

**Exercise 1: Formal and informal language**

**A) In the space provided, write phrasal verbs that could be used in place of the one in italics. What other changes would you make if you were to use the sentences below in your presentation?**

1) A number of models *have been discovered* to describe the effect of certain cola drinks on dental enamel erosion.

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2) AIDS researchers have *encountered* a variety of unexpected problems in their efforts to develop an effective vaccine.

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3) Recent studies on car scrapping have *raised* the important question as to whether CO<sub>2</sub> emissions can be significantly reduced by *decommissioning* old cars.

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4) Problems with the new data management software *were encountered* soon after it was launched.

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5) In the past five years, the effect of different grassland management practices *has been scrutinized* many studies.

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**B) Which of the italicized expressions might be more suitable for an academic paper? Can you think of additional alternatives?**

1) Crash test dummies are *really important for / an integral part of* automotive crash tests.

2) According to a recent study *just about / nearly* 25% of all cell phone users view text messaging as an important source of entertainment.

3) There has been *a lot of / considerable* interest in how background sounds such as music affect individual's ability to concentrate.

4) We obtained *robust / nice* results using structural bamboo rather than timber.

5) Consumer interest in electronic billing and payment is *getting bigger and bigger / increasing*.

**Exercise 2: Reporting Verbs**

**A) 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**

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

**Dr. Nichols: "I believe that applying for the new grant would be beneficial."**  
Nichols...

**Conference committee email: "Remember you have to submit the abstract by the deadline."**

.....

**Professor Mikulka: "I definitely can't agree with this proposal."**

.....

**Presenter: "As you can see, the results show that the project was an utter failure."**

.....

**Research paper: "Therefore, it is better to follow the proposed plan."**

.....

**Max: "Hey, how about we work on the project together?"**

.....

**Dean Smith: "I am happy to announce that the budget proposal has been accepted."**

.....

**Review: "Therefore, the research conducted by Johnson et al. contains glaring mistakes."**

.....

**IT staff: "This security update should be accepted with utmost caution."**

.....

**Employer: "I can't allow you to leave your job earlier, Donald!"**

.....

**C) In formal academic English, many reporting verbs are followed by a *that* containing both a subject and a verb. Can you identify some of the verbs in A) which are not followed by *that*? List them.**

**D) Below are some citation statements that students wrote in a discussion of the benefits of caffeinated energy drinks. Read the article first and then discuss which of the statements, if any, do you prefer. Why? Note that the issues in these sentences may not be limited only to reporting verbs. Edit the weaker sentences.**

### **Caffeinated Energy Drinks-A Growing Problem.**

Reissig, C. J., Strain, E. c., and Griffiths, R. R. (2009). *Drug and Alcohol Dependence*, 99, 1-10.

**1)** In 2006, annual worldwide energy drink consumption increased 17% from the previous year to 906 million gallons, with Thailand leading the world in energy drink consumption per person, but the U.S. leading the world in total volume sales (Zenith International, 2007). **2)** Although "energy drinks" first appeared in Europe and Asia in the 1960s, the introduction of "Red Bull" in Austria in 1987 and in the U.S. in 1997 sparked the more recent trend toward aggressive marketing of high caffeine content "energy drinks." **3)** Since its inception, the energy drink market has grown exponentially, with nearly 500 new brands launched worldwide in 2006 (Johnson, 2006), and 200 new brands launched in the U.S. in the 12-month period ending July 2007 (Packaged Facts, 2007). **4)** From 2002 to 2006, the average annual growth rate in energy drink sales was 55% (Packaged Facts, 2007) (Fig. 1). **5)** The total U.S. retail market value for energy drinks (from all sources) was estimated to be \$5.4 billion in 2006 and has shown a similar annual growth rate over this same period (47%) (Packaged Facts, 2007). **6)** These drinks vary widely in both caffeine content (ranging from 50 to 505 mg per can or bottle) and caffeine concentration (ranging from 2.5 to 171 mg per fluid ounce) (Table 1). **7)** For comparison, the caffeine content of a 6 oz cup of brewed coffee varies from 77 to 150 mg (Griffiths et al., 2003). **8)** The main active ingredient in energy drinks is caffeine, although other substances such as taurine, riboflavin, pyridoxine, nicotinamide, other B vitamins, and various herbal derivatives are also present (Aranda and Marlock, 2006). **9)** The acute and long-term effects resulting from excessive and chronic consumption of these additives alone and in combination with caffeine are not fully known. **10)** Although the full impact of the rise in popularity of energy drinks has yet to be realized, the potential for adverse health consequences should be considered and may be cause for preemptive regulatory action.

- 1) Author Chad Reissig and colleagues state that how caffeine content in energy drinks may be hazardous to our health.
- 2) “Caffeinated Energy Drinks—A Growing Problem?” by Reissig et al. claims that the caffeine and other components in energy drinks consumed may be a health hazard.
- 3) Reissig et al. states that the long-term effects of continuous consumption of energy drinks have been known for a long period of time.
- 4) According to “Caffeinated Energy Drinks—A Growing Problem?,” Chad Reissig and colleagues suggest that research is needed to understand the effects of caffeine and other components in energy drinks.
- 5) Reissig et al. mention that energy drink consumption is growing rapidly.
- 6) Reissig and colleagues said in their article energy drinks might be harmful.
- 7) The article argues that the extremely wide range of caffeine content in energy drinks might make it difficult to properly regulate.