

Word choices for academic writing:

The following is a list of examples of informal English, such as you might use to speak, contrasted with more formal alternatives, which may be more appropriate for academic writing.

Adapted from Simpson, K. (2013) Choosing the right word. Developing your vocabulary for academic writing, James Cook University, Townsville.

Informal vocabulary		Academic vocabulary		
Nouns	thing	factor, issue, aspect, item		
	place	location, site		
	idea	concept		
	buyer	purchaser		
	parts	elements, components		
	answer	Response, solution		
Informal Vocabulary		Academic Vocabulary		
Phrases	good thing	benefit, advantage		
	good enough	adequate		
	lots of / a lot of	many, numerous		
	to do with	regarding		
Informal Vocabulary		Academic Vocabulary		
Adjectives	good	positive, useful, valuable, advantageous		
	bad	negative, disadvantageous		
	big	large, major		
	little	small, minor		
Informal Vocabulary		Academic Vocabulary		
Adverbs	around	approximately		
Informal Vocabulary		Academic Vocabulary		
Verbs	get	obtain		
	has got, have got	have		
	give	provide, donate		
	watch	observe		
	stay	remain		
	keep	preserve		
	show	demonstrate, indicate		
	need	require		
	guess	estimate		
	happen	occur		
	answer	respond		
	Informal vocabulary: phrasal verbs (Verbs + prepositions or adverbs)		Academic vocabulary	
Verbs	bring along	bring	find out	Determine , discern,
	start up	resume	think about	consider
	go up	rise, increase	keep up	maintain
	go down	fall, decrease	come over	visit
	cut down	reduce	put up with	tolerate
	pick up	collect	help out	assist
	put in	insert	set up	establish
	fill out (a form)	complete	get rid of	eliminate
	take away	remove	look into	investigate
	come back, go back	return	meet with	encounter
	throw away	discard	move up and down	fluctuate
	take apart	dismantle	put off	delay
	bring up	raise	put out	extinguish
	talk over	discuss	bump into	meet