

General academic terms

These words should help you write essays and other formal pieces of writing. They can be used in a variety of contexts. Obvious words such as 'problem' or 'consequence' have been left out. Some of these words have more than one meaning so make sure you find the right translation or explanation. Other words mean almost the same but they cannot always be used in every situation. Make sure to actively notice these terms in the texts you read. Finally, this list is not exhaustive so add words you find useful.

cause	
motivation	
origin	
source	
effect	
impact	
outcome	
repercussion	
to influence	
to affect	
to cause	
to bring about	
to result in	
to create	
to provoke	
difficulty	
obstacle (to overcome an obstacle)	
issue	
concern	
to solve	
method	
strategy	
technique	
to implement	
aspect	
feature	
element	
characteristic (<i>also exists as adjective</i>)	
option	
to require	
to involve	
to prevent	
to avoid	
to support (<i>also exists as noun</i>)	
to provide sb with sth	
to achieve	
to predict	
to rely (on)	
to imply (implication)	
to establish	
to determine	
to indicate	

to design	
to contribute to (contribution)	
to benefit (from)	
to concentrate (on)	
to focus (on)	
to concern	
adequate (adj)	
appropriate (adj)	
available (adj)	
initially	
originally	
gradually	
necessary (adj)	
essential (adj)	
significant (adj)	
considerable (adj)	
relevant (adj)	
dominant (adj)	
obvious (adj)	
specific (adj)	
similar (adj)	
numerous (adj)	
diverse (adj)	
various (adj)	
potential (adj) (<i>also exists as noun</i>)	
range (a wide range of)	
variety (a great variety of)	
lack of	
link	
item	
location	
aim	
goal	
justification	
evidence	
circumstance	
concept	
attitude	
resources	
development (to develop)	
role	
debate	

Cause and Effect Synonyms and Other Useful Verbs

CAUSE

Cause: something that brings about an effect or a result

- *Unemployment is a major cause of poverty.*
- *Drinking and driving is one of the most common causes of traffic accidents.*

Motivation: a reason for doing something

- *Our real motivation is to make profit*
- *What is the motivation behind this sudden change?*

Origin: the point from which something starts; the cause of something

- *The origin of the word remains obscure.*
- *The origins of human language remain a matter of considerable debate.*

Source: a person or thing that causes something, especially a problem

- *a source of violence*
- *a source of confusion*

EFFECT

Effect: a change that sb/sth causes in sb/sth else - a result

- *The increasing number of cars has a bad effect on the environment.*
- *Computers have had a profound effect on our lives.*

Aftermath: consequence - result

- *How would they cope with the aftermath of the war.*
- *A lot of rebuilding took place in the aftermath of the war.*

Outcome: the result or effect of an action or event

- *Four possible outcomes have been identified.*
- *We are waiting to hear the final outcome of the negotiations.*

Ramification: a complicated or unexpected way in which a decision, process, or event affects other things

- *These changes are bound to have widespread social ramifications.*

Repercussion: a bad effect that something has, usually lasting for a long time

- *The collapse of the company will have repercussions for the whole industry.*
- *Your decision not to go to college will have repercussions you'll feel for years to come.*

Response: a reaction

*There was an enthusiastic response to the suggestions.
In response to complaints, the company reviewed its safety procedures.*

Impact: an effect, or an influence

- *Tougher environmental laws could have negative impacts on economic growth.*
- *Internet shopping has begun to have a serious impact on traditional bookshops.*

OTHER USEFUL VERBS

to require: to need something; to depend on somebody/something

- *These pets require a lot of care and attention.*
- *Working with these children requires a great deal of patience.*

to demand: to need something in order to be done successfully

- *This sport demands both speed and strength.*

to involve: if a situation, an event or an activity involves something, that thing is an important or necessary part or result of it

- *Many of the crimes involved drugs.*
- *The job involves me travelling all over the country.*

to prevent: to stop somebody from doing something; to stop something from happening

- *Bad weather prevented us from leaving.*
- *How are you going to prevent him from finding out about the party?*

to avoid: to prevent something from happening

- *I'm not going to be late if I can avoid it.*
- *The accident could have been avoided.*

to inhibit: to prevent something from happening or make it happen more slowly or less frequently than normal

- *Financial considerations are inhibiting access to higher education.*
- *A lack of oxygen may inhibit brain development in the unborn child.*

to help: to make it easier or possible for somebody to do something by doing something for them or by giving them something that they need

- *The college's aim is to help students to achieve their aspirations.*
- *This charity aims to help people to help themselves.*

to aid: to provide with what is useful or necessary in achieving an end

- *They gave money in order to aid the cause.*
- *He jumped into the water to aid the drowning child.*

to assist: to help someone or something

- *These measures were designed to assist people with disabilities.*
- *They eventually agreed to assist the investigation.*

to influence: to have an effect on a particular situation and the way it develops

- *A number of social factors influence life expectancy.*
- *The local climate is influenced by the Gulf Stream.*

to affect: to change or influence something. If something affects something else, it has an effect on it

- *Did the newspapers really affect the outcome of the election?*
- *The area has been badly affected by pollution.*

to cause: to make something happen, especially something bad or unpleasant

- *Changes in lifestyle and diet over the last twenty years have caused a sharp increase in childhood obesity.*
- *The car accident caused an extremely long traffic jam.*

to bring about: to make something happen

- *What brought about the changes in his attitude?*
- *Even small changes in lifestyle and diet can bring about a significant weight loss.*

to create: to cause a situation, feeling, or problem to exist/ to make something happen

- *The main road was closed, creating traffic problems.*
- *The government plans to create more jobs for young people.*

to produce: to cause a particular result or effect

- *A phone call to the manager produced the result she wanted.*

to provoke: to cause a particular reaction or have a particular effect

- *The article was intended to provoke discussion.*
- *The announcement provoked a storm of protest.*

to result in: to make something happen

- *The cyclone has resulted in many thousands of deaths.*

- *These policies resulted in many elderly people suffering hardship.*