

Word Lists

A Resource for Instructors

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Growing a Student's Vocabulary

If students are to become effective and efficient readers, they must increase their working vocabulary. To do this, students need exposure to a wide range of words. This resource provides instructors with a variety of word lists that they can use when working with students.

The **General Service List** consists of approximately 2000 words which have been found to be the most serviceable words in the English language.

- The First 1000 Words (K-1) should be used with students who are currently reading between a 3.0 – 5.0 grade equivalent.
- The Second 1000 Words (K-2) should be used with students who are currently reading between a 5.0 – 7.9 grade equivalent.

The **Academic Word List** consists of approximately 500 words that students should know and be able to use prior to taking the GED Tests. Instructors working with higher level students, 8.0 and above grade equivalent, should introduce these words to their students.

The **Fry Signal Word List** consists of more than 230 words and phrases that provide signals or clues to readers. These words and phrases help students make predictions about what will happen next in text, determine what is most significant, separate fact from opinion, determine cause and effect, sequence events included in text or directions, and draw conclusions. Instructors should begin introducing signal words to students at the earliest level possible.

The **Dolch Basic Sight Word List** consists of 11 lists each containing 20 words. This list should be used with students who function at the most basic level of reading 0.0 – 3.0. This list includes high frequency words with which all students must be familiar.

The **Fry Instant Word List** consists of 300 words which students frequently encounter when they are reading text of any kind. This list should be used with students who function at the 0.0 – 4.0 grade equivalent.

Strategy: Vocabulary Builders

Speed Drills – The procedure for using speed drills is to use a word list, such as the Academic Word List and have a student read as many words correctly as possible in one minute. The number correct is charted on a daily basis. If time permits, more than one drill can be used per class period. Depending on the level of the reader, the teacher may wish to do two types of word drills for fluency, one on sight words and one on words that are needed for the academic area being taught or real-life words that the student needs to know.

Before and After Vocabulary Grids

Give each student a list of key words with two blank columns. In the first column, the students write the meaning of each word or what they guess the meaning is for each word. As they come across the word later during the lesson, the students can revise their original definition. At this point, the answers can be discussed and clarified in the whole class.

The benefits of Before and After Vocabulary Grids are that they:

- Focus attention onto key words
- Provide opportunities for students to actively work out word meaning
- Help students become independent learners of new words by using strategies such as context clues

Before and After Vocabulary Grid Template

Word List	What I think the word means	Revised definition

Word Jar

Word Jars are excellent vocabulary builders for lower-level readers. Have each student write the following information on a strip of paper and add it to the Word Jar in the classroom:

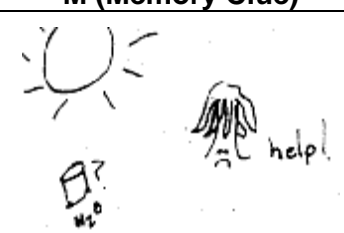

Word
Name of book and page number
Sentence in which the word was used
Dictionary definition
Student's name

At the end of class, choose a word from the Word Jar and read it aloud. Have students try to guess the meaning of the word (excluding the student who contributed the word). Then read the word in context and the dictionary definition. You may wish to have a Word Wall on which these words are added.

K. I. M. (Key Idea – Information – Memory Clue)

K. I. M. is a great strategy for new words or concepts. Write the term or key idea (K) in the left column, the information (I) that goes along with it in the center column, and draw a picture of the idea, a memory clue, (M) in the right column.

The key idea may be a new vocabulary word or a new concept. The information may be a definition or it may be a more technical explanation of the concept. The memory clue is a way for students to fully integrate the meaning of the key idea into their memories. By making a simple sketch that explains the key idea, students synthesize and interpret the new information, making it their own. Then, students can reference their drawings to easily remember new key ideas. This strategy can be used with different levels of students who have a variety of learning styles.

K (Key Idea)	I (Information)	M (Memory Clue)
drought	Little or no rain over a period of time	
coup	Take over of government by the military	

Personal Dictionary

Personal dictionaries are a way for students to self-access those words with which they have difficulty. This is an activity that can be used in individualized learning while working with a small-group on a different reading activity.

Sample Template for a Personal Reading Dictionary

Word _____ Synonym(s) _____ Antonym(s) _____ Contrasted Word(s) _____	Meaning _____ _____ Sentence _____ _____
Word _____ Synonym(s) _____ Antonym(s) _____ Contrasted Word(s) _____	Meaning _____ _____ Sentence _____ _____
Word _____ Synonym(s) _____ Antonym(s) _____ Contrasted Word(s) _____	Meaning _____ _____ Sentence _____ _____

Name _____

Date _____

Meeting New Vocabulary

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Word

Drawing Or Symbol For Word

Predicted meaning of word:

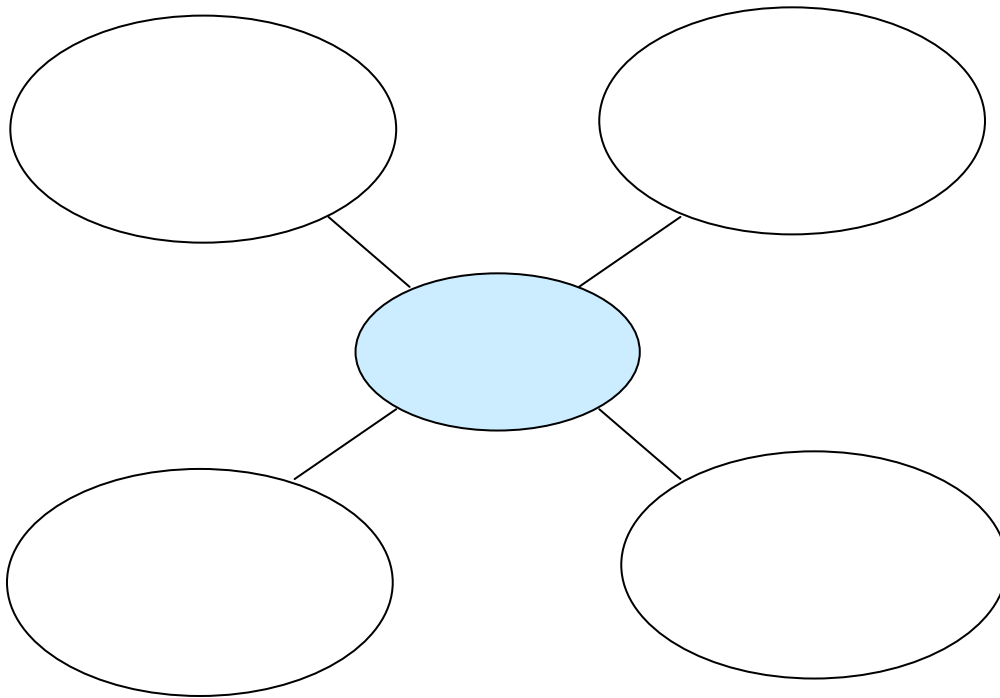
Based on that meaning, use this word in a sentence:

Definition from dictionary:

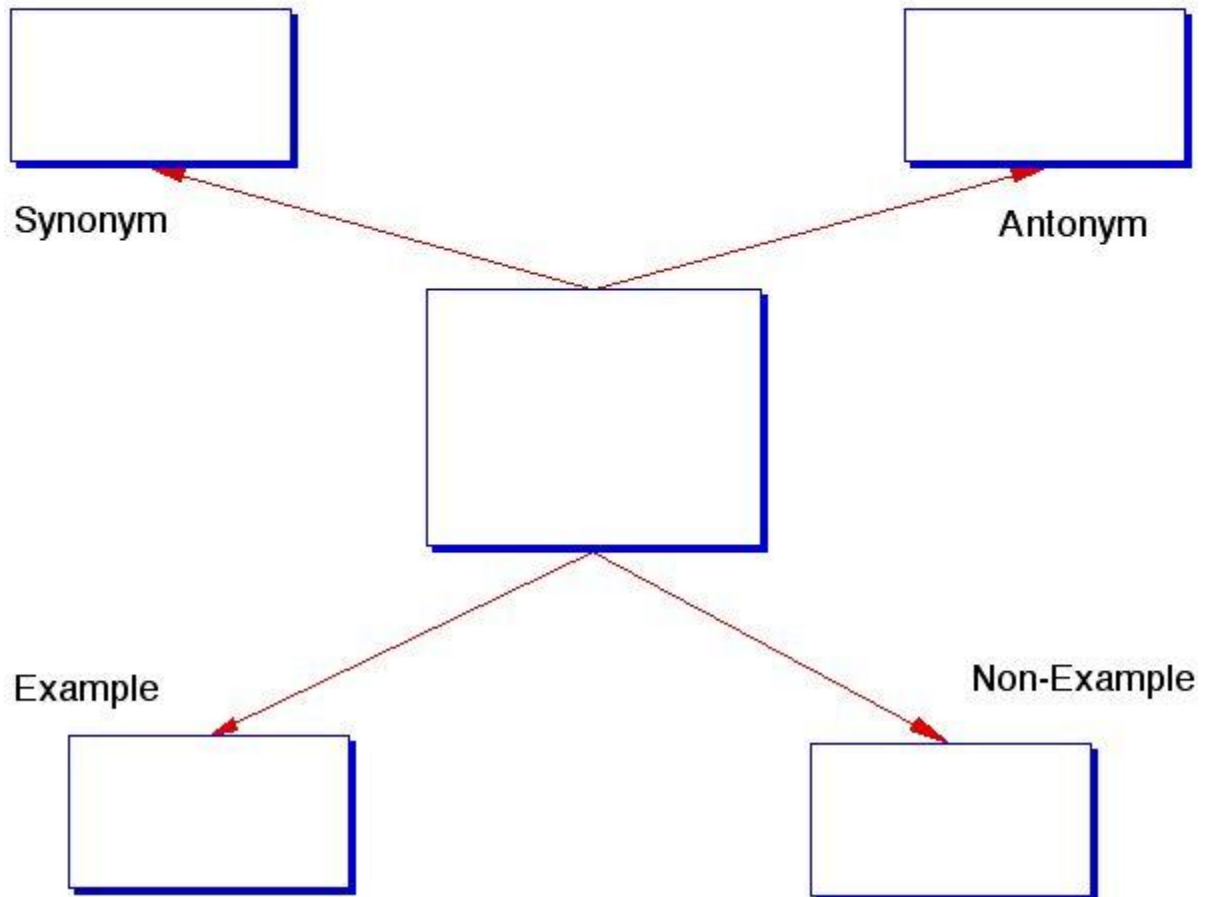
Based on the dictionary's meaning, use this word in a sentence:

Semantic Maps

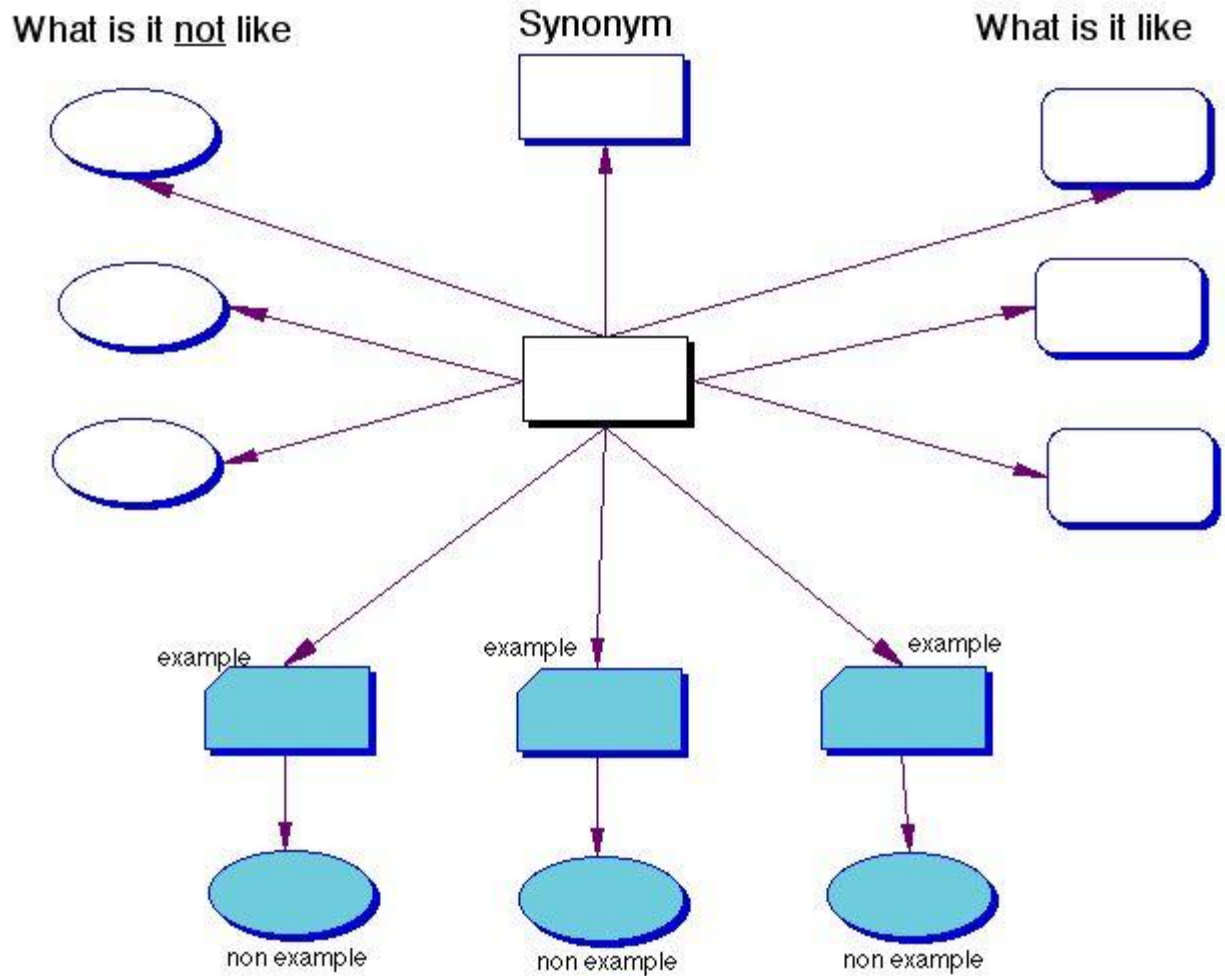
Semantic maps are graphic organizers that help students associate an unfamiliar word with familiar related words. To map the word *noun*, for example, draw a circle and write *noun* in the center of it. Then draw smaller circles around the central circle and fill each with a key related word, such as *person*, *place*, and *thing*. To complete the map, surround each outer circle with a series of subcircles, each containing an example of the related word, such as the name of a specific person, place, or thing. Then show the relationships by connecting all the circles with lines.



Word Map



Words in Context



Adapted from Janet Allen

The First 1000 Words of the General Service List
West, 1953

a	agent	appear	base
able	ago	apply	battle
about	agree	appoint	be
above	air	arise	bear
accept	all	arm	beauty
accord	allow	army	because
account	almost	around	become
across	alone	arrive	bed
act	along	art	before
actual	already	article	begin
add	also	as	behind
address	although	ask	being
admit	always	association	believe
adopt	among	at	belong
advance	amount	attack	below
advantage	an	attempt	beneath
adventure	ancient	average	best
affair	and	away	better
afford	animal	back	between
after	another	bad	beyond
again	another	ball	big
against	answer	bank	bill
age	any	bar	bird

bit	buy	circle	connect
black	by	city	consider
bless	call	claim	contain
blood	camp	class	content
blow	can	clean	continue
blue	canal	clear	control
board	capital	close	corn
boat	captain	cloud	corner
boat	car	club	cost
body	care	coal	cotton
book	carry	coast	could
born	case	coin	council
box	castle	cold	count
boy	cause	college	country
branch	centre	colony	course
bread	century	color	court
break	certain	come	cover
bridge	chair	comfort	creature
bright	chance	command	crop
bring	change	committee	cross
broad	character	common	crowd
brother	charge	company	crown
build	chief	compare	cry
burn	child	complete	current
business	choose	concern	custom
but	church	condition	cut

dance	develop	each	even
danger	die	ear	evening
dare	difference	early	event
dark	difficult	earth	ever
date	direct	east	every
daughter	discover	easy	evil
day	disease	eat	example
dead	distance	edge	excellent
deal	distinguish	edge	except
dear	district	effect	exchange
debt	divide	effort	exercise
decide	do	egg	exist
declare	dog	either	expect
deep	dollar	elect	expense
defeat	door	else	experience
degree	double	empire	experiment
deliver	down	employ	explain
demand	draw	end	express
department	dream	enemy	extend
depend	dress	English	eye
describe	drink	enjoy	face
desert	drive	enough	fact
desire	drop	enter	factory
destroy	dry	entire	fail
detail	due	equal	fair
determine	duty	escape	faith

fall	fish	game	hall
familiar	fit	garden	hand
family	fix	gas	handle
famous	flag	gate	hang
fancy	floor	gather	happen
far	flow	general	happy
farm	fly	gentle	hard
fashion	follow	get	hardly
fast	for	girl	have
fate	force	give	he
favor	foreign	glad	head
fear	forest	glass	health
feed	forget	glory	hear
feel	form	go	heat
fellow	former	God	heaven
few	forth	gold	heavy
field	fortune	good	help
fight	free	grain	her
figure	fresh	grave	here
fill	friend	great	hide
find	from	green	hide
fine	front	ground	high
finger	full	grow	hill
finish	furnish	guard	his
fire	future	gun	history
first	gain	habit	hold

home	interest	lay	local
honest	into	lead	long
honor	introduce	leaf	look
hope	iron	learn	lord
horse	it	least	lose
hot	its	leave	lost
hour	join	leg	lot
house	joy	less	love
how	judge	let	low
human	just	letter	machine
I	keep	level	main
idea	kill	liberty	make
ideal	kind	library	man
if	king	lie	manner
ill	know	life	manners
important	lack	lift	manufacture
impossible	lady	light	many
in	lake	like	march
inch	land	likely	mark
include	language	line	market
increase	large	limit	marry
indeed	last	lip	mass
independent	late	listen	master
influence	latter	literature	material
instead	laugh	little	matter
intend	law	live	may

me	moreover	night	onto
mean	morning	no	open
measure	most	noble	operation
member	mother	none	opinion
memory	motion	nor	opportunity
mention	motor	north	or
merchant	mountain	not	or
mere	mouth	note	order
metal	much	nothing	ordinary
middle	music	notice	organize
might	must	now	other
mile	my	number	otherwise
milk	name	object	ought
mind	narrow	observe	out of
mine	nation	occasion	out
mine	native	ocean	over
minister	nature	of	owe
minute	near	off	own
miss	necessary	offer	page
mistake	neck	office	pain
modern	need	often	paint
moment	neighbor	oil	paper
money	neither	old	part
month	never	once	particular
moon	new	one	party
more	next	only	pass

past	possible	protect	recent
pay	post	prove	recognize
peace	power	provide	record
people	practical	public	red
per	practice	pull	reduce
perfect	prepare	purpose	refuse
perhaps	present	put	regard
permanent	preserve	quality	regular
permit	president	quantity	relation
person	press	queen	religion
picture	pretty	question	remain
piece	prevent	quiet	remark
place	price	quite	remember
plain	print	race	rent
plan	private	raise	repeat
plant	problem	rank	reply
play	produce	rate	report
please	product	rather	represent
poet	production	reach	republic
point	profit	read	reserve
political	program	ready	respect
poor	progress	real	rest
popular	promise	realize	result
population	proper	really	return
position	property	reason	rich
possess	propose	receive	ride

right	science	shine	slight
ring	sea	ship	slow
rise	season	shoe	small
river	seat	shoot	smile
road	second	shore	snow
rock	secret	short	so
roll	secretary	should	society
room	see	shout	soft
rough	seem	show	soil
round	seize	side	soldier
royal	sell	sign	some
ruin	send	silence	son
rule	sense	silver	soon
run	separate	simple	sort
rush	serious	since	soul
safe	serve	sing	sound
sail	set	single	south
sale	settle	sir	space
salt	several	sister	speak
same	shade	sit	special
sand	shadow	situation	speed
say	shake	size	spend
scale	shall	skill	spirit
scarce	shape	sky	spite
scene	share	slave	sport
school	she	sleep	spot

spread	strong	taste	through
spring	struggle	tax	throw
square	study	teach	thus
stage	subject	tear	till
stand	substance	tell	time
standard	succeed	temple	title
star	such	tend	to
start	sudden	term	today
state	suffer	terrible	together
stay	sugar	test	ton
steel	suggest	than	too
step	summer	that	tooth
stick	sun	the	top
still	supply	theatre	total
stock	support	their	touch
stone	suppose	them	toward/s
stop	sure	then	town
store	surface	there	trade
storm	surprise	therefore	train
story	surround	these	travel
straight	sweet	they	tree
strange	sword	thing	trouble
stream	system	think	true
street	table	this	trust
stretch	take	though	try
strike	talk	thought	turn

type	virtue	west	wise
uncle	visit	western	wish
under	voice	what	with
understand	vote	when	within
union	wage/s	where	without
unite	wait	whether	woman
university	walk	which	wonder
unless	wall	while	wood
until	want	white	word
until	war	who	work
up	warn	whose	world
upon	waste	why	worse
upper	watch	wide	worth
use	water	wife	wound
usual	wave	wild	write
valley	way	will	wrong
value	we	win	year
various	wealth	wind	yes
very	wear	window	yet
vessel	weather	wine	yield
victory	week	wing	you
view	welcome	winter	young
village	well		

The Second 1000 words of the General Service List

West, 1953

abroad	amongst	attract	bay
absence	amuse	audience	beak
absolutely	anger	aunt	beam
accident	angle	autumn	bean
accuse	annoy	avenue	beard
accustom	anxiety	avoid	beast
ache	apart	awake	beat
actual	apologize	awkward	beg
admire	applaud	axe	behave
advertise	apple	baby	bell
advice	approve	bag	belt
afford	arch	baggage	bend
afraid	argue	bake	beneath
afternoon	arrange	balance	berry
agriculture	arrest	band	bicycle
ahead	arrow	bar	bind
aim	artificial	barber	birth
airplane	ash	bare	bit
alike	ashamed	bargain	bite
alive	aside	barrel	bitter
aloud	asleep	basin	blade
altogether	astonish	basket	blame
ambition	attend	bath	bless

blind	burst	chain	collar
block	bury	chair	collect
boast	bus	chalk	comb
boil	bush	charm	combine
bold	busy	cheap	commerce
bone	butter	cheat	companion
border	button	check	compare
borrow	cage	cheer	compete
bottle	cake	cheese	complain
bottom	calculate	check	complicated
boundary	calm	chicken	compose
bound	camera	chimney	confess
bow	camp	Christmas	confidence
bowl	canal	civilize	confuse
brain	cap	clay	congratulate
brass	cape	clean	connect
brave	card	clerk	conquer
breakfast	carriage	clever	conscience
breath	cart	cliff	conscious
bribe	cat	climb	convenience
brick	cattle	clock	conversation
brown	caution	cloth	cook
brush	cave	club	cool
bucket	cent	coarse	copper
bunch	century	coat	copy
bundle	ceremony	coffee	cork

corner	cushion	dig	eager
correct	custom	dinner	earn
cottage	damage	dip	earnest
cough	damp	dirt	ease
courage	dance	disappoint	edge
cousin	dare	discipline	educate
cow	deaf	discuss	efficient
coward	debt	disease	elastic
crack	decay	disgust	elder
crash	deceive	dish	electricity
cream	decrease	dismiss	elephant
creature	deed	disturb	empty
creep	deer	ditch	enclose
crime	defend	dive	encourage
critic	delay	donkey	engine
crop	delicate	dot	entertain
cruel	delight	double	entire
crush	deliver	dozen	envelope
cultivate	descend	drag	envy
cup	desert	drawer	especial
cure	deserve	drown	essence
curious	desk	drum	everywhere
curl	despair	duck	evil
curse	devil	dull	exact
curtain	diamond	during	examination
curve	dictionary	dust	excellent

excess	film	fun	guess
excuse	finger	funeral	guest
expense	firm	fur	guide
explode	flag	gallon	guilty
explore	flame	gap	habit
extra	flash	garage	hair
extraordinary	flat	gate	hall
extreme	flavor	gay	hammer
fade	flesh	generous	handkerchief
faint	float	glory	handle
false	flood	goat	harbor
fan	flour	govern	harm
fancy	fold	grace	harvest
farther	fond	gradual	haste
fashion	fool	grain	hat
fat	foot	grammar	hate
fate	forbid	grand	hay
fault	forgive	grass	heal
favorite	fork	grateful	health
feast	formal	grave	heap
feather	frame	grease	heart
feed	freeze	greed	height
female	frequent	greet	hesitate
fence	fright	grey	hinder
fever	fruit	grind	hire
fierce	fry	guard	hit

hole	ink	kitchen	log
holiday	inn	knee	lonely
hollow	inquire	kneel	loose
holy	insect	knife	lot
honest	inside	knock	loud
hook	instant	knot	loyal
horizon	instrument	ladder	luck
hospital	insult	lamp	lump
host	insure	lazy	lunch
hotel	intend	leaf	lung
humble	interfere	lean	mad
hunger	international	left	mail
hunt	interrupt	leg	male
hurry	invent	lend	manage
hurt	invite	lessen	map
hut	inward/s	lesson	mat
ice	jaw	liberty	match
ideal	jealous	lid	meal
idle	jewel	limb	meanwhile
imagine	joint	liquid	meat
imitate	journey	list	mechanic
immediate	juice	load	medicine
immense	jump	loaf	melt
improve	key	loan	mend
industry	kick	lock	merchant
inform	kiss	lodging	mercy

merry	net	pain	pick
message	nice	pair	pig
mild	niece	pale	pigeon
mill	noise	pan	pile
miserable	nonsense	parcel	pin
mistake	noon	pardon	pinch
mix	nose	parent	pink
model	noun	park	pint
modest	nuisance	passage	pipe
monkey	nurse	paste	pity
moral	nut	path	plaster
moreover	oar	patient	plenty
motion	obey	patriotic	plough
mouse	ocean	pattern	plural
mud	offend	pause	pocket
multiply	omit	paw	poet
murder	opportunity	pearl	poison
mystery	opposite	peculiar	police
nail	orange	pen	polish
narrow	organ	pencil	polite
neat	origin	penny	pool
neck	ornament	perfect	postpone
needle	otherwise	perform	pot
neglect	overcome	permanent	pour
nephew	pack	pet	poverty
nest	pad	photograph	powder

practical	pupil	rejoice	roast
practice	pure	relieve	rob
praise	purple	remedy	rod
pray	push	remind	roof
preach	puzzle	rent	root
precious	qualify	repair	rope
prefer	quarrel	repeat	rot
prejudice	quart	replace	row
preserve	quick	reproduce	rub
pretend	quiet	reputation	rubber
pride	rabbit	request	rubbish
priest	radio	rescue	rude
print	rail	resign	rug
prison	rain	responsible	ruin
probable	rake	restaurant	ruler
procession	rapid	retire	rush
produce	rare	revenge	rust
profession	raw	review	sacred
program	ray	reward	sacrifice
prompt	razor	ribbon	sad
pronounce	recommend	rice	saddle
proof	refer	rid	sake
proud	reflect	ripe	salary
pump	refresh	risk	sample
punctual	regret	rival	sand
punish	regular	roar	satisfy

sauce	sheet	smell	sport
saucer	shelf	smoke	staff
saw	shell	smooth	stain
scale	shelter	snake	stairs
scatter	shield	soap	stamp
scent	shilling	socks	steady
scissors	shirt	soil	steam
scold	shock	solemn	steep
scorn	shoe	solid	steer
scrape	shop	solve	stem
scratch	shout	sore	stiff
screen	shower	sorry	sting
screw	shut	soup	stir
search	sick	sour	stockings
seed	silk	sow	stomach
seize	sincere	spade	storm
seldom	sink	spare	stove
sentence	skill	spell	straight
severe	skin	spill	strap
sew	skirt	spin	straw
shade	slave	spit	stretch
shadow	slide	spite	strict
shallow	slight	splendid	string
shame	slip	split	strip
sharp	slope	spoil	stripe
sheep	slow	spoon	stuff

stupid	temperature	tire	tube
substance	tempt	title	tune
suck	tend	tobacco	twist
sudden	tender	toe	ugly
sugar	tent	tomorrow	umbrella
suit	terrible	tongue	unclear
supper	thank/s	tonight	unit
suspect	theater	tool	unity
swallow	thick	tooth	universe
swear	thief	tough	upper
sweat	thin	tour	upright
sweep	thirst	towel	upset
swell	thorn	tower	urge
swim	thorough	toy	vain
swing	thread	track	veil
sympathy	threaten	translate	verb
tail	throat	trap	verse
tailor	thumb	tray	violent
tall	thunder	treasure	vowel
tame	ticket	treat	voyage
tap	tide	tremble	waist
taste	tidy	trial	wake
taxi	tie	tribe	wander
telegraph	tight	trick	warm
telephone	tin	trip	warn
temper	tip	trunk	waste

wax

weak

weapon

weather

weave

weed

weigh

wet

wheat

wheel

whip

whisper

whistle

whole

wicked

widow

wine

wing

wipe

wire

witness

wool

worm

Academic Word List

Sublists by frequency of word families in each sublist

Retrieved from the World Wide Web at: <http://www.vuw.ac.nz/lals/staff/averil-coxhead/awl/index.html>.

Sublist 1

require
income
section
structure
policy
economy
process
research
vary
issue
analyze
method
data
function
area
define
proceed
significant
individual
respond
identify
export
similar
approach
occur
environment
contract
involve
establish
specific
theory
benefit
major
assess
indicate
finance
evident
period
source
principle
percent
labor

consist
assume
factor
formula
legal
sector
authority
create
concept
constitute
legislate
distribute
derive
context
role
available
estimate
interpret

Sublist 2

range
obtain
strategy
conclude
commission
appropriate
institute
credit
region
acquire
invest
construct
community
design
item
equate
injure
chapter
participate
compute
select
relevant

maintain
reside
culture
text
regulate
final
distinct
potential
resource
element
administrate
focus
seek
achieve
site
consequent
survey
normal
complex
feature
consume
affect
primary
previous
secure
tradition
transfer
journal
conduct
purchase
positive
perceive
impact
evaluate
restrict
assist
category
aspect

Sublist 3

partner
technical

rely
corporate
contribute
exclude
react
sex
alternative
initial
convene
technology
circumstance
link
minor
comment
shift
sufficient
proportion
ensure
document
constant
component
core
immigrate
emphasis
valid
instance
consent
physical
fund
dominate
demonstrate
outcome
specify
volume
task
layer
maximize
technique
correspond
locate
framework
constrain
criteria
interact
illustrate
deduce
coordinate
compensate
imply
philosophy
negate

justify
scheme
sequence
publish
considerable
remove
register

Sublist 4

stress
statistic
concentrate
domestic
debate
subsequent
commit
mechanism
grant
professional
overall
hypothesis
investigate
summary
impose
civil
code
series
apparent
adequacy
ethnic
contrast
output
job
goal
cycle
internal
dimension
resolve
approximate
hence
principal
attitude
retain
promote
implement
sum
access
project
obvious
undertake

option
attribute
communicate
predict
occupy
confer
error
integrate
label
parameter
regime
prior
annual
despite
implicate
phase
status
parallel
emerge

Sublist 5

generate
target
clause
adjust
liberal
logic
license
fundamental
image
generation
stable
expose
academy
orient
equivalent
external
mental
trend
enable
energy
sustain
style
transit
consult
compound
medical
welfare
whereas
objective

ratio
conflict
challenge
revenue
psychology
decline
aware
capacity
discrete
evolve
modify
symbol
contact
enforce
expand
precise
version
substitute
draft
notion
reject
entity
margin
facilitate
pursue
network
monitor
prime
amend
alter
perspective

Sublist 6

utilize
lecture
inhibit
rational
accuracy
explicit
assign
author
incorporate
reveal
minimum
acknowledge
underlie
trace
edit
cooperate
index

aggregate
transport
exceed
migrate
overseas
display
subsidy
incentive
presume
flexible
federal
domain
furthermore
ignorance
diverse
abstract
attach
nevertheless
scope
allocate
enhance
ministry
gender
tape
recover
neutral
incidence
input
fee
brief
intelligence
interval
expert
bond
transform
initiate
capable
precede
estate
motive
cite
discriminate
instruct

Sublist 7

release
deny
ultimate
adapt
differentiate

intervene
survive
innovate
advocate
simulate
file
isolate
unique
channel
paradigm
empirical
ideology
couple
media
chemical
confirm
dispose
infer
convert
finite
submit
mode
grade
dynamic
somewhat
quote
insert
phenomenon
transmit
thesis
reverse
identical
eliminate
sole
comprehensive
globe
classic
guarantee
foundation
equip
prohibit
contrary
aid
successor
topic
adult
extract
decade
hierarchy
priority
definite

voluntary
visible
publication
comprise

Sublist 8

accumulate
currency
schedule
detect
virtual
tense
displace
commodity
highlight
arbitrary
reinforce
appendix
paragraph
offset
intense
fluctuate
visual
predominant
terminate
exhibit
random
ambiguous
induce
uniform
chart
guideline
denote
radical
inspect
plus
abandon
deviate
appreciate
thereby
revise
implicit
eventual
bias
via
contradict
theme
practitioner
nuclear
inevitable

conform
exploit
accompany
vehicle
drama
crucial
contemporary
complement
clarify
manipulate
widespread
infrastructure
automate
restore
prospect
minimize

Sublist 9

vision
mediate
insight
controversy
restrain
accommodate
qualitative
anticipate
ethic
analogy
inherent
refine
temporary
mature
minimal
diminish
portion
duration
distort
intermediate
relax
behalf
sphere
team
norm
mutual
overlap
format
manual
preliminary
attain
unify

device
devote
bulk
assure
integral
found
military
route
confine
erode
coincide
suspend
subordinate
rigid
violate
cease
protocol
scenario
passive
revolution
concurrent
converse
commence
supplement
medium
coherent
trigger
compatible

Sublist 10

panel
persist
invoke
pose
incline
undergo
conceive
encounter
collapse
intrinsic
assemble
convince
reluctance
odd
notwithstanding
colleague
enormous
compile
depress
whereby

levy
nonetheless
integrity
adjacent
ongoing
albeit
so-called
straightforward
likewise
forthcoming

Signal Words*

1. Continuation Signals (*Warning—there are more ideas to come.*)

and	also	another
again	and finally	first of all
a final reason	furthermore	in addition
last of all	likewise	more
moreover	next one	reason
other	secondly	similarly
too	with	

2. Change-of-Direction Signals (*Watch out—we're doubling back.*)

although	but	conversely
despite	different from	even though
however	in contrast	instead of
in spite of	nevertheless	otherwise
the opposite	on the contrary	on the other hand
rather	still	yet
while	though	

3. Sequence Signals (*There is an order to these ideas.*)

first,	second,	third	A, B, C
in the first place	for one thing	then	next
before	now after	while	during
into (far into the night)	until	last	on time
since	always	o'clock	
later	earlier		

4. Time Signals (*When is it happening?*)

when	immediately	now
lately	already	little by little
at the same time	final	after awhile
once	during	

5. Illustration Signals (*Here's what that principle means in reality.*)

for example	specifically
for instance	to illustrate
such as	much like
in the same way	as similar to

6. Emphasis Signals (*This is important.*)

a major development	it all boils down to
a significant factor	most of all
a primary concern	most noteworthy
a key feature	more than anything else

a major event
a vital force
a central issue
a distinctive quality
above all
by the way
especially important
especially relevant
especially valuable
important to note

of course
pay particular attention to
remember that
should be noted
the most substantial issue
the main value
the basic concept
the crux of the matter
the chief outcome
the principle item

7. Cause, Condition, or Result Signals (*Condition or modification is coming up.*)

because	if	of
for	from	so
while	then	but
that	until	since
as	whether	in order that
so that	therefore	unless
yet	thus	due to
resulting from	consequently	without

8. Spatial Signals (This answers the “where” question.)

between	below	about	left	alongside
here	outside	around	close to	far
right	over	away	side	near
near	in	into	beside	
middle	next to	beyond	north	
east	on	opposite	over	
south	there	inside	in front of	
under	these	out	behind	
across	this	adjacent	above	
toward	west	by	upon	

9. Comparison-Contrast Signals (*We will now compare idea A with idea B.*)

and	or	also
too	best	most
either	less	less than
more	than	same
even	then	half
much as	like	analogous to
but	different from	still
yet	however	although
opposite	rather	while
though		

10. Conclusion Signals (*This ends the discussion and may have special importance.*)

as a result	consequently	finally
from this we see	in conclusion	in summary
hence	last of all	therefore

11. Fuzz Signals (*Idea is not exact, or author is not positive and wishes to qualify a statement.*)

almost	if	looks	like
maybe	could	some	
except	should	alleged	
nearly	might	reputed	
seems like	was reported	purported	
sort of	probably		

12. Nonword Emphasis Signals

exclamation point (!)

underline

italics

bold type

subheads, like *The Conclusion*

indentation of paragraph

graphic illustrations

numbered points (1, 2, 3)

very short sentence: *Stop war.*

“quotation marks”

Retrieved from the World Wide Web at: <http://www.nifl.gov/readingprofiles/signalwords.htm>.

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