

Verbs for Presenting Research Results (Observations and Data)

Verbs for reporting observations and data

- **Reporting survey results**

✓ Participants said/ reported/ expressed/ responded/ thought/ believed/ pointed out/ noted/ mentioned that... ⇒ if they merely responded and reported observations (neutral)

✓ Other participants suggested/ indicated/ suspected/ hypothesized/ that ... ⇒ if they themselves offered an analysis/interpretation

✓ Yet other participants claimed/ argued/ agreed/ disagreed/ confirmed/ contended/ insisted/ asserted that ... ⇒ if they expressed a strong opinion, rather than merely reporting an observation

- **Reporting experimental data (in figures/graphs)**

Overall subject of the figure/graph

✓ The figure/graph shows/ illustrates/ reflects/ presents ...

Components of the figure: independent variable

✓ The x-axis/ horizontal axis represents...

Components of the figure: dependent variable

✓ The y-axis/ vertical axis represents...

Pattern

✓ There is an overall trend/ tendency for/to...

✓ The overall trend/ tendency is that ...

✓ There is an upward/ downward trend toward ...

✓ There is a sharp rise/ steep fall ...

✓ ... increases/ decreases between ... and ...

✓ ... increases/ decreases from ... to .../ by ...

✓ ... rises/ declines from ... to .../ by ...

✓ ... peaks at .../ levels off at ...

Commentary about specific data points

✓ For example, .../ For instance, ...

Exceptions to the pattern

✓ There is an outlier/ There are no outliers.

Verbs for analyzing and interpreting observations and data

This suggests/ indicates/ ...

The data (Pl.) suggest/ indicate/ ...

... confirm(s) the prediction that ...

... support(s) the hypothesis that ...

Grammar: Noun Phrase (NP) vs. *that*-clause

- **Reporting verbs with an NP as direct object** are used to make introductory statements to introduce (1) the overall subject of a figure/graph, or (2) the observed general pattern in the data, or (3) the overall analysis/interpretation of the data:

The figure/graph shows/ presents/ illustrates/ reflects/ displays/ depicts ...

The figure/graph provides/ gives an overview of ...

The table summarizes ...

The data reveal/ point to a tendency/ trend toward ...

The findings indicate/ suggest a new trend/ development ...

- **Reporting verbs with a *that*-clause as direct object** are used to present specific details.

The figure/graph shows/ illustrates/ demonstrates that ...

The data show/ illustrate/ demonstrate that ...

The analysis reveals that ...

The findings indicate/ suggest that ...

Phrases for reporting unexpected results

... may be due to ... / may be attributed to .../ may be accounted for by ...

- These are all followed by a Noun Phrase (NP).

Reporting the results of your statistical analysis

- ✓ We conducted/performed an Analysis of Variance/ *t*-Test/ ...
- ✓ It showed/ indicated/ revealed a significant difference/ strong correlation ...
- ✓ There was/is a significant difference between ... and ... [experimental vs. control group]
- ✓ There is/was only a marginal difference...
- ✓ There is/was no difference...
- ✓ There is/was a strong correlation between ... and ... [independent and dependent variable]
- ✓ ... and ... are strongly correlated
- ✓ ... is strongly correlated with ...
- ✓ ... behaved/ answered/ responded significantly differently from ...
- ✓ ... only marginally differently from ...
- ✓ ... did not behave/ answer/ respond differently from ...