

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 **caused/induced** by smoking.
- 2 Scientists are **investigating** innovative ways to combat AIDS.
- 3 The purpose of this paper is to try to **determine** what is lacking in our current understanding of corrosion and corrosion protection in concrete.
- 4 Researchers have recently **designed/developed** hybrid vehicles that use a fuel-cell engine and a battery-assisted power train.
- 5 Rice and aquatic products **constitute** a major part of the diet of the people in the Mekong Delta, Vietnam.
- 6 The use of touch-screen voting systems could **eliminate** many problems associated with traditional paper-based ballots.
- 7 Worldwide consumption of pesticides has **risen** to 2.6 million metric tons.
- 8 Although labour unions in the U.S. have been to **maintain** or **retain** 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 **fallen/declined** from 1,280 ten years ago to 145 today.
- 10 Our examination of the research data revealed that the experimenters had simply **invented** it
- 11 We made a questionnaire and **distributed** to 2,000 people.
- 12 Crash test dummies are **essential for** automotive crash tests.
- 13 In Hong Kong there is one cell phone for **approximately about** every two people.
- 14 There has been **considerable** interest in how background sounds such as music affect an individual's ability to concentrate.
- 15 We **obtained** encouraging results using structural bamboo rather than timber.
- 16 Consumer interest in electronic billing and payment is **increasing**.
- 17 Researchers have **designed/developed** a number of models to describe the effect of certain beverages on dental enamel erosion.
- 18 AIDS researchers have **encountered** a variety of problems in their efforts to develop a vaccine.
- 19 Recent studies on car scrapping have **raised** the important question as to whether CO2 emissions can be significantly reduced.
- 20 Problems with this policy **surfaced** soon after its implementation.
- 21 Many studies have **investigated/examined** the effect of different grassland management practices.
- 22 We **carried out/conducted** this experiment to **determine/calculate** the value of x.
- 23 The results seemed to **be unrelated to** the data.
- 24 We were certain that this disease **is linked/related to** poor diet in childhood.
- 25 The temperature **rose** very fast once the catalyst was added.