

3.11 Synonyms

1 How synonyms work

Word/ phrase	synonym
<i>largest</i>	<i>giant</i>
<i>oil</i>	<i>hydrocarbon</i>
<i>company</i>	<i>firm</i>
<i>in the world</i>	<i>global/ internationally</i>
<i>people</i>	<i>employees</i>

2 Common synonyms in academic writing

Nouns		Verbs	
area	field	accelerate	speed up
authority	source	achieve	reach
behaviour	conduct	alter	change
beliefs	ethics	analyse	take apart
benefit	advantage	assist	help
category	type	attach	join
component	part	challenge	question
concept	idea	claim	suggest
controversy	argument	clarify	explain
drawback	disadvantage	concentrate on	focus on
expansion	increase	confine	limit
feeling	emotion	develop	evolve
framework	structure	eliminate	remove
goal	target	evaluate	examine
hypothesis	theory	found	establish
interpretation	explanation	maintain	insist
issue	topic	predict	forecast
method	system	prohibit	ban
option	possibility	quote	cite
quotation	citation	raise	increase

results	findings	reduce	decrease
statistics	figures	respond	reply
study	research	retain	keep
trend	tendency	show	demonstrate
output	production	strengthen	reinforce

3 Practice A

(Others are possible)

- (a) Professor Hicks challenged the results of the study.
- (b) The figures demonstrate a steady increase in applications.
- (c) The institute's forecast has caused a major debate.
- (d) Cost seems to be the principal disadvantage to that method.
- (e) They will focus on the first possibility.
- (f) After the lecture she tried to explain her theory.
- (g) Three topics need to be evaluated.
- (h) The structure can be kept but the aim needs to be modified.
- (i) OPEC, the oil producers' cartel, is to reduce output to increase global prices.
- (j) The tendency to smaller families has accelerated in the last decade.

4 Practice B

UK – British – this country

agency – organisation – body

advertising campaign – publicity programme – advertising blitz

to raise – to improve

to cut – reduction

before eating – prior to meals

5 Practice C

(Example answers – others possible)

aim

manufacture vehicles

car makers

principal problem

obstacle

automobile producers

challenges

forecast