

IL Advanced Academic Vocabulary List (4-6)

Word	Definition	Example Sentence
analyze	(verb) to study something very carefully so you can understand it	We can analyze this plant to learn more about it.
annual	(adjective) a word that describes something that happen every year	The school has bake sales every other month, but the book fair is an annual event.
apply	(verb) to fill out papers for a job or a chance to do something special	I have to apply if I want to be a volunteer at the animal shelter.
approximately	(adverb) almost; nearly the right number or amount	The kids moved so fast they were hard to count, but there were approximately thirty of them on the field.
article	(noun) a kind of writing usually found in newspapers, magazines, or on the Internet that explains or describes something	She read a magazine article about buffalo.
assume	(verb) to believe something is true without any proof	I assume he likes pizza, but we should ask him to make sure.
average	(various) about the same as everyone else; a number found by adding a list of amounts, then dividing the total by the number of items on the list	The average person likes pizza. The average of 2, 4, 6, and 8 is 5.
based on	(adjective) using ideas from something else	This movie was based on a book.
characteristic	(noun) things about a person, place or thing that make it unique	A characteristic that easily separates Asian elephants from African elephants is their much smaller ears.
comment	(various) a short thought or feeling you share with others; to share a short thought or feeling with others.	When Casey made a comment that my shoes looked cool, I felt proud.
communicate	(verb) to share information or ideas, usually by talking or by writing	My friend lives far away, so now we communicate by writing letters to one another.
complex	(adjective) made of many different parts that are hard to understand	The inside of the computer was very complex, with lots of circuits, chips, wires and fans.
comprehend	(verb) to understand	When Mrs. Ochoa explains word problems, I find them much easier to comprehend.
conclusion	(noun) a carefully thought-out decision whether something is true or not true	Mary listened to both stories and came to the conclusion that Jose was right.
conflict	(noun) a problem or disagreement between people or countries	Conflict between England and France went on for many centuries and resulted in several wars.
consist of	(verb) to be made of two or more things	Lemonade consists of water, lemon juice, and sugar.
contrast	(verb) to show how things are different	If you contrast the two plans you will see how mine is better.
convince	(verb) to get someone to believe you or do what you want	He tried to convince me that unicorns are real, but I did not believe him.
data	(noun) pieces of information, such as facts or numbers	We can collect data about what kinds of food our class likes and dislikes.
define	(verb) to tell what a word means	I've never hear that word before. Can you define it for me?
demonstrate	(verb) to show or explain clearly	My little brother didn't know how to tie his shoe, so I demonstrated it for him several times.

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economy	(noun) the way a country makes, buys, and sells things.	When you spend money, you are part of the economy.
emphasize	(verb) to make something seem more important than other things	My parents emphasize working hard because they know if I do, I will succeed.
entry	(noun) a note that is added to a document, usually in a list, dictionary, or journal	Every day, she writes a new entry in her journal, even if it's just to say, "Today was okay."
error	(noun) something that is wrong; a mistake	The error you made when you added up the first numbers caused you to get the whole problem wrong.
event	(noun) something that happens, especially something important or exciting	Parades are an event I enjoy.
eventually	(adverb) after a long time	Eventually, people will live on Mars.
evidence	(noun) facts that prove something is true or real	His fingerprints on the doorknob are evidence that he was at the house.
except	(adverb) used to say that something is left out of the group	All months have 30 or 31 days, except for February.
experience	(noun) an event in your life where you learned something	Getting lost in the woods was a terrible experience, but I learned a lot from it.
explain	(verb) to tell something so clearly that it is easy to understand	Can anyone explain how the Internet works?
express	(verb) to tell or show how you think or feel	Let me express how proud I am of you.
feature	(noun) a part or quality of something	One feature of robins is that they have red feathers on their chests.
file	(noun) a collection of information you store in a paper folder or on a computer	She kept all the old letters and pictures in a file.
future	(noun) a time that has not come yet	I wonder what phones and computers will look like in the future.
general	(adjective) having to do with a whole group of things; not detailed or specific	The general opinion is that the movie was bad, but I liked it.
goal	(noun) something you want and are trying to get	My goal is to finish this assignment.
horizontal	(adjective) straight across, level, and flat	This table is horizontal.
identify	(verb) to tell what something is or who someone is	She can identify different kinds of trees by looking at their leaves and their bark.
in order to	(various) a phrase you use when one thing must happen before another	In order to teach you this word, I have to use an example.
include	(verb) to put something into a group or let someone be part of a group	We should include the story about the bat in our report.
individual	(noun) one person	Twins like it when you treat each one as an individual.
influence	(verb) to help change the way someone feels, thinks, or acts without forcing them	How can you influence others to be nice?
instead of	(preposition) a phrase that means you did one thing but not something else	Instead of doing math, we are learning about words.
interpret	(verb) to translate text or speech in one language into another language; to explain the meaning of something	Maya did a better job on the project after I helped her interpret the directions.

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investigate	(verb) to look carefully for information to find out why something happened; to learn hidden facts about something	Detectives learn what happened when they investigate a crime scene and find clues.
legal	(adjective) allowed by the law	Stealing is not legal.
locate	(verb) to find where a place or object is	When I located Alaska on a map, I realized that it's very, very far away.
main	(adjective) biggest or most important	The main purpose of school is learning.
mention	(verb) to talk or write about someone or something in a quick way without giving any details	Peter mentioned a movie in his report, but he didn't tell us what it's about.
method	(noun) the way something is done	My friend learned a very different method of long division while she lived in Germany.
natural resources	(noun) things found on the earth that are useful, such as land, lakes, and minerals	Water and wood are examples of natural resources.
obvious	(adjective) a word that describes something that is easy to see or understand	I can't believe I missed that question. The answer is so obvious.
occur	(verb) to happen	Most tornadoes occur in flat country.
organize	(verb) to put plans, ideas, or things into some kind of order	I like to organize my books in alphabetical order.
paraphrase	(verb) to use your own words to describe what someone else has said or written	I don't remember his whole speech, but I can paraphrase the main ideas for you.
permit	(verb) to let someone do something; to allow	The teacher permitted me to use the restroom.
phrase	(noun) a group of words that is not a complete sentence	"Pie in the sky," is a popular phrase.
plot	(noun) the events that happen in a story	Every episode of that cartoon has the exact same plot.
previous	(adjective) earlier in order or time	I worked very hard on this book report because my previous one got a bad grade.
procedure	(noun) a group of actions done in a certain order or way	To solve a difficult math problem correctly, you need to follow a procedure.
process	(noun) a method of doing things that leads to a certain result	Learning to read is a process.
produce	(verb) to make something	That cherry tree produces very sour cherries.
receive	(verb) to get or be given something	I like to receive gifts.
refer	(verb) to look somewhere for information, like a book or your notes	I can refer to a dictionary if I don't know a word.
region	(noun) a large area of land	You're from New England? I've never been to that region.
represent	(verb) to speak or act for another person or group	I represent the fifth grade at our school's student council meetings.
require	(verb) to need something	The teacher requires a signed permission form before I can go on the field trip.
resources	(noun) things that are used to make something else	We need a new school, but we don't have the resources to build one.
response	(noun) an answer to a question	I asked her if she liked vegetables, and her response was, "Yes."
responsibility	(noun) a job you are required or expected to do	Feeding the dog is my responsibility.

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result	(noun) something that is caused by something else	The result of eating too much cake is a stomachache.
reveal	(verb) to make something known; to show something	You can ruin a good story when you reveal the ending too soon.
sample	(noun) a piece of something that gives you more information about the thing you took the piece from	If you don't know which flavor of ice cream you want, ask for a sample to try.
scarce	(adjective) very small in amount or number	Seats are scarce on the crowded bus.
selection	(noun) the thing chosen from a group	The paragraph I want to read is a selection from my favorite book.
series	(noun) a number of similar things that come one right after another	During Spirit Week, the school will have a series of events to get students excited.
setting	(noun) the place and time of the story; the place where something occurs	The setting of "Little Red Riding Hood" is a forest.
situation	(noun) all of the facts, events, and conditions that affect something at a certain time and place	We read several news stories to understand the situation better.
solution	(noun) something that solves a problem	When we didn't have enough crayons, Ms. Brown's solution was to break all the crayons in half to make more.
source	(noun) the place where something comes from	The stream was a source of water for many animals in the forest.
specific	(adjective) a way of describing a certain thing	He didn't want just any shoes. He wanted a very specific style of shoes.
statement	(noun) something that is said or written	After this important event, we expect the President to make a statement.
strategy	(noun) a plan for reaching a goal	I won the game because I had a better strategy.
subject	(noun) a person or thing being described or discussed	The subject of this lesson is new words.
substance	(noun) a special kind of solid, liquid, or gas	Helium is a substance that makes balloons float.
succeed	(verb) to complete a task correctly	We're working hard on this topic because we want to succeed on the test.
suggest	(verb) to give an idea about what to do	I suggest you work hard on your report.
support	(verb) to help a person or an idea be successful	I support the idea that everyone should treat each other nicely.
the following	(phrase) a phrase that shows something that is coming next	All of the following are colors: blue, orange, and brown.
theory	(noun) an idea about why or how things happen that hasn't been proven	To prove a theory, you need to do a lot of research and experiments.
topic	(noun) the subject you are writing about or giving a speech about	The topic of this lesson is new words.
tradition	(noun) an idea, belief, or way of doing something that has been done by a group of people for a long time	My family has a tradition of eating waffles on New Year's Day.
vertical	(adjective) positioned up and down	When you stand, you are vertical. When you lie down, you are horizontal.