

# Academic Vocabulary for Critical Thinking, Logical Arguments, and Effective Communication

aka

Academic Vocabulary for Absolutely Everyone!

# Sample

**(Please follow the page numbers so you will understand what's included in this sample.)**

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## Welcome! What Is this Program?

Welcome to *Academic Vocabulary for Critical Thinking, Logical Arguments, and Effective Communication*! You have just gained access to the most valuable words for our three crucial academic topics: 1) thinking, 2) argument, and 3) communication. Whether a teacher, student, or adult, you are on your way to significantly improving your skills in all of these areas.

In reality, critical thinking, logical arguments, and effective communication are composed of many other topics. Not surprisingly, many of the words in this program are essential topics of study in themselves. These top topics include logic, reasoning, comprehension, organization, analysis, decision-making, and writing.

Before you get started, please spend some time on this introductory section.

# The Grammar

As you go through this program, you will learn a certain amount about grammar. In particular, you will develop a basic understanding of the parts of speech. In short, every word functions as a specific part of speech in a sentence. Even if you don't want to learn grammar, you will see words used as specific parts of speech. There is no escaping it.

To some degree, you can ignore the grammar and focus on the concepts. However, instead of fighting the grammar, I encourage you to accept it and familiarize yourself with the basic parts of speech. The following two sections will help you understand what you are seeing:

1. Word Packs™
2. Grammar Slots™

## Word Packs™, Lexeme Families, or Word Families: Learning the Concept and Not Just a Word

Let's start by looking at a few word packs from the program:

- Credible (adjective) / Credibility (noun) / Credibly (adverb) / Antonym: Incredible (adjective)
- Continue (verb) / Continual (adjective) / Continually (adverb) / Continuous (noun) / Continuously (adverb) / Continuation (noun) / Continuance (noun) / Continuity (noun)
- Different (adjective) / Differ (verb) / Difference (noun) / Differently (adverb) / Differentiate (verb) / Differentiation (noun)
- Inquire (verb) / Inquiry (noun) / Inquisitive (adjective) / Inquisitor (noun) / Inquest (noun) / Inquisition (noun) / Query (noun / verb)
- Statistic (noun) / Statistical (adjective) / Statistically (adverb) / Statistician (noun)
- Type (noun) / Typical (adjective) / Typically (adverb) / Typify (verb)

Once again, this program is built around concepts more than words. To understand the concepts behind the words, we must look at or become familiar with different aspects or variations of the words that address the concepts. That's what Word Packs™ do.

What is a Word Pack™? Well, I invented the term. The proper term for most Word Packs™ is probably "lexeme family." However, I don't claim that every Word Pack™ is a lexeme family,

## The Complete List of Academic Vocabulary Words

➔ != included on the study sheets

1. Abbreviate (verb) / Abbreviation (noun)
2. Abstract (adjective) / Abstraction (noun)
3. Advantage (noun) / Advantageous (adjective) !
4. Advice (noun) / Advise (verb) / Adviser (noun) / Advisable (adjective)
5. Agree (verb) / Agreement (noun) / Agreeable (adjective) !  
Disagree (verb) / Disagreement (noun) / Disagreeable (adjective) !
6. Amplify (verb) / Amplification (noun)
7. Analogy (noun) / Analogous (adjective)
8. Analyze (verb) / Analysis (noun) / Analytical (adjective) !
9. Anecdote (noun) / Anecdotal (adjective) !
10. Announcement (noun) / Announce (verb) / Announcer (noun)
11. Approximately (adverb) / Approximate (adjective / verb) / Approximation (noun)
12. Argument (noun) / Argue (verb) / Argumentative (adjective) !
13. Aspect (noun) !
14. Assertion (noun) / Assert (verb) / Assertive (adjective) / Assertively (adverb) !
15. Assumption (noun) / Assume (verb) / Assumptive (adjective) !
16. Assurance (noun) / Assure (verb)
17. Authority (noun) / Authoritative (adjective) / Authorize (verb) / Authoritatively (adverb) !
18. Background Information (adjective + noun) !
19. Belief (noun) / Believe (verb) / Believable (adjective) !
20. Benefit (noun / verb) / Beneficial (adjective) !
21. Bias (noun / verb) !
22. Bias: Cognitive Biases
23. Bifurcation (noun) / Bifurcate (verb) !
24. Broaden (verb) / Broad (adjective) !
25. Category (noun) / Categorize (verb) / Categorization (noun) !
26. Cause (noun / verb) / Causation (noun) !
27. Characteristics (noun: plural) / Characteristic (noun: singular) / Characterize (verb) /  
Characteristically (adverb) !
28. Chronology (noun) / Chronological (adjective) / Chronologically (adverb) / Chronological Order !
29. Circumstances (plural) / Circumstance (singular) / Circumstantial (adjective) !
30. Claim (noun / verb) / Claimant (noun) !
31. Clarification (noun) / Clarify (verb) / Clarity (adjective) !
32. Classify (verb) / Classification (noun) / Class (noun) !
33. Clear (adjective) / Clearness (noun) / Clarity (noun) !
34. Coherent (adjective) / Coherence (noun) / Cohesive (adjective) !

35. Coincide (verb) / also see Coincidence (noun)
36. Coincidence (noun) / Coincidental (adjective) / Coincidentally (adverb) !
37. Command (noun / verb) / Commanding (adjective) / Commander (noun) / Commandment (noun)
38. Comment (noun / verb) / also see Commentary (noun)
39. Commentary (noun) / Commentator (noun)
40. Common Knowledge
41. Communication (noun) / Communicate (verb) / Communicator (noun)
42. Comparison (noun) / Compare (verb) / Comparative (adjective) / Comparatively (adverb) / Comparable (adjective) !
43. Comprehend (verb) / Comprehension (noun) / Comprehensible (adjective)
44. Compromise (noun / verb) !
45. Concede (verb) / Concession (noun) !
46. Conclusion (noun) / Conclude (verb) !
47. Concrete (adjective) / Concretely (adverb)
48. Concrete Detail
49. Condition (noun) / Conditions (noun) / Conditional (adjective)
50. Confirm (verb) / Confirmation (noun)
51. Conflate (verb) / Conflation (noun)
52. Conflict (verb / noun) / Conflicting (adjective) / Conflicted (adjective) !
53. Confluence (noun)
54. Conjecture (noun)
55. Consensus (noun)
56. Consequence (noun) / Consequently (adverb) / Consequential (adjective) !
57. Consistent (adjective) / Consistency (noun) / Consistently (adverb) / Consist (verb)
58. Constraints (noun) and Bottlenecks (noun)
59. Context (noun) / Contextual (adjective) !
60. Continue (verb) / Continual (adjective) / Continually (adverb) / Continuous (noun) / Continuously (adverb) / Continuation (noun) / Continuance (noun) / Continuity (noun)
61. Continuum (noun)
62. Contradict (verb) / Contradiction (noun) / Contradictory (adjective)
63. Contrast (verb / noun) / Contrasting (adjective) !
64. Conversation (noun) / Converse (verb) / Conversationalist (noun)
65. Converse (noun / adjective) / Conversely (sentence adverb)
66. Convince (verb) / Convincingly (adverb) !
67. Coordinate (adjective / noun / verb) / Coordinating (adjective)
68. Correlate (verb) / Correlation (noun)
69. Corroborating Evidence / Corroborating (adjective) / Corroborate (verb) / Corroboration (noun)
70. Cost (noun / verb) !
71. Counter (prefix / adjective / verb)

72. Credible (adjective) / Credibility (noun) / Credibly (adverb) / Antonym: Incredible (adjective) !
73. Criteria (plural noun) / Criterion (singular noun) !
74. Critique (verb / noun) / Criticism (noun) / Criticize (verb) / Critic (noun) !
75. Data (noun: plural / mass noun = singular) / Datum (noun: singular) !
76. Debate (verb / noun) / Debatable (adjective) !
77. Declaration (noun) / Declare (verb)
78. Deductive Reasoning / Deduce (verb) / Deduction (noun) / Deductive (adjective) !
79. Defend (verb) / Defense (noun)
80. Definition (noun) / Define (verb) / Definitive (adjective) / Definitively (adverb) !
81. Denial (noun) / Deny (verb)
82. Description (noun) / Describe (verb) / Descriptive (adjective) !
83. Detail (noun: singular) / Details (noun: plural) / Detail (verb) / Detailed (adjective) !
84. Develop (verb) / Development (noun) / Developer (noun) / Developmental (noun)
85. Different (adjective) / Differ (verb) / Difference (noun) / Differently (adverb) / Differentiate (verb) / Differentiation (noun) !
86. Digress (verb) / Digression (noun) !
87. Dilemma (noun) !
88. Disadvantage (noun) / Disadvantageous (adjective) !
89. Discuss (verb) / Discussion (noun)
90. Distinct (adjective) / Distinctive (adjective) / Distinction (noun) / Distinguish (verb) !
91. Divide (verb) / Division (noun) / Divisible (adjective) / Divided (adjective) !
92. Dogmatic (adjective) / Dogma (noun)
93. Effect (noun) / Effective (adjective) / Effectively (adverb) !
94. Elaboration (noun) / Elaborate (verb)
95. Elicit (verb)
96. Embellishment (noun) / Embellish (verb)
97. Emphasize (verb) / Emphasis (noun) / Emphatic (adjective) / Emphatically (adverb) !
98. Empirical (adjective) / Empirically (adverb) / Empiricism (noun) / Empiricist (noun)
99. Episode (noun) / Episodic (adjective) / Episodic Writing
100. Epistemology (noun)
101. Equate (verb) / Equivalent (noun / adjective) / Equal (adjective) / Equally (adverb)
102. Equivocate (verb) / Equivocation (noun)
103. Essay (noun) / Essayist (noun) !
104. Estimate (verb / noun) / Estimation (noun)
105. Explicit (adjective) / Explicitly (adverb)
106. Evaluate (verb) / Evaluation (noun) !
107. Event (noun) / Eventful (adjective) !
108. Evidence (noun) !
109. Evoke (verb) / Evocative (adjective) !

110. Exaggeration (noun) / Exaggerate (verb)
111. Example (noun) / Exemplify (verb) / Exemplar (noun) !
112. Exclamation (noun) / Exclaim (verb) / Exclamatory (adjective)
113. Expand (verb) / Expansive (adjective) / Expanding (adjective) / Expansion (noun) / Expanse (noun)
114. Experience (verb / noun) / Sense Experience !
115. Experiment (verb / noun) / Experimental (adjective) / Experimentation (noun)
116. Explanation (noun) / Explain (verb) / Explanatory (adjective) !
117. Expository (adjective) / Exposition (noun) / Expound (verb) / Exposit (verb) !
118. Fact (noun) / Factual (adjective) / Factually (adverb) !
119. Fallacy (noun) !
120. Fallacy: Logical Fallacy !
121. Feeling (noun) / Feel (verb)
122. Formula (noun) / Formulaic (adjective) / Formulate (verb)
123. Frame (noun / verb) / Reframe (noun / verb)
124. Frequent (adjective / verb) / Frequently (adverb) / Frequency (noun) / Frequentness (noun) / Frequenter (noun)
125. Generalization (noun) / Generalize (verb) / General (noun / adjective) / Generally (adverb) !
126. Genre (noun) !
127. Heuristic (noun / adjective)
128. Hierarchy (noun) / Hierarchical (adjective) !
129. Hierarchy of Ideas !
130. Hyperbole (noun) / Hyperbolic (adjective)
131. Hypothesis (noun) / Hypothesize (verb) / Hypothetically (adverb) / Hypothetical (adjective) !
132. Hypothetical (adjective / noun) / Hypothetically (adverb) !
133. Idea (noun)
134. Identify (verb) / Identity (noun) / Identification (noun) / Identical (adjective) / Identically (adverb)
135. Illustration (noun) / Illustrate (verb) / Illustrative (adjective) / Illustrator (noun)
136. Imminent (adjective) / Imminently (adverb)
137. Implicit (adjective) / Implicitly (adverb)
138. Implied (adjective / verb) / Imply (verb) / Implication (noun) !
139. Inadvertently (adverb) / Inadvertent (adjective)
140. Incident (noun) / Incidental (adjective) / Incidentally (adverb)
141. Inductive Reasoning / Inductive (adjective) / Induce (verb) !
142. Inevitable (adjective / noun) / Inevitably (adverb)
143. Inference (noun) / Infer (verb) / Inferential (adjective) / Inferentially (adverb) !
144. Inform (verb) / Information (noun) / Informative (adjective) / Informational (adjective) !
145. Inherent (adjective) / Inherently (adverb)

146. Inquire (verb) / Inquiry (noun) / Inquisitive (adjective) / Inquisitor (noun) / Inquest (noun) / Inquisition (noun) / Query (noun / verb)
147. Insight (noun) / Insightful (adjective)
148. Instruct (verb) / Instruction (noun) / Instructive (adjective)
149. Integrate (verb) / Integration (noun) / Integral (adjective)
150. Intent (noun) / Intention (noun) / Intend (verb)
151. Interpretation (noun) / Interpret (verb)
152. Investigate (verb) / Investigation (noun) / Investigative (adjective)
153. Ironic (adjective) / Irony (noun) / Ironically (adverb)
154. Judgment (noun) / Judge (verb) !
155. Justification (noun) / Justify (verb) / Justifiable (adjective) / Justifiably (adverb) !
156. Juxtaposition (noun) / Juxtapose (verb)
157. Limit (noun / verb) / Limitation (noun) / Limiting (adjective) / Limited (adjective)
158. List (noun / verb)
159. Literal (adjective) / Literally (adverb)
160. Logic (noun) / Logical (adjective) / Logically (adverb) !
161. Major (adjective) and Minor (Adjective)
162. Manner (noun) / Mannerism (noun)
163. Merge (verb) / Merger (noun)
164. Metaphor (noun) / Metaphorical (adverb) / Metaphorically (adverb)
165. Modify (verb) / Modifier (Noun) / Modification (noun)
166. Motive (noun) / Motivation (noun) / Motivate (verb)
167. Narrate (verb) / Narrative (adjective / noun) / Narrator (noun) / Narration (noun) / Narratively (adverb) !
168. Narrow (verb / adjective) / Narrowly (adverb) / Narrowness (noun) !
169. Negation (noun) / Negate (verb)
170. Negotiate (verb) / Negotiation (noun) / Negotiable (adjective) / Negotiator (noun) !
171. Notion (noun)
172. Object (noun) / Objectify (verb)
173. Object (verb) / Objection (noun) / Objectionable (adjective) / Objector (noun)
174. Objective (adjective / noun) / Objectively (adverb) / Objectivity (noun) !
175. Observe (verb) / Observation (noun) / Observant (adjective) / Observer (noun) / Observable (adjective) / Observance (noun) / Observatory (noun) !
176. Omniscient (adjective)
177. Opinion (noun) / Opinionated (adjective) !
178. Oppose (verb) / Opposition (noun) / Opponent (noun) / Opposing (adjective) !
179. Organize (verb) / Organization (noun) / Organizational (adjective) / Organized (adjective) !
180. Outline (noun / verb) !
181. Overview (noun) !



182. Palpable (adjective) / Palpability (noun) !
183. Paradox (noun) / Paradoxical (adjective)
184. Paragraph (noun / verb)
185. Parallel (adjective / noun / verb / adverb) / Parallelism (noun)
186. Paraphrase (verb / noun) !
187. Parenthetical (adjective) / Parenthetic (adjective) / Parenthesis (noun) / Parenthetically (adverb)
188. Part (noun / verb) / Partly (adverb) / Partial (adjective) / Partially (adverb) !
189. Partial (adjective) / Antonym: Impartial !
190. Particular (adjective) / Particulars (plural noun) / Particularly (adverb) !
191. Pattern (noun)
192. Perspective (noun)
193. Persuade (verb) / Persuasion (noun) / Persuasive (adjective) / Persuader (noun) / Persuasiveness (noun) / Persuadable (adjective) !
194. Plausible (adjective) / Plausibility (noun)
195. Plot (noun / verb) !
196. Point (noun) / Pointed (adjective) / Pointless (adjective) !
197. Possibility (noun) / Possible (adjective) / Possibly (adverb) / Impossibility (noun) / Impossible (adjective)
198. PPE: Point, Proof, and Explanation: Making a Logical Point
199. Practical (adjective) / Practicality (noun) / Practically (adverb) !
200. Pragmatic (adjective / noun) / Pragmatically (adverb) / Pragmatism (noun) / Pragmatist (noun) !
201. Prediction (noun) / Predict (verb) / Predictable (adjective) / Predictability (noun) / Predictive (adjective)
202. Prefer (verb) / Preference (noun) / Preferable (adjective) / Preferential (adjective)
203. Premise (noun) / Story Premise
204. Probability (noun) / Probably (adverb) / Probable (noun) !
205. Problem (noun) / Problematic (adjective) !
206. Process (noun) / Process (verb) / Processed (adjective) !
207. Prompt (adjective / noun / verb)
208. Proof (noun) / Prove (verb) / Provable (adjective) !
209. Propaganda (noun) / Propagandize (verb)
210. Proportion (noun) / Proportional (adjective) / Proportionally (adverb) !
211. Proposal (noun) / Propose (verb) / Proposition (noun) !
212. Proposition (noun) !
213. Purpose (noun) / Purposeful (adjective) / Purposely (adverb)
214. Qualities (noun: plural) / Quality (noun: singular) !
215. Question (noun) !
216. Question: Rhetorical Question
217. Quote (noun / verb) / Quotation (noun) !

218. Quote: People Say Quote, Studies Show Quote, The Research Says Quote, etc.
219. Rank (verb / noun) / Rankings (noun) !
220. Rate (verb / noun) / Ratings (noun) !
221. Rational (adjective) / Antonym: Irrational (adjective) !
222. Rationale (noun) / Rationalize (verb) / Rationalization (noun) !
223. Reaction (noun) / React (verb) !
224. Reason (noun - singular) / Reasons (noun – plural) !
225. Reason (verb / noun) / Reasoning (noun)
226. Rebuttal (noun) / Rebut (verb)
227. Recollection (noun) / Recollect (verb) !
228. Recommendation (noun) / Recommend (verb) !
229. Reference (verb / noun) / Refer (verb)
230. Reflection (noun) / Reflect (verb) / Reflective (adjective) !
231. Refutation (noun) / Refute (verb) / Antonym: Irrefutable (adjective) !
232. Reiterate (verb) / Reiteration (noun) / Iteration (noun)
233. Relationship (noun) / Relate (verb) !
234. Relative (adjective) / Relatively (adverb) !
235. Relevant (adjective) / Antonym: Irrelevant (adjective) !
236. Repeat (verb / noun) / Repetition (noun) / Repetitive (adjective) / Repeatedly (adverb) / Repetitious (adjective)
237. Repudiate (verb) / Repudiation (noun) / Refudiate? (verb)
238. Require (verb) / Requirement (noun) / Requisite (adjective) !
239. Research (verb / noun) / Researcher (noun) !
240. Response (noun) / Respond (verb) / Responsive (adjective) / Respondent (noun) !
241. Result (noun) / Result (verb) !
242. Reveal (verb / noun) / Revelation (noun) / Revealing (adjective) !
243. Review (verb / noun) !
244. Scheme (noun / verb)
245. Sensory Detail !
246. Separate (verb) / Separate (adjective) / Separation (noun)
247. Sequence (noun) / Sequential (adjective) / Sequentially (adverb) !
248. Series (noun) / Serial (adjective)
249. Significance (noun) / Significant (adjective) / Significantly (adverb) !
250. Simile (noun)
251. Similar (adjective) / Similarity (noun) / Similarly (adverb) !
252. Simple (adjective) / Simplify (verb) / Simplification (noun) / Simplicity (noun) / Simplistic (noun) / Simply (adverb) / Oversimplification (noun)
253. Situation (noun) !
254. Skeptical (adjective) / Skeptic (noun) / Skepticism (noun)

- 255. Solution (noun) / Solve (verb) !
- 256. Specific (adjective / noun) / Specify (verb) / Specification (noun) / Specifically (adverb) !
- 257. Spectrum (noun)
- 258. Speculation (noun) / Speculate (verb) / Speculative (adjective) / Speculator (noun) !
- 259. Statement (noun) / State (verb) !
- 260. State (noun)
- 261. Statistic (noun) / Statistical (adjective) / Statistically (adverb) / Statistician (noun) !
- 262. Story (noun) / How Much Story is in Your Narrative? !
- 263. Subject (noun) !
- 264. Subjective (adjective) / Subjectivity (noun) / Subjectively (adverb) !
- 265. Subordinate (adjective / noun / verb) / Subordinating (adjective)
- 266. Subsequent (adjective) / Subsequently (adverb)
- 267. Summary (noun) / Summarize (verb) / Summation (noun) !
- 268. Superordinate (adjective / noun / verb)
- 269. Support (noun / verb) !
- 270. Supporting Detail
- 271. Supposition (noun) / Suppose (verb) / Supposedly (adverb)
- 272. Syllogism (noun) / Enthymeme (noun) / Line of Reasoning
- 273. System (noun) / Systematic (adjective) / Systematize (verb) !
- 274. Symbolize (verb) / Symbol (noun) / Symbolism (noun) / Symbolic (adjective)
- 275. Synthesize (verb) / Synthesis (noun) !
- 276. Testimony (noun) / Testify (verb) / Testimonial (noun) / Testament (noun) !
- 277. Theme (noun) / Thematic (adjective) !
- 278. Theory (noun) / Theorize (verb) / Theoretical (adjective) !
- 279. Thesis (noun) !
- 280. Thesis – Antithesis – Synthesis
- 281. Timeline (noun)
- 282. Topic (noun) / Topical (adjective) !
- 283. Topic Sentence
- 284. Trait (noun)
- 285. Transition (verb / noun)
- 286. Trend (verb / noun)
- 287. Type (noun) / Typical (adjective) / Typically (adverb) / Typify (verb)
- 288. Ubiquitous (adjective) / Ubiquity (noun)
- 289. Understatement (noun) / Understate (verb) / Understated (adjective)
- 290. Unique (adjective) / Uniqueness (noun)
- 291. Unity (noun) / Unified (adjective) / Unify (verb) !
- 292. Unity Statement / Unity Question / Unity Structure
- 293. Vacillate (verb)

- 294. Vague (adjective) / Vagaries (noun) !
- 295. Valid (adjective) / Validate (verb) / Validation (noun) / Validity (noun) !
- 296. Value (noun) / Values (noun) / Value (verb)
- 297. Variable (noun / adjective) / Variant (noun) / Variation (noun) / Variance (noun)
- 298. Variety (noun) / Vary (verb) / Various (adjective) !
- 299. Verify (verb) / Verification (noun) / Verifiable (adjective) !
- 300. Visceral (adjective) / Viscerally (adverb) !
- 301. Vivid (adjective) / Vividness (noun) / Vividly (adverb) !
- 302. Warn (verb) / Warning (noun)
- 303. Warrant (verb / noun)
- 304. Whole (adjective / noun)
- 305. Wise (adjective) / Wisdom (noun) !

### Extended Definitions and Explanations

- 306. Decision Making !
- 307. Critical Thinking
- 308. Rhetoric
- 309. The Heart of the Matter: Primarily / Main / Core / Root / Central
- 310. Syllogism (noun) / Enthymeme (noun) / Line of Reasoning
- 311. Comparison: aka Compare and/or Contrast: Apple to Apples Comparisons
- 312. Propaganda (noun)
- 313. Frame (noun / verb) / Reframe (noun / verb)
- 314. Unity Statements, Unity Questions, and Unity Structures: What's Your Point? What's Their Point?
- 315. Paragraph (noun / verb) / Composition (noun) / Whole Composition
- 316. Essay (noun) / Essayist (noun) !
- 317. Genre: Understanding Targeted Communication !
- 318. Theme: Everything You Need to Know About Theme !

**Achieve Your Goals and Dreams by Improving Your  
Thinking, Listening, Writing, Discussing, Describing,  
Analyzing, Deciding, Debating, Negotiating,  
Explaining, Arguing, and Communicating Skills!**



## Argument (noun) / Argue (verb) / Argumentative (adjective)

1. **Verb: Short Version:** Giving reasons to persuade or convince. In one sense, it's that simple!
2. **Verb:** Giving reasons to persuade or convince. Plus, giving evidence, support, and logical reasoning to prove. Arguments are usually composed of various parts: claims, reasons, evidence, support, proof, and logical reasoning.
3. **Noun:** A reason or reasons offered as proof to persuade, to bring about belief, or convince; reasoning expressed in words; as, an argument about a claim, in favor of it or against it.
4. **Argument Text:** Argument is one of the four main genres (expository, narrative, descriptive, and argument).
5. **Argument vs. Expository Text:** Argument differs from expository text in its purpose. In exposition, we attempt to make clear the meaning of a statement. By argument, we try to prove its truth. If a person does not understand what we mean, we explain. If, after she does understand, she does not believe, we then argue. Often a simple explanation is enough to convince.

The first step in argument is explanation, in which we clarify the meaning of a claim we wish to prove. This explanation may include an explanation of the terms used in the claim and the claim as a whole. Some statements state facts, and some state claims or theories. Therefore, every argument aims to prove a fact or the truth of a theory or claim. – *Composition-Rhetoric (1905)* by Stratton D. Brooks

6. **Argument and Claims:** When we give reasons in an argument, we give reasons that show our claim is valid or true. We can divide claims into various categories: 1) objective claims vs. subjective claims, 2) academic claims: claims of fact, claims of definition, claims of cause, claims of comparison, claims of value, and claims of policy, and 3) other: opinions, predictions, interpretations. Please see “claims” for more on this.
7. **Argument Example:** We should buy a dog (claim). Dogs provide excellent security (reason) and companionship (reason).
8. **Argument Example:** People should exercise regularly (claim) and eat healthy food (claim) to stay healthy (reason).
9. **Argument Example:** You should lend me the money I need (claim) because you will earn interest on the loan (reason).
10. **Not an Argument: Just a Reason:** I put on a jacket (fact) because I was cold (reason).
11. **Ex.** Please present a valid **argument** (noun) for why we should put you in charge.
12. **Ex.** The senator's **argument** (noun) in favor of spending more money is absurd.
13. **Synonyms/Similar:** reason, debate, discussion, reasoning, justification, logic.
14. **Related:** argumentative (adjective), argumentation (noun), arguable (adjective).

## Aspect (noun)

1. **Noun:** A specific way we can think about or consider an idea, topic, or abstract noun; one part of an idea, topic, or abstract noun; a specific division. **Please Note:** We use the word “aspect” with “ideas,” not physical objects.
2. **Ex.** We studied every **aspect** (noun) of the problem.
3. **Ex.** The third paragraph discusses the topic's most important **aspect** (noun).
4. **Ex.** The mental **aspect** (noun) of playing in a championship game is often more challenging to control than the physical **aspect** (noun).
5. **Synonyms/Similar:** part, division, category, quality, characteristic, feature, angle, slant.

## Assertion (noun) / Assert (verb) / Assertive (adjective) / Assertively (adverb)

1. **Noun:** A forceful, confident statement that claims, affirms, or declares; expressed plainly and strongly; to state positively.
2. **Verb 1:** To state forcefully, confidently, boldly, but maybe without solid proof or support.
3. **Verb 2:** To act or speak forcefully, confidently, or boldly.
4. **Ex.** The child found the **assertion** (noun) that he ate the missing cookies offensive.
5. **Ex.** The essay **asserts** (verb) that cows are the main cause of climate change.
6. **Ex.** Instead of being passive, the new student decided **to assert** (verb/infinitive) herself.
7. **Synonyms/Similar:** declaration, claim, proclamation, statement, opinion.
8. **Antonyms/Opposites:** deny, denial.

## Assumption (noun) / Assume (verb) / Assumptive (adjective)

1. **Noun:** Something accepted as true or expected to be true without proof; something taken for granted; a supposition; the thing supposed.
2. **Verb:** To think or believe something is true without proof or reason.
3. **Ex.** Everyone **assumed** (verb) that we would solve the problem quickly.
4. **Ex.** The students made the **assumption** (noun) that there would be no tests during the final week of the school year.
5. **Ex.** One should never make **assumptions** (noun) about what other people are thinking.
6. **Ex.** The essay mistakenly **assumes** (verb) that people will believe the claims without proof.
7. **Ex.** Sales professionals commonly use an **assumptive** (adjective) close.
8. **Synonyms/Similar:** supposition, expectation, presumption, guess, belief, inference, hypothesis, theory, premise.
9. **Antonyms/Opposites:** know, prove, disregard.

# Learn the Words that Create Educational Success!



# Teach the Words that Create Educational Success!





## Hierarchy (noun) / Hierarchical (adjective)

1. **Noun:** A system in which things, ideas, and categories are ranked, ordered, and placed at levels (one above the other, etc.) based on importance or membership in categories. In simple terms, the levels and branches represent a rank of superior (more important), coordinate (equally important), or subordinate (less important).
2. **Examples of Hierarchies:** hierarchical tree diagram, outline, organizational chart, text structures (titles, headings, topic sentences, details, etc.)
3. **Ex.** There seems to be a **hierarchy** (noun) in the group of friends. Sue and Jim are the leaders.
4. **Ex.** As a rule, every organization is a **hierarchy** (noun). Interestingly, some businesses have experimented with eliminating **hierarchical** (l-adjective) levels to some degree.
5. **Synonyms/Similar:** rank, order.

## Hierarchy of Ideas

1. **Hierarchy of Ideas: Definition:** A hierarchy of ideas is a hierarchy—just like any hierarchy. The ideas are ranked, ordered, and placed at levels based on importance or membership in categories.
2. **Hierarchy of Ideas: Structure:** Like all hierarchies, the ideas have levels. The levels move from general to specific.
  - a. **Level 0: Superordinate:** higher in importance/most general: e.g., thesis statements.
  - b. **Level 1: Coordinate:** equal in importance/general: e.g., main ideas. **Note:** Coordinate ideas are coordinate with other ideas at the same level.
  - c. **Level 2: Subordinate:** less important/specific: e.g., details or specifics. **Note:** All subordinate ideas are coordinate with each other in the same grouping.
3. **Hierarchy of Ideas, Outlines, and Levels:** Traditional outlines, which outline a hierarchy of ideas, use the term LEVELS: e.g., a two-level outline, three-level outline, etc. I call the whole composition or thesis level “Level 0” because, as a rule, it sits above the outline.
4. **Hierarchy of Ideas, Levels, and Relativity:** In reality, there are as many levels of ideas as you wish to create. Here is a basic list of levels: titles, sections, chapters, thesis statements, topic sentences, details, clauses, and subordinate clauses.
5. **Ex.** Web designers must understand the **hierarchy of ideas** for SEO purposes. Google rewards websites that properly use titles, various levels of headings, bolded text, and keyword tags.
6. **Ex.** The textbook’s title, sections, chapters, and headings form a **hierarchy of ideas**.
7. **Ex.** Can you explain how an outline forms a **hierarchy of ideas**?

## Hyperbole (noun) / Hyperbolic (adjective)

1. **Noun 1:** A figure of speech in which the expression is a clear exaggeration of the meaning intended; represents things as much greater or less, better or worse, than they are; hyperbole lies without deceiving. (Exaggeration: A statement which amplifies, magnifies, or enlarges beyond what is true; overstatement; states that something is better or worse than it is.)
2. **Noun 2:** A statement or claim artfully exaggerated through excitement or for effect; a statement or claim that a reasonable person would not accept at face value or take seriously.
3. **Example of Hyperbole:** “I was helpless. I did not know what in the world to do. I was quaking from head to foot, and I could have hung my hat on my eyes, they stuck out so far.” – Mark Twain
4. **Example of Hyperbole:** “Paul dug a well so deep that it took all day for the bucket to fall to the water, and a week to haul it up.” – Exploits of Paul Bunyan
5. **Example of Hyperbole:** “The year of the Two Winters they had winter all summer and then in the fall it turned colder. One day Big Joe set the boiling coffeepot on the stove and it froze so quick that the ice was hot. That was right after Paul had built the Great Lakes.” – Exploits of Paul Bunyan
6. **Ex.** Modern politics has entered the realm of **hyperbole** (noun). We must bring it back to the area of simple disagreement.
7. **Ex.** Many of the funniest movies use **hyperbole** (noun)
8. **Synonyms/Similar:** exaggeration, amplification, overstatement, embellishment.

## Hypothesis (noun) / Hypothesize (verb) / Hypothetically (adverb) / Hypothetical (adjective)

1. **Noun:** A tentative theory used to explain certain facts and to guide further investigation; a proposed explanation; an educated guess; something not proved but assumed true for the purpose of argument or to account for a fact or an occurrence; an assumption or supposition; frequently called a working hypothesis.
2. **Theory vs. Hypothesis:** A theory is an explanation of the relations between the parts of a whole; a theory explains how the parts of the whole work to create a whole; a hypothesis is a temporary guess (conjecture) about the cause of phenomena or event; the goal in developing a hypothesis is to prove the hypothesis and/or to build upon the hypothesis, and then prove some larger truth.
3. **Ex.** Based on my **hypothesis** (noun) that humans naturally desire to be fair and work hard, I suggest we abolish money and make everything free.
4. **Ex.** My **hypothesis** (noun) is that sea levels are done rising and will soon drop, so I bought a house right on the water.
5. **Ex.** Ivan Pavlov **hypothesized** (verb) that the dog was drooling because the dog had come to associate the ringing of the bell with getting food. He went on to prove this true.

# Create Success by Improving How You Think and Communicate!

## Feel Confident in Every Negotiation and Presentation!



## Come to Agreement! Understand Complex Topics!



8. **Synonyms/Similar: Noun 1:** principles, standards, ethics, morals.
9. **Synonyms/Similar: Noun 2:** worth, usefulness, merit, benefit, utility.
10. **Related:** valuable, valuation.

Variable (noun / adjective) / Variant (noun) / Variation (noun) / Variance (noun)

These words are all related; however, I've divided them into two groups:

- Variable, Variant, Variation, Variance
- Variety, Vary, Various

1. **Adjective: Variable:** Having the capacity of varying or changing; liable to vary; capable of changing in any manner; susceptible to change; changeable; fickle; unsteady; inconstant; as, variable winds.
2. **Ex.** The business failed because the **variable** (l-adjective) costs doubled almost overnight.
3. **Ex.** The new homeowners decided on a **variable** (l-adjective\*) rate mortgage. Five months later, they regretted that decision.
4. **Noun: Variable:** That which is variable; that which varies or is subject to change.
5. **Noun: Math: Variable:** A quantity which may increase or decrease; a quantity which allows for an infinite number of values in the same expression; a variable quantity; as, in the equation  $x^2 - y^2 = R^2$ , x and y are variables.
6. **Ex.** The issue is very complex, so it's difficult to resolve. There are many **variables** (noun) to consider and even more unknown **variables** (noun).
7. **Ex.** Let's figure out the **variables** (noun) before we make our decision. We don't want everything to change on us unexpectedly.
8. **Noun: Variant:** Something which differs in form from another thing, though really is the same; as, a variant of a virus; a variant of a story or a word.
9. **Ex.** Don't even say it! There is another **variant** (noun) of the COVID virus?
10. **Ex.** Everyone is raving about this new movie. However, I think it is just another **variant** (noun) of the Hero's Journey.
11. **Noun: Variation:** The act of varying; a partial change in the form, position, state, or qualities of a thing; modification; alternation; mutation; diversity; deviation; as, a variation of color in different lights; a variation in size;
12. **Noun: Variation:** Extent to which a thing varies; the amount of departure from a position or state; amount or rate of change.
13. **Ex.** Everyone is raving about this new movie. However, it's just a slightly different **variation** (noun) of many movies I've seen before.
14. **Ex.** Genetic **variation** (noun) is required to maintain a healthy population.

## Variety (noun) / Vary (verb) / Various (adjective)

These words are all related; however, I've divided them into two groups:

- Variable, Variant, Variation, Variance
- Variety, Vary, Various

1. **Noun: Variety:** The quality or state of being diverse or different; intermixture of different things; diversity; a collection of different things; an assortment; each differing from others of the same general kind.
2. **Ex.** Writers must **vary** (verb) their sentence structure to create sentence **variety** (noun) and sentence fluency.
3. **Ex.** Some people eat the same food every day. I prefer **variety** (noun).
4. **Ex.** The parents changed their decision for **various** (I-adjective) reasons.
5. **Synonyms/Similar:** diversity, different, differing, dissimilar, disparate, array, collection, mixture, range, variation, divergent.
6. **Antonyms/Opposites:** sameness, similarity, uniformity, invariably (adverb) = always; every time.

## Verify (verb) / Verification (noun) / Verifiable (adjective)

1. **Verb:** To prove or demonstrate that something is true or correct; to establish the truth of; to confirm that something is accurate.
2. **Ex.** The writer **should have verified** (verb) the facts before he published his story.
3. **Ex.** We need **to verify** (verb/infinitive) that you attended school every day this month.
4. **Ex.** The **verification** (noun as adjective) process to enter this country is complex.
5. **Ex.** The singer-songwriter-musician is a **verifiable** (I-adjective) genius.
6. **Synonyms/Similar: Verbs:** check, authenticate, certify, double-check, corroborate, demonstrate, prove, substantiate, confirm.
7. **Antonyms/Opposites: Verbs:** deny, disprove, invalidate, reject.

## Visceral (adjective) / Viscerally (adverb)

1. **Adjective 1:** Instinctive or emotional, as opposed to intellectual or logical; at the gut level.
2. **Adjective 2:** Of or relating to the viscera—i.e., the internal organs, especially the intestines, aka the guts. *Please Note:* You must understand this definition to understand the first definition.
3. **Ex.** The final scene of the movie was extremely powerful. The audience feels it at a **visceral** (I-adjective) level.
4. **Ex.** The controversial writer received a **visceral** (I-adjective) reaction from readers. Many people were absolutely livid.

# Is This Program for You? Yes!

## This Program Is for Absolutely Everyone Who Wants to Improve Their Skills!





1. **Thesis:** Life should be lived slow and steady.
2. **Antithesis:** Life should be lived quickly and carefree.
3. **Synthesis:** Although quick and carefree can be fun for a while, slow and steady wins the race.

### Theme: A Story Example

Once again, the story is about two things: 1) the plot and 2) the theme. Let's take a look! *Please Note:* In all of these examples, we could change the wording a bit and place "the story is about" at the beginning of each sentence.

1. **Story: Plot:** The hero discovers that her best friend has been taken prisoner by her arch-enemy and sets out on a journey of a thousand miles to set her friend free.
2. **Story: Theme Concepts:** Friendship, grudges, revenge, and facing hardships.
3. **Story: Theme Statement 1: Grudges:** We shouldn't make arch-enemies because the costs are high—for us and possibly our friends.
4. **Story: Theme Statement 2: Friendship:** True friends will travel to the ends of the world for each other.
5. **Story: Theme Statement 3: Facing Hardships:** We learn about ourselves and what we are capable of achieving when facing hardships.

In short, most stories contain implied or hidden messages—called themes. If a story does not have a theme, it's probably not a great story. Now, here is a large list of story themes.

### Theme: List of Story Themes: Concepts and Ideas

Friendship, Family, Love, Relationships, Money, Greed, Power, Control, Sacrifice, Betrayal, Revenge, Loyalty, Forgiveness, Survival, Success, Failure, Glory, Honor, Truth, Morality, Beliefs, Values, Goodness, Evil, Pride, Jealousy, Arrogance, Modesty, Ambition, Attitude, Change, Meaning of Life, Death, Honesty, Integrity, Freedom, Fun, Commitment, Pain, Heath, Creativity, Problems, Passion, Fate, Destiny, Choices and Decisions, Indecision, Circle of Life, Cause-and-Effect, Denial, Acceptance, Self-Awareness, Self-Discipline, Self-Respect, Gluttony, Loneliness, Suffering, Addiction, Excess, Beauty, Growing Old, Work, The System, Society, Social Norms, Laws and Rules, Tradition, Obedience, Authority, Technology, Nature, Mother Earth, Wastefulness, Patriotism, War, Duty, Equality, Fairness, Respect, Intolerance, Racism, Sexism, Prejudice, Bullies, Kindness, Human Decency, The Human Spirit, Human Nature, Forgiveness, Charity, Trust, Letting Go, Work Habits, Hard Work, Genius, Persistence, Responsibly, Determination, Goals, Leadership, Courage, Cowardice, Effort, Misfortune, Luck, Randomness, Risk, Rewards, Caution, Politics, Religion, Economics.