

## **Tests of the Academic Word List**

These two tests test receptive knowledge of the words in the Academic Word List (Coxhead, 2000). There are 57 items in each test, so a learner's score on one test should be multiplied by ten to estimate the total number of words known. So, if a learner gets 38 answers correct, they know 380 out of the 570 words in the Academic Word List. So, they need to learn another 190 words from the list. The Academic Word List can be found at <https://www.victoria.ac.nz/lals/about/staff/averil-coxhead>. A series of four books (Coxhead, A. & Nation, P. (2018). *Reading for the Academic World*. Sachse, Texas: Seed Learning.) can help learners learn the words on the list.

The tests were designed and trialled by Andrea Flavell and revised by Paul Nation. Andrea has kindly agreed to make them freely available for teachers, students and researchers to use. There is no need to seek permission to use the tests for non-commercial purposes.

The Academic Word List has ten sublists, nine lists of 60 words, and one list of 30 words. The tests are based on a sample from each of these sublists.

## Answer key

### Test A

|   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 5 analysis<br>6 income<br>1 environment   | 3 variable<br>6 issue<br>4 method       | 1 site<br>4 maintenance<br>2 commission     | 2 culture<br>6 resource<br>5 evaluation   | 6 volume<br>5 sequence<br>4 fund        |
| 2 alternative<br>1 contribution<br>3 task | 6 cycle<br>1 regime<br>2 status         | 1 commit<br>3 access<br>4 emerge            | 3 conflict<br>6 objective<br>5 psychology | 5 equivalent<br>4 mental<br>1 academic  |
| 4 lecture<br>3 abstract<br>6 fee          | 4 estate<br>1 incentive<br>3 allocation | 6 voluntary<br>2 definite<br>3 hierarchical | 4 eliminate<br>1 confirm<br>2 insert      | 4 intensity<br>6 appendix<br>3 schedule |
| 1 radical<br>3 contemporary<br>5 implicit | 5 attain<br>4 coincide<br>6 distort     | 3 controversy<br>2 team<br>1 accommodation  | 6 reluctant<br>3 odd<br>5 enormous        |   |

### Test B

|   |  |                                       |  |  |
|---|--|---------------------------------------|--|--|
| 3 concept<br>1 labour<br>5 role               | 6 authority<br>4 percent<br>2 export       | 2 complex<br>1 normal<br>5 final      | 3 design<br>2 item<br>4 administration       | 4 outcome<br>6 technique<br>2 consent        |
| 2 framework<br>3 sex<br>1 coordination        | 4 error<br>5 resolution<br>3 parameter     | 2 output<br>5 project<br>1 size       | 2 enforcement<br>6 capacity<br>4 perspective | 6 reject<br>4 evolve<br>3 contact            |
| 5 exceed<br>3 acknowledge<br>1 bond           | 3 margin<br>2 transformation<br>6 recovery | 3 priority<br>2 mode<br>5 thesis      | 3 comprise<br>4 dispose<br>1 advocate        | 3 appreciation<br>6 deviation<br>2 commodity |
| 3 currency<br>6 fluctuation<br>2 accumulation | 1 incompatible<br>4 rigid<br>3 mutual      | 5 coherence<br>3 trigger<br>2 insight | 6 conceive<br>5 encounter<br>2 collapse      |  |