



## Academic Writing Podcast 17 – Describing Change Part 1

### Sample Text

Although the scale of global climate change clearly requires dramatic action to **restore** the health of the environment, there are very few feasible “quick win” policies that might have a real impact. National or international agreement on policies that could halt or reverse the trend of climate change has become **increasingly difficult** in recent years. In order to **adapt to** this barrier, many policy solutions have **transitioned from** the national level to the individual level, focusing on short-term actions such as tree planting, organic food, home energy use, and public transportation use. These ideas encourage individuals to participate in **sustainable development** by **enhancing** their local environment. By themselves, these actions cannot hope to **diminish** the effects of global climate change. However, it is likely that a groundswell of support for environmental activity will eventually help a worldwide **shift away from** short-term thinking and inspire elected officials to pursue broad, effective policies on climate change<sup>1</sup>.

### Glossary

#### 1) to shift (away) from

*to change from one state, position, etc. to another*

- The new policy **shifted** the emphasis **away from** fighting inflation.
- Latin America has **shifted away from** import substitution toward increasingly intense competition for foreign investment.
- Authorship has **shifted away from** government health offices and the medical field to the academic arena.
- Harvey (2003) provided a general guide for a social work **shift away from** Western approaches to social work conceptualizations.
- It is necessary to **shift attention from** one author to the next influential twentieth-century group of researchers.

#### transition from ... to

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<sup>1</sup> Article loosely based on <http://grist.org/cities/if-a-tree-falls-in-the-city-does-it-do-anyone-any-good>.



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- The study suggested that rural adolescents contend with unique challenges in making the **transition from** high school to adult life.
- Figure 1 shows that after the initial **transition from** the recession of the 1990s, Russia began to follow South Korea's path of income after an eleven-year lag.
- The **transition from** one country to another implies changes and difficulties such as the loss of social networks or changes in work status.

### 2) to adjust to

*to change something slightly to make it more suitable for a new set of conditions or to make it work better*

- **Adjust** your language to the age of your audience.
- It is important to **adjust to** the ever-changing market.
- It can be difficult to **adjust to** being a parent.
- Annual earnings across educational categories do not need to be **adjusted** for inflation.

### 3) (increasingly) difficult

- Because it is **increasingly difficult** to become a college president without a doctorate, the themes covered in this chapter are essential to any serious consideration of leadership development.
- The technological scarcity argument has become **increasingly difficult** to maintain as stations proliferate on cable and other broadcasting media.
- Thorough understanding is **particularly difficult** to achieve because of the volume of papers that have been published on the subject.
- The lack of diplomatic relations makes it **exceedingly difficult** for Beijing and Seoul to negotiate agreements on legal protection for investment.

### 4) to adapt to

*to change something in order to make it suitable for a new use or situation*

- A large organization can be slow to **adapt to** change.
- Many of the efforts to **adapt** agriculture to climate change have focused on the development of biotech solutions.
- Israeli strategists will be forced to **adapt** to a new reality that runs against their very nature.

### 5) sustainable (development, growth...)

*that can continue or be continued for a long time*

- The commission envisioned **sustainable development** as a pattern of development that would meet the needs of human communities today.
- Many advocates of **sustainable development** recognize that a transition to global sustainability will require changes in human values, attitudes, and behaviors.
- Unfortunately, this level of output is not **sustainable**.



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### 6) to enhance

*to increase or further improve the good quality, value or status of somebody/something*

- In order to succeed in online courses, students will develop or **enhance** time management skills crucial to academic and professional success.
- Increased levels of atmospheric CO2 **enhance** ecosystems' water-use efficiency.
- Environmental variability can also **enhance** net primary productivity and biodiversity.

### 7) to diminish (rapidly)

*to become or to make something become smaller, weaker, etc.*

- The world's resources are rapidly **diminishing**.
- The technical and economic demands of the health care system do not **diminish** the need for crucial relational care.
- In the future, the danger of mistaken or unauthorized use or of the exploitation of nuclear weapons by terrorists is likely to grow rather than **diminish**.

### 8) to restore

*to bring back a situation or feeling that existed before*

- The measures are intended **to restore** public confidence in the economy.
- The major objective which still preoccupies Russian minds is how to **restore** the country's ability to be an independent center of influence.
- The goal of Dada was to **restore** the balance between reason and unreason lost in modernity due to the dominance of rationality.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> Voices: Voices: Imanni Wilkes Burg and Jonathan Harman