Academic Connections 4 Glossary

The following words appear in Academic Connections 3. They are presented in the Vocabulary Check activities, Key Words, and Key Words: Practice activities in MyAcademicConnectionsLab.

This icon designates Key Words that appear in the student book.

This icon indicates that the word is included in the Academic Word List. These are important words which students need to be able to understand when reading English, and also to use when writing academic assignments. Some of these words are practiced in the Academic Words Puzzles in the Expansion folder.

UNIT 1 PREVIEW

citizen
(n) someone who lives in a particular town, country, or state
The citizens of the town were very concerned about safety.

environment
(n) all the situations, events, people etc. that influence the way in which people live or work
The city needs to work harder to provide a safe environment for the people who live there.

individual
(n) one person, considered separately from the rest of the group or society that they live in
In cities, individuals often do not know their neighbors very well.

inhabitant
(n) one of the people who live in a particular place
New York City has over eight million inhabitants.
metropolitan
(adj) relating to a big city
*Metropolitan* areas are usually more crowded and noisy than rural and suburban areas.

(n) metropolis
*Fifty years ago this used to be a small city. Now it is a thriving metropolis.*

neighbor
(n) someone who lives in the house or apartment next to you or near you
*Anna’s neighbor waters her plants when she goes away on vacation.*

protect
(v) to keep someone or something safe from harm, damage, or illness
*One part of a police officer’s job is to protect ordinary people.*

resident
(n) someone who lives or stays in a particular place
*The residents of our neighborhood complained to the city government about the recent increase in crime.*

rural
(adj) relating to the countryside
*Victims experience crime in urban, suburban, and rural areas at different rates.*

secure
(adj) safe from and protected against damage or attack
*People don’t feel secure in that neighborhood because there is a lot of crime.*

stranger
(n) someone whom you do not know
*Parents often tell their children that they shouldn’t talk to strangers.*
suburban
(adj) relating to the area immediately around a city
At the end of the Second World War, there was a demand for suburban housing.

surround
(v) to be all around someone or something
The little park is surrounded by tall buildings.

urban
(adj) relating to cities
More than half the world's people live in large cities, forming a growing urban population.

UNIT 1 BUILDING ACADEMIC READING SKILLS

controversial
(adj) causing a lot of disagreement, because many people have strong opinions about the subject being discussed
The politician's earlier ideas about how to make the city safer were very controversial, so he announced some new ideas.

corridor
(n) a long, narrow passage with doors leading off of it
Jacobs criticized long, unwatched corridors that became settings for crime.

criminal
(n) someone who is involved in illegal activities or has been proved guilty of a crime
The criminal went to jail because the police caught him stealing a car.
foster

(v) to help develop over a period of time

*Jane Jacobs’s views have become the basis of a worldwide movement to foster safer cities.*

ignore

(v) to deliberately pay no attention to something that you have been told or that you know about

*If government officials ignore the problems in your area, you should try to solve the problems on your own.*

insight

(n) a sudden, clear understanding of something, especially something complicated

*Talking to local residents gave the reporter insight into the problems that they faced.*

internship

(n) a short-terms job that a student does to gain experience, often without pay

*Merchants participate in an internship program that provides short-term jobs for students.*

observe

(v) to see and notice something

*Every night, security guards observe gangs of teenagers gathering in the park, but they can't do anything to stop them.*

pedestrian

(n) someone who is walking, especially on a city street, instead of driving a car, riding a bike, etc.

*The car stopped to let the pedestrian cross the street.*
prevailing
(adj) accepted at a particular time

Jacobs discredited the prevailing myths about good design and expected behaviors.

prevention
(n) the act of stopping something bad from happening

Ever since the mayor decided to spend more money on crime prevention, this neighborhood has become much safer to live in.

property
(n) the thing or things that someone owns

The police recovered some of the stolen property and gave it back to its owner.

public housing
(n) houses or apartments built by the government for low income people

Jacobs felt that including businesses in public housing projects would improve safety.

slum
(n) an area of the city that is in very bad condition where low income people live

Slum clearance projects with concentrations of poor people were often dangerous places.

sprinkled
(adj) scattered small drops of water or small pieces of something

Jacobs favored stores and public places “sprinkled along the sidewalks.”

subtle
(adj) not easy to notice unless you pay careful attention

Those who simplified Jacobs’s program ignored the more subtle elements of urban safety.
**tenant**
(n) someone who lives in a house, room etc. and pays rent to the person who owns it

*The tenant was upset when his landlord told him she was going to raise the rent on the apartment.*

**violence**
(n) behavior that is intended to hurt other people physically

*There is so much violence in this neighborhood that people are afraid to go out at night because they might get hurt.*

**volatile**
(adj) likely to change suddenly and without warning

*Jacobs argued that parks could be “volatile places,” likely to change suddenly.*

**UNIT 1 BUILDING ACADEMIC LISTENING SKILLS**

**architect**
(n) someone whose job is to design buildings and other larger structures

*That architect usually designs office buildings that have a lot of natural light.*

**boulevard**
(n) a wide, main street

*Slums had no boulevards, but only narrow, crowded streets.*

**condition**
(n) the situation in which people live or work, especially the physical things such as pay or food that affect the quality of their lives

*One hundred years ago, people used to have terrible living conditions in this city.*

**countryside**
(n) a word meaning the area outside cities and towns

*Many people moved from the countryside into the city to find jobs.*
**grid**

(n) a pattern of straight lines that cross, used to organize streets

*The streets in many modern cities are arranged in a grid, running in straight lines.*

**impoverished**

(adj) very poor

*The impoverished slums of many metropolises are dirty, noisy, and smelly.*

**industry**

(n) business that provides goods or services

*After the Second World War, the car industry helped to create a demand for suburban housing.*

**monument**

(n) a building or other large structure that is built to remind people of an important event or famous person

*The Lincoln Memorial is a famous monument in Washington, D.C.*

**population**

(n) the number of people living in a particular area, country, etc.

*The population of Los Angeles is almost four million.*

**radical**

(adj) extreme, very different

*Many were shocked by Jacobs’s ideas, which they found radical.*

**skyscraper**

(n) a very tall modern city building

*Some cities are full of skyscrapers, but others have very few tall buildings.*
solution
(n) a way of solving a problem or dealing with a difficult situation
City council members are trying to find a solution to the problem of rising crime in the area.

traffic
(n) the vehicles moving along a road or street
The bus was late because there was a lot of traffic.

vehicle [Ac]
(n) something such as a car, bus, etc. that is used for carrying people or things from one place to another
Heavy vehicles, such as trucks, are not allowed to drive through this neighborhood.

vertical
(adj) pointing straight up and down in a line and forming an angle of 90 degrees with the ground or with another straight line
In a city that is vertical, most people live in apartments in tall buildings.
UNIT 2 PREVIEW

 delivery against targets
the ability to get things done after you said you would do them
Everybody in the company trusted her because she always delivered against targets.

alter Ac
(v) to change, or to make someone or something change
If you want to make a company more productive, you have to alter the way its employees work.

colleague Ac
(n) a word meaning someone you work with, used especially by professional people or managers
Lester is a very good manager; all his colleagues like working with him.

corporation Ac
(n) a big company, or a group of companies acting together as a single organization
She works for a large American corporation that has offices all over the world.

decline Ac
(v) to decrease in quantity or importance
Unfortunately, the company’s performance has declined in recent years, so they may close some offices.

divulge
(v) to reveal information that should be secret
Previous leaders often refused to divulge information about the firm’s performance.
efficiency
(n) the quality of doing something well and effectively, without wasting time, money, or energy
The factory improved the **efficiency** of its production line by replacing many of its older machines.

enhance
(v) to make something such as a taste, feeling, or ability better
The company can **enhance** customer service by training employees to be more friendly and polite.

extracting value
finding the financially strong elements in a weak company
She was able to **extract value** from the weakest parts of the company and make the company a success again.

faltering assets
things that used to make money that are now losing money
She had a meeting with the managers to discuss the money that the **faltering assets** were losing.

focus
(n) special attention that is given to one particular subject or situation
The company’s new **focus** is on spending less money.

founding
(n) establishment, when a company was started
Since its **founding**, Yellow Corporation has been a leader in the transportation industry.

implement
(v) if you implement a plan, process etc., you begin to make it happen
The managers didn't think the CEO's plan would work, so they didn't **implement** it.
it fell victim to its own successes
(exp) to be negatively affected by some unexpected results of success
Unfortunately, Yellow eventually fell victim to its own success, and its performance declined.

mediocrity
(n) less than the best
People throughout the company had come to accept mediocrity.

offloading
selling off financially weak companies or divisions of companies
She offloaded the weaker parts of the company and kept the strong ones.

personable
(adj) having an attractive appearance and a pleasant, polite way of talking and behaving
Our new manager is very personable. Both the employees and the customers really like her.

profound
(adj) having a strong influence or effect
Organizational change at Yellow would have to be profound.

revenue
(n) money that a business or organization receives over a period of time, especially from selling goods or services
The company’s revenue totals $9 billion worldwide.

a rising star
someone who is doing well at work and being promoted
She was a rising star in the company soon after she began there.
sound business judgment

the ability to make logical decisions about business

Everybody respected her sound business judgment; she made good, logical decisions that helped the company succeed.

UNIT 2 BUILDING ACADEMIC READING SKILLS

approach

(adj) a method of doing something or dealing with a problem

The manager wasn’t communicating well with his employees, so he decided to try a new approach.

appropriate

(adj) correct or right for a particular time, situation, or purpose

It is appropriate for managers to expect employees to be on time for work.

be associated with

(v) to be related with a particular subject, activity, group, etc.

Some personal characteristics, such as being intelligent and confident, are associated with leadership.

behavior

(n) the things that a person or animal does

Employees expect certain behaviors from their CEOs, such as treating everyone fairly and with honesty.

characteristic

(n) personal quality, trait

Personal characteristics include physical characteristics, intellectual ability, and personality.
demonstration of (n) something that shows that something else is clearly true
The number of complaints we have received from our employees is a clear demonstration of the need for better management in our company.

dominant (adj) stronger, more important, more common, or more noticeable than other people or things
People who are dominant enjoy being managers, but they are not always good at it.

effective (adj) producing the result that was wanted or intended
The new CEO is effective, and he has dramatically improved our company's performance.

influence (n) power to have an effect on the way someone or something develops, behaves, or thinks without using direct force or commands
Some successful CEOs have a great influence on the way other CEOs behave.

intuitive (adj) based on feelings rather than on knowledge or facts
Some leaders seem to have an understanding of how to solve problems that is intuitive.

personal quality (n) characteristic, trait
A boss's personal qualities are sometimes insufficient to get the job done.

theory (n) an idea or set of ideas that is intended to explain something about life or the world, especially one that has not yet been proven to be true
New evidence has been found to support the theory that good leaders are very good at communicating with others.
trait
(n) personal quality, characteristic

The studies tried to differentiate traits of leaders and followers.

UNIT 2 BUILDING ACADEMIC LISTENING SKILLS

assign
(v) to give someone a particular job or make them responsible for a particular person or thing

My manager likes to assign me difficult jobs, such as organizing sales meetings.

complementary
(adj) emphasizing the good qualities of someone or something, or adding qualities that the other person or thing lacks

Betty and Manuel make a great team because they have complementary skills—she is creative, while he is highly organized.

consideration behavior
(exp) leadership behavior that builds trust, respect, and good relationships with employees

Consideration behavior is leadership behavior that builds good relationships with employees.

critical
(adj) very important, because what happens in the future depends on it

It is critical for companies to figure out what kinds of people make good managers.
defined (adj) when something is described correctly and thoroughly

The employees knew exactly what they had to do because their jobs were so clearly defined.

directive (adj) giving instructions

Managers who are too directive give orders all the time and don’t listen to their employees.

incorporate (v) to include something as part of a group, system, plan, etc.

The company is getting more feedback from its employees and is going to incorporate the feedback into its management strategies.

Initiation behavior (exp) leadership behavior that makes employees work efficiently

Initiation behavior is leadership behavior that makes employees work efficiently.

input (n) ideas, advice, money, or effort that you put into a job, meeting, etc in order to help it succeed

Margie is much happier at work now that her manager has started asking her for her input more often.

motivated (adj) very eager to do or achieve something, especially because you find it interesting or exciting

If an employee has a good relationship with his manager, he will be motivated to do a good job.
satisfaction
(n) a feeling of happiness or pleasure because you have achieved something or gotten what you wanted
Employee satisfaction increased at the factory after everyone was given a pay raise.

task
(n) a piece of work that must be done, especially one that is difficult or that must be done regularly
Every month, Miriam’s boss asks her to make a chart with the sales figures. She usually does this task on Friday afternoon.
UNIT 3 PREVIEW

benefit Ac

(n) something that gives you advantages or improves your life in some way
Natural disasters cause many problems, but surprisingly, they can also have benefits.

(adj) beneficial Ac

Although forest fires can be dangerous, they can also be beneficial to the health of the forest.

branch

(n) part of a tree that grows out from the trunk
Forest fires convert the dead branches on the forest floor to nutrient-rich soil.

canopy

(n) the leaves and branches of trees that make a kind of “roof” over the forest
The fires climbed more than 60 meters into the forest canopy.

cone

(n) the hard, brown fruit that contains the seed of a tree
A cone is the hard, brown fruit that contains the seed of a tree.

crown

(n) the highest part of a tree
The combined crown, surface, and ground fires can do real damage to the tall trees.

diversity Ac

(n) the quality of being made up of a range of different people, ideas, or things
There isn’t much diversity in this forest. There are only a few different kinds of plants and trees.
ecosystem
(n) all the animals and plants in a particular area, and the way in which they are related to each other and to their environment
*The storm severely damaged the island’s ecosystem. It will take many years for all the plants and animals to grow and become healthy again.*

eliminate
(v) to get rid of something completely
*The storm eliminated all the old and sick trees, leaving room for the young and healthy trees to grow.*

encourage
(v) to make something more likely to happen, or make people more likely to do something
*The heavy rainfall encouraged the young trees to grow more quickly.*

endanger
(v) to put someone or something in a dangerous situation
*We must stop forest fires because they endanger the lives of plants and animals.*

habitat
(n) the natural environment of a plant or an animal
*The owl’s natural habitat is the forests of the Northwest.*

herb
(n) a grass or other plant that grows close to the ground
*Surface fires burn the shrubs and herbs from the forest.*

leaves
(n) flat green parts of a plant that are joined at its stem or branches (sing. leaf)
*“Litter” in a forest includes the dead leaves on the forest floor.*
overstory
(n) the tallest trees that grow in a forest
Many naturally occurring forest fires do not damage the trees in the overstory.

promote
(v) to help something change or be successful
Certain chemicals promote plant growth, so they are added to gardening soil.

shrub
(n) a small bush with several woody stems
The enriched soil allows new herbs and shrubs to grow.

soil
(n) the top layer of earth in which plants grow
Wildfires naturally clear the forest overgrowth and regenerate soil.

species
(n) a group of animals or plants which are all similar and can breed together to produce young animals or plants of the same kind as them
The scientist discovered a new species of plant in the rainforest.

stand of trees
(n) a group of trees growing close together
Forest fires ruin valuable stands of trees.

stimulate
(v) to encourage or help something to begin or grow
Watering plants stimulates them to grow faster.

twig
(n) a small, very thin stem of wood that grows from a branch
Forest fires improve soil quality by converting dead twigs to nutrient-rich soil.
understory
(n) short trees that grow below taller trees in a forest

Once the **understory** has been burned away, high-temperature fires are less likely.

UNIT 3 BUILDING ACADEMIC LISTENING SKILLS

accumulate Ac
(v) to gradually increase in numbers or amount until there is a larger quantity in one place

*Dead leaves often accumulate in a pile on the ground.*

biodiversity
(n) the number and variety of different plants, animals, and other living things in a particular place

*The heat of the sun on the forest floor also encourages smaller plants to grow, which contributes to **biodiversity**.*

**compete**
(v) to try to be more successful than another

*Weeds and crops **compete** because they all need water and light.*

**contribute to** Ac
(v) to be one of the causes or features of something

*The lack of rain and pollution both **contribute to** the low growth rate of trees in this area.*

**element** Ac
(n) one part of feature of a whole system, plan, piece of work, etc.

*Sunlight and warmth are important **elements** of plant growth.*

litter
(n) dead leaves and other decaying plants on the ground in a forest

*The workers cleared away the **litter** from the forest floor.*
maintain

(n) to make something continue in the same way or at the same level or standard as before

*If you want to maintain your garden, you have to weed it often.*

naturally occurring

(adj) found in nature and not made artificially

*Naturally occurring wildfires, usually started by lightning strikes, are often small.*

*They don't burn much forest, and they don't get too hot.*

occur

(v) to happen

*Forest fires can occur at any time of day.*

pest

(n) a small animal or insect that harms people or destroys things, especially crops or food supplies

*Sadly, pests ate half the corn crop this year.*

release

(v) to let out

*Forest fires can help trees to release their seeds into the forest.*

significant

(adj) large enough to be noticeable or have noticeable effects

*The changes in the way people feel about forest fires in recent years have been significant.*
woodland area
(n) land that is covered with trees
Research proved that wildfires are important to maintaining the diversity of the woodland of many parts of the world.

UNIT 3 BUILDING ACADEMIC READING SKILLS

canyon
(n) a deep valley with steep rock sides that usually has a river running through it
The stunning natural setting attracted the couple to their home on the edge of the canyon.

consume
(v) if fire consumes something, it destroys it completely
Every year, forest fires consume many homes, burning them to the ground.

control
(v) to stop something dangerous from getting worse or affecting more people
The fire fighters could not control the huge fire, and it burned down half the town.

cycle
(n) a number of related events that happen again and again in the same order
In the life cycle of a butterfly, a caterpillar is born, then forms a cocoon, then changes into an adult butterfly.

deploy
(v) to organize and move people or equipment so they are in the right place and ready to be used
The fire department has the power to instantly deploy equipment to fight fires.
**endure**
(v) to suffer pain or deal with a very bad situation for a long time, especially with strength or patience
*The firefighters had to endure very hot temperatures when they tried to put out the flames of the forest fire.*

**evacuation**
(n) sending people away from a dangerous place to a safe place
*Across the province, 825 fires have forced the evacuation of thousands.*

**fire exclusion**
(n) an approach to forest fires that tries to prevent all forest fires
*Some forest managers practice fire exclusion to prevent naturally occurring forest fires.*

**fire suppression**
(exp) an approach to forest fires that tries to prevent forest fires near human habitation
*The government had burned through three times its annual fire suppression budget.*

**flammable**
(adj) highly likely to burn
*Many homes contain flammable items.*

**high stakes**
(exp) the risks (dangers) are high
*There are high stakes in the region, with its homes, orchards, and wineries.*

**potential**
(n) the possibility that something will change in a certain way, or have a particular effect
*When the weather is dry and windy, there is greater potential for a fire to start.*
prescribed fire / prescribed burn
(exp) a fire that is planned and set by forest managers. Usually done in wet conditions, prescribed fires burn away the litter on the forest floor to reduce the probability of larger fires.
The forest manager is trying to enhance soil quality through careful use of prescribed fires.
Expanding prescribed burns to clear forest underbrush has been controversial.

province
(n) one of the largest areas into which some countries are divided, which usually has a government for that area
Quebec is the biggest province in Canada.

refuge
(n) a place that provides protection from bad weather or danger
The people of the town drove to the nearest refuge to escape from the storm.

remedy
(n) a way of dealing with a problem or making an unsatisfactory situation better
It is good to find a remedy for problems before the problems become serious.

raise the stakes
(exp) to increase risks (dangers)
The fact that everything depends on the variability of wind and weather raises the stakes.

spectacle
(n) a very impressive show or scene
The people in the town were frightened, but also amazed by the spectacle of the huge fire.
threaten

(v) to be likely to harm or destroy something

*If small house fires threaten to spread to houses and apartments nearby, it is a good idea to evacuate the area.*
UNIT 4 PREVIEW

audience
(n) a group of people who watch and listen to a concert, speech, movie, etc.
That artist pays no attention to what her audience thinks, and she paints whatever she feels like painting.

be consistent
(adj) to say the same thing or follow the same principles as something else
The artist began to paint terrible images of death and destruction, which seemed to be consistent with the times of war that he lived in.

create
(v) to invent or design something
The artist wants to create a new kind of painting that no one has ever seen before.

critic
(n) someone whose job is to judge whether a movie, book, etc. is good or bad
A very famous critic loves Elwood's paintings, but he still has trouble selling them.

deteriorate
(v) to become worse
The quality of Bao's work deteriorated after his car accident because he had terrible pain in his arms.

evolve
(v) to develop by gradually changing, or to make something do this
It is interesting to see how some artists' painting styles evolve over time.

express
(v) to show or describe a particular feeling
Many of Munch's paintings express a feeling of deep sadness and despair.
genius
(n) someone who has an unusually high level of intelligence, mental skill, or artistic ability
Maria’s parents realized that she was a genius when she learned how to paint beautiful landscapes at the age of three.

reflect
(v) to show or be a sign of a particular situation, idea, or feeling
The artist’s last two paintings reflected the changes he had recently gone through in his personal life.

reject
(v) to decide that you do not believe in or agree with something
People didn’t understand what the artist was trying to say with his work, and they rejected it.

UNIT 4 BUILDING ACADEMIC READING SKILLS

absolute
(adj) not changing and true or correct in all situations
Some people think reality is absolute, while others think that different people understand reality in different ways.

analyze
(v) to examine or think about something carefully, in order to understand it
The critic analyzed the painting for hours, but he still couldn’t understand it.

canvas
(n) a painting done with oil paints, or the piece of cloth it is painted on
The artist splashed paint all over the canvas.
conception (n) an idea about what something is like, or a basic understanding of something
People’s conception of what art should look like has changed over time.

dissolve (v) to gradually become smaller or weaker until disappearing completely
In some cubist paintings, the solid forms appear to dissolve.

fluctuate (v) to change by becoming higher or lower
The angled planes in the painting shifted, causing space to fluctuate.

indicate (v) to show or represent something
In this painting, the white dots indicate snow falling.

innovation (n) a new idea, invention, or method
The use of found objects, such as feathers or leaves, was an innovation that many other artists soon began to copy.

obscure (adj) difficult to see or understand
Braque and Picasso provided clues that help us to understand their obscure subject matter.

perspective (n) a method of drawing a picture that makes objects look solid and shows distance and depth, or the effect this method produces in a picture
The artist’s skillful use of perspective makes his paintings very realistic.
plane
(n) a completely flat surface (from geometry)
Analytic cubist paintings break down the object into planes and angles.

sculpture
(n) an object made out of stone, wood, clay, etc. by an artist
Bernini’s sculptures are so realistic that it almost seems as if his stone figures are alive and about to move.

still life
(exp) a picture of an arrangement of objects, often fruit or flowers
Cubists frequently returned to the old genre of still life.

style
(n) the typical way that someone paints, write music etc., or a typical way of painting, etc. from a particular period of time
Several of her earlier paintings were done in an abstract style.

three-dimensional
(adj) having or seeming to have length, depth, and height
Cathy just learned how to do three-dimensional drawings of objects, and they look very realistic.

usher in
(v) to cause something new to start
Cubism helped usher in many varieties of nonobjective art.
UNIT 4 BUILDING ACADEMIC LISTENING SKILLS

📝 art movement

(n) a group of artists who share the same ideas and beliefs and work together to achieve a common goal

*Cubism was the single most influential art movement of the early 20th century.*

🔍 a whole new ball game

(exp) a situation that is very different from the one you are used to

*Fashion art is a whole new ball game.*

balance

(n) a state in which very different things have the right amount of importance or influence in relation to each other

*Agnes needs to find a balance between making art that expresses her feelings and art that people want to buy.*

🔍 chair caning

(n) the material that is sometimes used to weave a bottom and back of a chair

*Still Life with Chair Caning is an example of synthetic cubism.*

construction

(n) something that has been built

*Oliver usually paints on canvases, but his recent work has a complex construction with many different materials.*

display

(v) to show an object or a specially arranged group of objects to people, or to put them where people can easily see them

*The artist was thrilled when the Getty Museum decided to display some of his works.*
distinction
(n) a clear difference between things
It is important for critics to make a **distinction** between art that requires skill and art that anyone can create.

fashion
(n) a style of clothes, hair, art etc that is popular at a particular time
That style of art is popular right now, but when the **fashion** changes and a new style emerges, people will stop buying it.

feature
(v) to show a particular person or thing in a movie, magazine, show, etc.
The gallery show **featured** the work of a brilliant new artist.

generate
(v) to produce or make something
The magazine article about the artist's life **generated** a lot of interest in his paintings.

hypothesis
(n) an idea that is suggested as an explanation for something, but that has not yet been proven to be true
The professor explained her own **hypothesis** about the origins of cubism.

lack of skill
(exp) done carelessly or without effort
Critics mistakenly charged the cubists with **lack of skill**.

novel
(adj) new and therefore interesting
Great art must exhibit skill, but it must also be **novel**.
novelty
(n) something new that attracts people’s attention and interest
Fashion art displays too much **novelty** and not enough **skill**.

sketch
(n) a simple, quickly made drawing that does not show much detail
The artist drew a quick **sketch** of the horse and rider before they rode away.

skill
(n) an ability to do something well because you have learned and practiced it
Great art is a combination of novelty and **skill**.

skilled
(adj) highly trained; opposite **unskilled**
Examining the whole range of Picasso’s art leaves little doubt that he was highly **skilled**.

skillful
(adj) good at doing something, especially something that needs special ability or training
Three-dimensional space was represented on a flat surface using **skillful** perspective.

skillfully
(adv) with great skill
Spatial representations were done **skillfully** by artists of the Renaissance.

synthetic
(adj) combining different styles, ideas, substances, etc. to make something new
Many artists were strongly influenced by the art movement of **synthetic** cubism, and they began to do things like glue objects onto their painted canvases.
UNIT 5 PREVIEW

clarity  
(n) the ability to think, understand, or remember something clearly

*In a moment of clarity, she was suddenly able to figure out the answer to the problem.*

collaboration  
(n) the act of working together with another person or group to achieve something

*The scientist did not invent the machine on his own; it was a product of collaboration, and his colleagues at the university deserve credit too.*

commonplace  
(adj) happening or existing in many places, and therefore not special or unusual

*Twenty years ago, very few people had cell phones, but now they are commonplace.*

develop  
(v) to grow or change into something bigger, stronger, more advanced, or more severe, or to make someone or something do this

*After a technological innovation is invented, it usually continues to develop as more people use it.*

impact  
(n) the effect or influence than an event, situation, etc. has on someone or something

*The invention of the airplane had an enormous impact on the way people traveled.*

innovate  
(v) to start to use new ideas, methods, or inventions

*Loosely structured societies are more likely to innovate.*

innovation  
(n) a new idea, method, or invention

*We live in an age where technical and social innovations are almost commonplace.*
**innovative**
(adj) a description of a person or thing that is new and different

*Many innovative ideas spread quickly around the globe.*

**interaction**
(n) the activity of talking to other people, working together with them, etc.

*After millions of Europeans immigrated to the United States in the early 20th century, they mixed with people who were already living here, and interaction between people from different cultures increased significantly.*

**invent**
(v) to make, design or produce something for the first time

*Difficulties adapting to their physical environment often spur people to invent new devices.*

(n) invention

*One invention stimulated the development of other inventions.*

**necessity**
(n) something that you need to have

*Tunnels were dug underneath the city because waste had to be removed—it was a necessity in order to prevent deaths from disease.*

**reliable**
(adj) able to be trusted or depended on

*That newspaper is reliable because the writers do a lot of research before they publish their stories.*

**result**
(n) something that happens or exists because of something that happened before

*Dr Singh treated his patient with the new medicine, and the result was that the patient fully recovered.*
source  
(n) a thing, place, activity, etc. that you get something from
*The sun is perhaps the least expensive energy source in the world.*

UNIT 5 BUILDING ACADEMIC READING SKILLS

achievement  
(n) something important that you succeed in doing by your own efforts
*The scientist's most exciting achievement was the development of a new medicine that helps prevents people from having heart attacks.*

adaptation  
(n) the process by which something changes or is changed so that it can be used in a different way or in different conditions
*The residents of this area had to make adaptations to survive after the weather became much hotter and drier.*

cascade  
(n) a flow of something in large quantities
*The accumulation of greenhouse gases may stimulate a cascade of innovative energy sources.*

cattle  
(n) a herd of cows and bulls kept on a farm to produce milk or meat
*Innovation is unlikely in Masai society, where all significant transactions require cattle.*

coal  
(n) a hard black mineral that is dug out of the ground and burned to produce energy
*The cutting of most trees in England forced attempts to find new energy sources like coal.*
collapse (n) a sudden failure in the way something works, so that it cannot continue
After the **collapse** of the economy, many people lost their jobs and homes.

conflict (n) a state of disagreement or argument between people, groups, countries, etc.
*When oil was discovered on the border between the two countries, there was a big **conflict** between them over who had the right to sell the oil.*

conventional (adj) always following the behavior and attitudes that people in a society believe to be normal, correct, and right
*There are overwhelming events that societies cannot deal with by **conventional** means.*

cross-cultural (adj) belonging to or involving two or more different societies, countries, or cultures
*At first, there were some difficulties in **cross-cultural** communication between the international offices, but now all the groups are getting along fine.*

diffuse (v) to spread ideas or information among a lot of people
*Radio and television have great potential to **diffuse** innovation.*

dyke (n) a wall or bank of earth built to keep water and prevent flooding
*Because of that tsunami, there are early **dykes**, or break walls, to prevent flooding.*

elite (n) a group of people who have a lot of power and influence because they have a lot of money, knowledge, or special skills
*Access to stock market information was once reserved for the financial **elite**.*
inconsistency

(n) a change in reaction or behavior that confuses people

*There is an inconsistency between the prevalence of the mass media and its ability to diffuse innovation.*

integrated

(adj) describes a system that combines elements to create efficiency

*Innovation is often difficult in a tightly integrated society.*

kerosene

(n) a clear oil that is burned to provide heat or light

*Researchers developed kerosene fuel as a substitute for whale oil.*

latitude

(n) freedom to choose what you say or do

*There is more latitude for innovation in loosely structured societies.*

norm

(n) a generally accepted standard of social behavior

*Innovation is more likely in societies that have broadly defined social norms.*

perceive

(v) to think of something or someone in a particular way

*Some people perceive the tax system to be unfair to ordinary workers because they think the government takes too much of their money.*

peripheral

(adj) not as important as other things or people in a situation

*Her involvement in the development of the cell phone was not central, but peripheral.*
resources
(n) something such as land, minerals, or natural energy that exists in a country and can be used to increase its wealth
Russia has many natural resources, such as oil and timber.

scarce
(adj) not having enough of something available compared with the demand
Food was scarce in their village, so the family moved to a larger town.

status
(n) your social or professional rank or position, considered in relation to other people
In most if not all cultures, beauty remains a major source of status for women.

tension
(n) the feeling that exists when people or countries do not trust each other and may suddenly attack each other or start arguing
If the government did more for the poor in this country, there wouldn’t be so much tension between the rich and poor people.

 tsunami
(n) a very large wave, caused by extreme conditions such as an earthquake, that can cause severe damage when it reaches land
Because of the recent tsunami in Asia, there are early warning systems to prevent flooding.

UNIT 5 BUILDING ACADEMIC LISTENING SKILLS

attitude
(n) the opinions and feelings that you usually have about something
The government’s publicity campaign changed my attitude towards recycling.
capacity
(n) someone's or something's ability to do something
The Internet's capacity for growth is amazing. It seems like every day, thousands of new websites are developed.

channel
(n) a system or method that is used to send or receive information
The Internet is a powerful channel of diffusion.

convert
(v) to change your opinions or habits, or to make someone else do this
Many young Asians have converted from tea drinkers to coffee drinkers in recent years.

diffusion
(n) the spread of ideas or information among a lot of people
Even with all their limitations, the mass media can be an effective channel of diffusion.

exposure
(n) the opportunity to experience ideas, events, methods, etc. that are new to you
I have limited exposure to political ads because I don't watch much TV.

intensity
(n) the quality of being felt very strongly or having a strong effect;
The intensity of her speech about unhealthy food was so strong that we all decided to eat only natural and organic food from now on.

(v) intensify
The number of political advertisements intensified a few days before the election.

inundate
(v) to receive so much of something that you can not easily manage it all
The mass media inundate us with so much information that it is hard to manage.
literacy
(n) the state of being able to read or write
The Learn to Read program is designed to promote literacy in the community.

mass media
(n. pl.) all the people and organizations that provide information and news for the public, including the Internet, newspapers, magazines, radio, and television
The influence of mass media has some limitations and is not as powerful as we might think.

modify
(v) to make small changes to something
The overall impact of the ad was modified by the discussions people had with each other after they saw it.

persuade
(v) to make someone decide to do something, especially by giving them reasons why they should do it, or asking them many times to do it
The report on the radio persuaded him to donate money to the organization that helps homeless families.

phenomenon
(n) something that happens or exists in society, science, or nature, often something that people discuss or study because it is difficult to understand
Sociologists want to understand and explain the phenomenon of homelessness so they can help people avoid getting in the situation.

selective
(adj) careful about what you choose to do, buy, allow, etc.
With so many TV shows and channels available, people are starting to get more selective about the TV shows that they watch.
UNIT 6 PREVIEW

assumption

(n) something that you think is true although you have no proof
Don't make the assumption that people will always do what is best for them in any situation, because they often won't.

conduct

(v) if something conducts electricity, it allows electricity to travel through it
Some very tiny particles can conduct electricity.

dispose of

(v) to get rid of something, especially something that is difficult to get rid of
Companies must dispose of the industrial wastes they produce.

emerging

(adj) in an early state of development
It is still an emerging field in technology, and not much is known about it yet.

ensure

(v) to make certain that something will happen
The government should ensure that people are not exposed to dangerous chemicals.

ethical

(adj) relating to principles of what is right and wrong
The doctor felt that it wasn't ethical to treat the patient with the experimental drug because no one knew how the patient would react to it.

foresight

(n) the ability to imagine what will probably happen, and to consider this in your plans for the future
Thirty years ago, city planners had the foresight to build the airport far away from residential areas, so our city is a pleasant place to live.
hazardous
(adj) dangerous and likely to harm people's health
Factories used to pump hazardous waste directly into this river, but they stopped after the government passed a law against it.

particle
(n) a very small piece of something
Some of these tiny particles may harm human or environmental health.

precautions
(n) something you do in order to prevent something dangerous or bad from happening
The accident happened because the employees did not follow safety precautions.

principle
(n) a belief or idea on which a set of ideas, a set of laws, a system for doing something, etc. is based
It is a general principle of international law that people and the environment should be protected from harm.

reinforce
(v) to make something stronger
It is best to reinforce products without adding weight.

remarkable
(adj) unusual or surprising and therefore deserving attention or praise
The scientist was excited when he realized that the chemical he had discovered could do remarkable things, such as treating cancer.
UNIT 6 BUILDING ACADEMIC LISTENING SKILLS

atom
(n) the smallest part of an element that can exist along or that can combine with other substances to form a molecule
Atoms can be given a positive or negative force by adding or subtracting an electron.

circuit
(n) the complete circle that an electric current travels
Heat from the operation of a chip circuit can melt the plastic from which it's made.

drawback
(n) a disadvantage of a situation, product etc.
At first, everyone was excited about the new computer program, but then they realized that it had a few drawbacks.

flexible
(adj) something that is flexible can bend or be bent easily
The shoes have flexible rubber soles, so they are very comfortable.

fullerene
(n) a nanoparticle composed of 60 carbon atoms. It may be used to deliver antibiotics to resistant bacteria. It is heat resistant and conducts electricity.
A fullerene is a nanoparticle in the shape of a ball.

incredibly
(adj) very, extremely
The problem was incredibly difficult, and it took a team of scientists years to figure out a good solution.
ion  
(n) an atom that has been given a positive or negative force by adding or subtracting an electron

Silver ions can eliminate bacteria and viruses.

manipulate  
(v) to make something move or turn in the way you want

In the video game, players can manipulate the characters in many ways, such as making them move to different parts of the screen.

mercury  
(n) a heavy, silver-white poisonous metal that is liquid at ordinary temperatures and is used in thermometers (chemical symbol: Hg)

Clothes that contain nanoparticles do not stain; liquid that is spilled on them beads up like mercury.

miniscule  
(adj) so small it is hard to see; minute

Minuscule machines—made out of molecules—would consume less power.

molecule  
(n) the smallest unit into which any substance can be divided without losing its own chemical nature

Nanotechnology is the science of how molecules do things.

nanotube  
(n) carbon atoms linked together to form a tube. Nanotubes are light and strong, and can conduct electricity.

A nanotube looks like a piece of paper—think of it as only one atom thin.
Nobel Laureate
(exp) someone who has won a Nobel Prize (a prize given each year to people who have done significant work in various fields such as physics, chemistry, literature, etc.)
*Richard Feynman, the physicist and Nobel Laureate, started the nanotechnology revolution in 1959.*

particle
(n) a small piece of something
*Silver nanoparticles can help to eliminate bacteria and viruses.*

process
(n) a system or a treatment of materials that is used to produce goods
*The researchers developed a new process that allowed them to work with very small tools.*

reinforce
(v) to make part of a building, structure, piece of clothing, etc. stronger
*At first, consumers complained that the toy kept breaking, so the manufacturers reinforced the material used to make it.*

city rely on
(v) to depend on something in order to continue to live or exist
*People in this city rely on water pumped in from lakes in the mountains.*

revolutionize
(v) to completely change the way people think and do things
*The way people traveled was revolutionized by the invention of the automobile.*

shrink
(v) to become smaller or to make something smaller
*Engineers have figured out how to shrink computers down to such small sizes that they can be held in the palm of your hand.*
tiny
(adj) extremely small
These tiny molecules can be put to work to substantially improve our quality of life.

transform
(v) to completely change the appearance, form, or character of something or someone
Many new discoveries have little impact, but a few can transform the way people live and work.

UNIT 6 BUILDING ACADEMIC READING SKILLS

assessment
(n) a process in which you make a judgment about a person or situation
It was difficult to make an assessment of how safe the product was because we didn’t have enough information about it.

backer
(n) someone who supports a plan
Backers of nanomaterials say they hold enormous promise for developing improved medicines.

delay
(v) to wait until later time to do something
Doctors should complete this study and not delay any longer; we need more research on this important new medicine as soon as possible.

deny
(v) to refuse to allow someone to have or do something
The government can deny patients the opportunity to try a new medicine if they think it is unsafe.
enormous
(adj) extremely large in size or amount
*The hospital is enormous, and it treats thousands of patients every day.*

err on the side of caution
(exp) to be more careful, safe, etc. than is necessary rather than risk making a mistake
*The scientific panel’s report on nanomaterials warns the public to err on the side of caution.*

estimate
(v) to try to judge the value, size, speed, cost, etc. of something, partly by calculating and partly by guessing
*They estimate that millions of people could benefit from the new technology.*

evaluation
(n) a judgment about how good, useful, or successful something is
*Inspectors will have to do a thorough evaluation of the project before we can continue.*

expand
(v) to become larger in size, number, or amount, or to make something become larger
*The number of products containing this chemical will expand, so scientists have to make sure it is safe.*

fashion
(v) to shape or make something
*Scientists have fashioned these new substances by assembling them almost atom by atom.*

ideal
(adj) the best or most appropriate that something could be
*Waterproof sunscreen is ideal for people who spend a lot of time swimming.*
interfere with
(v) to prevent something from succeeding or from happening in the way that is normal or planned

Aspirin and some other medicines interfere with the formation of blood clots in the body.

novel substances
(exp) substances that are new, different, and unusual

Several agencies were asked to study the state of knowledge about these novel substances.

panel
(n) a group of people with skills or special knowledge who have been chosen to give advice or opinions on a particular subject

A panel issued a warning for products with nanomaterials.

scrutiny
(n) careful and thorough examination of someone or something

Several regulations could allow some of these compounds to escape detailed scrutiny.

sidestep the rules
(exp) to avoid doing or talking about something that is difficult

Some nanomaterials may sidestep the rules covering the evaluation of new chemicals.

toxic
(adj) poisonous, or containing poison

Manufacturers stopped using the chemical in their products when they realized it was toxic.

trigger
(v) to make something happen very quickly

Some nanomaterials may not be used in large enough quantities to trigger reviews.
usurp

(v) to take someone else’s power, position, job, etc. when you do not have the right to
Their small size may allow them to usurp traditional biological protective mechanisms.

wave a yellow flag

(exp) proceed with caution
A scientific panel has waved a yellow flag in front of a number of products containing nanomaterials.
UNIT 7 PREVIEW

antibiotic
(n) a drug used to fight infections caused by bacteria
*Antibiotics have saved millions of people from suffering and dying from infectious diseases.*

communicable
(adj) capable of being passed on from one person to another
*A communicable disease is capable of being passed on from one person to another.*

contagious
(adj) capable of being passed on from one person to another
*We can take these conditions into account in our battle against contagious diseases.*

contract
(v) to get an illness
*People do not contract a disease through vaccination.*

decrease
(v) to become less in number, size, or amount, or to make something do this
*The number of deaths in the area decreased after the hospital was built and people were getting better care.*

disease
(n) an illness or unhealthy condition of the body or mind
*Tina suffers from a serious disease, and she has to spend a lot of time in the hospital.*

eradicate
(v) to completely destroy something
*Small pox was eradicated worldwide through the use of a vaccine.*
health care provider
(n) someone or something that takes care of people's health and gives them medical treatment

Parents should talk to their health care provider about the vaccinations their children should get.

immune
(adj) someone who is immune to a particular disease cannot be affected or harmed by it

Some people were immune to the disease, and they remained healthy as it spread throughout the country.

infectious
(adj) capable of being passed on from one person to another

SARS and Bird Flu are cases of infectious diseases that spread on a global scale.

mortality
(n) the number of deaths during a certain period of time among a particular group of people or from a particular cause

There is a high rate of mortality from car accidents in this country.

onset
(n) the beginning of something, especially something bad

At the onset of an illness, people usually feel fine, but as time goes by and the illness becomes more serious, they begin to feel much worse.

ranking
(n) a position on a scale that shows how high or good someone or something is when compared to others

Cancer has a much higher ranking as a cause of death than chicken pox does.

resistance
(n) ability to stop something or someone from harming you

It is essential that governments continue to invest in research on antibiotic resistance.
respond to
(v) to improve as a result of a particular kind of treatment
The doctor hopes that the patient will respond to the new drug immediately and fully recover.

reverse
(v) to change something, such as a decision, judgment, or process so that it is the opposite of what it was before or so that it goes back to what it originally was
This drug will not reverse the damage that has already been done to your body by the illness, but it will stop more damage from occurring.

symptom
(n) a physical condition which shows that you have a particular illness
One common symptom of diabetes is fatigue. Some people with diabetes lose weight, also.

vaccine
(n) substance that is used to protect people from a disease
Most vaccines contain bacteria that have been killed or inactivated.

(v) vaccinate
All children should be vaccinated against a number of childhood diseases.

(n) vaccination
Whooping cough can be prevented by vaccination.

UNIT 7 BUILDING ACADEMIC LISTENING SKILLS

access
(n) the right to enter a place, use something, see something, etc.
People in this area do not have access to clean water.
attack

(v) to start using guns, bombs, etc. against an enemy in a war; in a disease, to damage part of someone’s body

*The immune system* **attacks** the virus.

bacteria

(n) very small living things, some of which cause illness or disease

*Don’t drink that dirty water; there could be dangerous bacteria in it.*

battle against

(v) to try very hard to achieve something when this is very difficult

*Disease organisms are evolving in ways that allow them to battle against our defenses.*

be overcome

(v) to be overwhelmed

*People who are not vaccinated are likely to be overcome by the disease.*

combat

(v) to try to stop something bad from happening or getting worse

*We need to figure out what to do to combat antibiotic resistance.*

deficient

(adj) not containing or having enough of something

*Most cookies and candy are deficient in vitamins and nutrients. They are not healthy at all.*

epidemic

(n) a large number of cases of a particular infectious disease happening at the same time

*When the doctors heard that hundreds of people were sick, they realized that they had epidemic on their hands.*
fight against
(v) to take part in a war or battle; to try hard to get, change, or prevent something
Humans develop defenses to fight against organisms that cause disease.

first line of defense against
(exp) first thing that your body produces naturally as a way of preventing illness
The human immune system is our first line of defense against infectious disease.

keep under control
(exp) to control or influence someone or something
It is hard to under keep a disease under control when it begins to spread.

kill
(n) to make a person or living thing die
Most vaccines contain bacteria that have been killed.

nutrition
(n) the process of giving or getting the right type of food for good health and growth
Good nutrition helps children grow up to be healthy and strong.

out of control
(exp) not able or difficult to be controlled
Once it begins to spread, a disease may soon be out of control.

outbreak
(n) the sudden appearance or start of war, fighting, or serious disease
An outbreak of bubonic plague was recorded in China in the 1330s.

resist
(v) to oppose or fight someone or something
If we are in good health, we are more able to resist disease.
severe
(adj) very bad, or serious enough for you to worry about
He was in **severe** pain for days after the car accident.

susceptible
(adj) likely to suffer from a particular illness
*If you have never been exposed to a disease, you are susceptible to contracting the disease.*

syndrome
(n) a set of physical or mental problems considered as a disease
*Children that are born with Down’s Syndrome develop differently from other children.*

transmit
(v) to send or pass something along from one person, place, or thing to another
*Malaria is transmitted to humans by mosquitoes.*

vulnerable
(adj) someone who is vulnerable is easily harmed or hurt emotionally, physically, or morally
*People who live in large groups are vulnerable to infectious disease.*

wage a war against
(exp) to be actively involved in a war, struggle, or fight against someone or something
*Immune systems will wage a war against inactivated bacteria and develop antibodies.*

waste
(n) unwanted materials or substances that are left after you use something
*Human waste can spread disease, so it is important to dispose of it properly.*
wipe out
(v) to destroy, kill, remove, or get rid of someone or something completely
Some diseases are so dangerous that they can wipe out entire populations.

UNIT 7 BUILDING ACADEMIC READING SKILLS

absence
(n) the state of not being in the place where people expect someone or something to be, or the time someone or something is away
Due to the absence of an effective cure, people who got cholera in the past usually died from the disease.

acquire
(v) to get or gain knowledge, skills, qualities, etc.
The researchers couldn't understand how the virus could acquire resistance to the new drug so quickly.

antibody
(n) a molecule produced by the body to fight an infection
The function of the immune system is to produce antibodies to fight infection.

antimicrobial agent
(exp) any drug that fights pathogens
Problems are presented by pathogens that are resistant to antimicrobial agents.

chemotherapeutic agent
(exp) any chemical used to fight disease
The presence of the chemotherapeutic agent does not produce resistance.
facilitate

(v) to make it easier for a process or activity to happen

Sending patients who are suffering from a particular type of disease to doctors who are specialists in that disease will **facilitate** their treatment.

germ

(n) the common (non-technical) word for a microorganism that makes you sick

Two main types of **germs**—bacteria and viruses—cause most infections.

in combination

(exp) together

*When the drug was used in combination with another drug, it was far more effective.*

inhibit

(v) to prevent something from continuing or developing

*When an antimicrobial agent is present, the majority of cells is inhibited or dies.*

multiply

(v) to increase greatly, or to make something increase greatly

*If the patient stops taking her medicine, the bacteria in her body might multiply and make her much sicker.*

neutralize

(v) to prevent something from having any effect

*Doctors prescribe medicines to patients in an effort to neutralize the viruses that have made them ill.*

pathogen

(n) a microorganism that makes you sick, such as bacteria, viruses, fungi, or parasites

*A given **pathogen** can acquire resistance to more than one drug at a time.*
**prescription**
(n) a piece of paper on which a doctor writes what medicine a sick person should have, so that they can get it from a pharmacist
*The doctor wrote me a prescription for three different types of medicine.*

**presence**
(n) the fact that someone or something is in a place; existence
*The presence of disease-causing bacteria in the man’s body is making him feel extremely ill.*

**rapidly**
(adv) quickly
*Everyone was upset that the disease spread so rapidly throughout the community.*

**resistant to**
(adj) unchanged by the effect of something
*Pathogens that are resistant to most antimicrobial agents are called superbugs.*

**sensitive to**
(adj) susceptible or vulnerable
*The majority of cells are sensitive to the antimicrobial.*

**strain of bacteria**
(exp) a particular kind of bacteria with unique characteristics
*Some strains of bacteria become resistant to an antibiotic.*

**unique**
(adj) unusually good or special
*The cell had unique characteristics that the scientist had never seen before.*
UNIT 8 PREVIEW

accurate
(adj) correct and true in every detail
*Even though Miriam was in her 90s, her memories of her childhood were still accurate; she even remembered all her teachers’ names!*

anticipation
(n) a feeling of excitement because something good or fun is going to happen
*The child waited with anticipation to hear what would happen next in the story.*

class
(n) a person in a book, play, movie, etc.
*I really liked the main character in the book; she’s smart and interesting and likes to help others.*

hesitate
(v) to pause before saying or doing something because you are nervous or not sure
*Young children often start to speak but then hesitate, searching for just the right words.*

mutter
(v) to speak in a low voice, especially when you are annoyed or confused, so other people can’t hear you
*Lucy muttered she didn’t know how airplanes flew.*

nestled
(adj) pressed against something comforting
*Cedric’s cage was nestled in the corner of the living room.*

orphan
(n) a child whose parents are dead
*Orphans are the main characters of many children’s stories.*
parallel
(v) to be the same as or similar to something else
The main story of the fairy tale Sleeping Beauty seems to parallel that of many other stories.

parrot
(n) a tropical bird with a curved beak and brightly colored feathers, which can be taught to copy human speech
Laurie has a beautiful parrot that flies around her living room and knows how to talk.

patchwork quilt
(n) a type of blanket made with many colorful squares of cloth that are stitched together
Lucy gazed down on the patchwork quilt of rooftops below.

plot
(n) the events that form the main story of a book, movie, or play
The plot of the movie was boring, but the special effects were great.

recall
(n) the ability to remember something that you have learned or experienced
Brady had total recall the first time he watched a Star Wars movie.

retell
(v) to tell a story again, often in a different way or in a different language
People often retell the story of Robin Hood because it is an interesting story.

sill
(n) the part of the cage or frame at the bottom of a door or window
Cedric leaped over the sill of his cage and hopped toward the window.
thrilled
(adj) very excited
Lucy was thrilled for Cedric.

traditional
(adj) relating to or based on old customs, beliefs, and ways of doing things
Stories about princes and princesses are traditional in our culture.

turn tail
(exp) to run away because you are frightened
Cedric knew where he wanted to be, and he turned tail.

zip
(v, informal) to move with speed and energy
He zipped back to his cage.

UNIT 8 BUILDING ACADEMIC READING SKILLS

bear no apparent relationship
(exp) to be obviously dissimilar
Many texts of fiction written for children bear no relationship to the pattern.

burdensome
(adj) causing problems or additional work
The creature finally returns to the security it first found burdensome.

classic
(adj) admired by many people and having a value that has continued for a long time
Cinderella is a classic children's fairy tale; it is famous all over the world.
conclude

(v) to decide that something is true after considering all the information that you have
The smell in the kitchen and the dirty mixing bowl in the sink led the little boy to conclude that his mother had just baked cookies.

confront

(v) to deal with something very difficult or bad in a brave and determined way
In the story, the characters confront their problems and eventually solve them.

constraint

(n) something that limits your freedom to do what you want
The creature concludes that, despite its constraints, home is best.

disrupt

(v) to prevent a situation, event, system, etc. from continuing in its usual way by causing problems
Mr. and Mrs. Smith hoped that the move to the new village wouldn’t disrupt their children’s lives too much.

diverge

(v) if similar things diverge, they develop in different ways and so are not similar anymore
Many poems for children diverge from the common pattern because they don’t tell stories.

fairy tale

(n) a story for children in which magical things happen
Many children’s books follow the pattern of fairy tales such as Cinderella.

generic

(adj) relating to a whole group of things rather than to one thing in particular
Many children’s stories follow generic patterns.
genre

(n) a particular kind of art, music, or literature that has certain features that all examples of this type share

Children’s literature can be considered a genre of literature in its own right.

fiction

(n) books and stories about imaginary people and events

The author’s first book was fiction, but now he writes about his country’s history.

limited

(adj) not very great in amount, number, ability etc.

Jane had a limited ability to fix things around her house on her own, so she often asked her friends for help.

merely

(adv) used to emphasize that an action, person, or thing is very small, simple, or unimportant, especially when compared to what it could be

The main characters return not merely to the homes, but also to the home worlds.

novel

(n) a long book in which the story and characters are usually imaginary

These stories can be found in classic children’s novels.

pattern

(n) the regular way in which something happens, develops, or is done

The plots of children’s books tend to follow a fixed pattern, which makes them easier for children to understand.

prevalence

(n) common at a particular time or a particular place

The prevalence of children’s stories about clever animals probably shows that children relate easily to animal characters.
schema
(n) a description of the main parts of something that can be used as a reference
Once the pattern has been observed, it can be used as a schema.

suit
(v) to be acceptable, appropriate, or convenient for a particular person or in a particular situation
Those assumptions lead to the creation of a literature designed to suit that audience.

typical
(adj) having the usual features or qualities of a particular group or thing
This story is fairly typical of the author’s early work, but her other stories are very different.

variation
(n) something that is done in a way that is different from the way it is usually done
This story, about a warrior princess who saves a handsome prince, is a fascinating variation on the traditional fairy tale plot in which a prince saves a princess.

UNIT 8 BUILDING ACADEMIC LISTENING SKILLS

confirm
(v) to show that something is definitely true, especially by providing more proof
New research has confirmed that children learn to read faster if their parents read out loud to them.

instructive
(adj) providing a lot of useful information
The children’s book was very instructive; it taught the children a lot about animals and plants.
minimal (adj) very small in degree or amount
*The amount of difficult vocabulary in the fairy tale was minimal; young children were able to understand most of the words.*

obedience (n) the act of doing what you are old to do
*The old woman in the story demanded total obedience from her grandchildren.*

oriented (adj) mainly concerned with or paying attention to something, such as family, work, etc.
*The books in this library are very family oriented; she always gets books for her children there.*

orphan (n) a child whose parents are both dead
*Billy became an orphan after both his parents were killed in a car accident.*

protagonist (n) main character
*Child readers are most interested in child, or at least, child-like protagonists.*

provide (v) to give something to someone or to make it available to them, because they need or want it
*If you want to find out what the book is about, information about its plot is provided on the back cover.*

recap (v) to summarize the main points
*The speaker recaps the main points at the end of the lecture.*
redeeming
(adj) doing or having something that makes you appear less bad
The characters often have some redeeming quality that saves them.

straightforward
(adj) simple and easy to understand
The plot of the story seemed very straightforward at first, but it was actually quite complex.

theme
(n) a main subject or idea in a piece of writing, speech, movie, etc.
The speech’s theme is understanding the different types of plot patterns in children’s literature.

tolerance
(n) the degree to which someone can suffer pain or difficulty without being harmed
Children’s tolerance for descriptive detail is limited.

vague
(adj) unclear because someone doesn’t give enough detailed information
The lack of descriptive detail does not make the stories vague.

visual
(adj) relating to seeing
All the visual elements in this book are beautiful, especially the large, colorful illustrations.