

# Academic and Domain-Specific Vocabulary

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Score: \_\_\_\_\_ / 10



## Quick Review

Grade 7 readers and writers should command two kinds of high-utility vocabulary. **Academic (Tier 2)** words show up across every subject and every assignment: *analyze, evaluate, contradict, infer, synthesize, justify, distinguish, emphasize, indicate, contribute, correlate, perspective, sequence, transition*. **Domain-specific (Tier 3)** words have precise meanings inside ONE subject: science (*hypothesis, oxidation, photosynthesis*), literature (*allegory, narrator, allusion*), math (*tessellation, quotient, coefficient*), civics (*gerrymander, ratify, constitution*). Strong writers PICK academic words on purpose — not to sound fancy, but to say exactly what they mean.

## PRACTICE

Choose the **BEST** academic or domain-specific word to complete each sentence, or replace an informal word with an academic equivalent.

1. Before drawing a conclusion, Mia carefully \_\_\_\_\_ the chart, comparing the bars from each region. Which academic verb **BEST** fits the blank?

- A. argued
- B. analyzed
- C. decorated
- D. remembered

2. Which sentence uses the academic word **contradict** correctly?

- A. The author's contradict was set in 1842.
- B. The witness contradict the police report when she spoke.
- C. Two writers contradict by writing the same idea.
- D. The new data contradict the company's earlier claim that the river was safe to swim in.

3. The author uses vivid description in chapter one to \_\_\_\_\_ the danger of the wilderness. Which academic verb **BEST** fits the blank?

- A. emphasize
- B. decorate
- C. memorize
- D. translate



4. *By combining the lab data with the textbook's explanation, the team was able to \_\_\_\_\_ a single, coherent theory.*

Which academic verb BEST fits the blank?

- A. memorize
- B. interrupt
- C. synthesize
- D. translate

5. Which sentence uses a **domain-specific science** word correctly?

- A. A hypothesis is the final proven result of any experiment.
- B. A hypothesis is a testable prediction about how something works, made before an experiment.
- C. A hypothesis is the equipment used to perform an experiment.
- D. A hypothesis is a feeling about whether the experiment is interesting.

6. *The data shows that the two variables \_\_\_\_\_: when rainfall goes up, so does the crop yield.*

Which academic verb BEST fits the blank?

- A. correlate
- B. interrupt
- C. memorize
- D. decorate

7. Replace the underlined informal word with the BEST academic alternative.

Original: *The two graphs show different population trends.*

- A. tell
- B. talk about
- C. give
- D. indicate

8. Which sentence uses the **literature** domain word **allegory** correctly?

- A. The allegory of the novel is the bright red cover design.
- B. The allegory of the novel is the table of contents.
- C. The novel works as an allegory: each animal in the barn represents a different group of people in real history.
- D. The allegory of the novel is the order of the chapters.

9. Rewrite each informal sentence using the academic vocabulary indicated in parentheses.

(a) *The graph shows the temperature is going up.* (use **indicates** and **increase**)

(b) *I'm pretty sure this is true because of the data.* (use **conclude** and **evidence**)

(c) *The author puts these scenes together to make one big point.* (use **synthesizes** and **perspective**)

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10. Read this sentence from a civics article: *Critics argued that the new district boundaries amounted to a **gerrymander**, drawn to favor one party in the next election.*

(a) In your own words, define **gerrymander** as the article uses it. (b) Use the academic verb **distinguish** in a sentence that contrasts a gerrymander with a fair district map. (c) Identify ONE other domain-specific civics word in the sentence and define it briefly.

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## Answer Keys

- 1  A  B  C  D
- 2  A  B  C  D
- 3  A  B  C  D
- 4  A  B  C  D
- 5  A  B  C  D

- 6  A  B  C  D
- 7  A  B  C  D
- 8  A  B  C  D
- 9
- 10

### Explanations

<b>1. B</b>	<b>Analyzed</b> means <i>broke down into parts to study</i> — exactly what Mia does when she compares bars on a chart. <i>A argued</i> implies a verbal dispute, not careful study. <i>C decorated</i> is clearly wrong but fits the pattern of grabbing any -ed verb. <i>D remembered</i> describes recall, not active analysis.
<b>2. D</b>	<b>D</b> uses <i>contradict</i> precisely: the new data ASSERT THE OPPOSITE of what was earlier claimed. <i>A</i> treats <i>contradict</i> as a noun (a setting), which is the wrong part of speech. <i>B</i> drops the past-tense -ed and turns the verb into a noun-style mess. <i>C</i> reverses the meaning — AGREEING is not contradicting. Each wrong choice reflects a common Grade 7 misuse.
<b>3. A</b>	<b>Emphasize</b> means <i>give special importance to</i> — exactly what vivid description does. <i>B decorate</i> describes adding pretty details for their own sake. <i>C memorize</i> is what a reader does, not a writer. <i>D translate</i> means change between languages.
<b>4. C</b>	<b>Synthesize</b> means <i>combine separate elements into a coherent whole</i> — precisely what the team does with lab data plus textbook. <i>A memorize</i> describes storing information, not combining it. <i>B interrupt</i> means break in on someone speaking. <i>D translate</i> applies to changing languages. Only <i>synthesize</i> captures the act of combining sources into one whole.
<b>5. B</b>	<b>B</b> is the precise scientific meaning: a <i>hypothesis</i> is a <b>testable prediction</b> made BEFORE an experiment. <i>A</i> reverses the timing (a hypothesis is proposed, not proven). <i>C</i> confuses hypothesis with apparatus. <i>D</i> treats hypothesis as a feeling instead of a prediction — a classic misuse.
<b>6. A</b>	<b>Correlate</b> means <i>vary together in a measurable way</i> — exactly what the sentence describes (rainfall up, yield up). <i>B interrupt</i> means break in on speech, unrelated to data. <i>C memorize</i> is recall. <i>D decorate</i> is obviously wrong. <i>Correlate</i> is the precise academic verb for this kind of paired trend.
<b>7. D</b>	<b>Indicate</b> is the formal academic verb for <i>show</i> in this context — graphs <i>indicate</i> a trend. <i>A tell</i> is informal and treats graphs like speakers. <i>B talk about</i> is conversational and even more informal. <i>C give</i> is vague (graphs <i>give</i> what?). Only <i>D</i> matches the precise, academic register.
<b>8. C</b>	An <b>allegory</b> is a story whose characters and events stand for ideas or real groups; <b>C</b> describes exactly this (animals = real groups). <i>A</i> confuses allegory with cover design. <i>B</i> confuses allegory with formatting. <i>D</i> confuses allegory with sequence. Each wrong choice reflects a common Grade 7 mix-up between <i>allegory</i> and a different feature of a book.
<b>9.</b>	<b>Answer:</b> (a) <b>The graph indicates that the temperature is on the increase.</b> (Or: <i>The graph indicates an increase in temperature.</i>) (b) <b>I conclude that this is true based on the evidence in the data.</b> (c) <b>The author synthesizes these scenes to develop a single perspective.</b>



10. **Answer:** (a) **Gerrymander** here means the practice of drawing political district boundaries in a way that unfairly favors one party or group over another. (b) Sample sentence: *It is important to distinguish a gerrymander, which is drawn to favor one party, from a fair district map, which is drawn to reflect equal population and natural communities.* (c) **District** — a defined geographic area whose voters elect a representative. (Also acceptable: **party** — an organized political group that runs candidates for office, or **election** — the formal process of voting to choose officials.)



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