

What are the most common words in academic English? Which words appear most frequently in readings in different academic subject areas? Dr. Averil Coxhead, who is currently a Senior Lecturer at Victoria University of Wellington in New Zealand, did research to try to answer this question. The result was the Academic Word List (AWL), a list of 570 words or word families that appear in academic readings in many different academic fields. These words are extremely useful for students to know. In *Skills for Effective Writing*, you will encounter a number of these words in context.

The following is a list of the AWL words in *Skills for Effective Writing 1* and the Skills where they appear.

academic	12; 14; 22	commitment	14
achieve	12; 14	communicate	21; 28; 32
achievement	32	communication	21–23
administrative	5	community	14
adult	14; 17	complex	23; 27–28
affect	16; 22	compound	15; 17; 20; 27–28
aid	22; 30	computer	2–3; 14; 20–21; 24; 27–28; 32–33
appropriate	31	concentrate	16; 29
area	12; 29; 31; 33	concept	13
assignment	11; 21; 28	concluding	14; 21; 31
assistance	27	conclusion	12; 29; 31
assistant	5; 22	conference	4; 30
attraction	7	connecting	8–9
aunt	8	contact	5; 20; 22–23; 29; 31
author	14	contrasting	17; 20
available	3–4; 18	cook	8
avoid	8	corporation	32
awake	9	correct	7–9
balanced	8	couple	31
benefit	14; 16; 18; 22; 29; 30	cousin	7–8
bicycle	8	create	12; 19; 32
bold	7–8	creation	32
brain	9	creative	32
bus	8	creativity	32
busy	8	credit	15
challenge	12; 13; 18	cultural	10
chart	1–6; 10; 13; 15–28; 30–32	culture	10; 22; 23
check	7–9	dance	8
clause	23–28	definition	17
coffee	8	designer	12; 32
colleague	27	device	12
comment	21	dinner	8

display	14	involve	13
distribute	13	irrelevant	22
educational	7	issue	22
energy	24	job	1; 4–5; 11–14; 18; 20; 22–23; 26–27
environment	11; 24	label	25
especially	7	labor	10
eventually	14	lecture	1; 21; 28; 32
excited	7	location	10; 13
expand	13; 32	logical	29; 33
expansion	32	lot	7–8
export	17	lunch	8
factor	18; 26	mail	8
feature	3	major	22
fee	15; 30	map	7
file	32	medical	27
finally	1; 5; 11; 33	mistake	9
financial	4; 12; 14–15; 22; 30	negative	16
focus	22	network	21; 24; 32
format	11	networking	5
formatting	11	normal	4; 14
fries	8	noun	7–8
global	30	option	26
goal	1; 5; 11; 22; 29; 32	paragraph	1; 3; 5–6; 10–22; 24–27; 29–31; 33
grade	1; 3; 12; 22; 27; 30	park	7
grandmother	8	partner	14; 17; 20; 29; 32
guide	7	period	1–2; 5–6; 10; 16; 26; 28
habit	9	physical	1
health	8	positive	30
healthily	8	prefer	7–8
healthy	8	previous	11
identify	5	prioritize	11; 29
image	21; 32	priority	6
imagine	7	professional	5; 26; 31
improve	8	professionally	29
incorrect	7	project	11
information	7	promotion	5
insert	31	rarely	8
instruct	32	registration	2
instruction	32–33	regular	9
instructor	1	relax	23; 31
instructor	32	remove	11; 26
intelligent	5	research	14; 22; 24; 26–27; 30; 32
interactive	32	researcher	14; 24

respond	23
role	12
schedule	2; 29
section	30; 33
sentence	7–9
shop	7
sick	9
similar	14; 17; 20; 29
slowly	9
source	16
strategy	11
stress	4
stressful	13
style	4; 12–13
sum	5
summary	21
symbol	32
symbolic	32
symbolize	32
task	11; 29
team	4; 27; 32
technology	1; 14; 21; 28; 32
text	3–4; 15; 17; 20–21; 23; 27–28
tomorrow	9
tonight	9
topic	11–14; 21; 29; 31; 33
tour	6
tourist	6
traditional	28
transfer	4
unique	17
utility	18
verb	7–9
visible	29
volunteer	14