

Reporting Verbs

1) *Separate the following reporting verbs into three categories:*

Suggest, describe, reveal, argue, note, show, speculate, point out, reject, strongly believe that, propose, deny, negate, report, challenge, take into consideration, study, imply, emphasize, recommend, demonstrate, postulate, claim, examine, go on to say that, state.

Neutral

Tentative

Strong

2) *Rephrase the following sentences with an appropriate reporting verb. Make sure you use a reporting verb of the same/similar meaning!*

“I certainly didn’t leave the car door open,” said František.

František ...

“Remember you have to go to the butcher’s,” said my mother-in-law.

My mother-in-law...

“I definitely can’t agree with this proposal,” Professor Mikulka declared.

Professor Mikulka...

“As you can see, the results show that the project was an utter failure.”

The presenter ...

“Therefore, it is better to follow the proposed plan.”

The paper ...

“Hey, how about we work on the project together?” said Maxmilián.

Maxmilián ...

“I am happy to announce that the budget proposal has been accepted,” Dean Lišák said at the meeting..

Dean Lišák ...

“Sorry I’m late, there was a huge traffic jam in the city center,” he said.

He ...

“This update should be accepted with utmost caution,” said Bob to Bedřich.

Bob ...

“I’m not following your orders anymore, Tim!” Dobromila exclaimed.

Dobromila...

SUMMARY

- A condensed version of a longer text
- Not a rewrite!
- Use your own words
- Focus on the main idea and relevant details

1) Complete the words in the text about a scientific hoax.

2) Summarize the text in roughly 3 sentences.

There has been co_____ interest in the case of Piltdown Man, not for what it reveals about the evolution of mankind but for the way in which it demonstrates so cl_____ the im_____ powerful desire in humans to, as Carmichael (2004:2) describes it, “believe against the facts”. When Charles Dawson announced in 1912 that fragments of an early human skull had been discovered at the Piltdown gravel pit, many of his colleagues in the scientific community were profoundly sc_____, responding to his pro_____ that the find might represent the “missing link” between humans and apes with a strong measure of disbelief.

Despite these doubts and the publication of a ca_____ documented article (Waterson, 1913) within a year of the discovery, arguing that Piltdown Man’s jawbone was that of an ape rather than a human, some forty years were to pass before it was established con_____ by Oakley and Clark (1953) that the skull was a forgery. This time lapse can be explained in part by the fi_____ competitive atmosphere in which contemporary paleontologists operated. As Brooker (2001) suggests, there was a wi_____ assumption that, after imp_____ contributions to the science of evolution had been made by fossil discoveries in Germany and France, Britain’s turn had come.

Read “The Secret Life of Walter Mitty” by James Thurber

(<http://www.newyorker.com/magazine/1939/03/18/the-secret-life-of-walter-mitty-2>). Then try to compose a summary of the short story using:

- a) 2 sentences
- b) 5 sentences
- c) 10 sentences