

What are Academic Collocations?

Worksheet

Academic collocations are pairs or groups of words that regularly combine in academic writing — such as 'conduct research' or 'compelling evidence' — creating a more formal, credible tone.

Questions

1. Which phrase is an academic collocation?
A) Really good findings
B) Significant findings
C) Good findings
D) Nice findings
2. Rewrite for academic tone: 'We looked at the data.'
A) We examined the data.
B) We checked out the data.
C) We analyzed the data.
D) Both A and C.
3. Which is NOT a common academic collocation?
A) Conduct research
B) Draw conclusions
C) Very big difference
D) Significant impact
4. Academic collocations are used to...
A) Sound complicated
B) Establish credibility and formality
C) Confuse the reader
D) Fill space in essays
5. Rewrite using academic collocations: 'We did a study to find if eating less sugar helps health.'
6. Identify the academic collocations in: 'The data suggests a strong relationship between variables.'
7. Which sounds more academic: A) 'This shows that...' or B) 'This elucidates that...'
8. Define: What are academic collocations?
9. Define: Why do academic collocations matter?
10. Define: Example collocations for research writing:

Answer Key

1. B) Significant findings — 'Significant findings' is the standard academic collocation. The others are casual and would not appear in formal academic writing.
2. D) Both A and C. — Both 'examined the data' and 'analyzed the data' are academic collocations. 'Checked out' is far too casual.
3. C) Very big difference — 'Very big difference' is casual. The academic version would be 'significant difference' or 'substantial difference.'
4. B) Establish credibility and formality — Academic collocations establish formality, credibility, and are recognized as standard professional language.
5. Original: Casual verbs 'did a study,' 'helps health' Academic: 'We conducted a study to investigate the correlation between reduced sugar intake and improved health outcomes.' Key collocations: 'conducted a study,' 'investigate,' 'correlation,' 'health outcomes' (more formal and precise)
6. Collocations found: 'data suggests,' 'strong relationship,' 'between variables' Why academic: These pairings are standard in research writing and convey authority
7. A) 'shows that' = neutral B) 'elucidates' = more formal, academic Better collocation B: Pair 'elucidates' with 'the mechanism' or 'the process' for maximum academic tone
8. Word combinations that naturally pair in formal, academic writing — e.g., 'conduct research,' 'significant difference,' 'draw a conclusion.'
9. They create a formal, credible tone, convey expertise, and are recognized by readers as standard academic language.
10. 'Conduct a study,' 'analyze data,' 'findings suggest,' 'significant difference,' 'draw a conclusion,' 'preliminary results.'

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