

# i-skills Guide

## Assignment Words



Here are some words that often appear in assignment titles, together with an explanation of their meaning.

Words	Meaning
Account 4	Explain why, give reasons
Analyse	Examine in detail and explain
Assess	Judge, weigh up
Comment on	Give your opinion, backed by reasons and evidence
Compare	Show how things are similar and different
Contrast	Explore the differences
Criticise	Discuss the good and bad points
Define	Explain the exact meaning
Describe	Give a detailed account
Discuss	Consider arguments and differing points of view
Distinguish	Show the differences between things
Evaluate	Assess the value or importance of something
Examine	Look at something in detail
Explain	Make clear, e.g. give reasons why
Illustrate	Make clear with examples and evidence
Interpret	Make clear, e.g. give the meaning and relevance of data or results
Justify	Give good reasons, backed up by evidence
Outline	Give a general summary, not detail
Relate	Show similarities and connections
Review	Examine and assess
State	Say clearly and precisely
Summarise	Give the main points only
To what extent	Consider how true it is
Trace	Follow the order of different stages in events

This list can help you check that you are answering the assignment question as instructed. **If you are still not sure what you are expected to do for your assignment, check with your tutor.**