

KEY TO EXERCISES SESSION 1 (answers marked yellow)

3. Complete the following tables.

formal	informal
appear	seem
ascend	climb
assist/aid	help
cease	stop
commence	begin
consume	use
decrease	shorten/reduce
demonstrate	show
depart	go
desire	want

formal	informal
enquire	ask
finish	end
inform	tell
obtain	get
preserve	keep
reject	say no
release	free
repair	mend
require	need
reside	live

formal	informal
comprehension	understanding
deficiency	lack
opportunity	chance
perspiration	sweat
residence	house
vision	sight
amiable	friendly
complete	whole
energetic	lively
fortunate	lucky

formal	informal
immature	childish
incorrect	wrong
inferior	worse
inexpensive	cheap
indistinct	dim
insane	mad/crazy
relaxed	laid back
responsible	in charge
sufficient	enough
vacant	empty

4.

Use more formal alternatives to the words in bold. Make any necessary grammatical changes.

- The book is **mainly** concerned with the problem of policing the internet.
- Almost** every school in the county had reported problems with the new system.
- The work of the Institute is not **only** devoted to cancer research.
- Basically**, we believe we have demonstrated a significant link between the two events.
- We **tried** to find a new way of understanding the data.
- The study is a **really good** example of the way sociologists collect their data.
- The reaction is **typical** of the way large corporations keep control of their markets.
- There's no way** London can be compared to Sydney as a place to live and work.

1. primarily, principally, essentially, predominantly

2. virtually, practically, essentially

3. solely, exclusively, entirely, totally

4. in sum/to sum up/in summary, essentially, fundamentally

5. attempted, strived for, strived to do

6. prime, chief, primary, principal, fundamental

7. characteristic, representative

8. In no way/respect can London be...

5. In the following examples, the same message is expressed in six different styles, from an extremely formal written style, to the very informal spoken one. Match the sentences with the adequate styles.

- a) Jargon, very formal.
- b) Written, formal, clear.
- c) Written style for the general public (scripted radio or TV news style).
- d) Formal spoken style (seminar, talk).
- e) Informal spoken style (discussion).
- f) Very informal spoken style (chat).

I. As the value of Sterling increased compared to other currencies, the government was forced to take tax measures to head off a rapid increase in consumer spending spurred on by cheaper imports. **(written style for the general public discourse, scripted radio or TV news style)**

II. And you see, Sterling got more and more valuable, so as a result, the government had to go round putting up taxes, you see, to stop everyone going out and splashing out, spending all their money on cheap imports. **(relaxed, simplified chat, very informal spoken style – the addition of repetition and fillers)**

III. Consequent to the appreciation in the exchange value of Sterling against other currencies, necessary fiscal measures were introduced by the government in order to reduce the likelihood of an import-led consumer spending surge. **(jargon, very formal, this is the style of language used in official reports, technical studies; it is exclusively a style of written English, full of verbal nouns, technical words and passives)**

IV. As Sterling went up in value, the government had to put up taxes to stop consumers splashing out on too many cheap imports. **(relaxed, informal spoken style: discussion, there is plenty of prepositional verbs, all actions are expressed through verbs, not verbal nouns)**

V. As Sterling's international value went up, the government had to take tax measures to head off a consumer spending boom spurred on by cheaper imports. **(formal, spoken style – radio, seminar, talk)**

VI. After the international value of Sterling rose, the government was obliged to take fiscal measures to reduce the likelihood of a surge in consumer spending led by cheaper imports. **(written, formal, clear English, as found in the press or in documents aimed at ordinary educated readers)**

6.

Each word in the box can be used in two ways, one an everyday way, the other a typically academic way. Complete each pair of sentences using the same word for both sentences and making any necessary grammatical changes.

generate turn solid confirm identify underline character pose nature focus

- 1 A She loves to for photographs in front of her fabulous house.
B The events a threat to stability in the region.
- 2 A It was difficult to the camera on the flower as it was so small.
B We should our attention on the most important issues.
- 3 A I called the airline and my reservation.
B The data my hypothesis that animal-lovers enjoy better health.
- 4 A The power plant electricity for the whole region.
B This issue always a great deal of debate among academics.
- 5 A The murderer was from fingerprints discovered at the scene.
B In this theory of history, progress is closely with technology.
- 6 A She became interested in conservation.
B The first lecture in the series was on the of human communication.
- 7 A Jim's a very interesting I hope you meet him.
B The book attempts to explain the fundamental of social life.
- 8 A I saw her to her husband and whisper something in his ear.
B Let us now to the subject of town planning.
- 9 A He always every new word when he's reading.
B The study the fact that very little research exists.
- 10 A The liquid became as the temperature was lowered.
B The study lacks evidence and therefore its conclusions are doubtful.

1. pose, 2. focus, 3. confirmed, 4. generates, 5. identified, 6. nature, 7. character, 8. turn, 9. underlines, 10. solid

7. Here is a paragraph that should be written in a more academic tone. Read it through and underline the parts that need to be rewritten and suggest possible improvements.

Given the general knowledge of the health risks of smoking, it's no wonder that heaps of smokers have tried at some time in their lives to quit. However, in most cases, their attempts are unsuccessful. People begin smoking, often when they're adolescents, for lots of reasons, including the example of parents and pressure from peers. If others in one's group of friends are starting to smoke, it can be hard to resist going along with the crowd. Once people start smoking, they're likely to get hooked. The addiction to smoking is partly physiological; smokers become used to the effects of nicotine and experience painful withdrawal symptoms when they give it up. In addition, people become psychologically dependent on smoking as a way of reducing anxiety and coping with particular situations.

8. Identify the informal expressions in the following sentences. Rewrite the following sentences, replacing the informal expressions with a more formal equivalent.

1. With women especially, there is **a lot** of social pressure to conform to a certain physical shape. (**a great deal**)
2. Significantly, even at this late date, Lautrec was considered **a bit** conservative by his peers. (**somewhat**)
3. It focused on a subject that **a lot** of the bourgeois and upper-class exhibition-going public regarded as anti-social and anti-establishment. (**much**)
4. Later Florey **got together** with Paul Fildes in an experimental study of the use of curare to relieve the intractable muscular spasms which occur in fully developed infection with tetanus or lockjaw. (**collaborated**)
5. When a patient is admitted to a psychiatric inpatient unit, the clinical team should avoid the temptation to **start** specific treatments immediately. (**commence**)
6. Therefore after six months the dieter is behaving according to all twenty-six goals and she has achieved a **big** reduction in sugar intake. (**considerable**)
7. Modern houses have so many labour-saving **things** that it is difficult for the person at home to have adequate exercise by doing chores, cooking, and looking after a family. (**devices**)
8. Simply making the effort to reclaim this wasted **stuff** for fertilizer would have a positive effect on greenhouse releases. (**material**)
9. It is difficult to imagine exactly what is meant by saying that such a classification is natural as any collection of **things** could be classified in this way. (**objects**)
10. Unfortunately, since there are so many possible explanations, the correct one is most difficult to **find out**. (**ascertain**)
11. These exercises can easily be incorporated into an exercise routine, with each exercise **done again** a number of times. (**repeated**)
12. Fleming **did well** in isolating a streptococcus from the cerebrospinal fluid of the patient. (**succeeded**)
13. Effective vaccines prevent such hazards, but only if a social organisation **makes sure** that all potential mothers are vaccinated in good time. (**ensures**)