emic ation

- Focusing on academic study
- Reading and writing in academic English
- Attending lectures
- Studying independently on an academic English course
- Thinking about the role of language in academic English

This unit introduces some key skills that you will learn about during the course, and focuses on the features of academic English and the issues relevant to using English in an academic context.

1 Setting study goals in academic English

1.1 Answer the following questions about your level and study goals. At the end of each question (in brackets) there are some suggestions to help you write your answers.

1 What English language level do you need to have in order to study at university in English? (*CEFR level B1 / upper intermediate level / IELTS 6 / Cambridge CAE level*)
2 How close do you think you are now to reaching this level? (*quite close / I've got quite a bit of study to do / it's a long way off*)
3 What do you think you are good at in studying English? (*speaking / grammar / vocabulary / listening*)
4 What aspect of academic English study do you think you need to improve in? Put the following in order, with 1 = most difficult and 7 = least difficult.

a finding useful texts in the library ___
b planning essays ___
c taking part in discussions with other students ___
d doing presentations in seminars ___
e reading articles and books ___
f writing essays ___
g understanding lectures ___

1.2 Compare your answers to 1.1 with a partner.

1.3 What differences do you think there will be between general English and academic English? Complete the Academic English column of the table below.

Skill	General English	Academic English
Reading	Shorter texts on different topics of general interest	
Writing	Informal writing (e.g. email messages) and creative writing (e.g. stories)	
Listening	Understanding conversations on everyday topics	
Speaking	Taking part in conversations for social reasons	

LIVEWORKSHEETS

LIVEWORKSHEETS

2 Focusing on academic study

2.1 a **Imagine you are studying at an English-language university. Discuss the following questions together.**

1 How many contact hours per week do you think you will have with tutors and lecturers?
2 Will the information you hear in lectures teach you everything you need to know in a course of study?
3 How much help do you think you will get from lecturers and tutors?
4 How much independent study do you think you will have to do at university?
5 Is it important to have strong motivation?



b 0.1 **Listen to Fei answer the questions in 2.1. Are your ideas the same as his?**

2.2 a **Discuss the following questions together.**

1 How much reading do you think you will need to do?
2 What kinds of texts do you think you will read? One coursebook only? A variety of books? Articles?
3 Why will you need to read? For essays? For lectures? For seminars? For exams?



b 0.2 **Listen to Christoffer answer these questions. Are your ideas the same as his?**

3 Reading and writing in academic English

3.1 a **Look at the list of key terms associated with academic reading and writing. Guess which ones refer to reading and which ones refer to writing. One term is not relevant.**

1 take notes
2 main idea
3 building an argument
4 relevance of the text
5 ask for clarification
6 critical thinking
7 writer's position

b **Complete this summary of the terms associated with academic reading using the words in the box.**

analyse	find out	information

When you read a book or article for an essay you need to **1** _____ if the information in the text is relevant and useful. If it is, you should take notes on the **2** _____ in the text. You should also **3** _____ the information in the text and think about how it compares with other ideas, how important it is and how true it is. This is known as critical thinking.

3.2 a **Complete the summary of the terms associated with academic writing using the words in the box.**

obvious	organise	topic

When you write an essay you need to think about what you believe is true or not as far as the essay **1** _____ is concerned. This is known as the writer's position (or the *thesis statement*). You should not state your position in an **2** _____ way, but you should build an argument in the essay that supports your position. You should also **3** _____ your argument into paragraphs. Most paragraphs contain a main idea, which is sometimes known as a *topic sentence*.

LIVEWORKSHEETS