Formal and informal words 1

VOCABULARY PRACTICE

UPPER-INTERMEDIATE | B2

Name: _____ **Date:** _____

1 Match each informal verb with its formal alternative.

1 bring about	____	a establish
2 carry out	____	b demonstrate
3 cut down	____	c constitute
4 get rid of	____	d conduct
5 make up	____	e utilise
6 set up	____	f cause
7 show	____	g eliminate
8 use	____	h reduce

2 Complete the academic collocations.

conduct | **constitutes** | **demonstrates** | **established** | **facilitate** | **indicates** | **obtain** | **undertake**

1 _____ research

2 the evidence _____

3 _____ communication

4 the data _____

5 _____ consent

6 a committee was _____

7 _____ an assessment

8 this _____ a risk

3 Choose the most appropriate option for an academic report.

1 The study *looked at / examined* inequality.

2 Researchers *found out / determined* the cause.

3 The change *brought about / resulted in* growth.

4 Participants *got / received* written guidance.

5 The team *used / utilised* two datasets.

6 The programme *got rid of / eliminated* duplication.

7 The graph *shows / demonstrates* a clear trend.

8 The factors *make up / constitute* the index.

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4 Complete the research summary with words from the box.

completed | conducted | demonstrated | established | facilitated | obtained | reduced | undertook

The team **1** _____ a longitudinal study and **2** _____ interviews with 200 participants. Consent was **3** _____ before data collection. A digital platform **4** _____ communication. Researchers **5** _____ a review panel, which **6** _____ an independent assessment. The results **7** _____ that the intervention **8** _____ waiting times.

5 Read the text and answer the questions briefly.

Formality and precision

Academic prose favours explicit relationships and discipline-appropriate terminology, yet formality should not be confused with nominalisation or passive voice alone. Active clauses can be fully formal when the agent matters, and a short familiar word may be more precise than an impressive synonym. Register choices should support accuracy, cohesion and the reader's ability to follow the argument.

1 What does academic prose favour? _____

2 Is nominalisation alone evidence of formality? _____

3 When can an active clause be formal? _____

4 Can a familiar word be more precise? _____

5 Name two qualities register should support. _____

6 What should readers be able to do? _____

6 Rewrite using the expression in capitals.

1 The policy brought about major change. **RESULTED** _

2 The researchers carried out a survey. **CONDUCTED** _

3 The reform got rid of duplication. **ELIMINATED** __

4 These items make up the scale. **CONSTITUTE** _____

OVER TO YOU

Write a **120-150 word** formal research or policy summary. State purpose, method, findings and implications.

[ ] Use at least ten target terms. [ ] Prioritise precision over inflated wording. [ ] Keep register consistent.

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ANSWER KEY

1 Formal alternatives

1 **f** 2 **d** 3 **h** 4 **g** 5 **c** 6 **a** 7 **b** 8 **e**

2 Academic collocations

1 **conduct** 2 **demonstrates** 3 **facilitate** 4 **indicates** 5 **obtain** 6 **established** 7 **undertake** 8 **constitutes**

3 Academic choices

1 **examined** 2 **determined** 3 **resulted in** 4 **received**
5 **utilised** 6 **eliminated** 7 **demonstrates** 8 **constitute**

4 Research summary

1 **undertook** 2 **conducted** 3 **obtained** 4 **facilitated** 5 **established** 6 **completed** 7 **demonstrated** 8 **reduced**

5 Reading - suggested answers

1 Explicit relationships and appropriate terminology. 2 No. 3 When the agent matters.
4 Yes. 5 Any two: accuracy, cohesion, readability. 6 Follow the argument.

6 Rewriting - possible answers

1 The policy **resulted in** major change. 2 The researchers **conducted** a survey. 3 The reform **eliminated** duplication. 4 These items **constitute** the scale.

Over to you: Answers will vary. Check precision, cohesion, structure and register consistency.