

# Academic writing: verbs

In formal academic writing there is a preference for single verbs rather than phrasal and/or prepositional verbs. Replace the highlighted verbs in the following sentences where appropriate.

- 1 Heart disease, lung cancer and various other severe illnesses are often **brought on** by smoking.
- 2 Scientists are **looking into** innovative ways to combat AIDS.
- 3 The purpose of this paper is to try to **figure out** what is lacking in our current understanding of corrosion and corrosion protection in concrete.
- 4 Researchers have recently **come up with** hybrid vehicles that use a fuel-cell engine and a battery-assisted power train.
- 5 Rice and aquatic products **make up** a major part of the diet of the people in the Mekong Delta, Vietnam.
- 6 The use of touch-screen voting systems could **get rid of** many problems associated with traditional paper-based ballots.
- 7 Worldwide consumption of pesticides has **gone up** to 2.6 million metric tons.
- 8 Although labour unions in the U.S. have been able **to keep up** their membership numbers over the last two decades, they have been losing their political strength.
- 9 The number of mature female green turtles that return to their primary nesting beach has **gone down** from 1,280 ten years ago to 145 today.
- 10 Our examination of the research data revealed that the experimenters had simply **made it up** up.
- 11 We made a questionnaire and **handed it out** to 2,000 people.
- 12 Crash test dummies are **really important for** automotive crash tests.
- 13 In Hong Kong there is one cell phone for **just about** every two people.
- 14 There has been **a lot of** interest in how background sounds such as music affect an individual's ability to concentrate.
- 15 We **got** encouraging results using structural bamboo rather than timber.
- 16 Consumer interest in electronic billing and payment is **getting bigger and bigger**.
- 17 Researchers have **come up with** a number of models to describe the effect of certain beverages on dental enamel erosion.
- 18 AIDS researchers have **run into** a variety of problems in their efforts to develop a vaccine.
- 19 Recent studies on car scrapping have **brought up** the important question as to whether CO2 emissions can be significantly reduced.
- 20 Problems with this policy **showed up** soon after its implementation.
- 21 Many studies have **looked at** the effect of different grassland management practices.
- 22 We **did** this experiment to **work out** the value of x.
- 23 The results seemed to **have nothing to do with** the data.
- 24 We were certain that this disease **has some connection with** poor diet in childhood.
- 25 The temperature **went up** very fast once the catalyst was added.