

# Using Academic Vocabulary

At a minimum, you need to know the meaning, the part of speech, and the collocates.

## Meaning

Make sure you know what words mean. Sometimes when you use words incorrectly, it is because you don't fully understand what it means.

## Part of Speech

You also need to know what part of speech it is.

### A **noun**...

...is a person, place, thing, or idea.

...can be described with adjectives.

...frequently follows determiners.

\*common suffixes include "sion/tion" (condition); "ance/ence" (difference); "ment" (development); "ity" (activity)

### A **verb**...

...is a word that shows action.

...can be described with adverbs.

...follows subjects (or comes before objects).

...can be changed to show past or future tense.

\*common suffixes include "ate" (indicate); "ize" (recognize); "ify" (identify)

### An **adjective**...

...is a word that describes a noun.

...usually comes before a noun or after a verb like BE.

\*common suffixes include "ive" (effective); "ful" (useful); "ic" (specific)

### An **adverb**...

...is a word that describes verbs, adjectives, and sentences.

...can be in many different places in a sentence.

\*common suffixes include "ly" (quickly)

## Collocations

A collocate is a word that is frequently used with another word. Sometimes when you use academic vocabulary, your teacher will tell you that you have a "word choice" error or your roommate may tell you that it "sounds funny." That is often because you used a word that is not a collocate. You should memorize a couple of collocates with each new word you learn. You can find lists of collocates on the LEAP dashboard, [wordandphrase.info](http://wordandphrase.info), in collocation dictionaries, and in your LEAP vocabulary packet. Using these lists while you make sentences will help you remember the words in a natural context.

Look at the chart below. You will notice that some words have a noun, verb, adjective, and adverb form that are all a little different. Some words do not. Some words even have the same form for two different parts of speech.

<b>Noun</b>	<b>Verb</b>	<b>Adjective</b>	<b>Adverb</b>
expression	express	expressive	expressively
respect	respect	respectful	respectfully
honesty	be honest	honest	honestly
confidence	be confident, have confidence	confident	confidently

## 1 Exercise: Identify word forms

Fill in the word forms that you know.

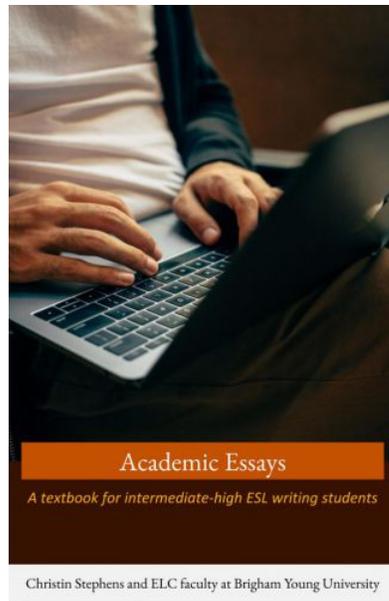
Noun	Verb	Adjective	Adverb
			developmental
	support		
sustainability			-----
		explanatory	-----
			sequentially
part	-----		
		collective	
	expect		

You need to be careful in your writing to use the correct word form.

## 2 Exercise: Revise for word form errors

Find the word form errors.

The homework assignment looked easy, but I did not know how to completely it. I asked my study buddy to help me because he is so intelligence. Apparent, he is really good at learning languages, because he is learning three languages at BYU. I know one day he will be famously. I respectful him a lot.



Stephens, C. (n.d.). *Academic B Writing*. BYU Open Textbook Network.  
[https://open.byu.edu/academic\\_b\\_writing\\_p](https://open.byu.edu/academic_b_writing_p)