



Academic Writing Podcast 5 – Key Adjectives

Glossary

1) relevant to

giving evidence that would prove or disprove something

- An examination of inflation trends is **relevant to** our discussion.
- Here we show data **relevant to** the issue at hand.

2) appropriate

especially suitable or compatible with something

- A scatterplot would be a more **appropriate** way to display these data than a bar graph.
- The journalists struggled to summarize the research in a manner **appropriate to** a layperson.

3) specific to

related to a particular idea, situation, or group

- Economists have identified a set of challenges **specific to** transition economies like Russia's.
- Please identify the equations **specific to** converting miles to meters.

4) common to/typical of (synonyms)

having essential characteristics of some group

- Painting with small dots of color is typical of the Pointilist artistic style.
- A preoccupation with social class is common to many former colonialist societies.

5) concrete (ant. abstract)

abstract means naming an idea that is unrelated to an object, but concrete means naming a real and tangible thing (something you can see and touch)

- Freedom, honesty, and faith are **abstract** ideas.
- The fossil record provides **concrete** evidence of evolution.

6) complex (ant. simple)

simple means easy to understand or free of complications, while complex means difficult to understand or analyze

- Economics requires a series of **complex** equations to model even relatively **simple** concepts.

7) quantitative (ant. qualitative)

quantitative refers to ideas that can be measured or expressed with numbers, but qualitative refers to ideas that can't be expressed this way.

- I use both **qualitative** and **quantitative** methods to gain various perspectives on the issue.



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8) accurate (ant. inaccurate)

correct and true in every detail

- **Accurate** records must be kept.
- The researchers are trying to obtain a more **accurate** picture of the process.
- The article **accurately** reflects public opinion.

9) significant (ant. insignificant)

large or important enough to have an effect or to be noticed

- The results of the experiment are not **statistically significant**.
- **It is significant that** girls generally do better in examinations than boys.
- These views are held by a **significant** proportion of the population.
- There are **no significant differences between** the two groups of students.
- The levels of chemicals in the river are **insignificant**.

10) rough estimates (ant. precise data)

not exact; not including all details

- A **rough calculation/estimate** of the cost should not exceed an average in the field.
- There were **roughly** 200 people at the conference.
- **Rough estimates** of the number of drug addicts need to be made more **precise**.

Sample Text

The researcher uses **qualitative** information from interviews and **qualitative** data from customer spending trends to discuss the **significant** relationship that people have with their computers. Aside from the **concrete** object, computers have come to represent a number of **complex** and **abstract** ideas, including communication, mobility, and progress. The sense of belonging and connectivity that people often report while using their computers is **relevant to** the idea that people now think of computer-aided technologies as an extension of their personalities. The interviews highlight respondents' use of language **common to** their descriptions of computers. **Rough estimates** of anticipated consumer technology purchases during the next 10 years show a growth rate **appropriate to** the increasing importance that people place on their computers.¹

¹ Voices: Imanni Wilkes Burg and Zhenya Bakin