

# What is Academic Language?

**academic language** (à la edTPA):

Oral and written language used for academic purposes. Academic language is the means by which students develop and express content understandings. Academic language represents the language of the discipline that students need to learn and use to participate and engage in meaningful ways in the content area. There are **language demands** that teachers need to consider as they plan to support student learning and content. These language demands include **vocabulary, language functions, syntax, and discourse.**

## Recognizing social vs. academic language

When comparing social and academic language, students should look for the following differences:

Informal Language	Academic Language
repetition of words	variety of words, more sophisticated vocabulary
sentences start with “and” and “but”	sentences start with transition words, such as “however,” “moreover,” and “in addition”
use of slang: “guy,” “cool,” and “awesome”	No slang

*Note: This chart may not appear on printouts of the outline format.*





# Academic Language Functions

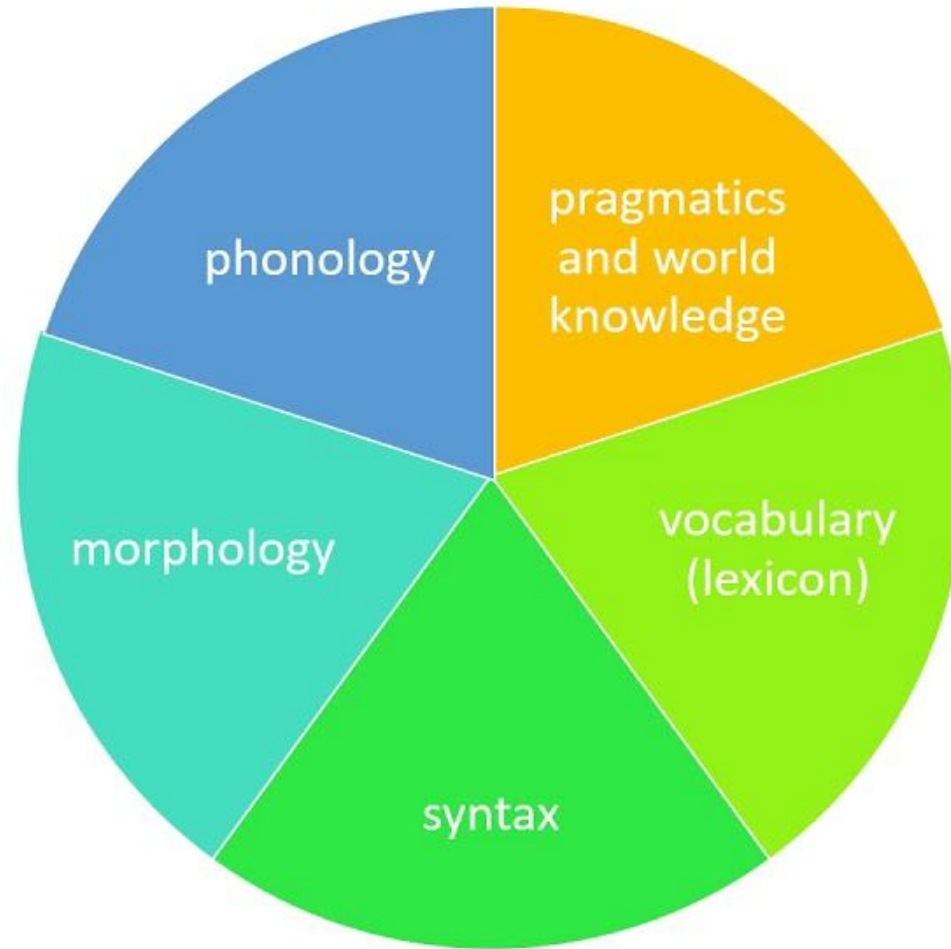
Dutro & Moran

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- Navigating written text
- Asking/answering informational questions
- Asking/answering clarifying questions
- Relating information
- Comparing and contrasting
- Explaining cause and effect
- Justifying and persuading
- Drawing conclusions
- Summarizing
- Evaluating
- Conducting research



# What is *academic language*?



-knowledge of the social rules and language of school and books, ex., use of last name to address a teacher

-knowledge of academic concepts which are typically abstract, ex. *circumference*, *respiration*, *mitosis*

- Latin/Greek roots

- dense texts (higher ratio of content words over total words in a given text)

- specific collocations, ex. *conduct an experiment*, *be predisposed to something*

- low frequency words – ‘Tier 2’  
*analyze*, *evolve*

**Make short explanation about the academic language  
from the given**