

Graduate School of Systems and Information Engineering

Introductory Technical Writing

Essential skills for
academic writing

0AL0000

Topic 2: Academic Vocabulary

Instructor: Neil Millar

Vocabulary is IMPORTANT

"Without grammar, very little can be communicated; but without vocabulary, **NOTHING** can be communicated."

Wilkins 1972

In this topic ...

1. What is academic vocabulary?
2. What is the Academic Word List (AWL)?
3. What are the benefits of studying the AWL?
4. What do you need to learn about these words?

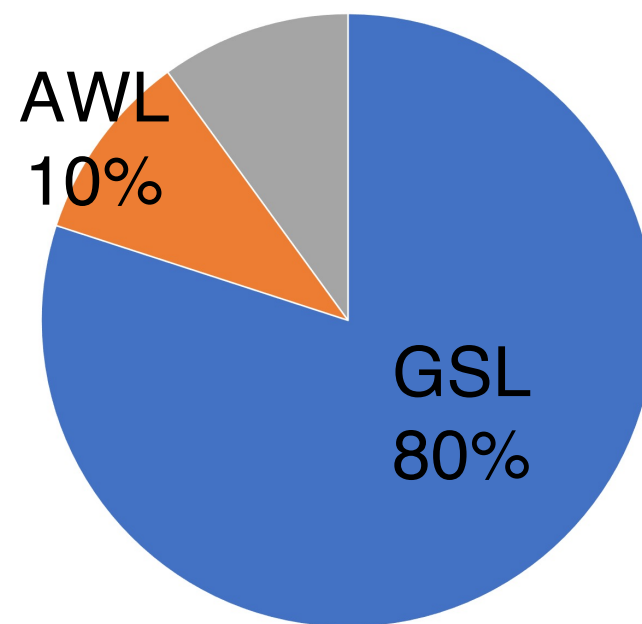
Academic Word List
Self-study task

1. What is academic vocabulary?

- vocabulary used in lectures, research articles, text books, essays ...
- used across all academic subject areas – not so common in everyday ‘general’ English
- not the same as technical vocabulary - particular discipline
- often abstract concepts (Greek or Latin origin)
- often longer words with roots and affixes.

2. What is the Academic Word List (AWL)?

- Most common academic words **NOT** used in General English
- General Service List (GSL) - 2,000 most common words used in everyday English
- GSL + AWL covers about 90% of all vocabulary in academic texts
- What's the remaining 10%?
- Knowledge of about 90% of words necessary for smooth reading



Task 1: Scan the lists quickly. Circle the words that you do not 'know'. Count them. What percentage of words do you not know?

Sublist 1 – 60 words

Sublist 10 – 30 words


3. What are the benefits of learning these words?

- Improve you reading
- **Improve you writing**
- Improve you speaking
- Improve you listening

... in an academic context

4. What do I need to learn about these words?

- The **meaning** – obviously!
- You need a good dictionary
- <https://www.ldoceonline.com/>



LONGMAN English reluctant

夢を叶う近道はない
が、絵を極める道はあ
る

10%OFF
HUION液タブKamvas Pro12 Chrome OS 88.0...
※なくなり次第終了 クーポンをもらう>

reluctant

Word family (noun) **reluctance** (adjective) **reluctant** (adverb) **reluctantly**

From Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English

re-luc-tant /rɪˈlʌktənt/ ●●● **AWL** adjective  

slow and unwilling **OPP** **willing**

 She gave a reluctant smile.

reluctant to do something

 Maddox was reluctant to talk about it.

—reluctantly **adverb**

 Reluctantly, he agreed.


Examples from the Corpus

reluctant

• Becoming a donor is a simple process, but many people remain **reluctant**.

4. What do I need to learn about these words?

- The meaning alone is not enough for production
- The **word forms** – i.e. the family

 **LONGMAN** English reluctant



夢を叶う近道はない
が、絵を極める道はあ
る
HUION

10%OFF
HUION液タブKamvas Pro12 Chrome OS 88.0...
※なくなり次第終了 クーポンをもらう>


reluctant

Word family (noun) **reluctance** (adjective) **reluctant** (adverb) **reluctantly**


From Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English

re-luc-tant /rɪˈlʌktənt/ ●●○ AWL adjective  


slow and unwilling **OPP** willing

 She gave a reluctant smile.

reluctant to do something

 Maddox was reluctant to talk about it.

—reluctantly **adverb**

 Reluctantly, he agreed.

Examples from the Corpus

reluctant

- Becoming a donor is a simple process, but many people remain reluctant.

Task 2: Complete the following table. Use an English-English dictionary if unsure (<https://www.ldoceonline.com/>) .

4. What do I need to learn about these words?

- The **usage**
- The grammatical patterns that it can occur in
- e.g. prepositions that it takes

benefit (n) **of**

benefit (v) **from**

beneficial (adj) **to**

What are the **benefits of** studying academic vocabulary?

Students can **benefit from** studying more vocabulary.

Studying vocabulary is **beneficial to** your writing and speaking.

Task 3: Complete the following text with the correct preposition. Use an English-English dictionary if unsure – don't guess!

(<https://www.idoceanonline.com/>) .

Sorry – problems with the editable fields!

4. What do I need to learn about these words?

- **Collocations**
- Typical word combinations
- *beneficial effect, economic benefits , potential benefits*

Task 4: Use a collocation dictionary (<http://ozdic.com/>) to find suitable collocations for the gaps.

4. What do I need to learn about these words?

- We shouldn't forget about **pronunciation!**
- Word stress often changes between word forms
 - ***BEN***efit
 - bene***FIC***ial

Task 5: How does the change in the wordform (e.g. adj à verb) change the pronunciation of these words?
If unsure, check a good dictionary.

(<https://www.ldoceonline.com/>)

5. How can I best learn these words?

- If you use English every day in your studies, you will encounter them ...
- ... but you can speed up the process by studying them!

5. How can I best learn these words?

- If you use English every day in your studies, you will encounter them ...
- ... but you can speed up the process by studying them!

Academic Word List
Self-study task

Deadlines for the Quizes

- Quiz 1 (sublist 1) – 12 noon – 4th May
- Quiz 2 (sublist 2) – 12 noon 25th May
- Quiz 3 (sublist 3) – 12 noon 15th June