

Introduction to Academic English

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Developing academic English: The importance of language skills



You will need to develop your language skills, and specifically, your academic English, in order to:

- **Understand and make the most effective use of your study materials**
- **Develop the specialised language and vocabulary relevant to your subject**
- **Interpret assignment questions and select relevant and appropriate material for your response**

Developing academic English: The importance of language skills



- **Write well-structured and coherently presented assignments, without plagiarism**
- **Communicate your needs to your lecturers**
- **Work productively with other students**

Developing academic English:

What is academic English?



Everyday Spoken English = English in everyday situations

Academic English is the type of English you need for

- Reading and understanding your study materials
- Writing about your subject.

Developing academic English:

What is academic English?

Academic English is different from everyday spoken English. It may be used to

- Describe an object or situation
- Describe a process or how something works
- Explain something

Developing academic English:

What is academic English?



The ability to write in an academic style is something you develop as part of your university study.

It is difficult to give overall 'rules' on the way to write for a university course, as academic subjects vary in

- **Their vocabulary and expressions**
- **The types of text used (for instance essays, reports, research articles or summaries)**
- **How these texts are structured and organised**

Main features of academic English



- Is usually formal in tone and impersonal in style
- Avoids contractions or shortened forms of verbs, such as won't, doesn't or it's
- Avoids using a linking word such as 'and' or 'but' at the beginning of a sentence
- Avoids personal pronouns such as I, me, you, your

Main features of academic English



- May use the passive form of verbs
- Avoids verbs that are composed of multiple words, such as 'give up', 'put up with'
- Tends to employ a cautious way of explaining findings, using expressions such as 'may', 'it is possible that...', 'could'
- May use specialised vocabulary.

Aims of English Course



The aims of English Course are to help postsecondary students become more efficient and effective in their studies by:

- Developing strategies to improve reading speed, and to improve the ability to comprehend complex academic texts;
- Developing strategies to produce more coherent writing, and to make clear, and relevant notes from academic texts;

Aims of English Course



- Encouraging them to adopt various approaches for dealing with new or unknown vocabulary by practising effective use of dictionaries, and through making effective vocabulary records;
- Exploring and evaluating research techniques and resources, and crediting sources of information;
- Promoting learner independence by encouraging students to return to earlier Study Skills to refresh their memories, or see how new skills build on and develop those previously presented.

Thank

