

Agreement and Support

WORD LIST

abstain	acknowledge	advocate	coalition	conform
invalid	justify	sanction	underlie	uphold

The words in this lesson will help you to express support for your friends, family, and favorite causes. They also help you communicate agreement and disagreement. You may *justify* your positions or form a *coalition* with those you support. Or, you may want to *invalidate* something that you do not agree with.

1. **abstain** (ăb-stān´) *verb* from Latin *ab-*, “away; back” + *tenere*, “to hold”
 - a. To not do something by choice
 - Vegetarians **abstain** from eating meat.
 - b. To not vote
 - Ten committee members voted for the motion; three voted against it, and two **abstained**.

abstention *noun* My **abstention** indicated that I couldn’t decide whether to vote yes or no.

2. **acknowledge** (ăk-nŏl´ij) *verb*
 - a. To admit the truth, existence, or reality of something
 - After falling off the horse, Caitlin **acknowledged** she had never ridden one before.
 - b. To show you have received something
 - With a wave of his hand, the king **acknowledged** the cheering crowd.

acknowledgment *noun* Nodding one’s head is a common gesture of acknowledgment.



advocate

3. **advocate** from Latin *ad-*, “in” + *vocare*, “to call”
 - a. *verb* (ăd´və-kāt´) To recommend; to write or speak in favor of a cause
 - The Senator **advocated** increasing funding for education.
 - b. *noun* (ăd´və-kīt´) A person who argues for a cause
 - For thirty years, the **advocate** had worked for free childcare.

As seen in its etymology, *advocates* call for help or attention to causes.

4. **coalition** (kō'ə-līsh'ən) *noun* from Latin *co-*, “together” + *alescere*, “to grow”

An alliance of people, parties, or nations

- A **coalition** of Liberals and Conservatives supported the prime minister's employment program.

5. **conform** (kən-fōrm') *verb* from Latin *con-*, “together” + *forma*, “shape”

To follow rules or customs

- All students had to **conform** to the school dress code.

conformity *noun* Tiring of a life of **conformity** to French middle-class values, the artist Paul Gauguin moved to Tahiti to taste freedom.

conformist *noun* “Why be a fashion **conformist**?” asked Agnes, as she showed off her pink, purple, green, and orange outfit.

6. **invalid** (īn-vāl'īd) *adjective* from Latin *in-*, “not” + *valere*, “strong”
Not effective or legal

- The sales contract was declared **invalid** because the seller had given false information.

invalidate *verb* Eating before you take the medical test will **invalidate** the results.

7. **justify** (jūs'tə-fī') *verb* from Latin *iustificare*, “to act justly toward”
To demonstrate that something is right or fair; to defend with reasons.

- The tenant **justified** her complaints about the plumbing by pointing to the overflowing toilet.

justification *noun* Hitler's brutal actions provided **justification** for Britain's fight against Germany in World War II.

justifiable *adjective* She admitted that her actions weren't **justifiable**, and she apologized.

8. **sanction** (sāngk'shən) *verb* from Latin *sanctio*, “a binding law”

a. To permit or approve of an action

- The relief agency **sanctioned** plans for sending food to flood victims.

b. To punish a nation or group that has broken accepted laws

- The NBA **sanctions** basketball players who engage in fights.

sanctions *noun, plural* Punishments adopted against a nation that has broken an international law

- In the 1990s, the United Nations enforced **sanctions** against Iraq by not allowing the country to sell its oil in the international market.

9. **underlie** (ūn'dər-lī') *verb*

a. To provide a basis of support

- A respect for the rights of individuals **underlies** every democracy.

b. To lie under

- The subsoil **underlies** the topsoil.

underlying *adjective* An **underlying** idealism adds depth to U2's songs.

10. **uphold** (ūp-hōld') *verb*

To maintain or support in the face of possible opposition

- A U.S. president swears to **uphold** the Constitution.

An *invalid*, pronounced in 'və-līd, is a person who lacks strength or ability due to a long-term illness.

Sanction has two meanings that are opposite of each other. Remember to use the context to see which meaning applies.

The past tense of *uphold* is *upheld*.