**Academic Writing**

**I. Introduction :** Academic writing is a formal style of writing. Its general purpose is to present information in order to display a clear understanding of a particular subject. It uses words that are formal and objective.

Academic writing is used in books, research paper, journal, conference paper, abstract, thesis,... .

**II. Everyday vs academic use of a word :** *Several words in academic English are similar to everyday vocabulary, but they are often also used with a paticular meaning.*

Examples:

* Standards of **discipline** in schools have declined (=ability to control oneself or other people )

Nanotechnology is a relatively new **discipline**. (=area of study )

* **Underline** your family name on the form. (=draw a line under it )

The research **underlines** the importance of international trade agreements. (=gives emphasis to )

* The lake was frozen **solid**. (=not liquid or gas)

We have no **solid** evidence that radiation has caused the problem. (=certain or safe; of a good standard)

**II. Neutral (vs** **Formal**) : Many expressions used in academic writing are neutral. However, formal expressions which are not common in everyday language are rather used. It is crucial to know whether an expression is formal or just neutral .

Examples

in short, briefly, basically (**in sum, to sum up**)

try (**attempt**)

only (**solely**)

mainly/mostly (**primarily**)

almost / more or less (**virtually**)

typical of (**characteristic of**)

**III. Noun Phrases :** Academic language puts a lot of information into noun phrases rather than spreading it out over a whole sentence.

Example:Radiation was accidentally released over a 24-hour period, damaging a wide area for a long time.

**The accidental release of radiation** over a 24-hour period **caused widespread long-term damage.**

**Tasks**

Task1

*Each of the following words can be used in an everyday way and in an academic one. Complete each pair of sentences using the same and make any necessary grammatical changes.*

**Generate, turn, solid, confirm, Identify, underline, character, pose, nature, focus**

**1)** a) She loves to **pose** for photograph in front of her fabulous house.

b) The events **pose** 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 tha t 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 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ t o the subject of town planning.

**9)** a) He always\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ every new word when he is 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 .

Task 2

*Use more formal alternatives to the underlined words.*

1. The book is mainly concerned with the problem of policing the internet.

2. Almost every school in the country had reported new system problems.

3. The work of the Institute is not only devoted to cancer research.

4. Basically, we believe we have demonstrated a significant link between the two events.

5. We tried to find a new way of understanding the data,

6. The study is a really good example of the way sociologists collect their data.

7. 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 .

Task 3

*Read the text and the n answer the questions.*

The production of plastics depends heavily on petroleum, but a novel way of making plastics out of sugar could reduce our reliance on oil. The discovery that a chemical in sugar can be converted relatively easily into a substance similar in structure to the material obtained from pelroleum has led to the claim that plastics could soon be produced cheaply using the new method.

* *Underline two verbs with adverbs after them which it would be useful to learn as pairs.*
* *Underline two adverbs next to each other which it would be useful so learn together.*
* *What are the noun forms of the verbs produce, rely, discover and claim?*