**Academic Writing — Developing a Strong Vocabulary**

**🎯 1. Why Vocabulary Matters in Academic Writing**

In academic writing, **word choice** affects your clarity, formality, and credibility. A strong academic vocabulary allows you to:

* Express ideas clearly and precisely
* Avoid repetition
* Show logical connections
* Sound more formal and objective

**🔤 2. Features of Academic Vocabulary**

| **Feature** | **Example** |
| --- | --- |
| **Formal tone** | *Children → Offspring* |
| **Precise meaning** | *Get better → Recover, Improve* |
| **Abstract nouns** | *Development, Impact, Evaluation* |
| **Complex connectors** | *Therefore, Moreover, In contrast* |
| **Passive structures** | *It is believed that…* |

**🧰 3. Strategies to Develop Academic Vocabulary**

**a. Use Academic Word Lists**

Start with the **Academic Word List (AWL)** — a collection of high-frequency words used across disciplines.  
Examples: *analyze, establish, indicate, significant, derive, assume*

**b. Learn Word Families**

Understanding one word can give access to many:

* *Analyze → analysis, analytical, analytically*
* *Develop → development, developer, developing*

**c. Replace Common Words with Formal Alternatives**

| **Informal / Common** | **Academic Alternative** |
| --- | --- |
| *Big* | Significant / substantial |
| *Get* | Obtain / acquire |
| *Show* | Demonstrate / illustrate |
| *Think* | Consider / assume / suggest |
| *A lot of* | Numerous / considerable |

**d. Use a Thesaurus Carefully**

Use it to find **precise synonyms**, but always **check context** and usage to avoid awkward or incorrect phrasing.

**e. Read Academic Texts Regularly**

Reading research articles, academic essays, or subject-specific books helps you:

* Notice patterns
* Learn discipline-specific terms
* Understand how words are used in context

**f. Keep a Personal Word Bank**

Record new academic words with:

* Definition
* Example sentence
* Word family (noun/verb/adjective forms)

**Watch this video for further tips:**

**https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UiHoNctRxQE**