

This segment comes from **Get Real!** a reality project for teenagers available at www.getreallearning.com



TOOL #3 Fishing Line

Academic Vocabulary & Communicating

Most people find it extremely frustrating if they are not being understood. If people cannot explain what they are thinking or asking, it can get very complicated. Relationships with people at school, work, and at home, depend on being able to communicate well both in speaking and in writing. Having a strong vocabulary and writing skills helps that tremendously.

People communicate in two basic tones. The first is the speaking and writing we use with friends and family in our casual lives. That is called the vernacular. It's used for most of our daily lives, however when we are in a more professional or public setting, we should use more formal communication, called academic/professional language.

The next few pages are **Tool #3: an "Academic Vocabulary List."** The list was created by experts and has many of the words used frequently in school and work documents. You'll recognize and understand many, but probably wouldn't use them in conversation or writing because, even though you know what they mean when you read or hear them, you may not feel able to use them correctly. As you work toward an adult level of communication, speaking and writing, practicing NOW will help. You'll definitely need to know how to use these words in college, and in professional careers, where adults do not want to sound like a child when speaking or writing.

There will be times when there are sentence starters in the project. These are designed to give you more formal, precise, complete ways of asking and answering questions, formalizing your thoughts, and having a conversation in an academic/professional manner. We get used to giving one or two word answers instead of whole sentences in our casual life, but that won't work well when you are doing things like job interviews or dealing with people professionally.

At first they may feel awkward or silly, but they will become normal. You will then be able to use them when you need to for educational writing and speaking in college and at work.

You use vocabulary everyday of your life!!!



To help you get used to using these words, each week write solid sentences using the next group of words on the lined pages provided in the back of the book. Be sure to check your understanding of the word in a dictionary if needed before writing. Also be sure your sentences have enough proof of your understanding.

abbreviate
abstract
according
address
affect

alter
analysis
analyze
anticipate
application

apply
approach
appropriate
approximate
argue

argument
arrange
articulate
aspects
assemble

assert
assess
associate
assume
assumption

authentic
background
brief
calculate
caption

category
cause
characteristic
characterize
claim

clarify
coherent
common
compare
compile

complement
complete
compose
conceive
concise

conclude
concrete
conditions
conduct
confirm

consequence
consider
consist
consistent
consistently

constantly
constitutes
consult
contend
context

contradict
control
convert
convey
correlate

correspond
credible
criteria
critique
crucial

debate
deduce
defend
demand
demonstrate

depict

derive

detect

determine

develop

differentiate

dimension

diminish

discover

discriminate

distinguish

elements

emphasize

employ

equivalent

essential

establish

estimate

evaluate

evidence

exaggerate

examine

excerpt

exclude

exhibit

explore

extract

factor

feature

former

fragment

frequently

hypothesize

identify

illustrate

imitate

imply

inclined

include

incorporate

indicate

indirectly

infer

influence

inform

inquire

integrate

intent

intention

interact

intermittent
interpret
invariably
investigate
involve

irrelevant
isolate
likely
locate
logical

method
modify
monitor
notation
notice

objective
observe
occur
opinion
oppose

optional
origins
participation
perform
perspective

prepare
presume
preview
previous
primary

prior
probably
procedure
process
produce

profile
prompt
property
propose
rarely

reaction
recall
reduce
refer
reflect

relevant
rephrase
represent
request
require

respond
responsible
restate
results
reveal

revise
sequence
signal
significance
solve

source
specific
speculate
stance
statement

strategy
structure
subsequent
substitute
succinct

suggest
summarize
symbolize
synthesize
technique

trace

trait

transition

translate

typically

unique

utilize

valid

variation

vary

verify

viewpoint

warranted

wary

wield