

# 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.

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**A noun...**

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...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.

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## 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.*

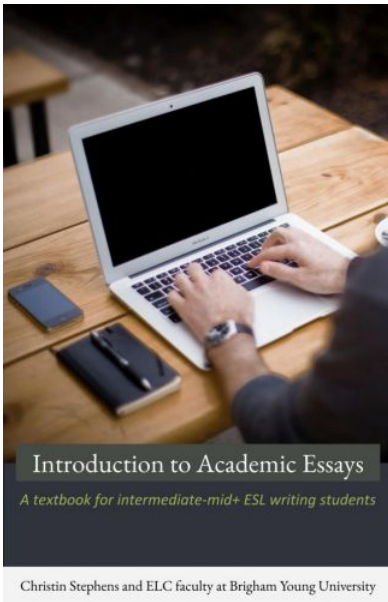
<b>Noun</b>	<b>Verb</b>	<b>Adjective</b>	<b>Adverb</b>
			developmental
	support		
sustainability			-----
		explanatory	-----
			sequentially
part	-----		
		collective	
	expect		

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 A Writing*. EdTech Books.  
[https://edtechbooks.org/academic\\_a\\_writing](https://edtechbooks.org/academic_a_writing)