

Common Command Words



Account for:	To give reasons, explain why something has happened.
Analyse:	To break the subject up into its main ideas, and evaluate them.
Argue:	To give reasons why something is right or wrong, true or untrue
Assess:	To judge the value of a subject critically.
Compare:	To show the similarities and differences between two or more subjects.
Criticise:	To make your judgement about the views expressed and support your judgement with evidence.
Define:	To give the meaning of a word term, distinguishing it from closely related subjects, sometimes by examples and illustrations.
Demonstrate:	To show what something is like, or how it works.
Describe:	To give a detailed account of the characteristics of a subject.
Discuss:	To examine in detail, showing the different opinions or ideas about something, come to some conclusion.
Evaluate:	To appraise or estimate the worth of something, to some extent an explained personal opinion which is then supported with references.
Examine:	To inquire into, and consider a problem carefully. Considering its structure, components etc.
Explain:	To give the reasons why something is what it is, or happens the way does. Get a better understanding of it.
Identify:	Establish or indicate the origin, nature or definitive character of something.
Justify:	To provide the reasons for your conclusions or for the statement made in the question.
Outline:	To give a description of main features or issues, leaving out minor details.
Overview:	To give a general review or summary.
State:	To describe the subject in precise terms, or set down an exact meaning.
Summarise:	To make a concise account of the main ideas of a subject or argument, omitting explanatory details and examples.