

**570**

# **Essential Academic Words**

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«حق چاپ برای مؤلفان محفوظ است»

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# Preface

Lexical knowledge is considered by ELT scholars and practitioners an essential asset, without which one cannot gain noticeable success in work environments, academic contexts, or even everyday situations where English is the medium of communication. As axiomatic and agreed-upon as this sounds to be, when it comes to deciding what vocabulary to learn and how to learn it, English language learners oftentimes feel bewildered as they are faced with a massive number of books, applications, and websites including long lists of words presented in a myriad of ways. The massiveness and variety of word lists and how they are presented notwithstanding, the majority of the material available on the market lack a theoretically and pedagogically viable basis, thereby misleading language learners whose time and energy is simply wasted trying to learn new vocabulary through these materials.

*570 Essential Academic Words*, unlike most other books of its kind, is premised on a thorough and comprehensive research project which Coxhead (2000) conducted to compile a list of the most frequently used words in English language academic texts. The list is composed of 570 word families and is divided into 10 sublists making up the Academic Word List (AWL). Sublist 1 comprises the 60 most common words in the AWL. Sublist 2, in turn, consists of the next most frequently used words and so forth. Each sublist includes 60 word families, except for Sublist 10, which contains 30. To arrive at this list, Coxhead carried out a rigorous analysis of over 3,500,000 words of text derived from academic journals, textbooks, course workbooks, lab manuals, and course notes. What contributes to the uniqueness of the AWL is the fact that the words constituting it occur frequently in a range of academic subjects, including the Arts (including history, psychology, sociology, etc.), Commerce (including economics, marketing, management, etc.), Law and the Sciences (including biology, computer science, mathematics, engineering, etc.). This quintessentially means that the AWL is useful to all foreign and second language learners who wish to study in an English-speaking institution no matter what their field of study. It should, however, be noted that the AWL does not contain specialized words which are specific to a given field. Nor does the AWL consist of words which are of general use.

Composed of the most frequently used words in academic texts and informed by the latest ELT research findings, *570 Essential Academic Words* provides students with ample opportunities to encounter its target vocabulary in highly contextualized lessons which are thematically organized. In addition, the AWL vocabulary items are introduced alongside their word families. As such,

covering this book results in the acquisition of well over 2000 words. Also, unlike most vocabulary books which are mainly input-based, *570 Essential Academic Words* gives students the chance to practice using its target vocabulary in various ways, hence being both input- and output-based. Moreover, since this book adopts a structured, easy-to-follow approach to presenting vocabulary, it can be used for both classroom and self-study purposes. Furthermore, as it comprises the most frequent academic words, this book is recommended to be used by those students who wish to take such exams as IELTS, TOEFL, MSRT, EPT, TOLIMO, MCHE, FCE, CAE, and CPE.

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