

Cambridge Academic English

An integrated skills course for EAP

Student's Book

Advanced

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Development of this publication has made use of the Cambridge English Corpus (CEC). The CEC is a computer database of contemporary spoken and written English, which currently stands at over one billion words. It includes British English, American English and other varieties of English. It also includes the Cambridge Learner Corpus, developed in collaboration with the University of Cambridge ESOL Examinations. Cambridge University Press has built up the CEC to provide evidence about language use that helps to produce better language teaching materials.

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Introduction

Who is the course for?

Cambridge Academic English is for anyone who needs English for their academic studies.

It is an integrated skills course, which means that at each of the levels you will develop your abilities in reading, writing, listening and speaking in an academic context. In your class there will probably be students studying or hoping to go on to study many different subjects. With this in mind, *Cambridge Academic English* includes topics and texts that will be of interest to students from all disciplines (subject areas), and teaches language and skills that will be of use to students working in all subjects. However, some parts of the course also help you to develop abilities relevant to your particular area of study.

This book, *Student's Book: Advanced*, is aimed at students who may already have begun their academic studies. It will also be of interest to non-native English-speaking academics who need to present and publish in English. If you are familiar with the Common European Framework of Reference (CEFR) proficiency levels, *Student's Book: Advanced* is likely to be most useful to Proficient Users at level C1 and above. *Student's Book: Intermediate* is aimed at students who need to improve their English significantly in order to guarantee success in higher education and are Independent Users at level B1 and above. *Student's Book: Upper Intermediate* is aimed at students who will soon be starting undergraduate or postgraduate studies and are Independent Users at level B2 and above.


How is the book organised?

The introductory unit, *Academic orientation*, introduces you to some of the skills you will need to develop to be successful in higher education: being an independent learner, and adopting good study strategies. Many students using *Student's Book: Advanced* will go on to do their own research, and the unit also introduces you to research proposals and research projects.

The *Student's Book* is organised into integrated skills and lecture skills units:


- **Integrated skills units 1–10 (with separate Audio CD)**

Ten units are organised around a broad topic of interest and help you develop your skills in reading, speaking, listening to and writing academic English. Each of these units ends with a *Grammar and vocabulary* section where you will learn about language of particular importance in academic communication. Cross references in the margins point to the further information and practice exercises which can be found in the *Grammar and vocabulary* section of that unit.

 **0.1** The separate Class Audio CD includes all the recordings needed for the listening and speaking sections. It gives focused listening practice, and will also help you develop strategies for participating in tutorials and group work.

- **Seminar skills units A–B and Lecture skills units C–E (with separate DVD)**

After every two integrated skills units there is either a *Seminar skills* unit or a *Lecture skills* unit to help you develop skills in taking part in seminars and listening to lectures. For this course, seminars and a variety of lectures were recorded at the University of Cambridge, and a separate DVD accompanies the *Student's Book* containing clips of these seminars and lectures, and of students talking about their experience of studying in English at university.

 **A.1** Extracts have been used in the seminar and lecture skills units to help you understand, for example, how lecturers use language, visual information, gesture and pronunciation to present content and show how they are organising the lecture.

What kind of language does the course teach?

Cambridge Academic English uses authentic academic texts. The texts you will read are taken from the kinds of textbooks and journal articles that your subject tutors might recommend you to read.

You may find these challenging at first but you will learn strategies in the course to help you to cope with them. We believe that working with authentic texts in EAP is the best way of preparing to read them during your academic course of study.

The lectures you will watch are delivered by experienced lecturers and researchers. In many colleges and universities around the world you will be taught in English by some tutors who are native English speakers and others who are non-native English speakers. To help you prepare for this, both native and non-native English-speaking lecturers have been included in this course.

The vocabulary focused on in the course has been selected for being of particular importance in academic writing, reading, lectures and seminars. In choosing what to teach we have made use of the Academic Word List compiled by Averil Coxhead (see www.victoria.ac.nz/lals/resources/academicwordlist/ for more information). This list includes many of the words that you are likely to encounter in your academic studies.

What are the additional features?

Each unit contains the following additional features:



The *Study tip* boxes offer practical advice on how you can improve the way you study.



The *Focus on your subject* boxes encourage you to think about how what you have learnt applies to your own subject area.



Corpus research boxes present useful findings from the CAEC (see below).

- The *Word list* at the back of the Student's Book covers key academic words essential for development of academic vocabulary.
- For each level of the course, a full-length version of one of the lectures from the DVD is available online. This gives you the opportunity to practise, in an extended context, the listening and note-taking skills that you develop in the *Lecture and seminar skills* units. The video and accompanying worksheets are available for students at www.cambridge.org/elt/academicenglish.

To make sure that the language we teach in the course is up-to-date and relevant, we have made extensive use of the Cambridge Academic English Corpus in preparing the material.



What is the Cambridge Academic English Corpus (CAEC)?

The CAEC is a 400-million-word resource comprising two parts. One is a collection of written academic language taken from textbooks and journals written in both British and American English. The second is a collection of spoken language from academic lectures and seminars. In both parts of the corpus a wide variety of academic subject areas is covered. In addition to the CAEC, we have looked at language from a 1.7-million-word corpus of scripts written by students taking the IELTS test.

Conducting our research using these corpora has allowed us to learn more about academic language in use, and also about the common errors made by students when using academic English. Using this information, we can be sure that the material in this course is built on sound evidence of how English is used in a wide variety of academic contexts. We use the CAEC to provide authentic examples in the activities of how language is used, and to give you useful facts about how often and in what contexts certain words and phrases are used in academic writing.

We hope you enjoy using *Cambridge Academic English* and that it helps you achieve success in your academic studies.

Martin Hewings and Craig Thaine

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