Academic vocabulary with multiple meanings defining your terms practice
Define one of the words below until your partner works out what you are talking about, making sure that you include academic meanings.

1. argument
2. authorities
3. concrete
4. conflict
5. contribute
6. credit
7. degree
8. demonstrate
9. discipline
10. establish
11. illustrate
12. imply
13. interests
14. interpret
15. maintain
16. majority
17. mechanism
18. nature
19. review
20. revise
21. shift
22. tackle
23. underline

All the words above have two or more meanings. Ask your partner about any which you can only think of one meaning for, then discuss any you both got stuck with as a class.

Match up the different parts of definitions of words above and/ or write the correct words in the gaps in the definitions below. Then check with the answer key or as a class.

Underline useful phrases for defining your terms in academic writing and presentations below, then ask about any phrases which you don't understand.

Write definitions of the same words without help, then compare them to the ones here.

Say or write similar definitions of other words for your partner(s) to guess what you are defining.

Homework
Write an essay of at least 200 words on the topic "Common misconceptions in the field of…" *If possible, make this related to your area(s) of interest, for example talking about how the general public or people from other academic areas misunderstand concepts from your field. Decide on the topic of each paragraph and write a plan at the top of the page before you start writing your essay.*

Definitions to put together and/ or complete

A "_____" often means a critical piece about something such as a book	but we can also talk about "a _____ of the literature", which means summarising previous research on a topic before talking about your own contributions to it.
"_____" often has the positive connotation of "help",	but it can also mean to be one of the reasons for a problem.
"_____" can mean to set up a new organisation such as a club or company.	However, in academic writing it is additionally a softer way of saying "prove".
"Giving ___" can mean allowing people to borrow money, but it also means noting something worthwhile that someone has done, as in the part where you thank people at the front of a book.	A third meaning is allowing a student to use that course towards passing their degree.
"_____" has two of the many meanings of "suggest", specifically suggesting something without saying it directly	and making you think that something might be the case.
"_____" is often used with the specific meaning of translating between languages (often simultaneously),	but it also has the more general meaning of attempting to understand or explain something.
"_____" can mean look at your notes etc to remember what you have studied, like the American word "review".	However, it can also mean "change", making it similar to the word "edit".

"To_____" can mean to provide a visual accompaniment	but it can also include examples, data, etc used to support your arguments and explain what you mean.
In academic fields "_____" tends to mean issues that affect particular groups of people in particular ways, as in "in the _____ of the working class",	rather than free time activities.
Although a _____ is obviously the word for the qualifications awarded by universities,	it is more generally useful as part of the phrase "a _____ of…", meaning "a certain amount of…"
Although major disputes between academics are by no means unknown,	in academic contexts the word "_____" tends to mean the way you have structured the support for your point.
As well as being a building material,	"_____" is the opposite of "abstract".
As well as the physical meaning of "_____" (part of a machine made of several components),	there is also the more abstract meaning of "a system".
In academic writing, "_____" has both the meaning of the people who have the power to decide things	and academic experts (as in the collocation "acknowledged _____").

In addition to the meaning "protest publically",	"_____" has several meanings of the verb "show", including showing that something is true and showing how something works.
In the field of sport "_____" means try to take the ball from someone or stop them being able to play,	but it also has a more general meaning of trying to solve a problem.
Many people are already familiar with the writing action "to _____",	but it also means emphasizing things more generally.
The uncountable word "_____" means control of someone, including yourself, to make them do what they should.	As a countable word, however, it means an academic area.
The various meanings of the word "_____",	such as the computer key and changing gears in a car, have the shared sense of "change".
In the context of academic writing and journalism the verb "_____" often means "insist",	but it also has the more everyday meaning of cleaning and mending something such as a car so that it can still be used.
What is meant by "_____" can vary. The literal meaning is anything over fifty percent,	but in normal parlance it means "most" and therefore something more like seventy percent.

Suggested answers
review
contribute
establish
credit
imply
interpret
revise
illustrate
interpret
degree
argument
concrete
mechanism
authorities
demonstrate
tackle
underline
discipline
shift
maintain
majority

Defining your terms phrases gapfill
Put one word into each gap below to make typical defining your terms phrases.
A "review" often means a critical piece about something such _____ a book but we can also talk about "a review of the literature", _____ means summarising previous research on a topic before talking about your own contributions to it.

"Contribute" often _____ the positive connotation of "help", but it can also mean _____ be one of the reasons for a problem.

"Establish" can mean to set up a new organisation such as a club or company. However, _____ academic writing it is additionally a softer way _____ saying "prove".

"Giving credit" _____ mean allowing people to borrow money, but it also means noting something worthwhile that someone has done, _____ in the part where you thank people at the front of a book. A third meaning _____ allowing a student to use that course towards passing their degree.

"Imply" _____ two of the many meanings of "suggest", specifically suggesting something without saying it directly _____ making you think that something might be the case.

"Interpret" is often used _____ the specific meaning of translating between languages (often simultaneously), but it also has the _____ general meaning of attempting to understand or explain something.

"Revise" can mean look at your notes etc to remember what you have studied, _____ the American word "review". However, it can also mean "change", making it similar _____ the word "edit".

In academic fields "interests" tends _____ mean issues that affect particular groups of people in particular ways, as in "in the interests of the working class", rather _____ free time activities.

Although a degree is obviously the word _____ the qualifications awarded by universities, it is more generally useful as part of the phrase "a degree of…", _____ "a certain amount of…"

As well _____ being a building material, "concrete" is _____ opposite of "abstract".

Many people are already familiar _____ the writing action "to underline", but it also means emphasizing things more generally.

What is meant _____ "majority" can vary. The literal meaning is anything over fifty percent, but _____ normal parlance it means "most" and therefore something more like seventy percent.

Mixed answers

Use the answers below to help with the task above and start checking your answers

and
as
as
as
by
can
for
has
has
in
in
is
like
meaning
more
of
than
the
to
to
to
to
which
with
with

Check your answers with the cards.

Punctuation in defining your terms phrases
Without looking above, put the punctuation back into these definitions.
a review often means a critical piece about something such as a book but we can also talk about a review of the literature which means summarising previous research on a topic before talking about your own contributions to it

contribute often has the positive connotation of help but it can also mean to be one of the reasons for a problem

establish can mean to set up a new organisation such as a club or company however in academic writing it is additionally a softer way of saying prove

giving credit can mean allowing people to borrow money but it also means noting something worthwhile that someone has done as in the credits as the front of a book a third meaning is allowing a student to use that course towards passing their degree

interpret is often used with the specific meaning of translating between languages often simultaneously but it also has the more general meaning of attempting to understand or explain something

although major disputes between academics are by no means unknown in academic contexts the word argument tends to mean the way you have structured the support for your point

as well as the physical meaning of mechanism part of a machine made of several components there is also the more abstract meaning of a system

in academic writing authorities has both the meaning of the people who have the power to decide things and academic experts as in the collocation acknowledged authorities

the uncountable word discipline means control of someone including yourself to make them do what they should as a countable word however it means an academic area

the various meanings of the word shift such as the computer key and changing gears in a car have the shared sense of change

what is meant by majority can vary the literal meaning is anything over fifty percent but in normal parlance it means most and therefore something more like seventy percent
Check your answers with the previous page. Other answers may be possible, so check with your teacher if you think your version may also be okay check.

What can you say about these parts of punctuation?
- commas with "which"
- punctuation with "but" and "however"
- quotation marks with the word or expression that you are defining
- the number of commas in a sentence (excluding lists)
- paired commas and brackets