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 600 most important words in academic speaking, divided into six sublists of 100 words each, with the most important words in Sublist 1.

Spoken single words

Sublist 1

action *n.*
also *adv.*
analysis *n.*
approach *n.*
argue *v.*
argument *n.*
assumption *n.*
basically *adv.*
become *linking v.*
between *prep.*
case *n.*
context *n.*
control *n., v.*
country *n.*
culture *n.*
data *n.*
define *v.*
definition *n.*
demand *n.*
design *n., v.*
develop *v.*
diagram *n.*
difference *n.*
different *adj.*
direction *n.*
economic *adj.*
effect *n.*
equal *adj., n., v.*
error *n.*
essentially *adv.*
example *n.*
experiment *n.*
factor *n.*
failure *n.*
focus *n., v.*
form *n., v.*
function *n., v.*
general *adj.*
group *n., v.*
handout *n.*
history *n.*
human *adj., n.*
hypothesis *n.*
idea *n.*
important *adj.*
individual *n., adj.*
international *adj.*
kind *n.*
knowledge *n.*
language *n.*
learning *n.*
lecture *n.*
level *n.*
material *n.*

measure *n., v.*
method *n.*
model *n.*
movement *n.*
natural *adj.*
nature *n.*
observe *v.*
occur *v.*
OK *exclam, adj., adv.*
particular *adj.*
particularly *adv.*
per *prep.*
period *n.*
phase *n.*
population *n.*
principle *n.*
probability *n.*
process *n.*
produce *v., n.*
product *n.*
production *n.*
rate *n.*
relationship *n.*
research *n., v.*
response *n.*
sense *n.*
set *v., n.*
simple *adj.*
simply *adv.*
social *adj.*
society *n.*
solution *n.*
source *n.*
state *n., v.*
structure *n., v.*
student *n.*
study *n., v.*
system *n.*
text *n.*
theory *n.*
topic *n.*
type *n.*
value *n.*
variable *n., adj.*
word *n.*
world *n.*

Sublist 2

academic *adj., n.*
actually *adv.*
analyse *v.*
assume *v.*
based *adj.*
basic *adj.*
begin *v.*

behaviour *n.*
body *n.*
cause *n., v.*
certain *adj.*
change *n., v.*
class *n.*
column *n.*
common *adj.*
compare *v.*
complex *adj.*
concept *n.*
concern *v.*
condition *n.*
course *n.*
create *v.*
degree *n.*
describe *v.*
detail *n.*
development *n.*
final *adj.*
element *n.*
environment *n.*
evidence *n.*
exchange *n.*
explain *v.*
explanation *n.*
fact *n.*
flow *n., v.*
force *n., v.*
generate *v.*
identity *n.*
image *n.*
influence *n., v.*
information *n.*
interesting *adj.*
issue *n.*
law *n.*
learn *v.*
less *det/pron., adv.*
may *modal v.*
means *n.*
modern *adj.*
notion *n.*
object *n.*
often *adv.*
output *n.*
possible *adj.*
power *n.*
practice *n.*
pressure *n.*
primary *adj.*
problem *n.*
question *n., v.*
random *adj.*
range *n.*
rather *adv.*

reading *n.*
real *adj.*
reason *n.*
recognize *v.*
related *adj.*
relation *n.*
relatively *adv.*
represent *v.*
result *n., v.*
role *n.*
science *n.*
seminar *n.*
series *n.*
shape *n., v.*
slide *n.*
so *conj.*
sort *n., v.*
specific *adj.*
stage *n.*
strategy *n.*
talk *v., n.*
technology *n.*
tend *v.*
term *n.*
terms *n.*
test *n., v.*
therefore *adv.*
thought *n.*
treatment *n.*
understand *v.*
use *v., n.*
useful *adj.*
various *adj.*
volume *n.*
whole *adj., n.*
within *prep.*
write *v.*

Sublist 3

according to *prep.*
account *n., v.*
aim *n., v.*
almost *adv.*
amount *n., v.*
aspect *n.*
associated *adj.*
attempt *n., v.*
attitude *n.*
barrier *n.*
beginning *n.*
call *v.*
characteristic *n., adj.*
classic *adj., n.*
classical *adj.*
clearly *adv.*

combination *n.*
completely *adv.*
component *n.*
conflict *n., v.*
consequence *n.*
cultural *adj.*
derive *v.*
directly *adv.*
distinction *n.*
divide *v.*
enter *v.*
entry *n.*
establish *v.*
exist *v.*
famous *adj.*
foreign *adj.*
framework *n.*
free *adj.*
gain *n., v.*
gender *n.*
given *adj.*
growth *n.*
happen *v.*
here *adv.*
highly *adv.*
huge *adj.*
impact *n.*
instance *n.*
interest *n.*
interested *adj.*
judgement *n.*
key *adj., n.*
large *adj.*
later *adj., adv.*
line *n.*
list *n, v.*
literature *n.*
loss *n.*
mechanism *n.*
module *n.*
move *v.*
national *adj.*
negative *adj., n.*
normal *adj.*
number *n.*
obvious *adj.*
obviously *adv.*
part *n.*
perspective *n.*
point *n., v.*
position *n.*
positive *adj., n.*
publish *v.*
purpose *n.*
ratio *n.*
reaction *n.*
read *v.*
reflect *v.*
reject *v.*
resource *n.*
risk *n.*
same *adj., pron.*
scale *n.*
sequence *n.*
show *v.*
significant *adj.*
slightly *adv.*
small *adj.*
so-called *adj.*
standard *adj., n.*

suppose *v.*
survival *n.*
target *n., v.*
teach *v.*
technique *n.*
textbook *n.*
together *adv.*
true *adj.*
university *n.*
variation *n.*
variety *n.*
very *adv.*
way *n.*
whereas *conj.*

Sublist 4

ability *n.*
again *adv.*
although *conj.*
apply *v.*
area *n.*
because *conj.*
briefly *adv.*
care *n.*
central *adj.*
choice *n.*
choose *v.*
communication *n.*
conclusion *n.*
construct *v.*
contain *v.*
contrast *n., v.*
critical *adj.*
crucial *adj.*
decision *n.*
depend *v.*
determine *v.*
difficult *adj.*
direct *adj., v.*
distinguish *v.*
draw *v.*
duty *n.*
early *adj.*
effective *adj.*
effectively *adv.*
event *n.*
existence *n.*
experience *n., v.*
expert *n., adj.*
expression *n.*
extreme *adj., n.*
extremely *adv.*
fairly *adv.*
finally *adv.*
following *adj., prep.*
formal *adj.*
generally *adv.*
global *adj.*
guess *v., n.*
hence *adv.*
high *adj.*
however *adv.*
importance *n.*
increase *n., v.*
input *n.*
introduce *v.*
introduction *n.*
low *adj.*
lower *adj.*

main *adj.*
major *adj.*
mention *v.*
might *modal v.*
necessarily *adv.*
new *adj.*
note *n., v.*
objective *n., adj.*
operation *n.*
order *n., v.*
per cent *n., adj.*
phenomenon *n.*
physical *adj.*
picture *n.*
possibility *n.*
powerful *adj.*
practical *adj., n.*
predict *v.*
previous *adj.*
procedure *n.*
professional *adj., n.*
quantity *n.*
quickly *adv.*
rational *adj.*
reduce *v.*
rule *n.*
scientific *adj.*
session *n.*
similar *adj.*
skill *n.*
sometimes *adv.*
story *n.*
straightforward *adj.*
stress *v., n.*
subject *n., adj.*
such *det/pron*
suggest *v.*
supply *n., v.*
task *n.*
technical *adj.*
thing *n.*
title *n.*
underlying *adj.*
understanding *n.*
unit *n.*
version *n.*
view *n., v.*

Sublist 5

absolute *adj.*
access *n.*
active *adj.*
activity *n.*
advantage *n.*
appear *v.*
average *n., adj.*
background *n.*
basis *n.*
can *modal v.*
capacity *n.*
category *n.*
chain *n.*
claim *n., v.*
community *n.*
contemporary *adj., n.*
correspond *v.*
cycle *n.*
developed *adj.*
dimension *n.*

discuss *v.*
discussion *n.*
distinct *adj.*
emerge *v.*
emphasis *n.*
emphasize *v.*
environmental *adj.*
equivalent *adj., n.*
experimental *adj.*
extent *n.*
external *adj.*
familiar *adj.*
feature *n.*
female *adj., n.*
generation *n.*
illustrate *v.*
interact *v.*
interaction *n.*
intermediate *adj.*
internal *adj.*
interpretation *n.*
invent *v.*
involve *v.*
journal *n.*
largely *adv.*
lead *v.*
lecturer *n.*
likely *adj.*
limit *n., v.*
look *v.*
male *adj., n.*
maximum *adj., n.*
memory *n.*
middle *n.*
need *v.*
observation *n.*
operate *v.*
origin *n.*
outcome *n.*
parallel *n.*
pattern *n.*
perceive *v.*
perfectly *adv.*
potential *adj., n.*
potentially *adv.*
presence *n.*
prevent *v.*
proportion *n.*
quality *n.*
rapidly *adv.*
react *v.*
reality *n.*
refer *v.*
reference *n.*
reflection *n.*
rely *v.*
representation *n.*
require *v.*
respond *v.*
sheet *n.*
shift *n., v.*
significance *n.*
single *adj.*
somehow *adv.*
spread *n., v.*
structural *adj.*
sum *n., v.*
summary *n.*
tendency *n.*
theme *n.*

theoretical *adj.*
throughout *prep., adv.*
total *adj., n.*
transfer *n., v.*
try *v.*
tutor *n.*
typical *adj.*
typically *adv.*
used *adj.*
welfare *n.*

Sublist 6

acquire *v.*
adapt *v.*
add *v.*
adult *n., adj.*
affect *v.*
already *adv.*
answer *n., v.*
arise *v.*
article *n.*
attack *v., n.*
attention *n.*
author *n.*
avoid *v.*
balance *n.*
behave *v.*
benefit *n.*

beyond *prep., adv.*
broad *adj.*
centre *n.*
circumstance *n.*
clear *adj.*
closely *adv.*
code *n.*
combine *v.*
concentrate *v.*
conclude *v.*
consider *v.*
content *n.*
deal *v.*
decline *n., v.*
department *n.*
description *n.*
destroy *v.*
differ *v.*
discover *v.*
easily *adv.*
end *n., v.*
entirely *adv.*
essential *adj.*
exactly *adv.*
exam *n.*
explore *v.*
fail *v.*
find *v.*

fundamental *adj.*
grow *v.*
hopefully *adv.*
identify *v.*
imply *v.*
increasingly *adv.*
indeed *adv.*
initial *adj.*
interpret *v.*
involved *adj.*
label *v., n.*
limited *adj.*
link *v., n.*
maintain *v.*
majority *n.*
many *det./pron.*
mental *adj.*
moment *n.*
motivation *n.*
nevertheless *adv.*
option *n.*
organization *n.*
partly *adv.*
perform *v.*
perhaps *adv.*
popular *adj.*
precisely *adv.*
prefer *v.*

progress *n.*
pure *adj.*
quote *v., n.*
reach *v.*
recognition *n.*
relevant *adj.*
roughly *adv.*
sample *n.*
secondly *adv.*
section *n.*
sexual *adj.*
sign *n., v.*
situation *n.*
space *n.*
split *v.*
stable *adj.*
strength *n.*
style *n.*
symbol *n.*
teacher *n.*
trace *n.*
traditional *adj.*
treat *v.*
trend *n.*
trust *n., v.*
upper *adj.*
vary *v.*
whatever *det./pron.*