

# 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, e, i, o, and 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."

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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.

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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.

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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.

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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.