

What is Academic Vocabulary?

Worksheet

Academic vocabulary comprises formal, high-level words used in essays, research, and professional writing: analyze, hypothesis, framework, facilitate, correlate, substantiate, methodology, paradigm. These words signal academic credibility and precision.

Questions

1. Which is more academic?
A) find out
B) ascertain
C) look into
D) figure out
2. Upgrade: 'The results prove that X causes Y.' Best choice?
A) The data show X leads to Y.
B) Evidence substantiates a causal link between X and Y.
C) Findings make it clear X makes Y happen.
D) The results prove X and Y are linked.
3. Which academic word means 'to make clear'?
A) obscure
B) elucidate
C) obfuscate
D) conceal
4. Upgrading language improves...
A) length only
B) tone and credibility
C) word count only
D) reader confusion
5. Rewrite using academic vocabulary: 'The results show that stress affects sleep.'
6. Convert to academic: 'We looked at how poverty and crime are connected.'
7. Upgrade: 'The new method worked better than the old one.'
8. Define: What is academic vocabulary?
9. Define: Examples of high-frequency academic words
10. Define: Why use academic vocabulary in essays?

Answer Key

1. B) ascertain — Ascertain is formal and precise; others are colloquial.
2. B) Evidence substantiates a causal link between X and Y. — 'Substantiate a causal link' is precise academic language.
3. B) elucidate — Elucidate = clarify, explain. Others mean to hide or obscure.
4. B) tone and credibility — Academic language signals expertise and strengthens reader trust.
5. Everyday: The results show that stress affects sleep. Academic: Empirical data demonstrate that psychological stress significantly impacts sleep quality. Or: Findings substantiate a correlation between stress levels and sleep disruption.
6. Everyday: We looked at how poverty and crime are connected. Academic: We examined the interrelationship between socioeconomic deprivation and criminal behavior. Or: This study investigates the nexus between poverty indices and crime trajectories.
7. Everyday: The new method worked better than the old one. Academic: The innovative methodology yielded superior outcomes relative to conventional approaches. Or: The newly implemented framework demonstrated enhanced efficacy compared to traditional protocols.
8. Formal, precise, abstract words used in scholarly and professional contexts to signal credibility and sophistication.
9. Analyze, hypothesize, framework, facilitate, correlate, substantiate, methodology, paradigm, implement, delineate.
10. It strengthens arguments, shows subject mastery, meets audience expectations, and elevates the tone of your writing.

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