



Academic Writing Podcast 25 – Describing Results Part 2

Sample Text

When politicians from other countries meet with one another, they often get together to **weigh up** each other's ideas as to how a state should be run. Such discussions can be mutually profitable and world leaders can gain a real useful **insight into the problems** that plague other nations. In recent times, the world has been **deeply critical** of Ahmadinejad's Iranian regime **on the basis of** its threatening nuclear weapons programme, whose inventory **is only predicted to** increase. Iran's oil exports **constitute** more than 50% of its state revenues, but as a direct result of its hostile behaviour, global oil prices have shot up. The USA and Great Britain have been particularly vocal in their **criticism** of Iran's aggression, but **have deduced** that expressing further aggressive behaviour themselves is not likely to be in their global interests. However, political commentators have noted that the **results of** the recent talks in March **point to** nothing but a stalemate.

Glossary

1) to deduce

to form an opinion about something based on the information or evidence that is available

- The brain permanently searches for temporal structure in the environment in order to **deduce** what will happen next.
- Cosmologists measure the age of the oldest stars and how fast the universe is expanding; from that information, they can **deduce** many things, including the age and shape of the universe.
- We **deduced** from his silence that he did not approve of our plan.

2) to weigh up (the ideas)

to consider something carefully, examining its pros and cons, before making a decision

- The finance department **weighed up** the new ideas for expanding to a second location, but determined that it would be too costly.
- Attitude studies suggest that when asked to state beliefs and attitudes, people **weigh up** the possible consequences before giving an answer.

3) (useful) insights into the problem

an understanding of a problem that reveals its true nature or helps to solve it



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- This study offers **insight into** how globalization affects health in low-income countries.
- (These studies, however, provide little **insight into** what is occurring in family life that helps the students succeed at school)
- Astronauts' training includes simulated weightlessness using a special airplane; this simulation gives them **insight into** what movement will be like in space.
- The President's autobiography offers **insight into** the daily life of the country's leader and the problems he faced.

4) the results point to

the outcome of something indicates a trend or supports a conclusion

- The board of directors **pointed to** falling productivity to justify their decision to fire the new manager.
- **Pointing to** the results of a recent survey, he claimed voters were most interested in education and unemployment.
- All signs **point to** an economic recovery next year.
- The evidence presented during the trial clearly **pointed to** his innocence.

5) to be critical of

to judge something; to express disapproval of somebody/something and say what you think is bad or negative about them

- Liberal politicians continue to be critical of the CIA's investigative techniques.
- Einstein was critical of Isaac Newton's theory that time and space are absolute.
- The newspaper was shut down for being too critical of the regime.

6) deeply critical vs absolutely critical

deeply critical – *extremely disapproving of something*

- Local citizens were **deeply critical of** plans to build the new highway through their neighborhood.

absolutely critical – *extremely necessary for something*

- Many parents responded that an organized daily routine was **absolutely critical** in helping them manage the care of their children.
- Appointing a new, energetic leader was **absolutely critical** to the company's survival.

7) to constitute (40% of smth)

to be a part of something larger; to make up the parts that, together, form something

- In the early 1940s, female workers in the US constituted the majority of the labour force.
- Nitrogen constitutes 75% of the Earth's atmosphere.



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- The costs of welfare and social security programs constitute roughly one third of all US government expenses.

8) on the basis of... we would predict

we form a prediction about a situation using certain facts, ideas, or statistics as evidence, which we name in this phrase

- On the basis of his past speeches, we would predict that this one will not last longer than fifteen minutes.
- On the basis of measuring light from the stars, Galileo predicted that the Earth moved around the Sun.¹

¹ Voices: Emily Ferris and Kenny Bendiksen