



Exercise – Using formal academic nouns

Introduction

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

On page 2, there is a list of sentences which contain informal nouns 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 noun (**highlighted in bold**). Can you identify a more suitable formal academic noun 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
This essay aims to describe the various parts of the theory.	Component
There are various things that contribute to the process.	
Social workers who specialise in young people services provide help to keep families together	
There is a link between reading tests and arithmetic tests when measuring intelligence.	
There has been a rise in the number of people claiming unemployment benefits since September 2011.	
The difference between the two types of behavioural tests may be due to the way the behaviour was measured.	
The student's understanding of the task relied upon their attendance of the lecture.	
By understanding the process, it was possible to identify the problem .	
The small sample size could be considered as a drawback of the study.	
To ensure all the tasks were completed in order, a clear plan was devised.	

Suggested answers

Informal	Formal academic
This essay aims to describe the various parts of the theory.	Component
There are various things that contribute to the process.	Factors
Social workers who specialise in young people services provide help to keep families together	Assistance
There is a link between reading tests and arithmetic tests when measuring intelligence.	Relationship
There has been a rise in the number of people claiming unemployment benefits since September 2011.	Increase
The difference between the two types of behavioural tests may be due to the way the behaviour was measured.	Discrepancy
The student's understanding of the task relied upon their attendance of the lecture.	Comprehension
By understanding the process, it was possible to identify the problem .	Difficulty
The small sample size could be considered as a drawback of the study.	Disadvantage
To ensure all the tasks were completed in order, a clear plan was devised.	Strategy

Please note:

Typically usage of formal nouns 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.