



Exercise – Using formal academic verbs

Introduction

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

On page 2, there is a list of sentences which contain informal verbs 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 verb (**highlighted in bold**). Can you identify a more suitable formal academic verb 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
Oshima (2009) says that patient care can be improved with better communication among health care professionals	States
To get a better exam grade, it is important to revise.	
When critically analysing a piece of research, it is important to point out any limitations.	
The current report will look into the culture and practices of the BBC.	
In the study, the author tries to demonstrate a positive relationship between the two factors.	
The literature review was set out to systematically investigate all the research that has been conducted in the topic area.	
This essay aims to work out the value of research into recent improvements in access to psychological treatment.	
To understand the cause and effect relationship, one needs to think about the various causes.	
When guessing the amount of budget required for the following year, one must take the previous year's figures into account, as well as possible events in the upcoming year that may influence spending.	
To test whether the hypothesis could be accepted, various methods of experimentation could be employed.	
The experiment was carried out according to the outlined procedure.	
The rationale clearly says why the researcher considered the possible alternatives.	

Possible answers

Informal	Formal academic
Oshima (2009) says that patient care can be improved with better communication among health care professionals	States
To get a better exam grade, it is important to revise.	Obtain
When critically analysing a piece of research, it is important to point out any limitations.	Highlight
The current report will look into the culture and practices of the BBC.	Investigate
In the study, the author tries to demonstrate a positive relationship between the two factors.	Attempts
The literature review was set out to systematically investigate all the research that has been conducted in the topic area.	Aims
This essay aims to work out the value of research into recent improvements in access to psychological treatment.	Evaluate
To understand the cause and effect relationship, one needs to think about the various causes.	Consider
When guessing the amount of budget required for the following year, one must take the previous year's figures into account, as well as possible events in the upcoming year that may influence spending.	Estimating
To test whether the hypothesis could be accepted, various methods of experimentation could be employed.	Examine/assess
The experiment was carried out according to the outlined procedure.	Conduct
The rationale clearly says why the researcher considered the possible alternatives.	Justifies

Please note:

Typically usage of formal verbs 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.