

Adrian Wallwork

English for Academic Research: Vocabulary Exercises

English for Academic Research

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English for Academic Research: Vocabulary Exercises

 Springer

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Preface

English level required for this book

This book contains almost 200 exercises designed to practice the non-technical vocabulary you will need when writing a research manuscript in English. It is aimed at students and researchers of any discipline whose first language is not English. It is assumed that you have already reached a sufficient level of English to read and understand a research paper in your particular field. You may find some technical words in the exercises that you are not familiar with. You can simply ignore such words – they should not prevent you from being able to complete the exercise.

Structure of the book

Chapters 1-5 practice vocabulary in terms of grammatical function (e.g. adjectives and adverbs, link words, nouns, prepositions and verbs). The other sections deal with false friends, synonyms, and spelling issues, as well as useful phrases for research papers and emails (to colleagues and editors).

There are many more exercises on verbs than on nouns. If you wish to practice the difference between, for example, *identification* and *detection*, or *proposal* and *recommendation*, and you cannot find such words in the index (page 189), then look under the related verbs (*identify*, *detect*, *propose*, *recommend*). Generally speaking the difference between two nouns is likely to be the same difference as between the two related verbs.

Self study and classroom use

All of the exercises can be done with or without the aid of a teacher. They are thus suitable both for self study and classroom use.

In some exercises you have to fill a gap with a word or phrase from a list. You can make the exercise more challenging by ignoring the list of suggested words, and trying to find the correct word yourself. Then you can check with the key.

Instructions to the exercises

One of the main criteria of this book is to enable you to do exercises quickly and effectively, with minimal writing. In most cases (particularly in Chapters 1-5), no instructions are given. This is because all you have to do is select the correct word from a choice of words that are in bold.

Note that in some cases there may be more than one correct answer.

Keys to the exercises

The keys (answers) to the exercises appear immediately below the exercise, but in a smaller font. The idea is that you don't have to flip to the back of the book to find the answers. This should speed up the process of doing the exercises.

Words and phrases in parentheses indicate that these are alternative solutions to the ones outside parentheses, but they are probably less commonly used.

Words and phrases separated by a slash (e.g. *which/that*) indicate that both solutions are equally valid.

In some cases the answers given are subjective. This is due to the fact that there may be only very subtle differences in meaning between certain words. Additionally, the same word may be used in a different way in different disciplines. If in doubt, consult with your tutor or English teacher.

If you disagree with any of the answers, then please feel free to email me with your suggested solution: adrian.wallwork@gmail.com

Cross-referencing with other books in the series

English for Research: Grammar, Usage and Style – designed to resolve your doubts about the grammar, usage and style of academic English.

English for Writing Research Papers – everything you need to know about how to write a paper that referees will recommend for publication.

English for Academic Correspondence – tips for responding to editors and referees, networking at conferences, understanding fast-talking native English speakers, using Google Translate, and much more. No other book like this exists on the market.

English for Presentations at International Conferences – all the tricks for overcoming your fear of presenting in English at a conference.

English for Interacting on Campus – tips for: socializing with fellow students, addressing professors, participating in lectures, improving listening skills and pronunciation, surviving in a foreign country.

To find out how the manuals are cross-referenced with the exercise books go to: <http://www.springer.com/series/13913>

A note for teachers

This book is not designed to be a fully comprehensive vocabulary exercise book. It only focuses on those problems that are regularly found in manuscripts and emails written by non-native speakers. This means that there is great emphasis on a limited number of vocabulary items.

I have tried to neutralize the effect of technical terminology impeding the possibility of completing the task, but some students may wish to focus equally on each word of a sentence. If such a sentence contains several technical words that are not in their personal vocabulary, they may find the exercise frustrating. A good solution is to tell students to choose which sentences within each exercise to complete. For example, your instruction could thus be: *complete five or more of the ten sentences in Exercise 2.14.*

For full details on how to exploit all the books in the English for Academic series, see:

English for Academic Research: A Guide for Teachers

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Chapter 1: Adjectives and adverbs

1.1 actual, current, topical

1. Their **actual / current / topical** weight was much higher than their perceived weight.
2. The **actual / current / topical** financial crisis has focused public attention on the rapid growth of homelessness. It is difficult to establish the **actual / current / topical** numbers of homeless people, as not all homeless people register as being homeless.
3. The role of privately-funded research is very **actual / current / topical**, with many seemingly inconsistent findings being published.
4. The nature of such mutations is **actual / current / topical** and receiving increasing attention in the literature.
5. Several thousand people have been reported as dying, but the **actual / current / topical** number is still not known.
6. Hundreds of people are dying, and the **actual / current / topical** number of dead stands at 565.
7. I am not the **actual / current / topical** owner of the patent, I just invented the device.
8. The **actual / current / topical** value of this approach is less than many people claim.
9. The **actual / current / topical** value of the euro has been pushed by the fall in the dollar.
10. We consider an issue that is particularly **actual / current / topical** in view of the burgeoning interest in the potential of stem cell therapy, namely the reprogramming of gene expression.

- | | |
|--------------------|-------------|
| 1. actual | 6. current |
| 2. current, actual | 7. actual |
| 3. topical | 8. actual |
| 4. topical | 9. current |
| 5. actual | 10. topical |

1.2 actually, currently, nowadays

1. **Nowadays / Currently / Actually** the use of wireless connections is undergoing a radical change.
2. This raises the issue of whether placebo treatments **nowadays / currently / actually** influence the outcome of the illness or not.
3. This product was once very expensive to manufacture. However **nowadays / currently / actually** it is much cheaper, **nowadays / currently / actually** it hardly costs anything at all.
4. Are some supposedly poor schools **nowadays / currently / actually** rich in other ways?
5. There is no evidence that categorically shows that cannabis **nowadays / currently / actually** stunts the growth of fetuses.

1. currently
2. actually
3. nowadays, actually [currently]
4. actually
5. actually

1.3 advisable, convenient, comfortable

1. It is not **convenient / advisable / comfortable** to do more than one test at a time.
2. Organizing a conference on this topic would be a **convenient / advisable / comfortable** way of getting everyone interested together in one room.
3. Holding the conference on a pacific island would be fun but not very **convenient / advisable / comfortable** for most attendees.
4. It would be **convenient / advisable / comfortable** to set up an organizing committee as soon as possible.
5. The beds in the hotel were particularly **convenient / advisable / comfortable**.
6. Let me know what time it would be **convenient / advisable / comfortable** for you to meet.

1. advisable
2. convenient
3. convenient
4. advisable
5. comfortable
6. convenient

1.4 all, entire, everything, whole

1. It is possible to do the **all / entire / everything / whole** operation without an anesthetic.
2. Our goals are for the **all / entire / everything / whole** year and beyond.
3. We are doing **all / entire / everything / whole** possible to minimize disturbance.
4. They are not expected to learn **all / entire / everything / whole** they need from the course.
5. Taken as a **all / entire / everything / whole**, the software has **all / entire / everything / whole** the rules it needs to convert the statistics into understandable data.
6. It is believed that **all / entire / everything / whole** of reality is material. The **all / entire / everything / whole** universe is the result of material forces and **all / entire / everything / whole** that exists has some kind of body.
7. There is a / an **all / entire / everything / whole** book dedicated to **all / entire / everything / whole** that has ever been written about the topic.
8. **All / Entire / Everything / Whole** vertebrate genomes have two things in common.
9. The hurricane destroyed **all / entire / everything / whole** in its path, including **all / entire / everything / whole** homes. Families and neighbors fed and housed **all / entire / everything / whole** those who had lost their homes.
10. Increased **all / entire / everything / whole** body protein breakdown predominates over increased **all / entire / everything / whole** body protein synthesis in multiple organ failure.

1. entire / whole, everything

2. entire / whole

3. everything

4. everything, entire, all

5. whole, all

6. all, entire / whole, all / everything

7. entire / whole, everything

8. all

9. everything, entire, all

10. whole / whole

1.5 almost, hard, hardly, nearly, everything, entire, all

1. We have **almost / hardly / nearly** completed the first draft – it should be ready tomorrow.
2. They **nearly never / hardly ever** achieve their goals.
3. These substances are **almost / hardly** insoluble.
4. There is **almost / hardly** any loss in temperature.
5. They could **almost / hardly** have learned ten languages at the same time.
6. If the students work **hard / hardly** they will pass their exam.

1. almost / nearly
2. hardly ever
3. almost
4. hardly
5. hardly
6. hard

1.6 alone, only, solely

1. Obesity is not caused by over-eating **alone / only / solely**.
2. **Alone / Only / Solely** in certain cases does this behavior cause anxiety.
3. This is risky **alone / only / solely** in terms of the environment but not financially.
4. Useful results can be obtained **alone / only / solely** when the ions are solvated **alone / only / solely** by the most polar component of the mixed solvent.
5. Many women experiencing abuse feel **alone / only / solely** and ashamed.
6. This evidence **alone / only / solely** is not enough to condemn someone to a life in prison.

1. alone
2. only
3. solely (only)
4. solely (only), only (solely)
5. alone
6. alone

1.7 alone, individual, only, single, sole, unique

1. When treated with this drug **alone / only / sole**, in the first test only three of patients had side effects.
2. This factor **alone / only / sole** cannot be considered the main reason why...
3. The **alone / sole / unique** source of this mineral is...
4. The department is under the **individual / sole / unique** direction of Professor X.
5. This is the **alone / only / unique** way to solve the problem.
6. This species is **alone / only / unique** to the island.
7. However, it also displays some **individual / sole / unique** features, which make this system particularly attractive.
8. These were given to each **individual / single / unique** student.
9. The remaining 22.2% of events were classified as **alone / only / unique** cases since each event was detected in just one **alone / individual / single**.
10. The transition from a / an **individual / single / sole** mother **alone / only / solely** with a / an **only / sole / unique** source of income, to a / an **single / only / unique** mother with stepfather increases the risk for girls but raises the family income. Boys were primarily at risk **only / sole / unique** when...

1. alone
2. alone
3. sole
4. sole
5. only

6. unique
7. unique
8. individual
9. unique, individual
10. single, alone, sole, single, only

1.8 alternate(ly), alternative(ly)

1. They suggested several **alternate / alternative** solutions, all of which were unfeasible.
2. We investigated couples who had decided to live in **alternate / alternative** societies.
3. **Alternately / Alternatively**, the same result can be achieved by raising the first two values.
4. They advise reading the two types of books in **alternate / alternative** order, rather than beginning by reading all those books of the same type.
5. They seem to **alternately / alternatively** help each other and destroy each other.
6. Sampling took place on **alternate / alternative** days.
7. We are unable to meet at that time, could you suggest some **alternate / alternative** times?
8. Girls and boys were lined up in a row, **alternately / alternatively** boy girl boy girl.
9. Three weeks of **alternate / alternative** -day fasting was insufficient to produce this response.
10. We are trying to find **alternate / alternative** methods to the current very invasive techniques.

1. alternative
2. alternative
3. alternatively
4. alternate
5. alternately

6. alternate
7. alternative
8. alternately
9. alternate
10. alternative

1.9 always, ever, never

1. Snoring was reported as “**always / ever / never** or rarely” in 12 patients, “sometimes” in 21 and “often or **always / ever / never** ” in 32.
2. This problem has until now **always / ever / never** been recognized as being untreatable. But now there is hope that...
3. He felt that his family was **always / ever / never** -present even when he had left home.
4. They had not **always / ever / never** been treated for this illness before.
5. Patients were asked the following questions. (1) Have you **always / ever / never** smoked? (2) Have you...

1. never, always
2. always
3. ever
4. ever
5. ever

1.10 apparently, seemingly

1. This is known as a ‘black moon’ and **apparently / seemingly** it only happens under very particular environmental conditions.
2. It looks innocuous and is thus often perceived as a / an **apparently / seemingly** harmless substance, whereas in fact it is highly toxic.
3. These **apparently / seemingly** divergent views are not actually so different. In fact,...
4. Only one in four patients **apparently / seemingly** thought that their pathology was incurable.
5. From 1999 to 2013, over 500 patients survived a / an **apparently / seemingly** complete removal of a histologically benign intracranial tumor.

1. apparently
2. apparently / seemingly
3. apparently / seemingly
4. apparently
5. seemingly (apparently)