

ACADEMIC
LANGUAGE
WORDS

LEVELS

9, 10, 11, 12



HIGH SCHOOL

High school teachers know the importance of teaching **academic vocabulary**. Whether reading complex informational text in English, Social Studies, Computer Science and Technology, Science, or cramming for vocabulary-dense ACT, SAT, AP or other tests, these words are the gateways to reading comprehension. **But which words should we teach?**

Fortunately, we have a research-based study to inform our choice of words: The Academic Word List, developed by Dr. Averil Coxhead. This resource lists generalizable Tier 2 academic words by frequency of use in the Academic Corpus. The [Academic Language Words](#) program author has grouped the upper-level words from Dr. Coxhead’s study in sets of 56 words for levels 9, 10, 11, and 12. A total of 224 *must-know* high school level Tier 2 words.

This quick, [bellringer-style program](#) is formatted with the research-based Frayer Model four-square graphic organizers. These Frayer worksheets feature the following *squares*:

- The focus vocabulary word, part of speech, and a short student-friendly definition
- “Similar to...”
- “Different than...”
- “Example, Characteristics, or Picture”

The image shows two pages of Frayer Model graphic organizers. The left page is titled "Academic Language #2" and the right page is titled "Academic Language #3". Each page contains four four-square grids, one for each word. Each grid has four quadrants: top-left for the word and definition, top-right for "Similar to...", bottom-left for "Different than...", and bottom-right for "Example, Characteristics, or Picture". Below each grid is a line for "Related Words".

Academic Language #2

Directions: Describe the vocabulary words in each box.

Vocabulary Word: diverse (adj) Definition: Varied or different.	Similar to...
Different than...	Example, Characteristics, or Picture:

Related Words: _____

Vocabulary Word: domain (n) Definition: An area of knowledge or control.	Similar to...
Different than...	Example, Characteristics, or Picture:

Related Words: _____

Vocabulary Word: enhance (v) Definition: To improve or increase.	Similar to...
Different than...	Example, Characteristics, or Picture:

Related Words: _____

Vocabulary Word: estate (n) Definition: Property or land owned.	Similar to...
Different than...	Example, Characteristics, or Picture:

Related Words: _____

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Academic Language #3

Directions: Describe the vocabulary words in each box.

Vocabulary Word: exceed (v) Definition: To go beyond a limit.	Similar to...
Different than...	Example, Characteristics, or Picture:

Related Words: _____

Vocabulary Word: explicit (adj) Definition: Clearly stated.	Similar to...
Different than...	Example, Characteristics, or Picture:

Related Words: _____

Vocabulary Word: federal (adj) Definition: Relating to a national government.	Similar to...
Different than...	Example, Characteristics, or Picture:

Related Words: _____

Vocabulary Word: furthermore (adv) Definition: In addition.	Similar to...
Different than...	Example, Characteristics, or Picture:

Related Words: _____

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Following each four-square graphic, a space is provided for “Related Words.” Teachers may choose to help students brainstorm words with the same morphemes, list changes in parts of speech, inflections, or conjugations, or write context clue sentences (guided by the Frayer Model) clues to *show the meaning* of each word. Simply print one worksheet per week, per student.

In addition to the worksheets, the [Academic Language Words](#) program provides **biweekly matching quizzes** in self-correcting Google forms for each level for a total of 28 quizzes. These assessments can also be used as a diagnostic to indicate which level to begin instruction and as a final summative exam.

Most teachers choose to add a few previous weekly words to each biweekly quiz to ensure continuous review and accountability for cumulative vocabulary knowledge. One easy-prep idea is to post the review words (the author suggests 4 per quiz). Students are required to write each word in context clue sentences.

The 28 eight-question Google forms quizzes may be downloaded free of charge to provide teachers with the research-based Tier 2 academic vocabulary instructional scope and sequence. Each grade/level features 7 quizzes.

Grade/Level 9

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1m_I2nRJklcozGOJwIUQ0eYjXK2oqDS6hSZpUgXjlrRE/copy

Grade/Level 10

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/196n-teLWCqsKtv7-me6PdQdFMZo4-FpUFBJBepjN6MU/copy>

Grade/Level 11

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1vNYqFLsCZixmPB7zmskLXrGBicl8isEDffII3WScmrQ/copy>

Grade/Level 12

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1miwpeFxaRF6tBRVV2H1y7aY4Wdz8dxZnmRK7B0aM9xg/copy>

Cheers!

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