The Oxford Phrasal Academic Lexicon™

The Oxford Phrasal Academic Lexicon (OPAL) is a set of four word lists that together provide an essential guide to the most important words and phrases to know in the field of English for Academic Purposes (EAP). This list gives the 1200 most important words in academic writing, divided into twelve sublists of 100 words each, with the most important words in Sublist 1.

Written single words

Sublist 1

activity n. affect v. analysis n. apply v. approach n. area n. associate v. available adj. based adi. behaviour n. between prep. case n. change n., v. community n. compare v. condition n. context n country n. cultural adi. culture n. data n. define v. develop v. development n. difference n. different adi. economic adj. effect n. environment n. environmental adj. example n. factor n. form n., v. function n., v. global adj. group n., v. arowth n. high adj. human adj. identify v.

information n.
interaction n.
international adj.
issue n.
law n.
level n.
likely adj., adv.
low adj.
may modal v.
measure n., v.
method n.

important adj.

individual n., adj.

increase v., n.

model n., v. national adi., n. number n. occur v. organization *n*. particular adi., n. policy n. population n. practice n. process n., v. product n. provide v. rate n., v. reduce v. region n. relation n. relationship n. require v. research n. resource n. result n., v. risk n. role n. sample n., v. significant adj. social adj. specific adj. state n., v. strategy *n*. structure n., v. study n., v. such det. suggest v. system n. term n., v. terms n. theory n. therefore adv. thus adv. treatment n. type n. use n., v. value n.

Sublist 2

within prep.

variable n., adj.

whether conj.

application *n*. appropriate *adj*. argue *v*. aspect *n*. assess *v*. assessment *n*. basis *n*.

benefit n., v. care n. category n. characteristic n., adj. common adj. complex adj., n. component *n*. concept n. consider v. control n., v. current adj., n. decision n. definition n. demand n. depend v. describe v. determine v. discuss v. distribution n. due adi. effective adj. element n. energy n. evidence n. examine v. exist v. extent n. finding n. generate v. however adv. identity n. impact n., v. include v. indicate v. intervention n. involve v. key adj. knowledae n. means n. mechanism n. nature n. negative adj. network n. observe v. often adv. outcome n.

pressure *n*. primary adi. principle n. problem *n*. procedure n. produce v. production *n*. programme n. **public** *adj., n.* quality n. range n., v. recent adj. refer v. related adj. relative adj., n. relatively adv. relevant adj. report v., n. represent v. response n. rule n. scale n., v. section n. sector n. sequence n. show v. similar adj. site n. size n solution n. source n. technology n. test n., v. total adj., n. unit n. variation n. whereas conj.

Sublist 3

above adv., adj., n. access n., v. according to prep. achieve v. action n. additional adj. address v. analyse v. argument n. assume v. assumption n. basic adj. central adj. communication n. conflict n., v. consequence n.

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output n.

pattern n.

per prep.

participant n.

per cent adj., n.

perspective n.

physical adj.

positive adj.

possible adj.

potential adj., n.

contain v. content n. contrast n., v. criterion n. critical adj. cycle n. decrease v., n. demonstrate v. derive v differ v. direct adj., v. discussion n. domain n. education n. ensure // estimate v., n. event n experience n., v. express v. external adi. feature n., v. flow n., v. focus v., n. framework n. gender n. general adj., n. generally adv. government n. hence adv. imply v. importance n. improve v. influence v., n. input n. internal adi. interpretation *n*. interview n., v. language n. legal adj. less adv., det., pron. limit v., n. literature n. local adi. maior adi. material n., adj. meaning *n*. media n. multiple adj. necessary adi. need n. note v obtain Vorder n. overall adj., adv. perform v. performance *n*. period n. phase n. present adj., v., n. probability n. project n., v. question *n*. ratio n. reaction n. reduction n. reference n. reflect v. requirement n. researcher n.

service n.
set n.
significantly adv.
society n.
standard n., adj.
status n.
survey n.
technique n.
tend v.
text n.
traditional adj.
understanding n.
useful adj.
vary v.

Sublist 4

account n., v. alternative adj., n. among prep. amount n., v. arise v association n. average adj., n., v belief n. capacity n. century n. certain adj. challenge n., v. characterize v. claim n., v. climate n. comparison *n*. competition n. concern v.. n. conduct v.. n. consideration n. consist v. consistent adj. constitute v. consumption *n*. create v. difficult adj. dimension n. equal adj., v. error n. essential adj. ethnic adj. evaluate v. evolution n. experiment n. explore v. field n formation *n*. functional adj. fundamental adj. goal n. history n. hypothesis n. illustrate v. implement v. indeed adv. independent adj. initial adi. integration n. interpret v.

item n.

loss n.

large adj.

learning n.

majority n. modern adj. moreover adv. most det. natural adj. notion n. object n. objective n., adj. observation n. operate v operation n. opportunity n. origin n. particularly adv. perceive v. phenomenon n. point n. possibility n. power n. predict v. proportion n. protection n. purpose n. rather adv. regard v., n. regional adj. regulation n. representation n. respect n. respectively adv. rise n. select v. selection n. sexual adi. similarly adv. situation n. stage n. target n., v. theoretical adj. tool n. transition n. trend n. typically adv. underlying adj.

Sublist 5

variety n.

view n., v.

various adj.

ability n. actual adj. adopt v. advantage n. age n. agreement n. allow v. although conj. article n. attitude n. authority n. bias n., v. broad adi. can modal v. choice n. circumstance n. clear adj. combination n. combine v. commonly adv.

complexity n. conclude v. conclusion n. construct v., n. core n. debate n. degree n. design n., v. directly adv. distinct adj. distinction n. distinguish v. dominant adi. efficiency n. emerge v. emphasis n. emphasize v. empirical adj. enable v. enhance v. establish v. evaluation n. exchange n. exclude v. expectation n. explanation n. facilitate v. fact n. failure n. female n., adj. financial adj. further adj. future adj., n. highly adv. implementation n. impose v. index n. indicator n. interest n. investigate v. investigation n. judgement n. lack n.. v. limitation n. limited adj. link v., n. location n. main adj. maintain v. male n., adj. many det. mental adi. mode n. movement n. necessarily adv. norm n. other adj. participation *n*. perception n. prevent v. prior adj. propose v. regime *n*. relate v. rely v. resistance n. secondary adj. seek v. simple adj.

single adj.

right n.

specifically adv. specify v. stress n., v. subject adj., n., v. supply n., v. support n., v, task n. transfer n., v. urban adj. via prep.

Sublist 6

absence n. agent n. approximately adv. below adv., prep. cause v., n. chain n. channel n. clearly adv. code n., v. conception *n*. constant adj., n. constraint n. contribute v. contribution n. correlation n. correspond v. decade n. decline n., v. dependent adj. detail n. detailed adj. difficulty n. discrimination n. diverse adi. diversity n.

educational adj. effectively adv. effectiveness n. effort n. employ v. entry n. ethical adj. evolve v. existence n. expand v. expansion n. experimental adj. extend v. force n.

formal adj.

divide v.

early adj.

furthermore adv. gain n., v. generation n. highlight v. identification n. image n. improvement n. including prep. induce v. inequality n. insight n. instance n. integrate v. introduce v.

maximum adj., n.

might modal v. migration *n*. minority n. modify v. must modal v. new adi. offer v. option n. part n. participate v. percentage *n*. potentially adv. preference n. presence n. previous adi. previously adv. primarily adv. psychological adj. qualitative adj. quantity n. reasonable adj. responsibility n. restrict v. restriction n. science n. scope n. sense n. shift n. should modal v.

statement n. statistical adj. structural adj. sufficient adj. technological adj. treat v. violence n. welfare n. world n.

significance n.

space n.

spatial adj.

stability n.

stable adj.

Sublist 7

act n., v. adaptation n. **aim** *n., v.* alter v. animal n. author n. availability n. awareness n. balance n., v. barrier n. base n., v. capability n. commercial adj. commitment n. composition n. consequently adv. construction n. contemporary adj. continuous adj. conventional adj. cooperation n. correlate v. corresponding adi.

crucial adj.

description n. device n. duration n. dynamic n., adj. encourage v. entity n.

equivalent adj., n. especially adv. essentially adv. evolutionary adj. examination n. exception n. exercise n., v. expression n. facility n. federal adi. formula n.

frequently adv. gap n. incorporate v. increasingly adv. instrument n. intensity n. interact v. interval n. justify v. largely adv. located adj.

logic n. medical adj. monitor v. motivation n. namely adv. online adj.

orientation *n*. original adj. position n., v. poverty n. prevention n.

private adj. professional n., adj.

profile n. rapid adj. rational adi. reality n. recently adv. recognition n. recognize v. rural adi. scenario n. second adv. security n. segment n. sex n. share v., n. skill n. software n. subsequent adj. summarize v. survival n. systematic adj. theme n. thereby adv. topic n. training n.

transformation n.

transport n., v.

uncertainty n.

typical adj.

undergo v.

unique adj. universal adj. validity n. visual adj. working n., adj. yield v., n.

Sublist 8

absolute adj. academic adj., n. adapt v. adequate adj. agricultural adj. anxiety n. apparent adj. arrangement n. background *n*. beyond prep. burden n. causal adj. centre n., v. classification n. classify v.

column n. compete v. comprehensive adj. comprise v. confirm v. connect v. consensus n. consent n. correct adj. creation n. currently adv. desire n., v. discipline n. distribute v. document n., v. dominate v. during prep. efficient adi. eliminate v. emotional adj. engage v. equally adv. exceed v.

identical adj. introduction *n*. involvement n. isolated adj. latter n. line n. list v., n. maximize v. medium n. member n. minimize v. minimum adj., n. nevertheless adv. normal adi. organize v. outline v.

excess n.

explain v.

govern v.

practitioner n. priority n. promote v. promotion n. quantitative adj. random adj. reason n. reasoning *n*. reject v. responsible adj. reveal v. root n. sampling *n*. satisfy v. scheme n. separate adj., v. separation *n*. shape v., n. similarity n. simply adv. so-called adj. solve v. substance n. sum n. sustain v. technical adj. tendency n. transform v. transmission n. transmit v. ultimately adv. utility n. utilize v. variance n. version n. website n. weight n. whole n. widely adv.

Sublist 9

acceptable adj. acceptance n. accuracy n. accurate adj. active adj. addition n. adjust v. adjustment n. agenda n. avoid v. cite v classical adj. commit v. communicate v. comparable adj. comparative adj. conceptual adj. connection n. considerable adj. contact n. coverage n. deal v. denote v. determinant n. differentiate v. differentiation n. digital adj. distance n.

division n. ecological adj. emergence n. ethic n. expect v. expert n., adj. explicit adj. extension n. extensive adj. extreme adj., n. fail v. flexibility n.

flexibility *n*. flexible adj. fully adv. fund n., v. funding *n*. ideal adj., n. immediate adi. inclusion *n*. indirect adj. initially adv. initiate v. initiative n. instruction *n*. intention n. label v., n. leadership n. margin n. matter n. methodology n.

methodology n mix v. mobility n. net adj. ongoing adj. optimal adj. ordinary adj. parallel adj., n. precise adj. precisely adv. prediction n. progress n. proposition n. protect v. race n. recommend v. record v., n. replace v.

record v., n. replace v. resolution n. resolve v. review n. safety n. scientific adi. series n. specialist n. statistic n. statistically adv. store v. strongly adv. substantial adj. substantially adv. successful adj.

substantial adj substantially a successful adj. suitable adj. summary n. threat n. threshold n. unlikely adj. valid adj. versus prep. vertical adj. volume *n*.
widespread *adj*.

Sublist 10 accordingly adv. accumulation *n*. acknowledge v. acquisition *n*. administrative adj. alternatively adv. analytical adj. annual adj. applicable adj. assert v. assign v. attribute n., v. beneficial adi. conservation n. continuity n. convention n. convert v. coordination n. dependence n. deviation n. disadvantage n., v. distinctive adj. donor n. elevate v. elsewhere adv. encode v. encounter v., n. ethnicity n. evident adj. exclusion *n*. exploit v. expose v. favour v. formulation n. generalize v.

guidance n.
harm n.
hierarchy n.
horizontal adj.
independently adv.
indication n.
infer v.
inference n.
inherent adj.
integrated adj.
intermediate adj.
interviewer n.
intrinsic adj.
justification n.
meaningful adj

geographical adj.

meaningful adj.
mediate v.
methodological adj.
modelling n.
motivate v.
neutral adj.
novel adj.
observer n.
occupation n.
occurrence n.
otherwise adv.
overlap v., n.
overview n.
pose v.
precede v.

presentation n.
problematic adj.
proportional adj.
protocol n.
rapidly adv.
readily adv.
recovery n.
regardless of prep.
reinforce v.
release n.
relevance n.
reliability n.
reliable adj.
removal n.
representative adj.,

representative adj., n. resident n. selective adj. sensitive adi. simultaneously adv. socially adv. specialized adj. specification n. sphere n. stimulate v. stock n. subjective adj. substitution n. sufficiently adv. tension n. territory n. traditionally adv. undertake v. upper adj.

Sublist 11

voluntary adj.

wealth n.

abnormal adi. abnormality n. absent adj. accept v. accessible adj. accountability n. achievement n. actively adv. additionally adv. analyst n. appear v. appropriately adv. arguably adv. behave v. beneficiary n. broadly adv. categorize v. character n. characterization n. conceive v. conceptualize v. conditional adj. consistency n. consistently adv. consume v. creative adi. culturally adv. descriptive adj. determination n. differently adv. direction n.

dominance n.

economically adv. efficacy n. efficiently adv. essence n. estimation n. exclusive adj. exclusively adv. explanatory adj. exploration n. fundamentally adv. generalization n. governmental adi. historically adv. hypothesize v. hypothetical adj. implicit adi. implicitly adv. importantly adv. inappropriate *adj.* inconsistent adi. independence *n*. indirectly adv. inform v. informed adi. insufficient adj. integral adj. interactive adj. intervene v. interviewee n. investigator *n*. leader n. legally adv. localized adj. locally adv. mobile adj. mobilize v. modernity n. modernization *n*.

necessity n.

negatively adv.

operational adj.

normally adv.

originally adv.

originate v. positively adv. predominantly adv. procedural adj. productive adj. projection *n*. proposal n. reconstruct v. reconstruction n. recording *n*. reflection n. remove v. reporting *n*. respond v. secondly adv. sexuality n. simplify v. societal adj. systematically adv. terminology *n*. usage n. valuable adj. varied adj. viewer n. wide adj.

Sublist 12

accumulate v.
accurately adv.
acquire v.
adaptive adj.
adequately adv.
administer v.
administration n.
alteration n.
approximation n.
assertion n.
aware adj.
capable adj.
causation n.
centralize v.
certainty n.

classic adj. conservative adj. conserve v. considerably adv. constrain v. constructive adj. conversion n. cooperative adj. coordinate n., v. correction n. correctly adv. critically adv. criticize v. cumulative adj. desirable adi. empirically adv. empower v. equivalence n. establishment n. excessive adi. exemplify v. expertise n. exploitation n. favourable adj. formulate v. frequent adj. harmful adj. hierarchical adj. ideally adv. inability n. inadequate adj. individually adv. induction n. initiation n. instability n. intend v. intensive adj. irrelevant adj.

isolation n.

logical adj.

migrate v.

minor adj.

minimal adj.

naturally adv. occupy v. orient v. partially adv. partly adv. precision *n*. progression *n*. progressive adj. quantify v. randomize v. randomly adv. rating n. rationale n. rationality *n*. reasonably adv. rejection n. reliance n. replacement n. resistant adj. restrictive adi. satisfaction *n*. sensory adj. separately adv. simultaneous adj. stabilize v. stimulation n. strength n. strengthen v. substantive adj. substitute v. successfully adv. theoretically adv. transportation n. ultimate adj. unclear adi. undertaking n. unrelated adj. unstable adj. utilization n. validate v. validation n. visible adj.

OPAL has been created with reference to the following corpora: the Oxford Corpus of Academic English (OCAE), the fiction subcorpus of the Oxford English Corpus (OEC), the spoken element of the British National Corpus (BNC) and a subset of the British Academic Spoken English (BASE) corpus, developed within the University of Warwick and for which relevant permissions have been obtained. BASE was developed at the Universities of Warwick and Reading under the directorship of Hilary Nesi and Paul Thompson. Corpus development of BASE was assisted by funding from BALEAP, EURALEX, the British Academy and the Arts and Humanities Research Council.