



Using a Dictionary of Academic English





An introduction to:

- Academic Vocabulary
- Oxford Learner's Dictionary of Academic English (OLDAE)
- The Academic Word List (AWL)
- Oxford Phrasal Academic Lexicon (OPAL)





Academic Vocabulary:

- Words that occur frequently across different academic subjects are classed as academic vocabulary in the context of English for Academic Purposes
- Academic vocabulary refers to words in general English words which are used differently in academic contexts (e.g. essays, reports, articles)
- In order to write accurately, students of English for Academic Purposes need good knowledge of academic vocabulary and general vocabulary





Oxford Learner's Dictionary of Academic English

- contains 22,000 words, phrases, and meanings
- includes 50,000 examples from real academic texts
- contains synonyms and collocations
- includes an interactive writer (Oxford i-Writer)
- is **NOT FREE** but many sample words can be viewed online for free



OLDAE (1)



The Oxford Learner's Dictionary of Academic English Online

The screenshot shows the homepage of the Oxford Learner's Dictionary of Academic English Online. At the top, the 'OXFORD' logo is on the left, and 'Redeem', 'Upgrade', 'Help', and 'Sign in' buttons are on the right. Below the logo, it says 'Oxford Learner's Dictionaries'. A navigation bar contains 'Dictionaries', 'Grammar', 'Word Lists', and 'Resources', each with a dropdown arrow. Below this is a search bar with a yellow 'Academic English' dropdown and a search icon. The main content area has the title 'Oxford Learner's Dictionary of Academic English' and a description: 'The Oxford Learner's Dictionary of Academic English (OLDAE) focuses on words and phrases used in academic writing, and helps you to use them in your own academic written work. OLDAE is specifically designed for learners who are studying, or preparing to study, an academic subject in English.' Below the text are 'Buy a code' and 'Redeem a code' buttons. On the right is an illustration of a person sitting next to a large book titled 'Oxford Learner's Dictionary of Academic English'.



<https://www.oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com/definition/academic/>



OLDAE: Sample Entry for “Analysis”

to examine the nature or structure of something, especially by separating it into its parts, in order to understand or explain it

- **analyse something** *Tomlinson (1999) analysed UK survey data, finding that...*
- *Some recent studies have analysed the impact of media on voter attitudes.*
- **analyse something for something** *A 50 cm³ sample of water was analysed for its calcium content.*
- **analyse how/what, etc...** *The authors analyse how dominant cultural values enter the classroom.*

+ Synonyms

+ Collocations

+ Word Family

The plus signs (+) expand to show:
words with similar meaning (synonyms);
words that go well together (collocations);
different forms of words (word family).

 See **ANALYSE** in the Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary





OLDAE interactive writing tutor:

- The Oxford Learner's Dictionary of Academic English online subscription includes an academic interactive writing tool (i-Writer)
- The i-Writer includes samples of different text types (e.g. essays, reports)
- You can highlight different features of the sample essays (e.g. structure, useful language)
- You can use templates to write your own essay



Academic i-Writer



Essay 2: argument ▲

Models ▼

Guided tour of the model
Take a step-by-step tour of how the model was written

What is an argument essay?

What are the main features?

How is it structured?

Look at the Introduction

Look at Arguments against

Look at Arguments for

Look at the Conclusion

Show me useful language

Choose what to show
Explore the model by showing and hiding different elements

Show structure X

Show content X

Show all X

If you want to look up a word in the *Oxford Learner's Dictionary of Academic English*, you can double-click on it. The dictionary page will open in a new tab in your browser.

Please note that double-click look-up is not available on mobile devices.

Writing Essays 2: an argument essay
In an argument essay, you need to display your ability to weigh up different viewpoints and arrive at an informed conclusion.

Introduction
Begin with background information on the topic.
Give a specific explanation of the topic.
State the aims and/or scope of the essay.

Introduction
There are approximately 688 000 people who are severely or profoundly deaf in the United Kingdom, and 840 children who are born deaf each year (RNID, 2011a). It is clear from these figures that there is a large community of people who are deaf in the United Kingdom alone. Consequently, it must be considered how deafness may affect language acquisition and what steps caregivers can take to overcome any difficulties. There are different levels of deafness and hearing loss (RNID, 2011b); however, it is not within the scope of this essay to consider all of these levels. Therefore, this essay will mainly focus on people who are born with severe or profound deafness (RNID, 2011b).

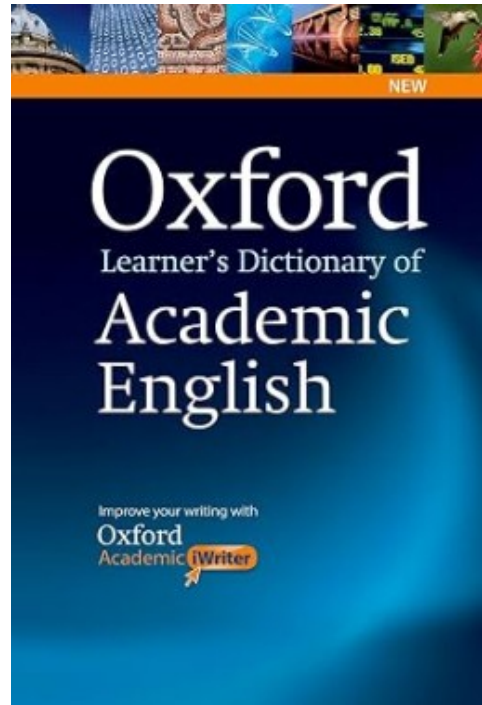
Arguments against your case
Present the arguments against your case, including supporting evidence.

Spoken language acquisition

Where to buy OLDAE?



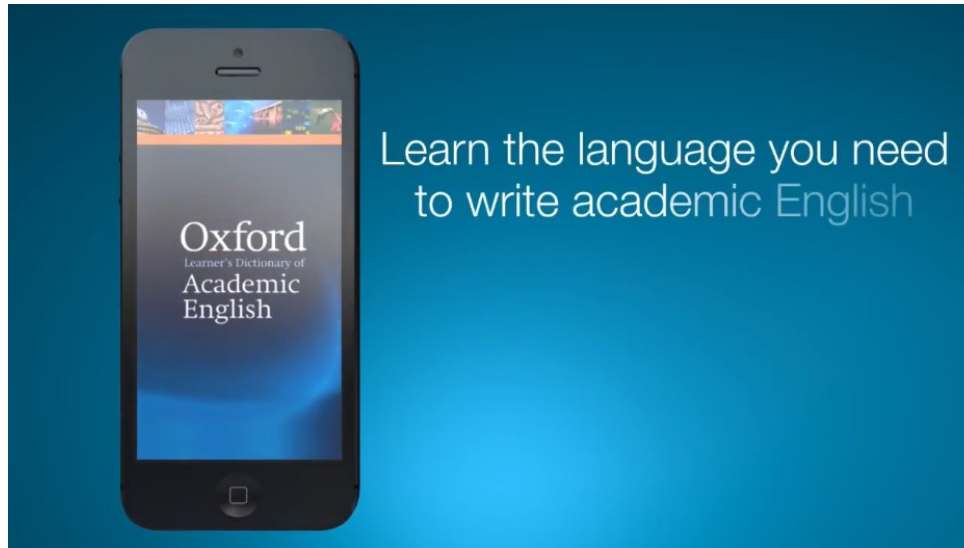
A paperback (2014) copy of OLDAE can be bought at [amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com)



OLDAE app



The Oxford Learner's Dictionary of Academic English App



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FfBCrJlOI6E>

Academic Word List



The Academic Word List (AWL):

- The AWL (Coxhead, 2000) lists academic vocabulary
- The list contains 570 word families
- The AWL covers about 10% of vocabulary in written academic texts
- The AWL is divided into 10 sub-lists
- The most frequent words are on sub-list 1 & least frequent on sub-list 10





OLDAE: Sample Entry for “Analysis” (1)

Definition of **analyse verb** from the Oxford Learner's Dictionary of Academic English



analyse *verb*

(British English)

(North American English **analyze**)

OPAL
written

OPAL
spoken

BrE /'ænləɪz/ ; NAmE /'ænləɪz/

This icon means 'analyse' is
on the Academic Word List

— Verb Forms

present simple I / you / we / they **analyse** BrE /'ænləɪz/ ; NAmE /'ænləɪz/

he / she / it **analyses** BrE /'ænləɪzɪz/ ; NAmE /'ænləɪzɪz/

past simple **analysed** BrE /'ænləɪzd/ ; NAmE /'ænləɪzd/

past participle **analysed** BrE /'ænləɪzd/ ; NAmE /'ænləɪzd/

-ing form **analysing** BrE /'ænləɪzɪŋ/ ; NAmE /'ænləɪzɪŋ/





Oxford Phrasal Academic Lexicon:

- The Oxford Phrasal Academic Lexicon (OPAL) consists of 4 lists of academic vocabulary from real academic examples
- **OPAL spoken** & **OPAL written** each have 1 word list & 1 phrase list
- OPAL covers 4 academic subject areas: physical sciences, life sciences, social sciences, arts and humanities
- Word entries that are on the lists have an OPAL icon in the OLDAE





OLDAE: Sample Entry for “Analysis” (1)

Definition of analyse verb from the Oxford Learner's Dictionary of Academic English



analyse *verb*

(British English)

(North American English **analyze**)

OPAL
written

OPAL
spoken

BrE /'ænləɪz/ ; NAmE /'ænləɪz/

These symbols mean that 'analyse' is on OPAL's spoken and written word lists.

— Verb Forms

present simple I / you / we / they **analyse** BrE /'ænləɪz/ ; NAmE /'ænləɪz/

he / she / it **analyses** BrE /'ænləɪzɪz/ ; NAmE /'ænləɪzɪz/

past simple **analysed** BrE /'ænləɪzd/ ; NAmE /'ænləɪzd/

past participle **analysed** BrE /'ænləɪzd/ ; NAmE /'ænləɪzd/

-ing form **analysing** BrE /'ænləɪzɪŋ/ ; NAmE /'ænləɪzɪŋ/





The Oxford Phrasal Academic Lexicon:

- The word list (spoken) has 6 sub-lists
- The word list (written) has 12 sub-lists
- The most important words are on sub-list 1;
- The next most important are on sub-list 2, and so on
- The phrase lists are grouped into functions (e.g. giving an example).



OPAL lists



Oxford Learner's Word Lists

Our word lists are designed to help English language learners at any level focus on the most important words to learn in their area of study. Based on our extensive corpora (= collections of written and spoken texts) and aligned to the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR), the word lists have been carefully researched and developed together with vocabulary experts, so that you know you can rely on them in your learning or teaching.

[Read more >](#)

Oxford 3000 and 5000

The most important words to learn in English.

[Go to list](#)

[Read more](#)

OPAL (Oxford Phrasal Academic Lexicon)

The essential vocabulary for academic writing and speaking.

[Go to lists](#)

[Read more](#)

Oxford Phrase List

The most important phrases to learn in English.

[Go to list](#)

[Read more](#)

My Word Lists

Create lists of the words you want to learn and test yourself on them.

[Go to My Word Lists](#)

1. From the Oxford Dictionaries home page, select 'word lists home'
2. Go to OPAL and click 'Go to lists'

OPAL lists



OPAL (Oxford Phrasal Academic Lexicon)

The essential vocabulary for academic writing and speaking. [Find out more >](#)



Select 'Filters'!

Type and press Go

Academic English > OPAL written words > All

ability	noun		
abnormal	adjective		
abnormality	noun		
above	adjective		
above	adverb		



OPAL lists



OPAL (Oxford Phrasal Academic Lexicon)

The essential vocabulary for academic writing and speaking. Find out more >

Select the list you want e.g. 'OPAL spoken phrases'!

Then check the language function you want
e.g. 'Giving examples or presenting evidence'!

Filters

Manage filters for this word list

Dictionary:

Academic English

Word Lists:

OPAL spoken phrases

Sublist or function:

- Select all
- Adding
- Clarifying & restating
- Classifying & comparing things
- Direct address or instruction to students/audience
- Drawing attention to something or focusing on it
- Expressing aims, causes & effects
- Expressing quantity & increase/decrease
- Expressing relationships between things & ideas
- ☒ Giving examples or presenting evidence
- Hedging & expressing degrees of certainty
- Making contrasts
- Marking a shift in or change of topic
- Ordering content & making time references

Done



Tools for learning academic vocabulary

- Oxford Learner's Dictionary of Academic English (OLDAE)
- The Academic Word List (AWL)
- Oxford Phrasal Academic Lexicon (OPAL)



Glossary



Collocation	A term to describe words which are often seen together.
Entry	A piece of information (e.g. about a word) that is put into a record or a book, such as a dictionary (Adapted from OLDAE, p280).
Function	The purpose for which a piece of language or phrase is used.
Sample	An example of something that can be looked at or tried out to see what it is like (Adapted from OLDAE, p.717).
Synonym	A word which has the same or a similar meaning to another word (e.g. advantage, benefit).





Thank you for watching



References



Coxhead, A. (2000). A New Academic Word List. *TESOL Quarterly*, 34(2): 213-238.

Oxford Learner's Dictionary of Academic English (7th Edition). (2014). Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Oxford University Press (n.d.). Oxford Learner's Dictionaries.
<https://www.oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com/>

Oxford University Press ELT. (2015, January 8). Oxford Learner's Dictionary of Academic English app.[Video]. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FfBCrJl0I6E>