



Exercise – Using formal academic adjectives

Introduction

This exercise focuses on developing a broader range of formal academic adjectives that you can use in your writing.

On page 2, there is a list of sentences which contain informal adjectives. You are required to find formal academic alternatives.

Suggested answers are presented on page 3.

Further information

The Learning Resources Study Hub provides a range of opportunities (such as workshops and drop-ins) for you to enhance your academic skills. For more information visit:

lrweb.beds.ac.uk/studyhub



Exercise

In the following table there are a series of sentences.

However, each includes an informal adjective (**highlighted in bold**). Can you identify a more suitable formal academic adjective that could be used instead? There may be more than one possible answer.

As an example, the first one has been done for you

Informal	Formal academic
I initially found the content of the lecture very difficult and hard to follow	Complex
There was a big difference between the amount spent and the income received	
Employees were put on short term contracts to cover the busy period.	
It is clear from the findings that a correlation exists between the two factors	
Jenkins (2010), on the other hand, outlines a completely new idea .	
It was initially difficult to decide how useful for this purpose were each of the research articles found.	
There were lots of approaches taken to effectively represent the findings in a meaningful way	
The answer provided by each respondent were not the same	
The sample size was not enough and therefore needs to be interpreted with care.	
The main cause of the condition was a delay in treatment of the underlying illness	
Political reforms related to healthcare are happening soon .	

Possible answers

Informal	Formal academic
I initially found the content of the lecture very <u>difficult</u> and hard to follow	Complex
There was a <u>big</u> difference between the amount spent and the income received	Substantial
Employees were put on <u>short term</u> contracts to cover the busy period.	Temporary
It is <u>clear</u> from the findings that a correlation exists between the two factors	Apparent
Jenkins (2010), on the other hand, outlines a completely new <u>idea</u> .	Concept
It was initially difficult to decide how <u>useful for this purpose</u> were each of the research articles found.	Relevant
There were <u>lots of</u> approaches taken to effectively represent the findings in a meaningful way	Multiple
The answer provided by each respondent were <u>not the same</u>	Inconsistent
The sample size was <u>not enough</u> and therefore needs to be interpreted with care.	Insufficient
The <u>main</u> cause of the condition was a delay in treatment of the underlying illness	Principal
Political reforms related to healthcare are <u>happening soon</u> .	Imminent

Please note:

Typically usage of formal adjectives is more appropriate when writing academically.

However, you must always consider context in your writing - there might be occasions when it is acceptable / more appropriate to use the informal rather than formal option.