Introduction to MyAcademicConnectionsLab

MyAcademicConnectionsLab is an integral part of the Academic Connections program and includes:

- Original practice activities that support the Academic Connections program. These automatically-graded exercises help students deepen their understanding of the course readings and lectures and build academic skills and vocabulary.
- Instant feedback and personalized study plans that provide just-in-time learning opportunities and improve student results.
- Unlimited access to reading and listening selections.
- Periodic assessments that measure student progress and provide instructors with detailed information about students' strengths and weaknesses.
  - A Placement test situates students in the appropriate course level (paper format only)
  - Pre-course and post-course tests allow teachers to target instruction and measure achievement (online and paper format)
  - Multi-unit tests track individual and class progress (online and paper format)
  - Checkpoints monitor student mastery of skills and provide instant feedback (online and paper format)
- Time-saving teacher tools—such as an easy-to-use course calendar and a flexible gradebook—that give teachers control of content and help them track student progress.

Activities in MyAcademicConnectionsLab

The activities in MyAcademicConnectionsLab focus on ensuring comprehension of the unit readings and lectures, mastery of academic skills, and acquisition of key vocabulary.

Vocabulary Check (Sections 1, 2, 3)
- These short quizzes assess students' knowledge of important vocabulary included in the course readings and lectures
- Includes academic words and content-focused words not included in Key Words sections.
- Vocabulary games for extra practice are automatically offered to students who score below 80 percent on the Vocabulary Check.

Key Words (Sections 1, 2, 3)
- Allows students to hear the pronunciation of the key words and sample sentences using the words.
Key Words: Practice (Sections 1, 2, 3)
• Checks students’ knowledge of the key words in the section

Comprehension (Sections 1 and 4)
• Confirms students’ understanding of the short reading or listening selection in the section

Discussion Board (Section 1)
• Allows students to exchange ideas and opinions about a question related to the unit topic

Reading / Listening Activities 1–4 (Sections 2 and 3)
• Global and focused reading and listening activities deepen students’ understanding of the unit’s main reading and listening selections
• Include immediate instructive feedback to help students understand and correct their errors
• Develop students’ critical thinking and inferencing skills
• Reinforce the academic skill focus of the unit

Reading / Listening Activity 5 [teacher-graded] (Sections 2 and 3)
• Challenges students to bring together information from the reading/listening selection to answer a question requiring critical thinking
• Includes a online graphic organizer for note-taking
• Requires students to write a short response (a paragraph, essay, outline, or notes for an oral presentation) graded by the teacher

Checkpoint (Sections 2 and 3)
• Short tests designed by ETS to check students’ mastery of the academic skill introduced in the section
• Based on original listening and reading passages linked to the unit topic
• Gives teachers a quick snapshot of individual and class mastery of target skills and allows them to adjust instruction, if needed.
• Teachers can assign either the computer-graded version or the open-response (teacher-graded) version.
• Checkpoints are also available in paper versions for in-class activity or assessment.

Grammar Check (Section 4)
• Focuses on a grammar point needed to complete the final Integrated Writing or Speaking Task
• Automatically assigns additional grammar activities (Grammar Practice) to students who score less than 80 percent.

Writing/Speaking Strategy (Section 4)
• Allows students to practice academic skill needed to complete the final Integrated Writing or Speaking Task

Expansion Section
• The Internet Activity lets students explore interesting and timely materials found on the Web that relate to the unit topic, take notes, and then submit written responses.
These activities expand students’ knowledge of the topic and help them practice new vocabulary.

- **The Academic Words Puzzles** are fun, interactive games that reinforce academic vocabulary from the unit.