

# IL Beginning Academic Vocabulary List (K-2)

Word	Definition	Example Sentence
above	(preposition) Illustrate this word by putting your hand above your head. Have the students put their hands above their heads or above different objects near them.	The light is above my head.
accident	(noun) something that happens that wasn't planned or expected	I dropped my lunch tray by accident.
across	(adverb) when something moves from one side to the other	I ran across the playground.
add	(verb) to find the total of two or more numbers.	When you add 2 and 3, you get 5.
address	(noun) the number and street that tells where a place is	My address is 229 Main St.
against	(preposition) Illustrate this word by leaning against a wall or leaning a book against something.	I leaned my bike against the house.
age	(noun) Illustrate this word by telling the students their ages.	When the nurse asked my age, I told her I was six.
ahead of	(preposition) Illustrate this word by having students line up. Point out who is ahead of each student in line.	My friend is ahead of me, so he will get his lunch first.
alike	(adjective) the same in one or more ways	My brother and I are alike. We both have brown hair and brown eyes.
area	(noun) Illustrate this word by identifying different areas in the classroom.	We can play in this area.
army	(noun) a group of people who fight for a country	Our army protects us.
around	(preposition) Illustrate this word by walking around your desk, and draw attention to a scarf, necklace, or belt around your neck or waist.	He put chairs around the table.
arrive	(verb) to get to the place you are going	You arrive at school at 7:30 in the morning.
away from	(adverb) Illustrate this by having a student move away from the group.	I moved away from the dog when it growled at me.
begin	(verb) to start something	When I say, "Start," you can begin the test.
beginning	(noun) the first part of something	At the beginning of the poem, Humpty Dumpty sat on the wall.
behind	(preposition) Illustrate this word by having the students line up and then identify who they are behind.	I was behind my friend in the lunch line, so she got her lunch first.
below	(preposition) Illustrate this word by having the students put an object below their hands or chair.	I can put my hands below my chair.
beneath	(preposition) Illustrate this word by telling students that beneath and below are synonyms and have them put something beneath their chairs.	The floor is beneath your feet.
beside	(preposition) Illustrate this word by having the students identify the person beside them.	Sit beside your partner so you can read the book together.
best	(adjective) better than all the others	I won the race, so I'm the best!

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between	(preposition) Illustrate this word by having three students stand in a line and identify the student that is between the other two, or by giving them two numbers and identifying what number is between them.	Four is the number between three and five.
both	(various) Illustrate this word by identifying something two students have in common.	Although they are very different animals, both cats and dogs make good pets.
bridge	(noun) something that is built over a river, a road, or some other space to help people get from one side to another	We crossed the bridge over the rushing river.
by	(preposition) Illustrate this word by having two students stand by each other.	We line up by the door before going to lunch.
calendar	(noun) Illustrate this word by having the students identify the calendar in the classroom. Ask students what they learn from a calendar.	I found the 4th of July on the calendar.
capital	(noun) the city where a state or country's main government is	The capital of the United States is Washington D.C.
center	(noun) Illustrate this word by having the students stand in a circle and then have them take turns standing in the center.	There are seeds in the center of an apple.
change	(verb) to make something different	You can change red to purple by adding blue. The leaves change colors in the fall.
city	(noun) an area where lots of people live and work	In the city where I live, there are lots of people, cars, and places to shop.
climate	(noun) the weather that is normal for an area	The climate here is hot most of the year.
coast	(noun) Illustrate this word by pointing to the coast on a map or globe in the classroom.	From the boat I could see the coast.
complete	(verb) to finish	The teacher told us we must complete and turn in our reports today.
continent	(noun) Illustrate this word by showing the continents on a map or globe in the classroom.	We live on the North American continent.
copy	(verb) to make something that looks like another thing	I will copy the math problem that is on the board into my notebook.
corner	(noun) Illustrate this word by pointing to the corner of a piece of paper, the classroom, or a book.	A triangle has three corners, and a square has four.
correct	(adjective) without any mistakes	That answer is correct.
country	(noun) an area of land that has one government	This country is the United States of America.
cover	(noun) something that goes over another thing to protect it	The book's cover kept the pages safe from the rain.
crop	(noun) plants that are grown on a farm	This year we had a big crop of corn.
cross out	(verb) to draw a line through something	Let's cross out the wrong answer.
date	(noun) Illustrate this word on your classroom calendar.	Today's date is _____.
difficult	(adjective) hard to do	The puzzle was difficult, so I asked my dad for help.

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direction	(noun) the way something or someone is looking or going	The map will show us what direction the school is in.
discover	(verb) to find or learn for the first time	The scientist hopes to discover a new planet.
E/earth	(noun) the planet we live on	I wonder what Earth looks like from space.
edge	(noun) Illustrate this word by pointing to the edge of a book, paper, or table.	Don't put your glass on the edge of the table, because it might get knocked off.
end	(noun) the last part of something	At the end of the story, Goldilocks sees the three bears standing over her, so she gets scared and runs away.
equal	(adjective) the same amount or weight	Our pieces of cake are the same size, so they are equal.
equator	(noun) an imaginary line around the middle of the Earth	The weather is very warm on the equator.
example	(noun) Illustrate this word by explaining that there are many kinds of fruit. Then ask students to give you examples. Ask if corn is an example. Ask students why not.	The example on the test helped me know how to answer the rest of the questions.
explore	(verb) to travel to different places to learn new things about them	In a few years, scientists might explore Mars.
far from	(adverb) a long distance away from something	The park is just down the street, so it's not very far from here.
farm	(noun) a place where plants and animals are raised	Cows live on the farm.
favorite	(adjective) something you like more than other things	I have read my favorite book four times.
fill in	(verb) to give information that is missing	There was a space at the top of the test for me to fill in my name.
find	(verb) to discover something, especially after looking for it (noun) a discovery	I hope I can find the money I lost.
finish	(verb) to end or complete something	I must finish my homework before I can watch TV.
fix	(verb) to make something work as it should	My bicycle tire is flat, but I can fix it.
follow	(verb) to go after or behind someone or something	We follow the leader.
fraction	(noun) a small part of a larger thing	This piece of cake is a fraction of the whole cake.
give	(verb) Illustrate this word through by demonstrating giving something to a student.	I give my dog a treat when he is being good.
globe	(noun) Illustrate this word by pointing to a globe in the classroom or holding up a picture of a globe.	Turn the globe until you see the United States.
government	(noun) people who make laws and important decisions for a city, state, or a country	I have to wear a safety belt in the car, because the government made it a law.
grade	(noun) a score or letter given on schoolwork that shows how well you did	I work hard in school and get good grades.
greater than	(various) Illustrate this word by putting the students into unequal groups or drawing unequal groups of circles and identify the group that is greater than the other.	Four is greater than two.

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group	(noun) some people or things that belong together	My reading group meets every day.
guess	(verb) to think something without knowing for sure	I don't know the answer, so I'll have to guess what it is.
half	(noun) Illustrate this word by folding a piece of paper in half.	Our teacher split the class in half and created two big teams.
hear	(verb) to be aware of sounds	I like to hear birds singing.
holiday	(noun) a day of celebration when many people do not go to school or work	We don't go to school today because it's a holiday.
human	(noun) a person	People are human, but animals and plants are not.
husband	(noun) a married man	When my grandpa married my grandma, he became her husband.
imagine	(verb) to think of a thing that isn't real	I like to imagine that I am an astronaut floating in space.
in	(preposition) Illustrate this word by putting an object in a container.	My book is in my backpack.
in front of	(preposition) Illustrate this word by having the students line up and identify one student who is in front of another.	I am in front of you in line, so I will get lunch first.
incorrect	(adjective) wrong, not right	My teacher made me fix my incorrect answer to the question.
inside	(preposition) Illustrate this word by putting an object inside a container.	There was no light inside the cave.
into	(preposition) Illustrate this word by having the kids walk into the room, or by putting an object into a container.	He walked into the room.
island	(noun) land that has water all around it	We sailed all the way around the island in our boat.
last	(adjective) coming in after others	I was the last to eat lunch because I was at the end of the line.
leader	(noun) someone that other people follow	We followed the line leader back to class.
less than	(various) Illustrate this word by putting the students into unequal groups or drawing unequal groups of circles and identify the group that is less than the other.	Two is less than four.
line	(noun) Illustrate this word by drawing a line or pointing to a line in the classroom.	I write my name on the line at the top of my paper.
machine	(noun) something we make to do work	A dishwasher is a machine that washes and dries the dishes.
measure	(verb) to find out the size, length, or weight of something	I measure my foot with a ruler to see how long it is.
message	(noun) information given or sent to someone	My mom sent a message that she would take me home after school.
middle	(noun) Illustrate this word by having three or more students line up. Identify the student(s) in the middle.	Lunch is in the middle of the day.
mistake	(noun) something a person did wrong	I made a mistake working out the math problem and got the wrong answer.

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Word	Definition	Example Sentence
money	(noun) metal coins or paper used to pay for things	I have two dollars. How much money do you have?
month	(noun) one of the twelve parts of a year	January is the first month of the year.
move	(verb) Illustrate this word by moving something from one place to another.	I moved the books from the shelf to my desk.
near	(preposition) Illustrate this word by moving yourself near someone or something in the classroom.	I like to sit near my friend so we can read together.
neighbor	(noun) a person who lives near you	The girl in the house next door is my neighbor.
next to	(preposition) Illustrate this word by moving yourself next to someone or something in the classroom.	I sit next to the door, so I am always the first one in line.
nothing	(noun) Illustrate this word by showing the students a container with nothing in it, than with something in it.	I need a drink, but my cup is empty.
number	(noun) something that tells how many or which one	I counted the number of plates we needed for dinner.
ocean	(noun) Illustrate this word by pointing out the ocean on a map or globe in the classroom.	Big ships sail on the ocean.
off	(preposition) Illustrate this word by having someone turn off a light switch.	The heater was off, so we all had to wear our coats in the classroom.
on	(preposition) Illustrate this word by putting your hand on your head, on the table, etc.	The book is on the table.
on top of	(preposition) Illustrate this word by drawing a square and then putting a triangle on top. Add more shapes. Ask students to find things in the classroom that are on top of other things.	The candles are on top of the cake.
once	(adverb) one time	We go on vacation once a year.
out of	(preposition) Illustrate this word by putting something in a closed box or other container and asking a student to take the item out of the container.	Take the eggs out of the carton carefully.
outside	(preposition) Illustrate this word by taking a crayon out of a box. The crayon is now outside the box. Have students take something out of their backpacks. The objects are now outside the backpacks.	The doors were locked so we waited outside the school.
over	(preposition) Illustrate this word by putting your hand over and under things.	The cloud is over us.
parents	(noun) people who are mothers or fathers	My parents help me with my homework.
piece	(noun) a part that is taken away from something larger	I ate a small piece of the pie.
planet	(noun) a large, round object that orbits a star	Earth is a large planet.
print	(verb) Illustrate this word by printing your name and writing your name in cursive.	I can print my name.
pull	(verb) to hold onto something and move it toward yourself	I pulled on the door handle, but it wouldn't open.
push	(verb) to move something away from you using force	I had to push my bike up the steep hill.

# IL Beginning Academic Vocabulary List (K-2)

Word	Definition	Example Sentence
quarter	(noun) Illustrate this word by folding a paper in half and then half again, pointing out that each section is a quarter of the whole paper.	The four of us each had a quarter of the pizza.
real	(adjective) something that is not imaginary	Elephants are real.
rectangle	(noun) a four-sided shape	The top of the table is a rectangle.
report	(noun) information about a topic or event that is shared with others	I am giving a report about Mars to my classmates.
ruler	(noun) Illustrate this word by showing a ruler and use it to measure something and use it to draw a straight line.	This ruler is twelve inches long.
score	(noun) a number that shows how many points a person or team makes in a game	The soccer score was 5-3.
season	(noun) the four parts of the year, called spring, summer, autumn, or winter.	Winter is my favorite season.
sentence	(noun) a group of words that has a subject and a verb and gives a complete thought	"The puppy licked my hand," is a sentence.
settle	(verb) to make a home in a place	My family settled here because it is such a friendly place.
shape	(noun) Illustrate this word by pointing out different shapes in the classroom.	This shape is a rectangle.
show	(verb) Illustrate this word by revealing something special such as a book the class will be reading or a picture of something engaging.	I want to show you the new magic trick I learned.
side	(noun) Illustrate this word by pointing to the side of the room, the side of an object, and the side of a shape, such as an octagon.	We have bookcases on one side of our classroom and computers on the other side.
smell	(verb) to use your nose to sense smells	I smell cookies baking.
space	(noun) the area between things or the area for something special	On book covers there is space for the name of author and illustrator.
spell	(verb) to write or say the letters in a word in the right order	How do you spell your name?
stand	(verb) to be on your feet	All the seats were taken so I had to stand for the whole game.
street	(noun) a road in a city or town	The school bus stops on the street in front of my apartment.
take away	(verb) to subtract	If I have five apples and you take away two, I'll only have three left.
taste	(verb) to sense if food is sweet, sour, salty, or bitter using your mouth	Please taste the soup and see if it needs more salt.
team	(noun) a group of people who work together	We have ten good players on our team.
tell	(verb) to talk about something to someone	I like to tell jokes to my friends.
temperature	(noun) a measurement that tells you how hot or cold something is	The weatherman says the temperature is dropping, so I'm going to wear a coat today.
think	(verb) to use your mind to get ideas or solve problems	I like puzzles because it's fun to think of different ways to solve them.
touch	(verb) to put your hand or another part of the body on something	When I touch an ice cube, it feels really cold.

# IL Beginning Academic Vocabulary List (K-2)

Word	Definition	Example Sentence
triangle	(noun) a shape that has three sides Illustrate this word by pointing out triangles in the classroom.	My slice of pizza is shaped like a triangle.
turn	(verb) to change direction	If you go to the end of the hall and turn right, you'll see the lunchroom.
twice	(verb) two times	I will say this twice. I will say this twice.
under	(preposition) Illustrate this word by placing a book under a desk or by placing your hand under a book.	I couldn't find my pencil because it was under my chair.
underline	(verb) to draw a line under something	I will underline the words that I spelled wrong.
unequal	(verb) Illustrate this word by cutting a piece of paper in equal parts (halves). Then cut another paper into unequal parts. Have students explain the concept of unequal. You can also assign easy tasks to a small group of students and difficult tasks to a different group.	I complained when my brother cut the cake into unequal pieces.
vote	(verb) to make your choice known when deciding something with other people	We must all vote on who we think should be the class president.
wait	(verb) to stay in one place	We had to wait in the lunch line for a long time.
week	(noun) seven days	If I read four pages every day for seven days, I will finish this book in a week.
whole	(noun) complete or full	No one wanted a piece of pizza, so I ate the whole pizza by myself.
wife	(noun) a married woman	When my grandpa married my grandma, she became his wife.
work	(verb) to get something done	Taking care of a pet is hard work.
wrong	(adjective) when something is not true	$1 + 1 = 3$ is wrong.
year	(noun) Illustrate this word by showing 12 months on a calendar to show the whole year.	It takes a whole year for the earth to orbit the sun.
zero	(noun) the number 0, nothing at all	Our team had zero points until I scored.

# IL Intermediate Academic Vocabulary List (3-4)

Word	Definition	Example Sentence
agree	(verb) to feel the same way as someone else	Ella and I agree that chocolate ice cream is the best kind of ice cream.
apologize	(verb) to say you're sorry	I apologize for being mean to you.
apostrophe	(noun) an apostrophe is used to make two words into one word	These words all have an apostrophe: "can't," "won't," and "we're."
assignment	(noun) something that someone has given you to do	The teacher gives us a homework assignment every day.
audience	(noun) a group of people who watch or listen to something	The audience clapped loudly when the play was over.
backward	(adverb) toward the back, facing the opposite direction of the front	I woke up late this morning, so I had to get ready in a hurry. That's why I didn't notice I put my shirt on backward.
balance	(verb) to make two or more things even or steady	Can you balance the two buckets of water?
blank	(adjective) without any writing, drawing, or other marks	There is a blank space at the top of the test where you need to write your name.
bold	(adjective) having thicker, darker letters, usually to make a word different from the rest of a text	The bold vocabulary words are easy to spot because they are darker than the rest of the text.
category	(noun) a group of things that are alike	I like lots of different movies, but I won't watch any from the horror category.
century	(noun) one hundred years	These buildings look old and dirty because they were built a century ago.
chapter	(noun) one of the main parts of a book that usually has a number or title	My favorite part of the book is in chapter seven, when the robots take over the cafeteria.
chart	(noun) a table, graph, or image that explains something	This chart compares how all the third-grade classes did with the canned food drive.
check	(verb) to make sure something is correct	When I take a test, I check my answers twice before I turn it in.
choose	(noun) to pick something	Mom lets me choose what we eat for dinner on my birthday.
classify	(verb) to group things together because they have something in common	Scientists classify different snails by the size and shape of their shells.
collect	(verb) to gather something together, to gather and keep a particular kind of thing, usually as a hobby	My aunt knows I like to collect rocks, so every week she brings me a new one.
column	(noun) a long, vertical space where things can be written	When you add more than two numbers together, be careful to make the column of numbers line up perfectly.
combine	(verb) to put things together	I combine red and white paint to make the color pink.
compare	(verb) to look at how things are similar or different from one another	If you compare my brother and me, you'll see that he is taller, but I am better-looking.
connect	(verb) to join one or more things together	He connected the power cords, and the television finally turned on.
consonant	(noun) a letter of the alphabet that is not a vowel (vowels: <i>a</i> , <i>e</i> , <i>i</i> , <i>o</i> , and <i>u</i> )	The letter <i>j</i> is a consonant.
contraction	(noun) a shortened form of a word or words that uses an apostrophe to show that letters have been taken out	You can make the contraction "haven't" from the words "have" and "not."

# IL Intermediate Academic Vocabulary List (3-4)

Word	Definition	Example Sentence
create	(verb) to make	In art class, I created a huge painting that my teacher hung on the wall.
culture	(noun) the things that a group of people who live in the same area do and think	People in my culture like bright colors and fast music.
decade	(noun) ten years	It took a decade to build the new office building.
decide	(verb) to make a choice	I decided to wear a jacket since it was snowing outside.
decimal	(noun) a period placed in a number between the unit and tenths place	In a price, like \$2.45, the dollars go to the left of the decimal and the cents go to the right.
decrease	(verb) to go from larger to smaller in size or number	If I decrease the amount of hours I sleep, I will be tired all day.
defend	(verb) to protect	I have to defend my sandwich from my older brother, otherwise he'll eat it.
definition	(noun) what a word means	I didn't know the definition of a word, so I looked it up in the dictionary.
describe	(verb) to tell about something	The party was so great, I couldn't wait to go home and describe it to my mom.
diagram	(noun) a drawing or a written plan that explains the different parts of something	This diagram shows some of the different parts of a flower: the stem, the petals, the leaves, and the roots.
dictionary	(noun) a book or online resource that tells what words mean	If you want to know what a word means, look it up in a dictionary.
direction	(noun) the way something faces, the way something is going	The bus driver drove the wrong direction and had to turn around.
disagree	(verb) to think something different from someone else	I think goldfish make the best pets, but my sister disagrees because birds are her favorite.
discuss	(verb) to talk about	There's no time to talk about it now—we'll discuss this later.
dissolve	(verb) to disappear by scattering, to melt something completely, usually with liquid	The cotton candy dissolved in my mouth as soon as I took a bite.
document	(noun) a piece of writing that gives information	You can't drive a car unless you have a document called a driver's license.
double	(adjective) twice as many/much	I love pepperoni, so I always ask for double pepperoni on my pizza.
dozen	(various) twelve of something	Eggs are sometimes sold by the dozen.
draft	(noun) a piece of writing that needs to be worked on more	The first draft of the paper is due today, and the final paper is due next week.
edit	(verb) to make changes to something, usually a picture or piece of writing	My first draft is too long, so I will need to edit it to make it shorter.
encyclopedia	(noun) a book or online resource that gives information on many subjects	I looked in the encyclopedia for information on lions.
equation	(noun) a math problem	$2 + 2 = 4$ is an equation.
estimate	(verb) to guess how many or how much	I estimate this building is forty feet high.
even	(adjective) numbers that end with 0, 2, 4, 6, or 8 are even numbers	Two is an even number.

# IL Intermediate Academic Vocabulary List (3-4)

Word	Definition	Example Sentence
exclamation mark	(noun) a punctuation mark that is used to show that something should be read with a lot of emotion	If you use a lot of exclamation marks, it can look like your writing is shouting.
experiment	(noun) something you do to test or learn something new	We do experiments in science class to figure out how things work.
final	(adjective) last	You are the last person in line, so you are the final one.
forward	(adverb) ahead	They couldn't drive the car forward because there was a large rock in front of it.
glossary	(noun) a list of words from a piece of writing and their definitions	I was confused about the meaning of a word I read, so I looked in the book's glossary for the definition.
graph	(noun) a picture or chart that shows how two or more things are alike or different	This graph shows how many perfect scores the class has earned each month.
heading	(noun) a word or phrase used at the beginning of some text	The heading tells me what this part of the article is about.
headline	(noun) a title written in large letters about a story in a newspaper	The headline of the article was written in huge letters.
height	(noun) a measurement used to describe how tall something is	My dad measures my height each year to see how much taller I've grown.
illustrate	(verb) to draw pictures that describe something else	Artists illustrate books to show you what is happening.
inch	(noun) a measurement used to describe how long something is	This ruler is 12 inches long.
increase	(verb) to become greater in size or number	I want to increase my score on the next math test, so I will study extra hard this week to prepare.
instrument	(noun) a tool used to do something	The dentist uses special instruments to check teeth.
introduce	(verb) to have someone meet someone else	I'd like to introduce you to my friend, Paul.
italicize	(verb) to make words slant to the right or left	You italicize the title of a book or movie when you write about it.
label	(verb) to put a word or name on something to identify it	Please label the boxes by putting one of these name stickers on each of them.
length	(noun) the distance from the start of something to the end of it; how long it is	We measured the length of the room to see if the new couch would fit.
liquid	(noun) a thing that is able to flow freely like water	Apple juice is a kind of liquid.
list	(verb) to write things down in order	The art teacher went to the blackboard and listed all the supplies we would need for our next project.
magazine	(noun) a thin book that has stories and articles about a specific thing that is published every week or month	Every story in this magazine is about animals in Africa.
margin	(noun) the space between text or images and the edge of the paper	If you have a question or a note, write it in the margin of your paper.
microscope	(noun) a tool used for making very small things visible	You can't see human cells without using a microscope.

# IL Intermediate Academic Vocabulary List (3-4)

Word	Definition	Example Sentence
muscle	(noun) parts of your body that allow you to move by contracting and expanding	Runners have very strong leg muscles.
odd	(adjective) numbers that end with 1, 3, 5, 7, or 9 are odd numbers	Three is an odd number.
paragraph	(noun) a group of sentences that describe one thing	The first paragraph of this story introduces the main character.
passage	(noun) a small piece of writing	First, we read a short story, and then we talked about the author.
period	(noun) a length of time that starts and ends	Recess only lasts for a short period.
plus	(preposition) used when describing two things that are being added together	Two plus two equals four.
practice	(verb) to do something over and over to become better at it	I want to be a better reader, so I practice reading each day.
prewrite	(verb) to plan out your writing before starting the first draft	I prewrite to get out every idea I have before writing my final essay.
price	(noun) how much you have to pay to get something	The price of this water bottle is fifty cents.
problem	(noun) something that is difficult to deal with	The problem with the bike is that the tire is flat.
pronounce	(verb) to say a word, usually clearly and correctly	The name of that street is difficult to pronounce.
publish	(verb) to produce something for sale, like a book or magazine	You can publish a book, movie, or game.
punctuation	(noun) marks used with words to make them easier to understand	A period, exclamation point, and comma are all examples of punctuation.
question mark	(noun) a mark used at the end of a sentence to show a question	I could not tell that what he wrote was a question because he didn't use a question mark.
quotation marks	(noun) marks used to show the beginning and end of a quote	Every time a character speaks in your story, you need to put quotation marks around what he or she says.
repeat	(verb) to say or do something again	I didn't hear what you said. Can you repeat it please?
research	(verb) to study something carefully to learn something new	I am researching sharks so I can write a good report on them.
revise	(verb) to make changes to correct or improve something	There are too many mistakes in this paper. It needs to be revised.
section	(noun) one of the parts that make something	May I have one section of your orange?
select	(verb) to choose something from a group	They looked at many different types of cars and finally selected the blue truck.
shaded	(adjective) an area of darkness that is made when something blocks light	A tree provides a cool and shaded area on a hot sunny day.
similar	(adjective) when two things are almost the same	Those two brothers look so similar that it is hard to tell them apart.
single	(adjective) when something is alone	You can't buy a single egg at the store. You have to buy a carton of twelve.
skeleton	(noun) all of a person's bones put together	We all have skeletons inside us.

# IL Intermediate Academic Vocabulary List (3-4)

Word	Definition	Example Sentence
sort	(verb) to put things in groups in a particular order	We sorted the laundry into two piles: dark clothes and light clothes.
stage	(noun) a platform where music, plays, and speeches are performed	They decorated the stage to look like a forest for the fall play.
symbol	(noun) an object, event, or action that reminds you of an idea or thing	In class, we use symbols to draw how we are feeling. We draw a smiley face when we are happy and a frowny face when we are sad.
table	(noun) a set of rows and columns with information in them	I made a table that showed how many times each player passed the basketball.
total	(noun) complete; after everything is counted	She worked for three hours and earned a total of thirty dollars.
unusual	(adjective) not normal	It is unusual for the weather to be warm in the winter.
usually	(adverb) most of the time	Usually we go to the park on Wednesdays, but this week it rained, so we couldn't.
vowel	(noun) a letter sound made with your mouth open ( <i>a, e, i, o, u</i> , and sometimes <i>y</i> ).	<i>A</i> and <i>o</i> are vowels.
weight	(noun) a measurement that describes how heavy something is	If you stand on the scale, we can see what your weight is.
width	(noun) a measurement that describes the distance from one side of a thing to the other side	We need to measure the width of the box to be sure it can fit through the door.

# 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.

# IL Advanced Academic Vocabulary List (4-6)

Word	Definition	Example Sentence
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.

# IL Advanced Academic Vocabulary List (4-6)

Word	Definition	Example Sentence
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.

# IL Advanced Academic Vocabulary List (4-6)

Word	Definition	Example Sentence
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.