

National Research University Higher School of Economics http://academics.hse.ru/podcasts



Academic Writing Podcast 7 – Key Adverbs in Academic Writing

Sample Text

The research is **primarily** intended to show that food advertising is linked to unhealthy behaviors and **ultimately** to illness. This connection is supported by several findings. First, food advertising **largely** focuses on unhealthy options such as highly processed fast foods and sugary soda: ads **seldom** encourage consumers to buy nutritious foods such as fruits and vegetables. Second, children ages 2 to 17 see **approximately** 20 food ads per day on television, encouraging consumption of these non-nutritious products during the critical growth phase of their lives. Third, food advertising on television, in movies, and online **specifically** targets consumers who are already engaged in a passive behavior. Finally, products that are known to be **directly** harmful, like tobacco products and alcohol, are **comparatively** common in ads located in highly public places. The author's published report is **explicitly** intended to influence policy makers, and to encourage the food industry to **considerably** reduce the number of ads focused on unhealthy products.

Glossary

1) comparatively / relatively

in comparison with something else

- Our sample was comparatively small.
- The database we use in our research is relatively large.

2) somewhat (ant. considerably)

somewhat: a little, slightly

- When we did our field-work, we obtained **somewhat** different results.
- The author's findings were **considerably** different from his initial hypotheses.

3) primarily

mainly

- Our team is **primarily** interested in bio-physics.
- Our paper is **primarily** based on qualitative research.



National Research University Higher School of Economics

http://academics.hse.ru/podcasts



Academic Writing Podcast 7 - Key Adverbs in Academic Writing

4) mostly / largely

almost completely

- The research was largely successful.
- His report at the conference was **mostly** spontaneous.

5) directly (ant. indirectly)

without anything else being involved

- The illness is **directly** linked to poor nutrition.
- The disease is **indirectly** linked to environmental factors.
- In podcasting, success is usually **directly** linked to the anchorman's voice.

6) approximately (ant. precisely or exactly)

about

- The temperature was **approximately** half a degree lower than the average.
- There were **exactly** 350 people living in the village in 1958.

7) frequently (ant. seldom)

occurring regularly or often

- Soil erosion is **frequently** caused by water or wind.
- Senior citizens seldom use the internet to communicate with one another.

8) ultimately

finally, after other things have been completed

- We investigated the problem and ultimately found some small errors in the calculations.
- A poor diet will **ultimately** lead to illness.

9) specifically

restricted to a particular situation, group, or effect: not to be confused with especially (which means more than usual)

- Parents **specifically** complained that the school authorities failed to inform them of changes.
- We **specifically** have chosen this method to avoid inaccuracies.

10) explicitly

openly; explicit means clear and easy to understand.

- This work is **explicitly** critical of the government.
- The report states **explicitly** that the system was to blame.
- Singh (1998) is **subtly** critical of existing theories of economic growth.



National Research University Higher School of Economics

http://academics.hse.ru/podcasts



Academic Writing Podcast 7 - Key Adverbs in Academic Writing

Tasks

Change the sentences using adverbs which mean the **opposite** of the underlined ones.

- 1. There were <u>roughly</u> 24 students in each group.
- 2. The problem is <u>directly</u> linked to environmental factors.
- 3. The lecturer <u>explicitly</u> discussed the weaknesses of the approach.
- 4. When we tested senior citizens, we obtained results which were a little bit different.
- 5. Exactly 200 bird species inhabit Moscow parks.¹

.

¹ Voices: Imanni Wilkes Burg and Zhenya Bakin