Words That Work

Notice how vocabulary shifts for different audiences and purposes.

10.L.V.1.b "Use grade-level general, academic, disciplinary, technical, and professional vocabulary to communicate clearly and precisely, adjusting style as appropriate in a variety of settings. (C)"

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two words or phrases in each paragraph that make the message precise and fit its audience. Label each choice G for general, A for academic, D/T for disciplinary or technical, or P for professional.

Planning for Cooler Pavement

1. On Saturday, volunteers will plant native trees along the east edge of Riverbend High's parking lot. The new trees will add shade, which can make paved areas feel less hot on sunny days. Meet at 9:00 a.m. by the garden gate, wearing closed-toe shoes and clothes that can get dirty. Bring a refillable water bottle if you have one. The team will provide gloves, shovels, and a short lesson on safe planting. Students, families, and neighbors may join. Please register with the school office so organizers can prepare enough supplies.

2. During a preliminary site survey, the environmental science class recorded surface temperatures at noon. Unshaded asphalt measured 46 degrees Celsius, while soil beneath an established oak measured 31 degrees Celsius. These observations do not prove that every tree will lower temperatures by the same amount, because cloud cover, moisture, and pavement type also affect heat. However, shade reduces the solar radiation reaching a surface. The class recommends tracking temperature, tree survival, and canopy growth for three years. This data set could help the school evaluate whether the planting changes the parking lot's microclimate.

3. To: Facilities Manager Subject: Irrigation plan for east-lot trees Please schedule a staff member to inspect the drip irrigation lines each Monday from May through September. In dry weeks, deliver water slowly at the root zone rather than spraying leaves, since runoff wastes water and may miss the roots. Record the date, estimated watering time, leaks, and damaged emitters in the maintenance log. If a line fails, place a work order within one business day and notify the science teacher, who is monitoring tree survival. This routine will support the trees during establishment and create a reliable service record.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. In paragraph 1, identify the phrase that explains the benefit of the trees in everyday language. Why is this wording useful for the community audience named in the paragraph?

2. What does “solar radiation” mean as it is used in paragraph 2? Name one other disciplinary or technical term from that paragraph.

3. Paragraph 2 names factors that could affect heat results. Identify two of those factors. How does naming them make the report’s style more academic and precise?

4. Name two professional or technical terms in paragraph 3 that guide action or record-keeping. Explain how the terms make the message useful to a facilities manager.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a 55-70 word email to a facilities manager requesting repair for a school water fountain. Include a subject line, one specific observation or maintenance-log detail, and at least two precise professional or technical terms.

ANSWER KEY

Words That Work

GRADE 10 · 10.L.V.1.b

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline two words or phrases in each paragraph that make the message precise and fit its audience. Label each choice G for general, A for academic, D/T for disciplinary or technical, or P for professional. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	In paragraph 1, identify the phrase that explains the benefit of the trees in everyday language. Why is this wording useful for the community audience named in the paragraph?	**"make paved areas feel less hot on sunny days." It is clear to students, families, and neighbors without requiring scientific background knowledge.**
2	What does "solar radiation" mean as it is used in paragraph 2? Name one other disciplinary or technical term from that paragraph.	**It means energy from the sun reaching a surface. Other acceptable terms include "surface temperatures," "canopy growth," "data set," or "microclimate."**
3	Paragraph 2 names factors that could affect heat results. Identify two of those factors. How does naming them make the report's style more academic and precise?	**Any two: cloud cover, moisture, and pavement type. Naming variables qualifies the claim and shows that the conclusion is based on evidence rather than an overgeneralization.**
4	Name two professional or technical terms in paragraph 3 that guide action or record-keeping. Explain how the terms make the message useful to a facilities manager.	**Acceptable terms include "drip irrigation lines," "root zone," "maintenance log," "work order," and "service record." They specify the equipment, task, documentation, or response needed.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Subject: Repair request, library fountain During my 10:15 a.m. observation, the bottle-filling station on the second floor displayed a red filter alert and produced no water. Please submit a maintenance work order to inspect the filter assembly and water supply valve. The adjacent drinking fountain operates, but the inaccessible filling station limits refill access during lunch. I recorded the issue in the facility log.

Accept reasonable vocabulary labels when students explain how the word choice fits the audience and purpose. For Part 3, accept a clear professional email that meets the word range and includes an observation or facility-record detail, precise terminology, and a specific repair request.