

Advanced

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Oxford Word Skills



Learn and practise English vocabulary



50 I can describe university life

A Academic life

Word	Example	Meaning
academic	I enjoy academic subjects like history.	connected to education, especially school or university.
undergraduate	Undergraduates usually do a three-year course.	a university student studying for their first degree.
graduate	She's an Oxford graduate . He graduated last year.	a person who has finished their degree (when they finish, they graduate v).
tutor	You can ask your tutor for advice on your work.	sb who teaches and looks after a student or a small group of students.
professor	She's a professor of law.	the highest level of teacher in a university.
lecture	I went to an interesting lecture on Italian politics.	a talk given to a large group to teach them a subject (the person is a lecturer n).
seminar	Are you going to the seminar this morning?	a class at a university where a small group discuss a subject with a tutor.
debate	We had a great debate .	a formal discussion.
attend sth	You have to attend lectures.	go to sth, or be present at sth.
take notes	Don't forget to take notes .	write words quickly to help you remember sth.
read widely	Try to read widely .	read a lot of different kinds of books.
write a thesis	I'm writing a thesis on global warming.	do a long piece of writing on a particular academic subject.
do research	You do research for a PhD.	do a long and careful study of a subject.
continuous assessment	We don't have exams; it's all continuous assessment .	a way of judging students by looking at the work they do during the year.

1 Tick (✓) the words that are people.

- | | | |
|----------------|----------------------|-----------------|
| ▶ professor ✓ | ▶ assessment ✗ | |
| 1 thesis ____ | 4 graduate ____ | 7 seminar ____ |
| 2 debate ____ | 5 undergraduate ____ | 8 research ____ |
| 3 lecture ____ | 6 tutor ____ | 9 lecturer ____ |

2 Complete the text.

If you are an ▶ **undergraduate** at university in Britain, you spend a lot of time studying alone, but you also have to (1) a _____ a lot of (2) s _____ and (3) l _____ and take (4) n _____. In seminars, the discussion is usually led by a (5) t _____. You have to read (6) w _____ and you may have to express your opinions on a range of (7) a _____ topics. In many courses, there is continuous (8) a _____; the marks you get for your essays go towards your final results, after which, if you are successful, you (9) g _____.

3 Test yourself. Look at the words and cover the examples and meanings. Can you remember the meanings?

B Student life

Advice for new students

- In Britain, many university students live **away from home**. This means you get the **freedom** and **opportunity** to meet new people. Most students choose to live in a **hall of residence** in their first year, where you are less likely to be **homesick** or lonely.
- Student life is all about learning to **manage** your money: **tuition fees**, **loans**, bills, accommodation fees, etc. You may be able to get a **scholarship**, and many students find part-time jobs to help pay the bills.
- At university, you can be **flexible** about when you study, but be sure to get out of bed **in time** for lectures, do your work **on time**, and plan your **revision** period before exams.

Glossary

away from home	• in a different place from your home. OPP at home.	fees	• money you pay for the professional advice or service of a doctor, lawyer, etc. (tuition fees are the money that you pay to be taught).
freedom	• the right or ability to say or do what you want.	loan	• If you take out a loan , you borrow money, usually from a bank.
opportunity	• the possibility to do sth that you want to do. SYN chance.	scholarship	• money that an organization gives sb to help them study.
hall of residence	• (in universities) a building where students live.	flexible	• able to change easily. flexibility n.
homesick	• sad because you are away from home and you miss it.	revision	• the process of studying sth again to prepare for an exam. revise v.
manage sth	• be in control of sth.		

4 Complete the sentences with words from the box.

revision on time in time manage flexible ✓
opportunity freedom homesick

- I can see you any day this week – I can be flexible.
- I had the _____ to meet the president.
 - The train was _____, fortunately.
 - I think children have too much _____.
 - Do lots of _____ before the exam.
 - I don't know how to _____ my money.
 - I got there _____ to see Joel before he left.
 - I lived abroad for a year but I was _____ and I missed my family.

spotlight *in time, on time*

If you are **in time** for something, you arrive before or at the correct time.
If you are **on time** for something, you arrive at exactly the correct time.
*He arrived **in time** for the lesson.*
(= before the lesson started.)
*The lesson started **on time**.*
(= at the correct time.)

5 Complete the questions. Then write your answers, or ask another student.

ABOUT YOU

- Do students usually live at home, or a _____ from home? _____
- Do most students live in halls of r. _____? _____
- Do they have to pay t. _____ fees? _____
- Do they have to take out l. _____ to pay the bills? _____
- Can they get a s. _____ to help pay for their studies? _____
- Would you like the c. _____ to study abroad? _____

6 Test yourself. Cover the glossary words and look at the meanings. Can you remember the words?

51 I can apply for a job

Applying for a job with FamAid UK

Wherever you are **based**, you can apply for any advertised **vacancy**.

Work permits

For jobs in the UK, you will usually be expected to have a **valid** UK work permit. For jobs outside the UK, the local FamAid office will **advise** you about the permit you may need.

Closing dates

Your **application** must reach us by the advertised closing date. Online applications will be **acknowledged automatically** by email.

Selection process

If we would like you to **attend** an **interview**, we will **contact** you. At that time, and if **required**, we will also **assess** other skills you may have or need.

If you are not successful, we will contact you and, wherever possible, **give** you **feedback**.

If you are the successful **candidate**, we will offer you the position, but this is **subject to** satisfactory **references**. We shall also **request confirmation** that you are medically fit to do the job and have the necessary permit/visa.

Glossary

apply for sth	• ask for sth in writing (often a job or course). application n.	process	• a series of things that are done for a particular reason.
be based somewhere	• If you are based in a place , that place is the centre for your work.	interview	• a meeting in which sb is asked questions to find out if they are suitable for a job, course, etc. (the person who asks the questions is an interviewer). interview sb v.
vacancy	• a job that is available for sb to do.	contact sb	• phone or write to sb.
work permit	• an official document which says you are allowed to work.	assess sth/sb	• decide on the quality or ability of sth/sb. assessment n.
valid	• If sth is valid , it is legally acceptable and can be used.	give sb feedback	• give sb advice or criticism about how they have done sth.
advise sb	• tell sb the best thing to do. SYN give sb advice (advice n, u).	candidate	• a person who makes a formal application for a job.
acknowledge sth	• let sb know that you have received sth from them. acknowledgement n.	reference	• a statement or letter which describes sb's character and ability to do a job (a person who writes this is a referee).
automatically	• without any human control.	confirmation	• a statement in writing which says that sth is true or accurate. confirm v.

spotlight Formal language

In a written text like this, some language will be formal. For example: **attend sth** (= go to/for sth), **require sth** (= need sth), **request sth** (= ask for sth), **subject to sth** (= depending on sth), **position** (= job), and **shall** (= will). The words in bold are more formal than the words in brackets, which we would normally use in spoken English.

38 I can talk about politics

A The British political system

In the United Kingdom (the UK), **elections** are **held** about every five years. The UK is divided into 646 political areas, called **constituencies**, and in each constituency people **vote for** one person **representing** the **political party** they want to see **in power**. The **politician** with the most votes becomes the **Member of Parliament** (known as an **MP**) for that area. Parliament, therefore, **consists of** 646 MPs, and the party with the **majority** of MPs forms the **government**. The leader of that party also becomes **prime minister**.

Glossary

- election** the time when people choose individuals to speak for them and act for them. **elect** v.
hold sth organize an event such as an election.
constituency one of the areas into which the country is divided for voting in political elections.
vote for sb/sth choose sb/sth in an election. **vote** n.
represent sb/sth act officially for people or an organization.
political party a group of people with the same ideas who want to win an election (e.g. the Labour Party, the Conservative Party).
in power in political control of the country.
politician a person with a job in politics.
parliament the group of people elected to make the laws in a country.
consist of sth be formed or made up of sth.
majority the largest number or part of sth. **opp** **minority**.
government the group of people in control of a country. **govern** v.
prime minister (or **PM**) the leader of the government in some countries.

1 True or false in Britain? Write T or F.

- ▶ The British parliament consists of 646 elected representatives. T
- 1 Elections must be held every four years. ____
 - 2 People can only vote for one person in this election. ____
 - 3 Two or three people may be elected in each constituency. ____
 - 4 If you are a Member of Parliament, you are in the government. ____
 - 5 The leader of the largest political party in parliament becomes prime minister. ____
 - 6 The party with the minority of elected MPs forms the government. ____

2 Complete the sentences.

- ▶ PM is an abbreviation of prime minister.
- 1 How often do you hold _____ for parliament?
 - 2 Parliament _____ of people from a number of different political _____.
 - 3 In the UK, the Conservative Party was in _____ from 1979 to 1997.
 - 4 Who did you _____ for in the last election?
 - 5 Politicians _____ the people who elect them.
 - 6 She had over 50 per cent of the votes, so a _____ of the people voted for her.

3 ABOUT YOUR COUNTRY Write your answers, or ask another student.

- 1 How often does your country usually hold elections? _____
- 2 Which political party is in power at the moment? _____
- 3 How long have they been in power? _____
- 4 What is the title of the leader of the party? _____
- 5 How many people are in parliament? _____