

12 Powerful Words of Academic Language

Word	Student-Friendly Definition	Language Structures	Questions/Tasks Associated with Academic Language Function	Answer Sentence Stems
Trace	List in steps/ in order	First second, third... Next before, after, afterwards, later on, time, not long after, now, as, when, immediately, preceding, initially, meanwhile, following, until, soon, today, as soon as -	Questions: Put these in chronological order. What happened first? (Second, later, last etc.) When was ___? Tasks: Organize, develop, discover, complete, while, meanwhile, process, outline, order,	[is first second, third, next thing that happened/occurred was... After that afterwards, later, when, happened/occurred According to...
Analyze	Break into parts and examine carefully	Is a part of, is related to, to be, same, different, similarities, differences, the common traits, to, so that nevertheless, thus, accordingly, if ... then (conditional connectors), makes, causes, because, creates, results in, due to, on account of, therefore	Questions: How is It/are they related? Why is ___ important? Are they common traits? What caused ___ to happen? What results/consequences might ___ create? What is the main Idea? What details support this idea? Tasks: Analyze, calculate, choose, classify, criteria, diagram, break down, categorize, classify, deduce, detect, differentiate, discriminate, distinguish, group, identify, illustrate, infer, order, out fine, point out , recognize, relate, select, separate	The important parts/components/elements of ___ are.. ___ happens in order to/that... ___ happens as a result of... Consequently,... According to...
Infer	Use what you know to mate an educated guess	Future tense, use of will, if...not, if...then (conditional connectors, descriptive verbs, adjectives	Questions: Why? Why did that happen? How did that happen? Why do you think ___? What makes you think ___? What tells you ___? How do you know that? Tasks: Predict, extrapolate, restate, represent rewrite, summarize, give examples, evidence, supporting details, reconstruct synthesise, derive, deduce, explain, formulate, create, construct	The next thing that will happen is ... ___ will/is going to because/due to... I predict ___ will...
Evaluate	Judge the importance of	I think, according to, for example, in fact, most important, for instance, for example, specifically	Questions: What is the most important/significant ,,,,,,? Why? How does this impact ,_? How or why is this significant? How or why is this valuable? How or why is this useful? What did you do to develop ,_? Why? Tasks: Appraise, argue, assess, compare, conclude, consider, contrast, criticize, critique, decide, describe, determine, discriminate, distinguish, evaluate, grade, judge, justify, write, recommend, validate, verify, test support, rate, rank, measure, criteria, interpret, relate	This is important/significant because... This is hard because.. This is confusing because... I like the part where,.. I don't like this part because... My favorite part so far is... I think/believe that..
Formulate	Create, make	Future tense, use of will	Questions: Tasks: Create, make, come up with, plan, devise, invent, synthesise, develop Create, make Tell all about	
Describe	Tell all about	Adjective use, descriptive language, superlatives/comparatives, ___ said, the book says, first second, next, etc., according to	Questions: Describe the main character. Tell about What happened? Show how... Tasks: Retell, recount, reorder, represent depict, trace, paraphrase, summarize, give examples, draw, explain, conclude, convert, describe, prepare, transform, translate, restate, rewrite, prepare, give in your own words, generalize	

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Support	Show it is true by giving facts and details	I think, according to, for example, in fact, most important If ... not, if ... then, I believe, because, since, based upon, you should, understand, on the contrary, you need to, therefore, from my point of view	Questions: Why do you think this is important? What evidence do you have to support your point of view? How can you convince someone of your Ideas? What reasons wilt you give to justify your point of view? How did you arrive at your decision? Tasks: Justify, evaluate, argue, persuade. make a case for or against back up, compare, contrast, distinguish, discriminate, illustrate, recognize, point out, relate, deduce, categorize, combine, document support, test, validate, verify. criteria, refer, relationship, irrelevant, preclude, include, give/support your point of view, tone, thesis, evidence, debate, crucial, critical	I believe/think because... ____ shows/proves that. ... ____ supports the idea that.. I contend that ____ based on the fact that. ____ Thus/Therefore/Hence/As a result/Consequently,...
Explain	Make clear or tell how	-	Questions: Tasks: Talk about, explain, clarify,	In other words,... It is clear that... The main ideas of ____ are...
Summarize	Tell main ideas/parts in a short way	main idea, adjective use, descriptive language, superlatives/comparatives, _____.said. the book says, first, second, next, etc., according to, in summary, to sum up	Questions: Tasks: Tell about summarize, give the main ideas of ...	The main ideas of ____ are,.. In sum/summary ... Overall Basically,...
Compare	Tell all the ways they are the same	too, as well as, also, similarly, similar to, by the same token, correspondingly, likewise	Questions: How are and the same? Compare ____ and ____ Describe ____ . Now, describe ____ . Do either of these ____? What makes ____ the same? Tasks: compare, group, identify, illustrate, point out, recognize, describe, attributes, commonalities	This is similar to ____ / This is the same as ____ This part is like ____ This character is like ____ because... ____ and ____ are the same/similar
Contrast	Tell all the ways they are different	but, on the other hand, different than, while, although. however, as opposed to, yet, in contrast (to), conversely,	Questions: What makes different? How do we know the difference between ____ and ____ Tasks: Distinguish, contrast, Identify, illustrate, point out, recognize, separate, describe, attributes, differences, differentiate	The differences are It is different from ____ because ____ and ____ are different
Predict	Tell what will happen next	Future tense, use of will/would, If....not, if, ...then (conditional connectors), descriptive verbs, adjectives	Questions: What would/mill happen if ... Tasks: predict, tell what will happen next, guess, educated guess, extrapolate	I predict that I bet' think that Since this happened , then ____ the next thing that is going to happen is ...