

Formal and Informal Language; Using the Appropriate Register

Exercise 1:

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

- a) We **should reject** this conclusion for two reasons.

- b) We **would never have published** this book without additional financial support from the Nansen Institute.

- c) A new satellite, which we **will launch** next month, **will detect** global pollution.

- d) To preserve originality of thinking, we **have kept** editing of all chapters to a minimum.

- e) Experts **presented** and **discussed** a total of ten innovative papers during the two-day workshop sessions.

Exercise 2: *Identify the informal expressions in the following sentences and replace them with a more formal (academic) equivalent.*

- a) There are various reasons why she is considered a bit conservative.

- b) Theorists have paid little attention to that stuff.

- c) In this paper, we wanna focus on flow-based detection of online brute force and dictionary attacks.

- d) The comments she received after her presentation were pretty good.

- e) The law against cell phone use in cars is terribly difficult to enforce.

- f) This kind of network represents an interesting environment.

g) Speaking freely is recommended, 'cause unscripted presentations are easier to follow.

h) The analysis did not yield any new results.

i) There do not seem to be many viable solutions to this problem.

Exercise 3:

A) Look at the two following texts about survey sampling. Read them and determine which one is more formal or academic (highlight any words or phrases that help you in analyzing the texts).

B) How many words are there in each text and in each sentence? Count the words.

Text 1

I used survey sampling when I did my first research project. It was about how many people lived in my neighborhood and who those people were. I needed statistics in order to discover the demographics around where I lived. You can use survey sampling in a lot of disciplines and I used it because I knew it was an accepted method.

Text 2

Survey sampling is a quantitative method of research which is a 20th century phenomenon with most of its growth since the 1930s. Today, it is a widely accepted method for providing statistical data on an extensive range of subjects. Disciplines such as sociology, social psychology, demography, political science, economics, education and public health all rely on sample surveys.

Exercise 4:

Change the following verbs into nouns.

a) increase

d) categorise

g) define

b) occur

e) exclude

h) assume

c) develop

f) assess

i) delete