Academic Words and Language

Accordingly  Create  Formula  Less  Refrain
Additional  Critical  Frequent  Longer  Regain
Address  Currently  Function  Major  Regain
Advanced  Data  Further  Mere  Required
Almost  Definition  Gain  Method  Research
Alongside  Derived  Given  Moreover  Role
Although  Discuss  Gradually  Multiple  Scarce
Among  Distribution  Hardly  Nearly  Section
Analysis  During  Higher  Occur  Sector
Approach  Economic  However  Particularly  Severely
Area  Effective  Identified  Percent  Significant
Assert  Engage  Including  Period  Similar
Assessment  Enriched  Income  Policy  Simultaneously
Assume  Entail  Increased  Possess  Source
Attempt  Environment  Indicate  Possible  Specific
Authority  Especially  Individual  Present  State
Benefit  Established  Information  Principle  Stimulate
Concept  Estimate  Interpretation  Probably  Structure
Consistent  Even though  Instead  Procedure  Therefore
Constitutional  Evidence  Involved  Process  Theory
Contend  Exact  Issues  Provide  Throughout
Content  Export  Labor  Purpose  Unable
Context  Financial  Legislation  Rather  Where
Contract  Familiar  Last  Record  Whereas
Convey  Formal  Least  Reflect  While

Time: when, while, since, before, after, until, once
Place: where, wherever
Cause: because, since, as, inasmuch as
Condition: if, unless, on condition that
Contrast/Concession: although, even though, despite, in spite of, while, whereas
Other: that, which, who, whoever, whom, what, why, how
Synonyms: shows, represents, signifies
Collocations: If…then, If and only if…, given that…, the effects of…
Math Academic Language (esp. word problems): difference, sum, factor, even (number), odd (number), estimate, figure, plot, divide, column, row, root, line, point, pattern, extension, field, find, right (angle), least common multiple, square of the hypotenuse, output, feedback, area under the given curve, sum of the first n terms of the sequence
Passive Constructions: could be given
Expression: give a speech
Prepositional Phrases: for the next experiment, of the three possible outcomes, in a two-hour class
Other Phrases: As well as…, For example…, For instance…, In addition…, In both…, In order to…, In respect to…, In spite of…, Not quite…, On the basis of…, Resulting in…, Such as…, Such that
Pronouns: how far apart are they?, compare her results with yours

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This list is based on the Academic Word list compiled by Averil Coxhead, Victoria University of Wellington (NZ) and based on research conducted by Nonie K. Lesaux, Harvard Graduate School of Education. Many thanks to Kimberly McMahon for assistance in compiling the list.