

## Preface

The Academic Word List (AWL) is a list of words commonly found in academic texts. The AWL, compiled by Averil Coxhead, includes 600 words. The words are organized into word families which consist of the *parent word* and *family members*. Take the parent word *devote* as an example. Its family members are the noun *devotion*, the adjective *devoted*, and the adverb *devotedly*. Therefore, mastering the AWL enables English language learners develop their vocabulary beyond the 600 target words. It should be noted, however, that there are some academic words (e.g., *nonetheless* and *thereby*) that occur on their own and do not have word families.

The AWL is divided into ten sublists that reflect word frequency. Therefore, the first sublist contains words with the highest frequency and the last sublist covers words with the lowest frequency. Each sublist includes 60 words, with the exception of the last one which contains 30 words.

It is important that university students master the AWL because it covers up to 10% of the vocabulary used in written academic texts. Thus, on average, one word in 10 in an academic textbook appears in the AWL.

*Focus on Academic Words in English* is a textbook specially written for university students taking their English for Academic Purposes (EAP) courses. However, it could be used by all English language learners at pre-intermediate and intermediate levels. The book consists of 10 units corresponding to the 10 sublists of the AWL. Each unit is divided into three lessons (A, B and C) except Unit 10 which contains two lessons (A and B). Each lesson begins with the target words defined and introduced through two simple example sentences which clearly illustrate how each new word is used in English. The list of target words in each lesson is then followed by three activities intended to help learners remember and use the new words. The activities cover a variety of exercise types, including matching, gap-fill, odd-word-out, and double-choice items. In addition, each unit contains exercises which help learners focus on various dimensions of target words, such as collocations, word grammar, and word formation. There is also a review exercise at the end of each unit which aims at recycling all the new words introduced within the three lessons.

The book contains five review units which appear at the end of each two units. The review units not only recycle the words introduced earlier but also help learners assess their learning. In addition to the review units, there are three progress tests intended to review the target words covered in units 1-5, units 6-10, and units 11-15.

*Focus on Academic Words in English* could serve as a supplementary material along with the other textbook(s) covered in EAP courses. It is hoped that it will equip university students with the necessary lexical knowledge needed to easily read academic texts.

**Sasan Baleghizadeh**  
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