

ACADEMIC WRITING – NOMINALISATION

These apples and those apples *do not differ very much* in terms of taste. (VP) -> In terms of taste, **there is not much difference between these and those apples.** (NP)

We analysed the results and it turned out that... (VP) -> **The analysis of** the results showed...(NP)

The fact that she is addicted to work means that... -> **Her workaholism** means that...

We did it to **find out who murdered the wife of the President** (VP) -> The purpose was **the identification of the murderer.** (NP)

We did it to find out who murdered the wife of the President -> **The purpose was** the identification of the murderer.

Further examples and a little theory can be found at <http://unilearning.uow.edu.au/academic/3b.html>

Task 1

Nominalise the following sentences:

Example 1: Names of certain animals (e.g. fish) do not change in the plural. -> There is no change in the plural of certain animals' names (e.g. fish).

Example 2: Germany invaded Poland in 1939, which immediately caused the Second World War to break out. -> Germany's invasion of Poland in 1939 was the immediate cause of the outbreak of the Second World War.

- a) The public opposes genetically modified food in this country.
- b) As the population in the country grows, this means that many people are unemployed.
- c) The University appreciates that lecturers use special software to identify when students plagiarise their assignments.
- d) When a body reaches an abnormally low temperature, the person has to be taken to hospital.
- e) In her essay, she wrote how the army protected civilians in the region.
- f) Euthanasia is important because it is concerned with human rights.
- g) He hates women and so he is reluctant to marry.
- h) Birds fly and that is essential if they want to survive.
- i) They were frustrated because they found that none of their reading list titles were available.
- j) We need to approach texts interactively in order to read between the lines.
- k) We analysed the data from the experiment, which revealed that there were different trends.

(adapted from ŠTĚPÁNEK, L., de HAAFF, J. and Hradilová, A. *Akademická angličtina*. Praha: Grada, 2011, p.51)

THE PASSIVE

Task 2

Change the verbs in bold into the passive and change the sentences correspondingly.

Example: We **studied** the growth of bacteria. -> The growth of bacteria was studied.

- a) We **dissolved** one sample prior to thermal treatment.
- b) We **should reject** this conclusion for two reasons.
- c) We **would never have published** this book without additional financial support from the Nansen Institute.
- d) A new satellite, which we **will launch** next month, **will detect** global pollution.
- e) To preserve originality of thinking, we **have kept** editing of all chapters to a minimum.
- f) Experts **presented** and **discussed** a total of ten innovative papers during the two-day workshop sessions.
- g) Human activities **can** partly **cause** climate change and a number of other environmental problems.
- h) They **say** with a monotonous regularity that the collapse of the World Trade Centre's twin towers changed the world.
- i) Scientists widely **interpret** this as an elaboration of Darwinism in which we **think** of species as modifying the biosphere.

(adapted from ŠTĚPÁNEK, L., de HAAFF, J. and Hradilová, A. *Akademická angličtina*. Praha: Grada, 2011, p.59)