns (Academic English) [new 2021] This lesson helps improve students' awareness of countable & uncountable nouns. It includes a language review section, lots of guided practice and freer paragraph writing practice. (example) Time: 60mins. Level **** [B1/B2/C1] TEACHER MEMBERSHIP / INSTITUTIONAL MEMBERSHIP Cohesion & Coherence This worksheet helps to consolidate what 'cohesion' is with a focus on pronouns, word forms and summary nouns. It also includes a coherence sheet on key connections and two practice activities [webpage]. Example Level: **** [B2/C1] TEACHER MEMBERSHIP / INSTITUTIONAL MEMBERSHIP * Nominalisation (verbs / adjectives to nouns) [updated 2022] An introduction to nominalisation. This worksheet shows the basics of nominalising, practises changing verbs and adjectives to nouns, and includes four exercises from guided practice through to freer practice. Very good writing practice activity with a fair amount of challenge for all levels. Level **** [B1/B2/C1] Example TEACHER MEMBERSHIP / INSTITUTIONAL MEMBERSHIP * This worksheet provides an explanation of the key concepts of 'parallelism' and provides an error correction exercise to practise the key concepts. An awareness of this writing element really helps establish unity and readability in sentence structure. See Example worksheet. Level: **** [B1/B2/C1] TEACHER MEMBERSHIP / INSTITUTIONAL MEMBERSHIP * Academic Style 1: 20 key features to writing This lesson brainstorm academic style / formality in writing. Teacher conducts feedback using visual highlighting and explaining the concepts. It follows with 10x practice exercises. Time: 60mins Example Webpage link. Level **** [B1/B2/C1] / TEACHER MEMBERSHIP / INSTITUTIONAL MEMBERSHIP This lesson compares two paragraphs on CSR (informal and formal), discusses the conventions of academic style and finishes with a sentence re-writing activity. (Example) Time: 60mins. Level **** [B1/B2/C1] / Webpage link / TEACHER MEMBERSHIP / INSTITUTIONAL MEMBERSHIP This lesson focuses on two key areas of academic writing: AWL and nominalisation. There are three worksheets comprising of a number of different activities to practice categorisation and reformulation at sentence and paragraph level. (Example) Time: 60mins. Level **** [B1/B2/C1] / Webpage link. / TEACHER MEMBERSHIP / INSTITUTIONAL MEMBERSHIP Hedging #2: Cautious / tentative language [new 2020] This lesson supports students in their understanding & use of cautious / tentative language. The lesson includes six tasks of guided practice & two tasks of freer practice (example) Time: 60mins & homework. Level **** [B1/B2/C1] / TEACHER MEMBERSHIP / INSTITUTIONAL MEMBERSHIP Memberships (Teacher / Institutional) Full access to everything - £100 / £200 / £550 Join today*x The highlighted text will appear here. Sorted word list (by sublist) will appear below. Wordlists Sorted by sublist Gapfill maker Choose your flavour Create a gapfill for the above text. Choose from these different types: Gapfill will appear here. Like the website? Try the books. This extract from Unlock the Academic Wordlist: Sublists 1-3 contains all sublist 1 words, plus exercises, answers and more! Podcast is loading. Too slow? Click here to access. This page describes the Academic Word List (AWL), giving information on what the AWL is, as well as a complete list of all words in the AWL. The list is rather static. More dynamic tools for understanding and using the AWL words can be found in other sections of the website, namely the AWL highlighter and gapfill maker, AWL tag cloud and gapfill maker, the AWL finder, and a vocabulary profiler. Other pages also contain information on how to use word lists as well as more detailed information on the main different word lists available for academic study. What is the AWL? The Academic Word List (AWL), developed by Averil Coxhead at Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand, contains 570 word families which frequently appear in academic texts, but which are not contained in the General Service List (GSL). When compiling the list, the author found that the AWL covers around 10% of words in academic texts; if you are familiar with words in the GSL, which covers around 80% of words in written texts, you would have knowledge of approximately 90% of words in academic texts. The words in the AWL are not connected with any particular subject, meaning they are useful for all students. Advertisement The 570 word families of the AWL are divided into 10 lists (called sublists) according to how frequent they are. Sublist 1 has the most frequent word families, sublist 2 the next most frequent word families, up to sublist 10, which has the least frequent. Each sublist contains 60 word families, except for sublist 10, which only has 30. The list below contains all 570 headwords in the AWL, along with sublist number, and related word forms. All words contain hyperlinks to the Wordnet dictionary, hosted on this site (definitions open in an alert box on the same page). There is a downloadable copy of this list, with study guidance, in the vocabulary resources section. Below is a complete copy of the Academic Word List. It shows headwords, sublist, and individual word forms. There are hyperlinks giving definitions. There is an alternative version of the list, with frequency information for individual word forms, on another page.