



Words That Students Should Know

INSTRUCTIONAL WORDS

Term	Meaning
Define	Give the exact meaning of a word or phrase. Be care and concise.
Describe	Write in detail the main points or characteristics in logical sequence without interpreting the information.
Identify	Give the main points and essential supplementary materials. Leave out the minor details and present the information in a clear and systematic arrangement or classification.
Explain	Clarify and interpret the material you present. State the "how" or "why" reconcile differences in opinion or experimental results, and state causes if possible. In brief, tell how it all happened.
Critically Analyse	Break down the topic or argument and examine the parts in terms of its strengths and weaknesses.
Compare & Contrast	Describe the major similarities, and then the major differences between two or more things.
Justify	Give reasons for decisions, conclusions or opinions. The use of reliable evidence is usually expected.
Critically Evaluate	Give an in-depth and logical judgment of something. Support your judgment with reliable evidence and/or authoritative views. Examine in detail. Explore alternatives, challenging and questioning. Discuss strengths and weaknesses (for and against).
Theorise	To propose a theory about something.
Generalise	To reduce to a general form, class or rule (law).
Formulate	To put into a clear and definite form of statement or opinion.
Predict	To tell in advance or foretell.

Words That Students Should Know

THINKING PROCESS

EXPLANATION

USEFUL VERBS

QUESTIONS AND INSTRUCTIONS

Evaluation

Using information to make judgments or form opinions.

Justify
Assess
Decide

What is best ...?
Prepare a case on ..
What do you think ...?

Synthesis

Putting new information together to make predictions or solve problems.

Create
Imagine
Predict
Plan

What are possible solutions?
Can you develop, create, design, devise, compose, formulate.

Analysis

Using information to identify motives or causes and to draw conclusions.

Explain how
Analyse
Distinguish
Examine

Explain what/how ...
What was the problem?
What factors contribute to...?
What is the meaning of ...?

Application

Applying knowledge to a new situation or experience

Solve
Illustrate
Show

How could this be used ...?
What is another example of?
Solve the problem

Comprehension

Interpreting
Comparing
Seeing relationships between ideas

Explain why
Interpret
Compare
Link
Contrast

Explain why
What are the causes/effects?
What are the differences or similarities?
Why is that ...?

Knowledge

Recalling information

List
State
Find
Describe

Who?
Where?
When?
What?
How Many?