



## ESL Podcast 3 – Key Verbs in Academic Writing

### Glossary

#### 1) to discuss

*to talk about or investigate*

- This paper will **discuss** the interaction between news reports and public perceptions of vaccination.
- In the introductory part of the article we **discuss** the validity of the models.

#### 2) to investigate

*to study through close examination*

- The authors **investigate** the roles of genetic and environmental factors in child development.
- This paper **investigates** factors contributing to the global warming.

#### 3) to consider

*to think about carefully or take into account*

- This study **considers** the role of social networking in recent graduates' job searches.
- A full faculty **considers** the implications for legal education.

#### 4) to conduct

*to direct the operation or management of something*

- We plan to **conduct a study** of undergraduate students in 15 Russian universities.
- A US organization set up in 1984 to **conduct research** into whether life exists outside the Earth.

#### 5) to illustrate

*to make clear by giving an example*

- In this podcast, we **illustrate** academic vocabulary words with explanatory sentences.
- Here's an example to **illustrate** what I mean.
- Last year's sales figures are **illustrated** in Figure 2.

#### 6) to calculate

*to determine by mathematical processes or to design for a specific purpose*

- Students' grades are **calculated** by using weighted averages.
- At present it is **impossible** to **calculate** objectively the total demand for the product.

#### 7) to examine

*to inspect closely*

- Her paper **examines** the legacy of colonialism in India.

#### 8) to identify

*to establish the identity of something or to recognize somebody/something and be able to say who or what they are; to find or discover somebody/something*



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- Scientists have **identified** genetic markers for certain diseases.
- Scientists have **identified** a link between diet and cancer.
- Is it possible to **identify** the problem?

#### 9) to support

*to assist or help*

- The data **support** current concerns about global climate change.
- These measures are **strongly supported** by environmental groups.

#### 10) to challenge

*to question whether a statement or an action is right, legal, etc; to refuse to accept something to dispute*

- New findings **challenge** our assumptions about the city's population growth trends.
- Our study **challenges** previous theories of human behaviour.

#### 11) to provide

*to supply or make something available; to give something to somebody or make it available for them to use*

- Here we **provide** a summary of relevant literature.
- This article **provides** accurate forecasts and clear explanation.

#### 12) to establish

*to bring about or cause*

- Many factors of agricultural production **establish** food prices.

### Sample Text

International experts **calculate** that over three billion people live on less than \$2.50 per day. Pralahad, Hart, and London **investigate** the “bottom of the pyramid”, a term describing this extremely low-income half of the world's population. The authors **provide** evidence that quality of life for the bottom of the pyramid could improve if governments and corporations **considered** these individuals as an untapped market of consumers, innovators, and potential employees. Their research **illustrates** this claim by **examining** the growth of microfinance and community-partnered product development. Pralahad's book *The Fortune at the Bottom of the Pyramid* **identifies** this group of individuals as “the world's most exciting and fastest-growing market” and **discusses** the business case for corporations to prioritize the bottom of the pyramid as future customers and business partners. Although traditional business models **challenge** these theories, a wealth of data **support** business and governmental attention to the bottom of the pyramid<sup>1</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> Voices: Imanni Wilkes Burg and Zhenya Bakin