Vocabulary development

Each course has its own vocabulary, terminology or jargon. When you start a new course the number of new words can be overwhelming, especially when you first start at university but you will soon be familiar with the majority of the vocabulary related to your studies.

It is important that you build your academic vocabulary to help you:
- cope with your reading load. By knowing more words, you are likely to be a more efficient reader and won't get overwhelmed by all the readings you have to do for your subjects;
- communicate effectively in speaking (tutorials, Oral Presentations and general discussions with lecturers or peers) and in your written assignments;
- achieve better grades in your assignments and/or exams, and
- become familiar with the content of the subject(s) you are studying both during your studies and once you have graduated.

Resources for developing your vocabulary

Learning, remembering & recording new vocabulary
For advice on how to approach learning vocabulary and practical strategies, use:
- [Using English for Academic Purposes (UEfAP)](#) *(opens in a new window)*
For advice on remembering and recording the vocabulary you learn, use:
- [Learning Vocabulary, Recording Vocabulary (UEfAP)](#) *(opens in a new window)*
- [Vocabulary (La Trobe University)](#) *(opens in a new window)*

The Academic Word List (AWL)
A practical way to expand your vocabulary for reading, writing and speaking at university is to become familiar with the Academic Word List (AWL). The AWL contains lists of words that are frequently found in academic writing in many different areas of study. The following links include AWL lists and some also have exercises to help you learn and use them:
- [Academic Word List (UEfAP)](#) *(opens in a new window)*
- [Vocabulary Exercises (AWL)](#) *(opens in a new window)*
- [Academic Word List (University of Nottingham)](#) *(opens in a new window)*

Academic Phrases
The University of Manchester has compiled a *phrasebank* with lists of very helpful phrases which can be used in your academic writing. At the top of the page you will find a number of functions of phrases beginning with '*Introducing your work'*. Ensure that you completely understand the vocabulary in each phrase before you choose one.
- [Academic Phrasebank (University of Manchester)](#) *(opens in a new window)*

University of South Australia

Useful links *(all open in a new window)*

There may be resources that have been created with your lecturers, addressing assignment tasks and topics specific to your courses. Follow the links below to find out:

Business   Education, Arts and Social Sciences   Health Sciences   IT, Engineering and the Environment