

Tier 2 academic language words commonly used across subjects in Years 9 and 10.

Word	Brief Definition	Example
Explain	To make something clear or understandable by providing details, reasons, or examples.	Can you explain why plants need sunlight to grow? It's like how we need food to have energy.
Describe	To give an account or representation of something, usually in words, detailing its characteristics, features, or qualities.	Describe your favourite animal. Tell me what it looks like and what it does.
Analyse	To examine something in detail, breaking it down into its components or parts to understand its structure, function, or meaning.	Let's analyse a poem. Look at the words and see what feelings they give you.
Meaning	The significance or interpretation of something, often referring to the intended message or sense conveyed.	What's the meaning of 'perseverance'? It's like when you keep trying even if something is hard.
Structure	The arrangement, organisation, or framework of something, often referring to how parts are organised or related to each other.	How is a story structured? It's like a building with different parts—beginning, middle, and end.
Discuss	To consider or examine a topic from various angles or perspectives, often involving an exchange of ideas or opinions.	Let's discuss our favourite movies. We'll talk about what we like and why.
Purpose	The reason for which something is done or created, often referring to the intended goal or objective.	What's the purpose of a map? It's to help you find your way around.
Specific	Precise or detailed, referring to something particular or exact rather than general.	Can you be specific about which book you want? Tell me the title and author.
Features	Distinctive attributes or characteristics of something, often highlighting its notable aspects.	What are the features of a computer? Like the keyboard and screen.
Compare	To examine similarities or differences between two or more things, highlighting both their commonalities and disparities.	Compare cats and dogs. What's similar and different about them?
Contrast	To highlight differences between two or more things, often by comparing them side by side.	Contrast summer and winter. How are they different in New Zealand?
Annotate	To add explanatory notes or comments to a text or document, often to provide clarification or context.	Annotate this paragraph by underlining any words you don't understand and writing meanings next to them.
Create	To bring something into existence or produce something new, often	Create a story. Make up characters and what happens to them.

	involving imagination or innovation.	
Demonstrate	To show or prove something through evidence, examples, or practical application.	Demonstrate how to tie your shoelaces. Show me step by step.
Expand	To increase in size, scope, or detail, often by adding more information or elaborating on existing content.	Expand on your answer. Add more details to make it clearer.
Theme	A central idea, motif, or recurring topic within a piece of writing, artwork, or discussion.	What's the theme of the movie 'Finding Nemo'? It's about family and never giving up.
Evaluate	To assess or judge the quality, significance, or effectiveness of something based on criteria or standards.	Evaluate this game. Is it fun? Why or why not?
Evidence	Facts, information, or data that supports a claim, argument, or conclusion.	Think about evidence from a novel, like in 'Harry Potter' when Harry says, 'I solemnly swear that I am up to no good.' That quote is evidence that he's about to do something mischievous.
Conclusion	A final decision, judgement, or opinion reached after considering evidence or arguments.	What's the conclusion of the story? How did it end?
Visual	Relating to sight or vision, often referring to images, graphics, or other visual representations.	What's a visual? It's like a picture or drawing that helps you understand something better.