

Brainstorming

- What is the increasingly popular type of a modern writing test in English?

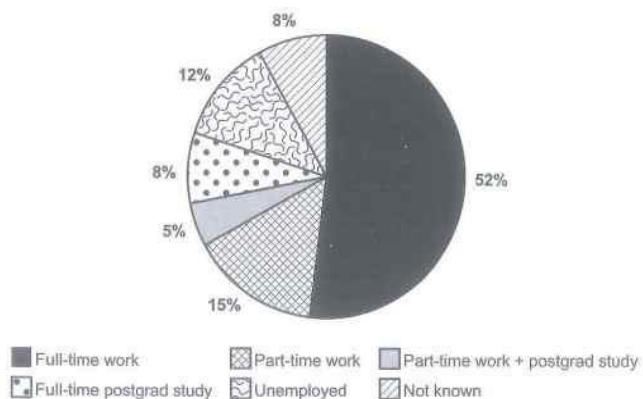
Brainstorming

The chart below shows what Anthropology graduates from one university did after finishing their undergraduate degree course. The table shows the salaries of the anthropologists in work after five years.

Summarise the information by selecting and reporting the main features, and make comparisons where relevant.

Write at least 150 words.

Destination of Anthropology graduates (from one university)



Salaries of Anthropology graduates (after 5 years' work)

Type of employment	\$25,000–49,999	\$50,000–74,999	\$75,000–99,999	\$100,000+
Freelance consultants	5%	15%	40%	40%
Government sector	5%	15%	30%	50%
Private companies	10%	35%	25%	30%

二、英文作文（占20分）

說明：1.依提示在「答案卷」上寫一篇英文作文。
2.文長至少120個單詞（words）。

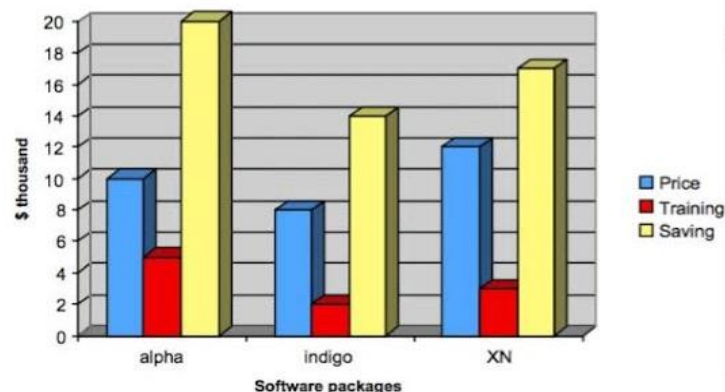
提示：右表顯示美國18至29歲的青年對不同類別之新聞的關注度統計。請依據圖表內容寫一篇英文作文，文長至少120個單詞。文分二段，第一段描述圖表內容，並指出關注度較高及偏低的類別；第二段則描述在這六個新聞類別中，你自己較為關注及較不關注的新聞主題分別為何，並說明理由。

BEC HIGHER PRACTICE TEST
WRITING

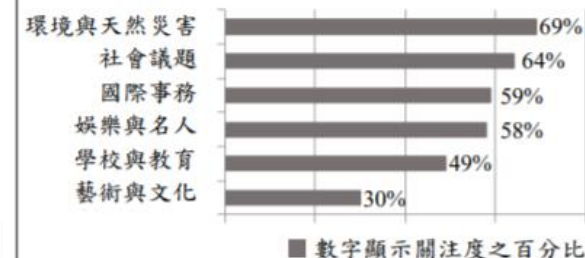
ART ONE Question 1

- The bar chart below shows the purchase price of three different software packages, the training costs and the estimated annual saving.
- Using the information from the chart, write a short **report** comparing the costs and estimated savings for each software package.
- Write **120 – 140 words**.

NEW SOFTWARE



美國青年關注之新聞類別

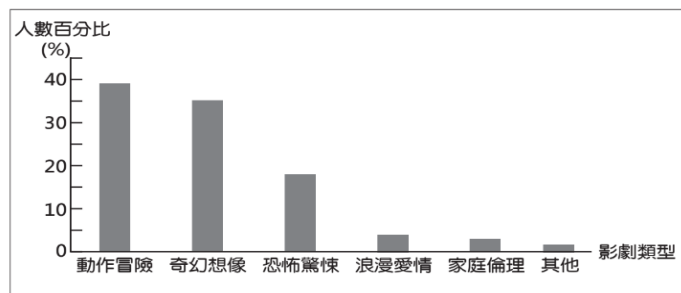


■ 數字顯示關注度之百分比

Brainstorming

請先閱讀以下資訊，並按題意要求完成一篇文章。

下列是近年來臺灣民眾最喜愛的影劇類型統計：



文章整體內容應包含：

一、對於上列圖表顯示的類型喜好，簡要說明你的理解是什麼？

二、將這樣的理解結合你的經驗或見聞，寫下感受或想法。

◎ 你對上列圖表的理解，可以是針對某一類型的解讀，例如：浪漫愛情電影仍有人喜愛，因為滿足了人們的期待；也可以是多個類型的比較，例如：和家庭倫理劇相比，更多人喜歡刺激的恐怖驚悚劇；或者是其他的想法。

※不必訂題

※不可在文中洩漏私人身分

※不可使用詩歌體

二、英文作文（占20分）

說明：1.依提示在「答案卷」上寫一篇英文作文。

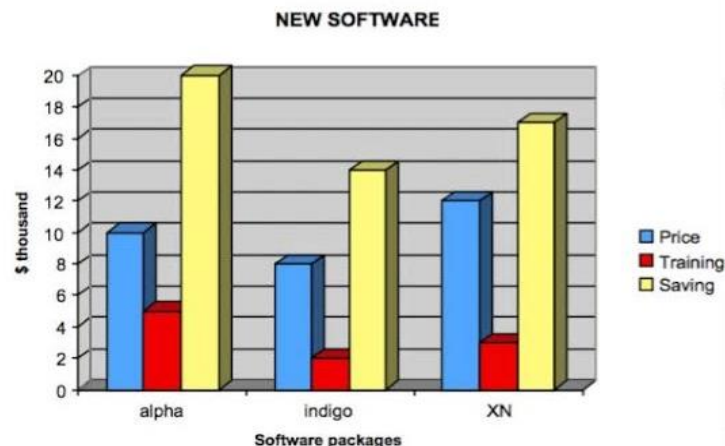
2.文長至少120個單詞（words）。

提示：右表顯示美國18至29歲的青年對不同類別之新聞的關注度統計。請依據圖表內容寫一篇英文作文，文長至少120個單詞。文分二段，第一段描述圖表內容，並指出關注度較高及偏低的類別；第二段則描述在這六個新聞類別中，你自己較為關注及較不關注的新聞主題分別為何，並說明理由。

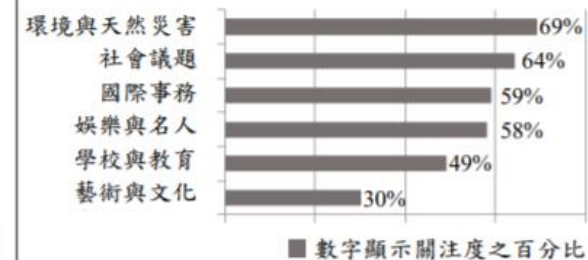
BEC HIGHER PRACTICE TEST
WRITING

ART ONE
Question 1

- The bar chart below shows the purchase price of three different software packages, the training costs and the estimated annual saving.
- Using the information from the chart, write a short **report** comparing the costs and estimated savings for each software package.
- Write **120 – 140 words**.



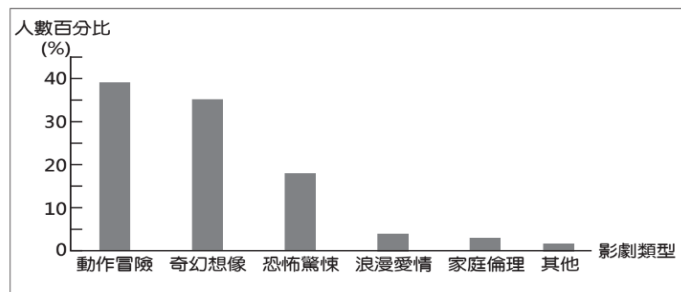
美國青年關注之新聞類別



Brainstorming

請先閱讀以下資訊，並按題意要求完成一篇文章。

下列是近年來臺灣民眾最喜愛的影劇類型統計：



文章整體內容應包含：

- 一、對於上列圖表顯示的類型喜好，簡要說明你的理解是什麼？
- 二、將這樣的理解結合你的經驗或見聞，寫下感受或想法。

◎ 你對上列圖表的理解，可以是針對某一類型的解讀，例如：浪漫愛情電影仍有人喜愛，因為滿足了人們的期待；也可以是多個類型的比較，例如：和家庭倫理劇相比，更多人喜歡刺激的恐怖驚悚劇；或者是其他的想法。

※不必訂題

※不可在文中洩漏私人身分

※不可使用詩歌體

二、英文作文（占20分）

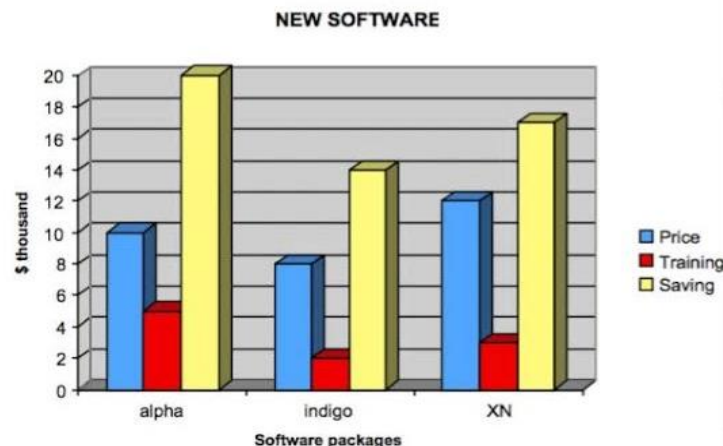
說明：1.依提示在「答案卷」上寫一篇英文作文。
2.文長至少120個單詞（words）。

提示：右表顯示美國18至29歲的青年對不同類別之新聞的關注度統計。請依據圖表內容寫一篇英文作文，文長至少120個單詞。文分二段，第一段描述圖表內容，並指出關注度較高及偏低的類別；第二段則描述在這六個新聞類別中，你自己較為關注及較不關注的新聞主題分別為何，並說明理由。

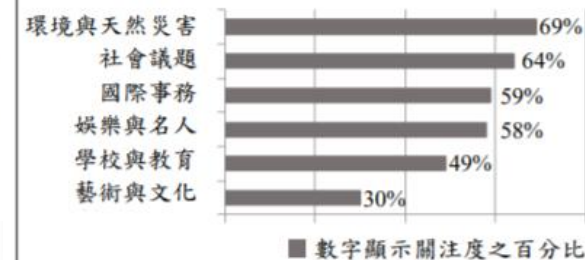
BEC HIGHER PRACTICE TEST
WRITING

ART ONE
Question 1

- The bar chart below shows the purchase price of three different software packages, the training costs and the estimated annual saving.
- Using the information from the chart, write a short **report** comparing the costs and estimated savings for each software package.
- Write **120 – 140 words**.



美國青年關注之新聞類別

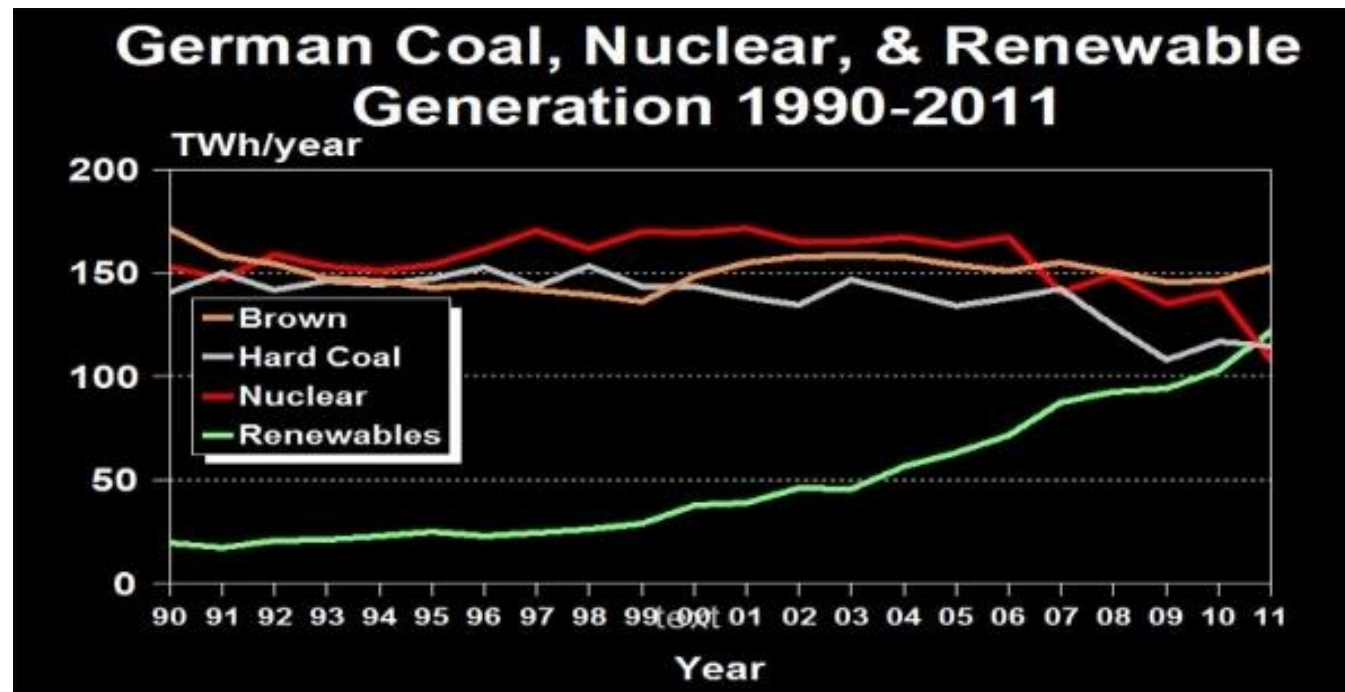


Key skills:

- observation
- presentation
- connection
- organization
- inference

Data Commentary

In-Class Exercise



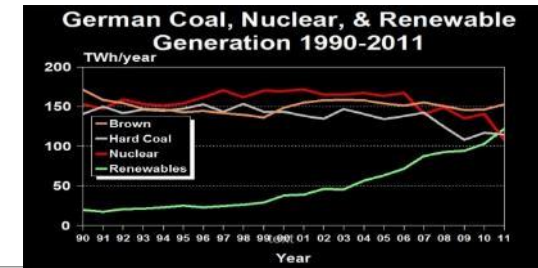
Data Commentary principles

- **Commentary**

- neither a mere description
- nor a free interpretation

Pitfalls to Avoid

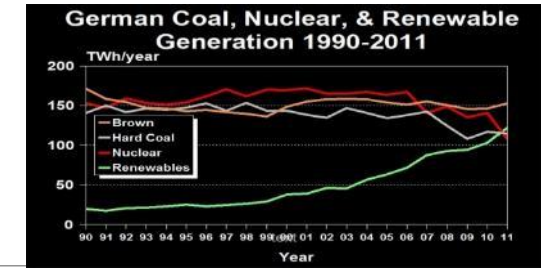
- This is a graph that illustrates coal, nuclear, and renewable power generation in Germany from 1990 to 2011.



Pitfalls to Avoid

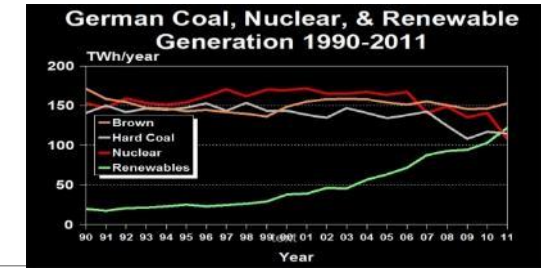
- This is a graph that illustrates coal, nuclear, and renewable power generation in Germany from 1990 to 2011.

too clear to miss



Pitfalls to Avoid

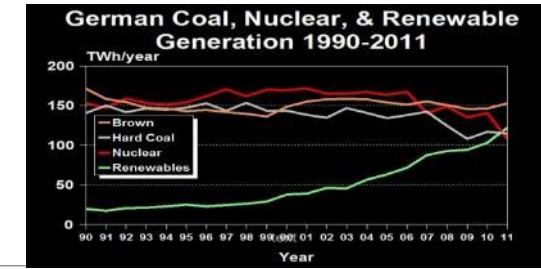
- Compared with the other three resources, renewables are the most eco-friendly one, hence its possibility of replacing them in the future.



Pitfalls to Avoid

- Compared with the other three resources, renewables are the most eco-friendly one, hence its possibility of replacing them in the future.

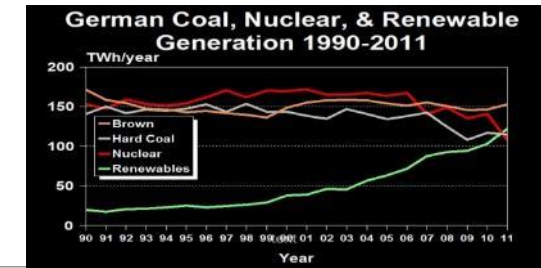
unnecessary value judgment



Pitfalls to Avoid

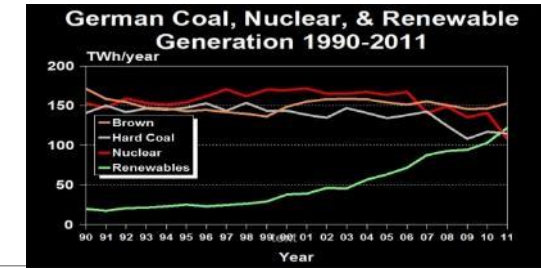
- Compared with the other three resources, renewables are the most eco-friendly one, hence its possibility of replacing them in the future.

unlikely in a real-life situation:
base load power



Pitfalls to Avoid

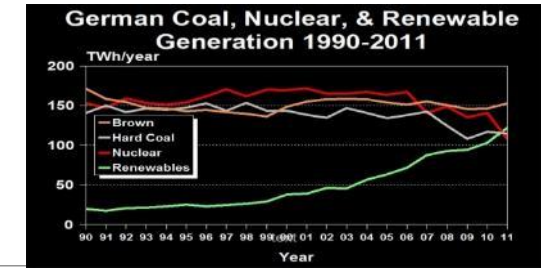
- Renewable energy has raised steadily over the past two decades.



Pitfalls to Avoid

- Renewable energy has raised steadily over the past two decades.

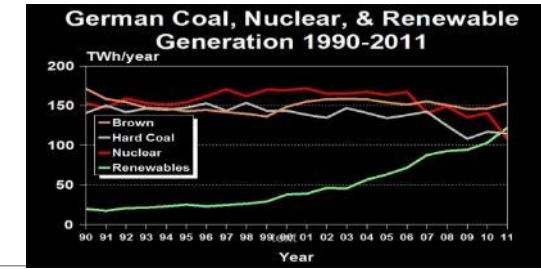
imprecise adverb



Pitfalls to Avoid

- Renewable energy has raised steadily over the past two decades.

confusion of verb usage

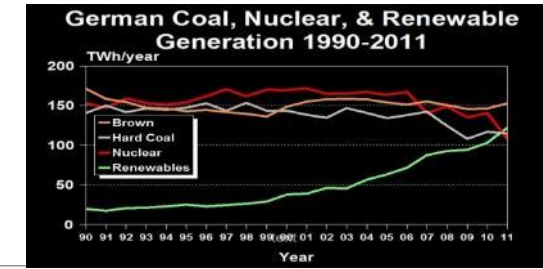


Pitfalls to Avoid

- Renewable energy has raised steadily over the past two decades.

confusion of verb usage

- rise
- arise
- raise
- arouse



Vt / Vi (transitive verb / intransitive verb)

- rise
- arise
- raise
- arouse

Vt / Vi (transitive verb / intransitive verb)

- rise

- arise

A question arises here for our discussion.

- raise

We would like to raise a question here.

- arouse

Vt / Vi (transitive verb / intransitive verb)

- rise

- arise

- raise

- arouse

Vt / Vi (transitive verb / intransitive verb)

- rise

- arise

- raise

The company raises its dividend for the 10th straight year.

- arouse

Vt / Vi (transitive verb / intransitive verb)

- rise

- arise

- raise

The company raises its dividend for the 10th straight year.

- arouse

The experiment explained why this theory aroused such opposition.

Vt / Vi (transitive verb / intransitive verb)

- rise

- arise

- raise

- arouse

Vt / Vi (transitive verb / intransitive verb)

- rise

Monthly payments increase as rates rise.

- arise

Cost savings opportunities arose from the merger.

- raise

- arouse

Vt / Vi (transitive verb / intransitive verb)

- rise

Monthly payments **increase** as rates rise.

- arise

Cost savings opportunities arose from the merger.

- raise

- arouse

Vt / Vi (transitive verb / intransitive verb)

- **increase**

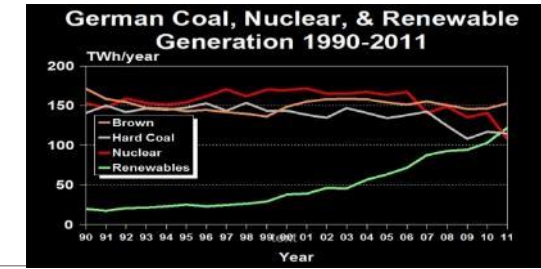
From 1999 through 2017, the prevalence of obesity in the U.S. **increased to** 42 percent from 30 percent, and severe obesity increased to 9 percent from 5 percent, according to the C.D.C.

Furthermore, inaccurate identification **increases** the likelihood of missed arrests.

Even a small change in market conditions can trigger a large number of trades, leading to sudden price swings and **increased** volatility.

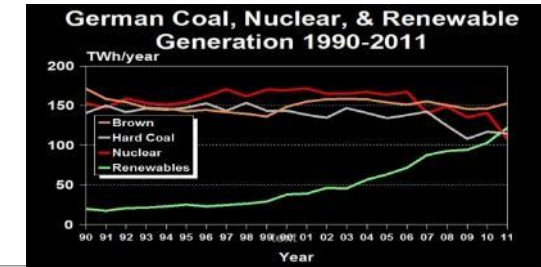
Pitfalls to Avoid

- Renewable energy has raised steadily over the past two decades.
- Renewables for power generation has risen five times during 1990-2011.

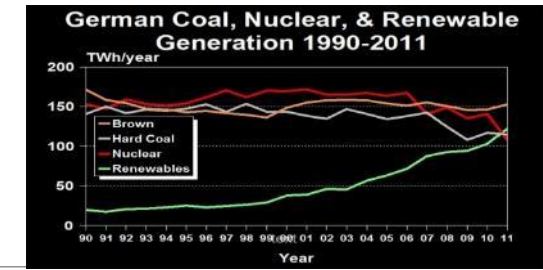


Pitfalls to Avoid

- Renewable energy has raised steadily over the past two decades.
- Renewables for power generation has risen five times during 1990-2011, with a upward trend in the first half and a relatively steep slope in the second half.

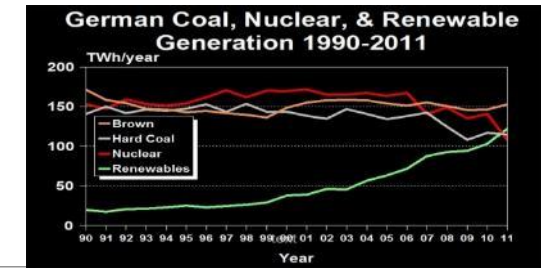


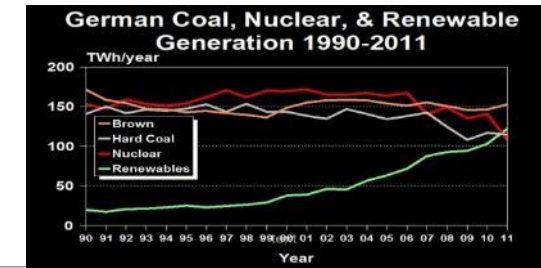
Original Comments on the Graph



Original Comments on the Graph

- “Total renewable generation was less than brown coal in 2011. However, at last year’s pace of growth, renewable generation may exceed that from brown coal by 2015.”





Original Comments on the Graph

- “Total renewable generation was less than brown coal in 2011. However, at last year’s pace of growth, renewable generation may exceed that from brown coal by 2015.”
- corresponding to the **nature** of a certain type of visualization

Table Analysis

Writing Strategy	Percentage
Think mainly in Japanese but write in English	61%
Think in Japanese and English but write in English	16%
Think in English and write in English	23%

Table 8. Strategies Used by Japanese Scientists When Writing in English

Writing Strategy	Percentage
Think mainly in Japanese but write in English	61%
Think in Japanese and English but write in English	16%
Think in English and write in English	23%

Expression in Percent or Fraction

Slightly more than three-fourths of the scientists surveyed adopted writing strategies that involved the use of their first language. Moreover, less than a quarter appear capable of writing directly in English. Overall, the figures would appear to suggest that most Japanese scientists have difficulties and frustrations when preparing papers for English-medium journals.

Writing Strategy	Percentage
Think mainly in Japanese but write in English	61%
Think in Japanese and English but write in English	16%
Think in English and write in English	23%

Expression in Percent or Fraction

Slightly more than three-fourths of the scientists surveyed adopted writing strategies that involved the use of their first language. Moreover, **less than a quarter** appear capable of writing directly in English. Overall, the figures would appear to suggest that most Japanese scientists have difficulties and frustrations when preparing papers for English-medium journals.

Writing Strategy	Percentage
Think mainly in Japanese but write in English	61%
Think in Japanese and English but write in English	16%
Think in English and write in English	23%

Expression in Percent or Fraction

Slightly more than three-fourths of the scientists surveyed adopted writing strategies that involved the use of their first language. Moreover, less than a quarter appear capable of writing directly in English. Overall, the figures would appear to suggest that most Japanese scientists have difficulties and frustrations when preparing papers for English-medium journals.

Writing Strategy	Percentage
Think mainly in Japanese but write in English	61%
Think in Japanese and English but write in English	16%
Think in English and write in English	23%

Expression in Percent or Fraction

Given the well-known differences between scientific English and scientific Japanese (Okamura, 2002), the heavy reliance on Japanese is somewhat surprising. This phenomenon probably reflects a lack of confidence in English. Nevertheless, all the findings need to be treated with caution since they are based on what scientists said they did, rather than on direct observations of their writing.

Writing Strategy	Percentage
Think mainly in Japanese but write in English	61%
Think in Japanese and English but write in English	16%
Think in English and write in English	23%

Expression in Percent or Fraction

Given the well-known differences between scientific English and scientific Japanese (Okamura, 2002), the heavy reliance on Japanese **is somewhat surprising**. This phenomenon **probably reflects a lack of confidence** in English. Nevertheless, **all the findings need to be treated with caution** since they are based on what scientists said they did, rather than on direct observations of their writing.

Table Analysis exercise

TABLE 10. Decision-Making Patterns of U.S. Parents and Adolescents
(N = 6327, roughly similar numbers of boys and girls)

Adolescent Child Is Sole Decision-Maker	Total Sample (%)	Girls (%)	Boys (%)
Amount of allowance	2	2	3
Clothes	28	29	27
Spending	50	50	51
Friends	53	52	54
Curfew	2	2	3
Television	42	44	41
Religion	23	22	26
Parents Are Sole Decision-Makers			
Amount of allowance	91	91	92
Clothes	39	32	45
Spending	27	25	29
Friends	30	28	31
Curfew	88	88	88
Television	43	41	45
Religion	60	56	64

Based on Lundberg et al., 2009.

Table Analysis exercise comparison of works (pp. 166-7)

TABLE 10. Decision-Making Patterns of U.S. Parents and Adolescents
(N = 6327, roughly similar numbers of boys and girls)

Adolescent Child Is Sole Decision-Maker	Total Sample (%)	Girls (%)	Boys (%)
Amount of allowance	2	2	3
Clothes	28	29	27
Spending	50	50	51
Friends	53	52	54
Curfew	2	2	3
Television	42	44	41
Religion	23	22	26
Parents Are Sole Decision-Makers			
Amount of allowance	91	91	92
Clothes	39	32	45
Spending	27	25	29
Friends	30	28	31
Curfew	88	88	88
Television	43	41	45
Religion	60	56	64

Based on Lundberg et al., 2009.

Table Analysis exercise

comparison of works

(pp. 166-7)

Student A

Table 10 shows who makes important decisions in key aspects of adolescents' lives. As can be seen, parents alone are responsible for the amount of allowance for 91% of girls and 92% of boys. Another category where parents exert a lot of control is curfew, as revealed by 88% of all adolescents. Most decisions about religion are also made by parents. In this category, however, there is a difference between boys and girls. Fifty-six percent of girls report that their parents decide matters of faith in contrast to 64% of boys. However, nearly one-fourth of the adolescents make decisions about religion on their own.

4: DATA COMMENTARY

167

Student B

Table 10 shows the percentage of adolescents and parents who are solely responsible for important decisions in the lives of adolescents. As can be seen, decision-making patterns are very similar for both boys and girls for all types of decisions except one. Specifically, more boys than girls report parental involvement in clothing decisions. In this category, 45% of the boys reported sole parental decision making, but only 32% of girls did so.

Student C

Table 10 shows the decision-making patterns of parents and adolescents in relation to key aspects of adolescents' lives. As can be seen, overall, parents are similarly involved in decisions for both boys and girls, but the level of involvement differs depending on the type of decision. The percentage of sole parental decision making is highest for the amount of allowance, the time of curfew, and religion. The lowest percentages were reported for decisions regarding the child's friends and spending of money. Television viewing is the one area where similar percentages of children and their parents make decisions.

TABLE 10. Decision-Making Patterns of U.S. Parents and Adolescents (N = 6327, roughly similar numbers of boys and girls)

Adolescent Child Is Sole Decision-Maker	Total Sample (%)	Girls (%)	Boys (%)
Amount of allowance	2	2	3
Clothes	28	29	27
Spending	50	50	51
Friends	53	52	54
Curfew	2	2	3
Television	42	44	41
Religion	23	22	26
Parents Are Sole Decision-Makers			
Amount of allowance	91	91	92
Clothes	39	32	45
Spending	27	25	29
Friends	30	28	31
Curfew	88	88	88
Television	43	41	45
Religion	60	56	64

Based on Lenthert et al., 2009.

Table Analysis

It can be observed that parents are more likely to be the sole decision makers when it comes to issues that have to do with safety (curfew) and adolescent moral education (religion). The high level of decision-making regarding allowance could simply reflect the family's economic situation, but it is somewhat surprising that low percentages were reported for decisions regarding adolescent friend-making, which could be influential in affecting teenager security and shaping their morality concept. This might seem inconsistent with the data suggesting that parents are concerned with matters of safety and morality. The root of this inconsistency points to the need of further investigating . . .

TABLE 10. Decision-Making Patterns of U.S. Parents and Adolescents (N = 6327, roughly similar numbers of boys and girls)

Adolescent Child Is Sole Decision-Maker	Total Sample (%)	Girls (%)	Boys (%)
Amount of allowance	2	2	3
Clothes	28	29	27
Spending	50	50	51
Friends	53	52	54
Curfew	2	2	3
Television	42	44	41
Religion	23	22	26
Parents Are Sole Decision-Makers			
Amount of allowance	91	91	92
Clothes	39	32	45
Spending	27	25	29
Friends	30	28	31
Curfew	88	88	88
Television	43	41	45
Religion	60	56	64

Based on Luthberg et al., 2009.

Table Analysis

It can be observed that parents are more likely to be **the sole decision makers** when it comes to issues that have to do with **safety** (curfew) and **adolescent moral education** (religion). The high level of decision-making regarding allowance could simply reflect the family's economic situation, but it is somewhat surprising that low percentages were reported for decisions regarding adolescent friend-making, which could be influential in affecting teenager security and shaping their morality concept. This might seem inconsistent with the data suggesting that parents are concerned with matters of safety and morality. The root of this inconsistency points to the need of further investigating . . .

TABLE 10. Decision-Making Patterns of U.S. Parents and Adolescents (N = 6327, roughly similar numbers of boys and girls)

Adolescent Child Is Sole Decision-Maker	Total Sample (%)	Girls (%)	Boys (%)
Amount of allowance	2	2	3
Clothes	28	29	27
Spending	50	50	51
Friends	53	52	54
Curfew	2	2	3
Television	42	44	41
Religion	23	22	26
Parents Are Sole Decision-Makers			
Amount of allowance	91	91	92
Clothes	39	32	45
Spending	27	25	29
Friends	30	28	31
Curfew	88	88	88
Television	43	41	45
Religion	60	56	64

Based on Lenthert et al., 2009.

Table Analysis

It can be observed that parents are more likely to be **the sole decision makers** when it comes to issues that have to do with **safety** (curfew) and **adolescent moral education** (religion). The high level of decision-making regarding allowance could simply reflect the family's economic situation, but it is **somewhat surprising** that **low percentages were reported for decisions regarding adolescent friend-making**, which could be influential in affecting teenager security and shaping their morality concept. This might seem inconsistent with the data suggesting that parents are concerned with matters of safety and morality. The root of this **inconsistency** points to the need of further investigating . . .

Strength of Claim

Degrees of strength (p.140) (pp.163-4)

Ways of moderating or qualifying a claim

- likelihood (pp.159-160)
- softening generalizations (pp.161-162)
- qualifying (limiting) the subject



TASK ONE

Work with a partner and decide whether the verb phrase choice results in a strong (S), weak (W), or neutral (N) statement. Some disagreement is reasonable. Can you think of other verbs or verb phrases that could complete the sentence? How would you evaluate the strength of claim for your alternatives?

Many studies have concluded that excessive credit growth _____ the global financial crisis.

- _____ a. contributed to
- _____ b. caused
- _____ c. may have contributed to
- _____ d. was probably a major cause of
- _____ e. was one of the causes of
- _____ f. might have been a factor in

As you can see, each of the options “fits” grammatically and each makes sense; however, only one may actually be the “right” choice in terms of what you know and think. Thus, your choice of verb can convey your stance or perspective and the extent to which you believe the explanation to be correct.

It is not easy to predict precisely what you might need to do in a data commentary, but some of the more common purposes are to

- highlight the results of research
- use the data to support a point or make an argument in your paper
- assess theory, common beliefs, or general practice in light of the given data

TASK TEN

Underline the verb that makes the weaker claim.

1. The results (indicate / establish) that there is a link between smoking and lung cancer.
2. The survey results (suggest / show) that the reuse of sentences or sections from one's previously published papers is a questionable practice.
3. The latest series of studies (question / challenge) the value of including consumer expectations in the assessment of service quality.
4. The results given in Figure 4 (validate / support) the second conclusion that certain bacteria can reduce arsenic (As) levels in groundwater.
5. Baseline conditions have been (assumed / shown) to be accurate at the time of the surveys.
6. Several studies have (identified / alluded to) the importance of cultural sensitivity as a precursor to culturally appropriate medical care.
7. Changes in ambient temperature may have (influenced / distorted) the test results.
8. Previous studies (failed / forgot) to consider the change in the fiber interface during the cracking process.
9. As shown in Figure 3, trade liberalization has (stimulated / encouraged) economic growth in developing countries, leading to rising incomes.
10. Figure 12 (depicts / clarifies) the relationship between these two systems.



Language Focus: Specific Ways of Moderating or Qualifying a Claim

Likelihood

There are many ways of expressing your degree of commitment to your claims in written academic English. One simple way is to use a modal auxiliary (e.g., *may*, *might*, or *could*) as you saw in Task One of this unit. Notice how the claim changes in these sentences. Which one is the strongest? Which is the most cautious?

- A. Word-of-mouth advertising influences a consumer's incentive to purchase a product.
- B. Word-of-mouth advertising can influence a consumer's incentive to purchase a product.
- C. Word-of-mouth advertising could influence a consumer's incentive to purchase a product.
- D. Word-of-mouth advertising may influence a consumer's incentive to purchase a product.
- E. Word-of-mouth advertising might influence a consumer's incentive to purchase a product.

In these examples, the phrases weaken in strength.

Stronger

- A. It is clear that . . .
- B. It is rather clear that . . .
- C. It is very probable/highly likely that . . .
- D. It is probable/likely that . . .
- E. It is possible that . . .
- F. It is unlikely that . . .

word-of-mouth
advertising
influences a
consumer's
incentive to
purchase a
product.

Weaker

Stronger

- A. There is a definite possibility that . . .
- B. There is a strong possibility that . . .
- C. There is a good possibility that . . .
- D. There is a slight possibility that . . .
- E. There is little possibility that . . .

word-of-mouth
advertising
influences a
consumer's
incentive to
purchase a
product.

Weaker

Distance

Distance is another way of indicating your stance. This involves removing yourself from a strong—and possibly unjustified—claim. Notice how Sentence A leaves no room for doubt, which may be too strong.

- A. Health education has a positive impact on a patient's quality of life.
- B. Health education seems to have a positive impact on a patient's quality of life.
- C. It seems that health education has a positive impact on a patient's quality of life.
- D. It would appear that health education has a positive impact on a patient's quality of life.

Here are a few examples.

Based on the limited data available, . . .
According to this preliminary study, . . .
Based on previous surveys, . . .
According to some earlier studies, . . .
In the view of many scholars, . . .

} the African
continent has
relatively strong
wind power
potential in parts
of the west,
south, and east.

Softening Generalizations

Writers sometimes want to make generalizations. These can be effectively used either to start developing a point for which support is later provided or drawing a conclusion from different pieces of information. Importantly, generalizations should be grounded in some reasonable evidence and stated cautiously so that they will be accepted by readers.

Three classic verbs for carefully stating a generalization are the verbs *appear (to)*, *seem (to)*, and *tend (to)*.

Children living in poverty *appear to* do poorly in school.

Children living in poverty *seem to* do poorly in school.

Children living in poverty *tend to* do poorly in school.

If you remove *appear to*, *seem to*, or *tend to*, the result is a very strong claim that suggests all poor children will be unsuccessful.

Children living in poverty do poorly in school.

By using *seem* or *tend*, you can avoid criticism from readers who may be aware of some poor children who are doing well.

Another way to make a generalization more acceptable is to qualify (limit) the subject.

Many children living in poverty do poorly in school.

A majority of children living in poverty do poorly in school.

Some children living in poverty do poorly in school.

In most parts of the world children living in poverty do poorly in school.

A third alternative is to add exceptions.

With the exception of
Apart from
Except for

} those enrolled in specialized
programs, children living in
poverty do poorly in school.

Weaker Verbs

Finally, claims can be reduced in strength by choosing a weaker verb. At the beginning of this unit, you compared these two claims.

Many studies have concluded that excessive credit growth caused the global financial crisis. (stronger)

Many studies have concluded that excessive credit growth contributed to the global financial crisis. (weaker)

As indicated at the beginning of the unit, your choice of verb can indicate your level of commitment to your claim.

Combined Qualifications

Sometimes several types of qualifications are combined in order to construct a defensible claim, as shown in this example. We start with a strong claim.

When people have too many choices, they choose the safest one.

Now see what happens when the following qualifications are added.

+ *according to some recent research* (adding distance)

+ *in some cases* (weakening the generalization)

+ *tend to* (indicating likelihood)

So we now have this sentence.

According to some recent research, in some cases when people have too many choices, they tend to choose the safest one.

Strength of Claim

exercise p.164

Degrees of strength (p.140) (pp.163-4)

Ways of moderating or qualifying a claim

- likelihood (pp.159-160)
- softening generalizations (pp.161-162)
- qualifying (limiting) the subject
- the **risk** of overusing:

It could be concluded that some evidence seems to suggest that at least certain villagers might not have traded their pottery with others.

Subject-Verb Agreement for Data

Subject-Verb Agreement for Data

A set of 200 questionnaires was / were distributed.

A large proportion of students is / are distracted by the noise.

Subject-Verb Agreement for Data

A set of 200 questionnaires was / were distributed.

A set of 200 questionnaires **was** / ~~were~~ distributed.



A large proportion of students is / are distracted by the noise.

A large proportion of students ~~is~~ / **are** distracted by the noise.



Subject-Verb Agreement for Data

A set of 200 questionnaires was / were distributed.

A set of 200 questionnaires **was** / ~~were~~ distributed.



A large proportion of students is / are distracted by the noise.

A large proportion of students ~~is~~ / **are** distracted by the noise.



◆ **Exceptions: fraction, proportion, or percentage**

Subject-Verb Agreement: Proportion

- A large proportion of **students** are distracted by the noise.
- A large proportion of **research** is dedicated to the crux.
- Only a minority of the cells **were** alive for three hours.
- A majority of the measurement time **is** wasted on the trials.

Subject-Verb Agreement: Fraction

- One-third of the cells were alive after incubation.

Subject-Verb Agreement: Fraction

- One-third of the cells were alive after incubation.

One-fifth of N ...

Three-fifths of N ...

One-quarter of N ...

Subject-Verb Agreement: Percentage

- percent vs. % vs. percentage

Subject-Verb Agreement: Percentage

- percent vs. % vs. percentage

40 percent of overseas students at this school are eligible.

Forty percent of overseas students at this school are eligible.

Subject-Verb Agreement: Percentage

- percent vs. % vs. percentage

~~40~~ percent of overseas students at this school are eligible.

Forty percent of overseas students at this school are eligible.

Exactly 40% of overseas students at this school are eligible.

Subject-Verb Agreement: Percentage

- percent vs. % vs. percentage

~~40~~ percent of overseas students at this school are eligible.

Forty percent of overseas students at this school are eligible.

Exactly 40% of overseas students at this school are eligible.

The percentage of eligible overseas students at this school is rather high.

Subject-Verb Agreement: Countable or not

- number vs. amount vs. quantity

Subject-Verb Agreement: Countable or not

- number vs. amount vs. quantity

Surveys showed that factory activity weakened in April and the **number** of people employed declined.

The newly implemented project means a tremendous **amount** of work for the staff.

The subjects are asked about the **quantity** of their energy-drink consumption and the quality of their sleep.

There are large **quantities** of oranges on sale in the market.

Task III: Data Commentary in class on June 1st

- Please bring your laptop to the classroom.
- Test time: 9:20-10:10
- Upload the Word file to NTU COOL.