Tier 2 Vocabulary Words for High School

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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 sublists. The sublists are ordered such that the words in the first sublist are the most frequent words and those in the last sublist are the least frequent.

Academic Vocabulary Word List

Sublist 1
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
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 •
Sublist 7
intervention • confirmed • definite • classical • chemical • voluntary • release • visible • finite • publication • channel • file • thesis • equipment • disposal • solely • deny • identical • submitted • grade • phenomenon • paradigm • ultimately • extract • survive • converted • transmission • global • inferred • guarantee • advocate • dynamic • simulation • topic • insert • reverse • decades • comprise • hierarchical • unique • comprehensive • couple • mode • differentiation • eliminate • priority • empirical • ideology • somewhat • aid • foundation • adults • adaptation • quotation • contrary • media • successive • innovation • prohibited • isolated •

Sublist 8
highlighted • eventually • inspection • termination • displacement • arbitrary • reinforced • denote • offset • exploitation • detected • abandon • random • 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 •

Sublist 9
bulk • behalf • unified • commenced • erosion • anticipated • minimal • ceases • vision • mutual • norms • intermediate • manual • supplementary • incompatible • concurrent • ethical • preliminary • integral • conversely • relaxed • confined • accommodation • temporary • distorted • passive • subordinate • analogous • military • scenario • revolution • diminished • coherence • suspended • mature • assurance • rigid • controversy • sphere • mediation • format • trigger • qualitative • portion • medium • coincide • violation • device • insights • refine • devoted • team • overlap • attained • restraints • inherent • route • protocol • founded • duration •

Sublist 10
whereby • 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 •
analyze
To study something carefully in order to understand it or learn more about it.
"Elise needed to **analyze** the test question - What exactly was the question asking for?"

approach
To move closer to someone or something.  
"Mr. Kyes will **approach** Mr. Taylor to ask if Damian is at grade level."

area
The measurement of the surface inside the boundaries of something (square units).  
"Mrs. Garcia's kitchen wall was eight feet high and ten feet wide; to paint this wall she needed a can of paint to cover an **area** of eighty square feet."

assess
To judge or figure out the value of something, both good and bad values. 
"The coach had to **assess** his players to decide which one would play first base."

assume
To suppose that something is true without checking first. "Ellie **assumed** that she would get a high score on her math test without studying, but her score was low..."

authority
The right or power to make rules and see that the rules are followed. "Mr. Taylor has **authority** in his class; the Fire Department has **authority** at a fire scene."

available
Able to be used or gotten. "The last Harry Potter movie should be really exciting, but it's not **available** yet."

benefit
Something that helps good to happen. 
"Suzette was great at playing soccer; a real **benefit** to her team!"
**concept**
An idea or thought. "'Is that your concept of fair play?' shouted the coach when Elton intentionally tripped the runner." consist
To be made up of something. "Her favorite chocolate fudge consists of sugar, corn syrup, cocoa, butter, milk, and chopped walnuts."

**constitute**
To be something or a part of something.
"'Helping me to get up does not constitute an apology!' said Elsbet angrily, after Harry had knocked her down."

**context**
The words and phrases that surround a word or sentence, and help to understand the meaning of the word or sentence. "I said that I don't trust dishonest people, not that I don't trust all people; you've taken the words out of context!"

**contract**
A document of formal or legal agreement.
"Mr. and Mrs. Young signed a contract with the apartment owner. The Young’s agreed to pay rent each month for a year, and the owner agreed that they could live in the apartment for a year."

**create**
To make something. "In art class Ms. Miller explained how to create a cereal bowl from wet, grey clay."

**data**
Information, often in the form of facts or numbers. "Mr. Taylor wrote down the class test scores in his notebook, and then entered that data in his computer."

**define**
To describe something exactly. "That row of barbed-wire fence defines the edge of Grandpa's field."

**derive**
To get something from a source. "The word 'home' derives from an Old English word which meant a place to lie down and rest."

**distribute**
To give something out to a number of people. "Mr. Taylor will distribute 'Kid-Friendly Glossary & Examples' sheets to his class."
economy
Getting something done in the most effective way, with the best results for the amount of effort, money, and material used.
"Harry was the best jumper on our track team; he smoothly cleared the top rail of the high jump with great economy of motion."

environment
All that surrounds something. "The aquarium tank contains the environment of Patrick's angel fish; the forest is the environment of the crested woodpecker."
Establish To start or set up something that is meant to last a long time. "The University of Michigan was established in 1834."

estimate
A rough calculation, an educated guess.
"Nine years old is my estimate of Theo's age."

evident
Obvious or easy to understand. "He couldn't answer any of his partner's questions. It was evident that Jake hadn't read his assignment."

export
To send goods for sale to another country.
"Mr. Stevens needed to update his export license before he could sell his wheat to Portugal."

factor
Something that is part of what makes another thing happen. "Eating a balanced diet and exercising are factors in staying healthy." Also, "Not paying attention in class and not doing homework are factors in failing a test."

finance
To raise or provide money for something or someone. "I'd like to buy that new truck, but I don't think I can finance that much money right now."

formula
A rule that is written in symbols and numbers. "The formula for the area of a rectangle is \( A = b \times h \) (area = base \times height)."

function
The purpose for which something is designed or used. "The function of the school bus is to carry students to and from school."
identify
To recognize and name something or somebody. "Hector identified the jacket that he had lost; it was in the school's 'Lost and Found' box."

income
Money received over a period of time for work done or goods sold. "Todd worked part-time that summer and earned an income of $300."

indicate
To show or point out something. "Jasmine said that she liked her aunt's cake, but her sour face indicated that she really didn't like it." Also, "The thermometer indicates that it's a very hot day."

interpret
To find or explain the meaning of something. Also, to translate the meaning of words from one language into another language. "The poem wrote about flowers and winds, but at the poetry reading the poem was interpreted to be about sadness and loneliness." Also, "Wendy sat close to the new kindergartener to interpret for her."

involve
To include something as necessary. "Making a cake involves measuring, mixing, baking, and decorating."

issue
The main idea to be talked about, or a particular publication (magazine, stamp, stocks or bonds). "That's not the issue," said Ricardo. 'We were going to plan a surprise party, not talk about the weather!" Also, "Do you have the December 2010 issue of 'National Geographic'?"

labor
Physical work, especially using strength; or the group of all workers of a country or industry. "The labor union at the Chevrolet plant was telling the automobile workers not to go to work in the morning." Also, "Making the beautiful flower arrangement for her mother was a labor of love."

legal
Allowed by law, or related to law and courts of law. "Speeding on the city streets is not legal."
legislate
To write and pass laws. "The candidate promised to legislate to make more jobs available."

major
Of great importance, size, or seriousness; also, a military title. "Major Samuelson announced that the weather satellite showed a major storm coming into southern Arizona."

method
A way of doing something; orderliness. "The lattice method is one way to multiply; long division is one method of dividing."

occur
To happen, or to come into one's mind. "What time will that occur? It just occurred to me that we are late!"

percent
Used to express a proportion in hundredths, sometimes with the '%' sign. "Elizabeth knew that 'percent' meant 'per hundred'. That's why '70%' is the same as '70 hundredths' or '.70' or '70/100'."

period
A punctuation mark(.) used at the end of a sentence or in abbreviations; also a division of playing time in some sports. "It didn't look good. The U of A Wildcats hadn't scored at all by the end of the first period."

policy
A way of acting that is used by a person, or group or government. "It was Grandfather's policy to never charge anything on credit. He would not buy at all if he couldn't pay cash."

principle
The basic way something works; also, the model of quality or right-and-wrong that people follow in life. "I try to always tell the truth, as a matter of principle."

proceed
To go on to do something. "After the guard checked Mrs. Slone's identification, he told her to proceed into the building."
process
A number of actions done to make a special thing happen. Registering to vote is a careful **process**: First, you must show that you are a citizen and are at least 18 years old. Then you must show that you live in this county.

require
To need something or somebody.
"Mary's dog **requires** a rabies vaccination before it can get a dog license."

research
To look for facts in a careful, organized way for the purpose of learning about something, or telling whether what you already know is true or not. "Elliot began his **research** with the 1938 passenger lists of a steamship. He wanted to find out how his grandfather first came to America."

respond
To give an answer. "The dog will always **respond** to a knock on the door by loud barking!"

role
An acting part in a movie, play, or other performance; also, an expected way that someone or something. "At the neighborhood potluck, Martha's **role** was to set out the cold food while Paul fired up the grill and Kathryn filled the cooler with Pepsi and 7-Up."

section
A distinct part of the whole of something.
"Luz separated the tangerine into 12 **sections**."

sector
A pie-shaped part of a circle; also, a part of an area where military forces are in control.
"The General's plan called for **Sector** B to move out at dawn."

significant
Meaningful, or having an important effect.
"Jessie's home run was **significant** in helping her team to win the game."
similar
Like something else, but not totally the same. "The two trucks were similar: both were 2005 pickups, but one was black and one was red."

source
The person, place, or thing where something started or was found. "Grandmother looked for the source of the leak that was making a puddle on the kitchen floor." Also, "What is the source of the information in your science report?"

specific
Description that is exact and detailed enough to identify a particular person, place, or thing. "The doctor gave specific instructions to Heather's nurse."

structure
Something built; or the way parts go together and work together. "That old iron bridge is an interesting structure; look how all the pieces fit together!"

theory
An idea or set of ideas about how and why things work together. "Sylvia had a theory about how to increase her vocabulary."

vary
To change something. "Max would vary his lunch. Sometimes he had a peanut butter-and-jelly sandwich; sometimes he had pizza."
EOC Terms/Vocabulary

1. analyze* to separate into parts and examine
2. apply* to bring together information from one situation and transfer it to another
3. assume* to take upon oneself; to adopt
4. affect* to influence the reader or cause a particular response in the reader
5. compare* to examine the similarities and differences; emphasizing similarities
6. contrast* to examine the differences
7. convey* to communicate by statement, suggestion, or appearance
8. convince* to persuade to a viewpoint based upon specific references to the passage
9. describe* to tell or write about, using details
10. elaborate* to add details, explanation, examples, or other information to improve understanding
11. evaluate* to judge the reasonableness and quality of ideas
12. explain* to respond to questions; to give one’s viewpoint; to defend a viewpoint
13. imagine/pretend* to form a notion or idea about something
14. impression* feeling resulting something
15. infer* to arrive (figure out/guess) at a conclusion after analyzing the facts
16. justify* to defend or prove a response using specific examples
17. predict* to estimate (guess) future events based upon present and past information.
18. react* to respond
19. reference* to cite (give) information in order to support a viewpoint
20. represent/show/model* to serve as a sign of symbol
21. summarize* to restate the main points in a brief manner
22. details* the specific parts of a whole
23. evidence* something that serves to illustrate or prove
24. example* an instance that serves to illustrate
25. fact* that which can be proven or verified
26. feature* a characteristic of a passage
27. illustration* a picture or drawing
28. opinion* a belief or view about a manner (not fact)
29. passage* a brief portion of a written work
30. excerpt* a passage from a written work
31. frequency* how often something occurs
32. cite* to bring forward or call attention to
33. trend* a prevailing tendency
34. correlation* something that shows a relationship

More EOC Words to Know

1. Sentimental* emotional attachment, lovey-dovey, mushy, romantic, tear-jerking
2. Reflective* thinking back, contemplative, meditating
3. Lighthearted* carefree, not stressed, happy-go-lucky, merry, jolly, not always serious.
4. Sarcastic* Mocking, scornful, says the opposite of what is meant, witty
5. Perceptive* observant, responsive, knowing, insightful
6. Optimistic* Anticipating only the best to happen, hopeful, positive, cheerful outlook
7. Regret/Remorseful* To be sorry for
8. Proud* Arrogant, haughty, vain, showing pride, excessive self-esteem
9. Appreciative/appreciate* Showing appreciation, cherishing something, show gratitude, be thankful, to like
10. Mocking* Imitate, ridicule, mimic
11. Depressing* Feeling sad, gloom, being in the dumps, unhappy
12. Differ* To be unalike, to disagree, opposite opinion
13. Objective* Expressing or dealing with facts or conditions without influence from your opinions, beliefs; unbiased, fair, impartial, unprejudiced
14. Puzzled* Confused, disoriented, baffled
15. Critical* Looking for flaws or defects, points out the negative, against
16. Satire* Humorous ridicule, a literary work ridiculing someone’s faults
17. Satirical* Relating to satire
18. Ridicule* To make an object of laughter, to make fun, poke at
19. Synonym* Words that have the same meaning (angry/mad…cheerful/happy)
20. Antonym* Words that the opposite meaning (good/bad…beautiful/ugly)
21. Consequence* Results of an action or decision, aftermath
22. Purpose* Destination, goal, intention, mission, objective, the reason you do something
23. Persuade* To change someone’s opinion or stand on an issue
24. Demonstrates* Shows, exhibits, displays, to show clearly, to prove with evidence
25. Evidence* Proof, testimony, witness
26. Opinion* Point of view, conviction, belief
27. Gratification* A source of satisfaction or pleasure, reward
28. Comparison* An examination of two things to look for similarities and differences
29. Vague* Not clearly expressed or defined, obscure, ambiguous, blurry
30. Ambiguous/ambiguity* Uncertain, unclear, unsure, doubtful, capable of being understood in more than one way
31. Example* A pattern to be imitated, one that is representative of the whole
32. Similarities* Resemblance, likeness
33. Differences* The qualities that make things or ideas unalike and dissimilar
34. Optimism* Brightness, idealism, positive
35. Setting* The time, place, and circumstance when something occurs
36. Contrast* To compare to look for differences
37. Related* To show a connection between two things
38. Emphasizes/highlights* Draws attention to
39. Achieved/achieves* To reach, accomplish, to meet
40. Inferring* Guess, concluded
41. Conclude* To decide, to determine, to bring to an end
42. Determine* To settle, to decide, to conclude
43. Context* The parts that precede or follow a specific incident in writing
44. Incident* An individual event, a specific moment
45. Influenced* To have an impact or effect on something
46. Impact* Influence, effect
47. Purpose* The reason, the intended or desired result
48. Expresses* Shows, illustrates
49. Additional* Extra
50. Obstacle* Something that obstructs or hinders or blocks progress
51. Classified/categorized, ranked, identified, placed in a group
52. Conflict* Problem, obstacle
53. Suggest* To introduce, to bring to mind, to mention
54. Convey* To communicate, to show
55. Premeditates* To plan before
56. Foreshadows* Hints at what is to come
57. Accolades* Praises, an expression of approval
58. Demise* Death, the end of, the termination