

AWL Highlighters: Worksheet

Video name: **Academic Word List (AWL) Highlighters**
 Link to video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CfZnqhynhsl>
 Alternate link: http://v.youku.com/v_show/id_XNDUxOTczNjMxNg==.html

Task 1: Before watching

Answer the following questions *before* watching the video.

- i) What does the word *academic* mean? _____
- ii) Read the following sentences.

- Which words seem particularly suitable for *academic writing*?
- Which ones seem *non-academic*?

There are two significant reasons for this thing. The most notable is the decline in the amount of stuff that is sold. This has been really bad for merchants. A second reason is an increase in price, which has been bad for shoppers.

- iii) For the words which seem non-academic, can you suggest better alternatives?

Task 2: About the AWL

1. What is the Academic Word List (AWL)? _____

Complete the following table, giving information about the AWL and GSL.

Word List	Abbreviation	% of words covered
Academic Word List	AWL	2. _____
3. _____ List	GSL	4. _____

5. Based on the above information, what percentage of words in written English would a student know if they knew all GSL and AWL words? _____
6. How many sublists are there in the AWL? _____
7. What is the difference between sublist 1 and sublist 2? _____
8. How many word *families* are there in the AWL? _____
9. The following words are the first words from the first three sublists. Which one is sublist 1, which is sublist 2, which is sublist 3?
 ___ *alternative* ___ *analyse* ___ *achieve*

Task 3: AWL highlighters

10. Why is the AWL highlighter an important tool for studying vocabulary? _____

11. Complete the table to show whether the highlighter has this feature (✓) or not (✗).

Feature	[Lex = Lextutor, Nott = Nottingham Uni, EAPF = EAPFoundation.com]			Lex	Nott	EAPF
a) Highlights AWL words						
b) Has data e.g. % of AWL words in text						
c) Shows sublists						
d) Has a simple gapfill maker						
e) Has other gapfill makers						
f) Allows you to change the colour of words in each sublist						
g) Is good for visual learners						

Task 4: Using AWL highlighters

For the following task, you will need to navigate to the AWL highlighters shown in the video. The links are below.

EAP Foundation <https://www.eapfoundation.com/vocab/academic/highlighter/>
 Nottingham Uni <http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/alzsh3/acvocab/awlhighlighter.htm>
 Lextutor <https://www.lexutor.ca/vp/eng/>

- i) Go to any AWL highlighter and type in the short text below (from Task 1). Which words are in the AWL? Are these words you thought were academic?

There are two significant reasons for this thing. The most notable is the decline in the amount of stuff that is sold. This has been really bad for merchants. A second reason is an increase in price, which has been bad for shoppers.

- ii) Study the following words.

- Which ones do you think might be in the AWL?
- Type the words in to check. Make a note of the sublist.

<input type="radio"/> book	<input type="radio"/> since
<input type="radio"/> chemical	<input type="radio"/> flexible
<input type="radio"/> context	<input type="radio"/> strategy
<input type="radio"/> reason	<input type="radio"/> thought
<input type="radio"/> diminish	<input type="radio"/> hypothesis
<input type="radio"/> example	<input type="radio"/> experiment
<input type="radio"/> refer	<input type="radio"/> result
<input type="radio"/> deduce	<input type="radio"/> appreciate
<input type="radio"/> external	<input type="radio"/> integrity

- iii) Access the following page, which reviews AWL highlighters. Copy and paste the text (not including the final table) **into all three highlighters** and answer the questions.

<https://www.eapfoundation.com/news/reviews/highlighters/>

- Which sublist has the most number of words? _____
- How many words are in that sublist? _____
- Which sublist(s) have no words? _____
- There should be more words in sublists 1, 2 etc. and fewer in sublists 10, 9 etc. Is this the case? _____
- What percentage of words in the text are in the following? *Round to the nearest whole number.*

<input type="radio"/> GSL	_____ %
<input type="radio"/> AWL	_____ %
<input type="radio"/> Neither (off-list)	_____ %
- Which of the three highlighters do you prefer using? _____

Further reading/viewing

The following page (used to in the video) gives a full list of AWL words and word families.

<https://www.eapfoundation.com/vocab/academic/awllists/>

The following page (also given above) gives a review of the three highlighters.

<https://www.eapfoundation.com/news/reviews/highlighters/>

The following short video gives general information on the AWL.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jCGWOrqSU8I>