



## Academic Writing Podcast 18 – Describing Change Part 2

### Sample Text

One of the responses to climate change that has **moved toward** widespread implementation is tree planting. Because plants **convert** carbon dioxide to oxygen, trees play an essential role in maintaining air quality. The **expansion of** reforestation programs in numerous countries is designed to halt the **elimination of** important forest ecosystems. In some cases, the legal language regarding these programs needs to be **refined** in order to encourage foresters to preserve existing trees, rather than just cutting them down and planting new trees. In cities, tree planting occurs at a much smaller scale. Programs in some cities help homeowners, business owners, and community groups to **acquire** young trees and plant them locally. Hopefully, all of these efforts will result in a **marked change** in the number of healthy trees worldwide<sup>1</sup>.

### Glossary

#### 1) to refine

*to improve something by making small changes to it*

- This theory still needs a little **refining**.
- Dipping into a wide array of books and articles will **refine** your thinking, and thus, your reporting and writing.
- This process allows the students to practice and **refine** computer skills for practical projects and gain collaborative experience needed for employment.
- I further **refined** my search to remain true to my research question to include only those studies in which there was contact between the adults as well as with children.

#### 2) perceptible change (gradual, sudden, marked...)

*great enough for you to notice it*

- Her foreign accent was **barely perceptible**.
- The price increase has had no **perceptible** effect on sales.
- Due to the **sudden change** of attention from text to graphics, verbally oriented students often missed the beginning of most animation.
- Relative improvement occurs when there is **gradual change** against a standard.

---

<sup>1</sup> Sample text loosely based on <http://grist.org/cities/if-a-tree-falls-in-the-city-does-it-do-anyone-any-good>, following up on the Describing Change part 1 podcast



## Academic Writing Podcast 18 – Describing Change Part 2

### 3) to recover

*to win back a position, level, status, etc. that has been lost*

- The aim of this paper is to **recover** the stabilizing design procedure from linear time-invariant systems to switched linear control systems.

### 4) to acquire

*to gain something by your own efforts, ability or behaviour; to obtain something by buying or being given it*

- How long will it take to **acquire** the necessary skills?
- Duree's (2007) dissertation analyzed how presidents **acquire** the leadership skills.

### 5) to convert from ... to ...

*to change or make something change from one form, purpose, system, etc. to another*

- It might be helpful to **convert** these to long-term goals and draw up an action plan.
- In online education they have to be able to **convert from** one system to another.

### 6) the move towards

- We surmise that any **move towards** a reconceptualized or " new " physical education must not merely be an education of the body per se but of the whole person.
- Certain measured in the blood and can help **move towards** a diagnosis.
- If teachers are to **move towards** working at higher levels of Internet use, additional aspects of web-learning must be employed.
- The **move towards** increased specialization and the widespread adoption of technology have led to changes in military jobs.

### 7) to maintain

*to make something continue at the same level, standard, etc.*

- Despite the disruptions, the Aborigines tried to **maintain** their traditions of art and documentation.
- There is an urgent need to **maintain** the chain of evidence from data providers into compilations.
- It's not always easy to **maintain** a consensus in a freethinking, democratic organization where the positions on issues aren't set in stone.
- The two countries have always **maintained** close relations.

### 8) expansion of

*an act of increasing or making something increase in size, amount or importance*

- Energy use is closely related to income, and the rapid economic **expansion of** developing countries such as China and India will drive the steep increase in energy use.
- The **expansion of** scientific knowledge always seems to bring about further recognition of humanity's rather small place in the grand scheme of things.
- Modern innovative curricula facilitate **expansion of** the school psychologists' role.



## Academic Writing Podcast 18 – Describing Change Part 2

### 9) elimination of

*to eliminate means to remove or get rid of something/somebody*

- the author believes **elimination of** the eighth grade will also be beneficial for developmental, social and disciplinary reasons.
- **Elimination of** lead from gasoline has likely been a major factor in environmental improvements.
- The Great Lakes Binational Toxics Strategy is based on the commitment to virtual **elimination of** certain toxics made by the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement.<sup>2</sup>

---

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