

The Academic Vocabulary List

Mark Davies and Dee Gardner, Brigham Young University

Sample of word families. Complete lists and detailed information at <http://www.academicvocabulary.info>.

1	study	137208	study (n) 137208 study (v) 18872 studied (j) 215 studiously (r) 58 studious (j) 41 studying (n) Edu 20
2	develop	128974	development (n) 63509 develop (v) 52543 developing (j) 9039 developmental (j) Edu 5716 developed (j) 3513 developer (n) 2526 developmentally (r) Edu 573 underdeveloped (j) 370 undeveloped (j) 283 underdevelopment (n) His 214 redevelopment (n) 144 redevelop (v) 48 developing (n) Law 18
3	group	125012	group (n) 122011 grouping (n) Edu 1744 subgroup (n) 1603 group (v) 1398 intergroup (j) Soc 559 regroup (v) His 172 grouped (j) Edu 34 regrouping (n) Edu 20
4	system	116141	system (n) 110176 systematic (j) 4090 systematically (r) 1815 subsystem (n) Sci 796 unsystematic (j) 60
5	relate	114267	relationship (n) 50744 relate (v) 28592 relation (n) 23867 related (j) 6945 relational (j) 1498 unrelated (j) 1388 interrelated (j) 731 interrelationship (n) 502 relatedness (n) 434 interrelation (n) Hum 191
6	research	112649	research (n) 83325 researcher (n) 25445 research (v) 3879
7	social	103635	social (j) 99744 socially (r) 3891 antisocial (j) Med 1080
8	result	96016	result (n) 72083 result (v) 20138 resulting (j) 3063 resultant (j) 732
9	use	93271	use (v) 184698 use (n) 64527 user (n) 14141 useful (j) 11584 used (j) 6037 usefulness (n) 1229 useless (j) 1002 usable (j) 737 misuse (n) 626 reuse (v) Sci 503 unused (j) 380 reuse (n) 260 usefully (r) 247 reusable (j) Sci 239 misuse (v) 227 usability (n) Sci 144 unusable (j) 112 useable (j) 68 uselessness (n) Hum 43 misused (j) 22 uselessly (r) 17
10	provide	93212	provide (v) 93212 provider (n) Med 5708 provided (c) 4620 providing (c) 233
11	however	90906	however (r) 90906
12	increase	85843	increase (v) 35289 increase (n) 15833 increased (j) 12996 increasingly (r) 12280 increasing (j) 9445

The entries show the rank order and the total frequency of the word family (of just the yellow “core” words), in the 120 million words of academic texts in the [Corpus of Contemporary American English \(COCA\)](#). The words are grouped by lemma (e.g. *develop* = {develop, developed} etc), and they are grouped by part of speech (notice the two entries for *group* (#3) – as noun and verb). The words in yellow are “core academic” words, and occur across all nine sub-genres of academic. Red words are more technical, and occur mainly in one or two of the sub-genres of academic (e.g. Medicine or Education). Words in blue (higher frequency) and gray (lower frequency) are not academic per se, but they are included here for convenience in learning and teaching. The words for each family are listed in order of frequency (so you can focus on the most useful words), and the number after each word shows its frequency.