

Academic Writing Podcast Higher School of Economics http://academics.hse.ru /podcasts ESL Podcast 1 – Most Common Academic Vocabulary: Part 1

Glossary

1) to be derived from

to come or develop from something

• The word 'politics' is derived from a Greek word meaning 'city'.

2) to be related to

to be connected to

• Usually Freud's studies are related to the field of psychology

3) to obscure dramatic differences

to make it difficult to see, hear or understand something

• We mustn't let minor details **obscure** the main issue.

4) an increase in

a rise in the amount, number or value of something

• An increase in sales demonstrates

5) to contribute to

to be one of the causes of something

- Financial crisis has **contributed** to the growth of unemployment rate.
- Human error may have been a contributing factor.

another meaning: to write things for a newspaper, magazine, or a radio or television programme; to speak during a meeting or conversation, especially to give your opinion

• Have you already contributed all your findings to the journal you are writing for?

6) to be associated with

Most people immediately associate addictions with drugs, alcohol and cigarettes.

• Emerging markets are closely associated in the public mind with Russia, Brazil and China.

7) to imply

to suggest that something is true or that you feel or think something, without saying so directly

• It was implied that the sampling will be random.

8) in the context of

the situation in which something happens and that helps you to understand it

- Such databases are being used in a wide range of contexts.
- This theory needs to be explored in the context of mid XX century.

adjective: contextual information, contextual clues to the meaning

9) to result in

to make something happen



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- The cyclone has resulted in many thousands of deaths.
- A small error resulted in significant change of concept (?)

10) to lead to

to have something as a result

- A small disagreement in the reserach methods might lead to major errors in the results.
- Publishing in peer-reviewed journals might lead to pay-raise.
- Which will probably lead to increase in sugar consuption.
- Eating too much sugar can lead to health problems.

lead somebody by the nose

lead (somebody) nowhere

Sample Text

Using data **derived from** the US Bureau of Labor Statistics' Current Population Survey, the chart demonstrates the relationship between **educational attainment** and **employment prospects**. In 2010, the unemployment rate in the US was 8.2% and American employees' median weekly wage was \$782, but these averages **obscure dramatic differences related to** educational attainment. Each **incremental increase** in educational attainment **contributes to** a **significant increase** in weekly wages and a significant decrease in unemployment rate. For example, the difference between the unemployment rate of Americans who did not finish high school and those with a doctoral degree is 13 percentage points. In the same way, completing a professional degree **is associated with an increase of** \$1,166 per week over those who did not finish high school.



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These findings suggest that improving the quality and quantity of education plays an important role in improving employability, the likelihood of earning a living wage, and ultimately quality of life. In the context of current public policy debates, these data imply that low educational attainment, not solely the lack of available jobs, leads to high unemployment and low wages. Thus, low educational attainment may result in low socioeconomic status throughout an individual's lifespan¹.



Education pays:

¹ Source: http://www.bls.gov/emp/ep_chart_001.htm Voices: Imanni Wilkes Burg and Zhenya Bakin