



Support

Grade 7
Academic
Vocabulary

What is Academic Vocabulary?

Academic Vocabulary includes the words, phrases, and language structures that are used in learning. It includes the formal language that is used in education, whether orally, in textbooks, and in assessments.

Academic Vocabulary is distinct from the informal language that is used at home, on the playground, and in daily conversation. Slang and colloquialisms are not part of academic vocabulary. Students may be quite adept with the English language in the informal register long before the academic register is developed. It takes specific instruction to build academic vocabulary.

Teaching Academic Vocabulary

There are three methods of teaching academic vocabulary, and all three are necessary for vocabulary development. **Explicit instruction of words, explicit instruction of word-learning strategies, and indirect instruction of vocabulary** are all essential to developing academic vocabulary.

In explicit instruction of words, teachers select terms that are taught using definitions, examples, and proper usage. These terms may be content-specific (e.g., addend, subtrahend) or conceptual (e.g., summarize, explain). This instruction includes using the terms in context and multiple exposures to cement the learning. If word banks or vocabulary notebooks are used, these are the terms that are included with definitions, usage, and non-linguistic representations to help the learner remember the term and its meaning and usage.

In explicit instruction of word-learning strategies, teachers introduce, model, and prompt for the use of strategies that are used when a student comes to an unknown word. Context clues, word parts, cognates, text features, and related words are used to help the student attach meaning to the unknown word. Students must practice using the strategies across the curriculum whenever they are presented with unknown words. For the English Learner, special attention must be given to helping him determine which are the important words. Names and poetic or flowery description can be difficult to navigate, but may not be essential for comprehension of the big ideas being presented.

In indirect instruction of vocabulary, students are exposed to language through discussion, reading, being read to, multimedia resources, and education-related experiences. This is a very natural way to learn language, but it also varies widely depending on the language experience of the student.

Reinforcing Academic Vocabulary Instruction

Students should record terms that are taught directly. The record of the terms should be in a format that the student can easily access and understand. The vocabulary may be collected in a notebook, on note cards, in word banks, or other collections, but they must have meaning for the student. If each student has an individual record of the terms, leave room for new information. Students should add new concepts, deeper meaning, graphics, or new usages to the record as the vocabulary develops.

When a term is revisited or a new or deeper meaning is explored, the students should be prompted to record the new learning. Students may also use graphic organizers to help them see the connections between related terms. This is especially helpful when studying a topic with many academic vocabulary terms. **The Standards Plus EL Portal has many graphic organizers that can be used.** Each graphic organizer is presented in a blank format and a completed format as an example of how it may be used:

- Concept web
- Concept tree
- Venn diagram
- Organized List
- Idea hand

Games are an engaging way to revisit vocabulary, and a few simple games can be used all year with different sets of vocabulary. Vocabulary Bingo can be set up so that the students listen for vocabulary terms or their definitions. The bingo cards may have a different term written in each square, or they may have a different definition in each square. The teacher can call the definition of the term, and the students must mark the matching term, or the teacher may call the term itself, and the students must mark the definition that goes with the term. **Examples of these two types of bingo games are found in the Standards Plus EL Portal .** Charades or picture charades work well for terms that can be acted out or drawn. Crossword puzzles and rebuses are great for review, too.

Reinforcing Academic Vocabulary Instruction

In the spirit of competition, students can compete for class, table, or personal “points” for finding or using academic vocabulary. For example, a student may come in from the playground and say, “Wow! A lot happened at lunch today. Let me **summarize** what happened...” If summarize is a term that the class is studying, the class, that student’s table group, or the student could earn a “point” for correct usage of an academic vocabulary term. Students may also earn points for finding academic vocabulary terms in reading material, hearing academic vocabulary terms that others use, or using them in their writing.

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Language Arts - Academic Vocabulary

A

Abbreviations: A shortening of a word to stand for the word (e.g., mister – Mr.).

Adjectival phrase: A group of adjectives or any phrase that acts as an adjective.

Adverbial phrase: A group of adverbs or any phrase that modifies a verb, adjective, or another adverb.

Affix: a word part that is added to the beginning or end of a root.

Alliteration: Repetition of a sound throughout a poem.

Analogy: a figure of speech that shows the relationship between words or ideas.

Argument: an established claim that is proven through logical reasoning, examples, and research.

Aside: Dialogue that is spoken to the audience as if it cannot be heard by the other players on the stage.

Authorities: Experts identified by name and having credentials.

Author's purpose: the reason an author writes a text.

B

Background information: information related to the claim that helps to orient the reader.

Biblical allusion: A reference to a person, place, or event in the Bible.

Brackets: A pair of brackets are used to enclose words or phrases that are independent of the sentence (e.g., The following year [2008], Barack Obama was elected President of the United States.).

C

Cause and Effect: A text structure in which the author presents the causes and effects on a subject.

Character: a person in the story.

Characters: People in a story.

Chronological: a text structure that uses time order.

Claim: the writer's position on a problem or issue.

Classification: A text structure in which the author arranges people, objects, or ideas according to shared characteristics.

Clause: A group of words that contains both a subject and a verb.

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Language Arts - Academic Vocabulary

Closing: The last line before the signature in a letter (e.g., Sincerely,); the word or words that precede the signature in a letter (e.g., Sincerely,).

Compare and Contrast: A text structure in which the author presents similarities and differences.

Complex sentence: Contains one or more dependent clauses and one independent clause.

Compound-complex sentence: A sentence with one or more dependent clauses and two or more independent clauses.

Compound sentence: A sentence with two or more independent clauses, often connected with a coordinating conjunction; two or more independent clauses joined by a semicolon or a coordinating conjunction and a comma.

Concluding paragraph – Argument: The final paragraph that restates the claim and ties together the reasons that support the claim. Often the conclusion of an argument will appeal to the reader to agree with the claim.

Concluding words and phrases: Words and phrases that sum up ideas in a written text (e.g., in conclusion, as you can see, as a result).

Conclusion: How the story ends.

Conclusion – Informative/Explanatory: The final sentence or paragraph that restates the topic and lets the reader know that the text is complete.

Concrete detail: An object or event that can be experienced with one's senses.

Conflict: A problem the characters must solve; the central concern or problem in the story.

Connotation: the implied or associated feeling of a word or words: neutral, positive, or negative; how the word choice makes you feel: positive, negative, or neutral.

Context: information that supports the claim; also called evidence; the words and ideas that surround a word and provide clues to its meaning.

Coordinate adjectives: Adjectives that are equal in importance. Coordinate adjectives require a comma between them.

Coordination: Connecting related ideas.

D

Dangling modifier: A modifier that is present in the sentence, but the word or phrase it is meant to modify is missing.

Definition: Brief, precise statement of what a word or expression means; the act of stating something clearly.

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Language Arts - Academic Vocabulary

Denotation: the literal meaning of a word.

Dependent or Subordinate clause: A clause that does not express a complete thought and cannot stand alone as a sentence. A dependent clause begins with a subordinating conjunction.

Description: A text structure in which the author provides the characteristics of the subject.

Detail: Information that supports the main idea.

Dialogue: the written conversation between characters; the words spoken by the players in the play.

Direct quotation: The exact words that someone says.

Direction/Narration: Information that sets the scene, indicates time and/or place, and orients the audience to what is happening. May be read by a narrator or show through staging and acting.

Domain-specific vocabulary: Words that are particular to the topic.

E

Events: The action or what happens in a story.

Evidence: factors that support the claim (e.g., statistics, expert opinions, anecdotes, language choices).

Examples: Illustrations that provide more information to support an idea.

Explicit information: information provided directly in the text; factual information that is stated clearly in the text.

F

Facts: True statements that can be proven.

Figurative Language: Language that creates an image in the reader's mind that appeals to the senses.

Foreign words: Words that come from other languages and are used in English speech (e.g., déjà vu).

Formal Style: Writing without use of slang, contractions, or a conversational tone.

G

Greeting: The opening of a letter (e.g., Dear...).

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H

Hierarchical adjectives: Adjectives that must appear in correct order and do not require a comma.

Historical account: An account of a person or event that is written from the historical perspective of the person or event.

Homophone: Words that are pronounced alike but differ in meaning, origin, and usually in spelling.

Homophone means “same sound.”

Hook: a startling fact or situation or a question that intrigues the reader.

Hyphen: A punctuation mark used to link elements in compound words, to separate a prefix, suffix, or combining word from a base word, or to write number words (e.g., President-elect, animal-like, forty-three).

I

Independent clause: A clause that expresses a complete thought and can stand alone as a sentence.

Inference: A conclusion that can be drawn from clues in the text and background knowledge and experience of the reader.

Inflection: A variation in the form of a word that is created by adding a suffix to a base word to indicate a change in its grammatical function.

Informational text: Text that informs, explains, or teaches about a topic.

Informative/Explanatory Text: Text written to inform the reader or explain a topic.

Introduction-Argument: The first paragraph which hooks the reader, states the claim, introduces the topic, acknowledges opposing claims, and presents the thesis.

Introductory word: A word used to introduce the sentence (e.g., yes, no, well).

Italian or Petrarchan Sonnet: A 14 line sonnet containing an octave and a sestet.

L

List: A text structure in which the author provides an inventory or directory of information.

Literal Language: Language that means exactly what the words say.

Literary allusion: A reference to a person, place, or event—real or fictional—in a text.

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M

Main idea: The central point of a passage or text; also called the central idea.

Misplaced modifier: A modifier that is separated from the words it describes.

Modifier: A word or phrase that describes a word or group of words in a sentence.

Mythological allusion: A reference to a person, place, or event from the myths of a particular group or culture.

N

Narrative Writing: Text written to entertain or relate events.

Narrator: The person telling the story.

Negative: a word that has a bad or unfavorable association.

Neutral: a word that does not have any other ideas or feelings associated with it.

Noun phrase: Includes a noun and all of its modifiers.

O

Objective: Without emotion, a factual representation.

Octave: Eight lines of a sonnet that contain rhyme, establish the subject, and develop the theme.

Opposition: The opposite side of an argument.

P

Paired adjectives: Two adjectives that are used to modify the same noun.

Paraphrase: a restatement of the text in one's own words.

Participial phrase (-ing phrase): Begins with an -ing phrase (present participle) and functions as an adjective.

Personification: assigning qualities of a human to something that is not human.

Phrase: a group of related words that function as a single part of speech, but do not contain a subject and a verb. A phrase is not a complete sentence and cannot stand alone.

Plot: How the characters, events, and setting interact in telling the story.

Point of View: The author's perspective on the events of the story.

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Positive: a word that has a good or favorable association.

Precise Language: Clear, specific word choice that creates a clear picture in the reader's mind.

Prefix: A word part that is added before a base or root word that changes the meaning of the word.

Prepositional phrase: Begins with a preposition and can function as an adjective, adverb, or noun.

Problem and Solution: A text structure in which the author presents a conflict or problem and the steps in finding a solution.

Prompt: A writing situation that is defined for the writer; a scenario that describes a writing task.

Proper Nouns: Words that name specific persons, places, or things.

R

Real life examples: Actual events that have been observed or experienced.

Reasons: the information that persuades a reader to accept the writer's claim.

Redundancy: Repeated information.

Relevant evidence: Support for the claims that relate to the topic.

Relevant facts: True statements about the topic.

Repetition: Repeating the same word within a verse to emphasize an idea or ideas.

Rhyme Scheme: The pattern of rhyme in a poem.

Root: a word or word part before an affix is added.

Root or Base Word: A word that stands alone without an affix.

S

Salutation/Greeting: The words that begin a letter (e.g., Dear...).

Scene: A part of the play in which the action takes place in the same time and place. All players usually leave the stage when the scene ends.

Sensory words: Words that paint a picture for the reader.

Sequence/Time Order: A text structure in which the author organizes the information according to time or steps in a process.

Sestet: Six lines of a sonnet that contain rhyme, round of the theme, and conclude the poem.

Setting: Where and when the play takes place.

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Language Arts - Academic Vocabulary

Simple sentence: One independent clause with at least one subject and one predicate.

Stanza: Section of a poem; lines of poetry.

Statistics: Numerical data.

Subordinating conjunction: A conjunction that begins a dependent clause and poses a question that must be answered by an independent clause in order to complete the sentence.

Subordination: Connecting related ideas in which one idea has the main emphasis and the other idea uses a subordinating conjunction and modifies the independent clause.

Suffix: A word part that is added after a base or root word that changes the meaning of the word.

Summary: a brief restatement of the main ideas of a story in one's own words.

T

Technical: Terms that are associated with a specific field of study.

Text evidence: information provided in the text that supports an answer to a question.

Text features: Features that help the reader navigate the text: bold or italicized print, headers, sub-headings, captions, etc.

Text structure: how the plot of a story unfolds.

Textual evidence: Information found directly in the text.

Theme: The lesson, moral, or essential message of a story or poem.

Thesis statement – Argument: the sentence that introduces the writer's claim.

Titles: A title precedes a person's name and is part of how that person is named; the names of books, movies, magazines, newspapers, articles, songs, plays, and works of art.

Tone: An author's feeling or attitude toward the subject and audience.

Topic Sentence – Informative/Explanatory: The sentence that introduces the topic.

Transitional words and phrases: Words and phrases that connect ideas in a written text and help the writing to flow (e.g., because, also, therefore, another, for example).

V

Verb phrase: Refers to the whole predicate of the sentence or just verb or verb group.

Verse: Lines of poetry.

Viewpoint: What an author thinks or feels about a topic; also called point of view.

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Language Arts - Academic Vocabulary

W

Writing Prompt: A given writing situation which provides the guidelines for a writing exercise.

Writing topic: the subject of a written text.

Grade 7

Mathematics - Academic Vocabulary

A

Absolute Deviation: The absolute value of the deviations.

Absolute Value: The distance a number is from zero on a number line; the magnitude of a positive or negative quantity.

Acute angle: An angle that measures less than 90° .

Additive inverse: A reflection across zero on a horizontal or vertical number line.

Additive Inverse Property: If you add two integers and their sum is zero, the two integers are additive inverses of each other or opposites.

Adjacent Angles: Two angles that are next to one another where two lines intersect.

Algebraic expression: An expression that contains a variable and/or numbers and mathematical operation symbols.

Altitude: The perpendicular distance from the base to the opposite side.

Area: The two-dimensional space a figure covers.

Associative Property: When adding and subtracting integers, they can be grouped in different ways without changing their value.

B

Box or Box-and-Whiskers Plot: A data display that shows the most central pieces of data using a box and the minimum and maximum values using whiskers.

C

Cartesian Coordinates: Coordinate pair: (x, y) .

Circumference: The distance around a circle.

Coefficient: The number that is multiplied by the variable or an algebraic expression in an algebraic term.

Commission: A fee paid to sales people for selling merchandise.

Commutative Property: When adding and subtracting integers, their order can change without changing their value.

Complementary Angles: Two angles with combined angle measures of exactly 90° .

Grade 7

Mathematics - Academic Vocabulary

Complex Fraction: A fraction that has one or more fractions in the numerator and/or the denominator.

Composite Figure: A figure which is composed of multiple overlapping or connected shapes.

Compound Event: Two or more simple events; tossing a die is a simple event; tossing two dice is a compound event.

Compound Probability: The probability of the first event multiplied by the probability of the second event multiplied by the probability of the third event and so on.

Congruency: When two angles have the same measure; indicates congruency.

Constant: A number without a variable; a value that does not change.

Constant of Proportionality: The mathematical term for the unit rate.

Continuous: There are infinite answers.

Convert: To create an equivalent fraction by multiplying or dividing to change the denominator.

Coordinate plane: a grid formed by the intersection of a horizontal number line (x-axis) and a vertical number line (y-axis).

D

Data Distribution: Data displays where the data points are plotted or distributed on a number line.

Denominator: The bottom number in a fraction.

Deviation or Deviation from the Mean: The mean of the data set subtracted from each value in the data set.

Diameter: The distance across a circle which passes through the center of the circle.

Discount: The amount by which the regular price of an item is reduced.

Discrete: There are finite answers.

Distributive property: A number can be decomposed and its parts multiplied and result in the same product if the number is not decomposed: $a(b + c) = ab + ac$.

Dot Plot: A data display that shows the location of each data point on a line.

E

Equilateral triangle: A triangle with three equal sides.

Equivalent: Having the same value; the same size.

Evaluate: To solve an expression.

Experimental Probability: Probability based on experiments or simulations.

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Mathematics - Academic Vocabulary

F

Factor: A number or expression that is multiplied by another number or expression to get a product.

Fair: There are equal chances of an outcome.

Fraction: Part of the whole or part of a group.

Frequency: How often an outcome occurs.

G

Gratuity: An additional amount given to a person who provides service; a tip.

Greatest Common Factor: The largest factor two numbers have in common.

I

Inequality: An expression in which the two values being compared are not equal.

Interest: The amount of money paid or earned for the use of money.

Interquartile Range (IQR): The difference between the values at Quartile 3 and Quartile 1 in a data set.

Isosceles triangle: A triangle with two equal sides.

L

Like Terms: Monomials that have the same variables and powers.

M

Markup: The amount added to the price of goods by retailers to cover their costs.

Maximum: The largest value in a data set.

Mean Absolute Deviation: The mean of the absolute deviations of two or more sets of data.

Measurement conversion: Converting between larger or smaller units within the same scale or between customary and metric measurement scales.

Minimum: The smallest value in a data set.

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Mathematics - Academic Vocabulary

N

Negative Number: A number that falls to the left of zero on the number line.

Net: A two-dimensional pattern of a three-dimensional figure.

Normal Distribution: A bell-shaped data plot, with most of the data points in the center and an equal spread to the left and the right.

Numerator: The top number in a fraction.

O

Obtuse angle: An angle that measures more than 90° .

Opposite Number: Numbers that are an equal distance from zero on the number line (e.g., $-4, 4$).

Ordered pairs: Corresponding numbers in a table that are used to locate a point on a coordinate plane.

P

Parallelogram: A quadrilateral with two pairs of parallel sides.

Patty Paper: Paper that is waxed on one side; this paper was originally used to separate hamburger patties.

Percent: Rate per one hundred.

Percent Error: The percent a projection differs from the actual value.

Pi (π): The ratio of a circle's circumference to its diameter; usually rounded to 3.14.

Plane: Having a flat surface with not thickness.

Polyhedron: A three-dimensional figure with flat faces and straight edges.

Positive Number: A number that falls to the right of zero on the number line.

Principal: The amount of money in an account.

Prism: A three-dimensional triangular or rectangular figure; a polyhedron with two congruent bases.

Probability: The likelihood that an event will happen; can be 0, 1, or any number between 0 and 1.

Proportional Reasoning: Comparing and describing the relationship between two figures using a scale factor.

Proportional Relationship: A relationship in which the ratio of y/x is constant.

Pyramid: A four- or five-side solid with a rectangular or triangular base and triangular faces.

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Mathematics - Academic Vocabulary

Q

Quadrilateral: A four-sided polygon.

Quartile: The median of the first and second halves of a data set.

R

Radius: The distance from the edge of a circle to the center of the circle; the radius is equal to $\frac{1}{2}$ the diameter.

Random Sampling: A collection of data from the population that is random or collected without a method or pattern.

Rate: The percentage at which money is loaned or borrowed.

Ratio: The comparison of two numbers or quantities using division.

Rational Number: A number that can be written as a fraction.

Rectangle: A parallelogram with four right angles.

Repeating Decimal: A decimal that has digits that repeat infinitely (4.5353535353...).

Right angle: An angle that measures exactly 90° .

Right triangle: A triangle with a right angle.

S

Sales Price: The amount that an item costs to purchase.

Sales Tax: The amount of money added to a total purchase based on the total sales and determined by the government.

Sampling Variation: The sample mean varies across different possible samples of the same population.

Scale Factor: The ratio of the corresponding sides between two similar figures.

Scalene triangle: A triangle with no equal sides.

Similar: Two figures that have the same shape, but are different sizes; their corresponding angles are congruent, and their corresponding sides are proportional.

Simulation: A procedure in which you set up a model of a real situation.

Skewed Distribution: Data plots that are not bell-shaped and show most of the data points to one end or the other of the number line.

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Mathematics - Academic Vocabulary

Square: A rhombus with four right angles.

Statistical Question: A question where you expect answers to vary.

Statistics: A discipline that studies the collection, analysis, interpretation, and presentation of data.

Supplementary Angles: Two angles with combined angle measures of exactly 180° .

Surface Area: The area of the combined sides of a solid figure.

T

Term: An individual element of any math expression. It could be a single number or variable, or it could be the product of several numbers or variables separated from another term by a + or - sign in an overall expression. For example $6 + 7y + 2$ has 3 terms. The terms are 6, $7y$, and 2.

Terminating Decimal: A decimal which has digits that do not go on forever (e.g., 7.623).

Theoretical Probability: The number of favorable outcomes divided by the total possible outcomes.

Time: The length of time money is borrowed; always measured in years.

Trapezoid: A quadrilateral with exactly two parallel sides.

Triangle: A three-sided polygon.

U

Unique: When the description of the sides and angles of a triangle results in exactly one triangle.

Unit Price: The price for one item.

Unit rate: the value of one measurement relative to one unit.

V

Variability or Variance: The spread of distances between values in a data set.

Variable: A letter that represents a number.

Vertical Angles: Two angles that are directly across from one another where two lines intersect; vertical angles are always congruent.

Volume: The capacity of a figure. The cubic area contained within a solid figure.

X

x-axis: The horizontal number line at the starting position (0, $___$) on the coordinate plane.

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Mathematics - Academic Vocabulary

Y

y-axis: The vertical number line at the starting position ($\underline{\quad}, 0$) on the coordinate plane.

Z

Zero Pair: When a positive and a negative tile are combined they create a zero pair.