Chapter 2: Academic Language Support

Test your knowledge of Chapter 2: Academic Language Support by answering the following multiple-choice questions. You can find the answers to each question at the end of this document.

1 The best place to look for the meaning of disciplinary terminology is:
   a in a disciplinary glossary.
   b in a good dictionary (e.g. the Oxford Dictionary).
   c within the text itself.
   d A & C

2 Use textual clues to find the meaning of the disciplinary terminology in the following extract from Biber and Gray (2010, p. 2): Researchers have claimed for decades that academic writing is more structurally elaborated than speech, shown by longer sentences, longer ‘t-units’ (a main clause plus all associated dependent clauses), and a greater use of subordinate clauses (see, e.g., Brown & Yule, 1983; Chafe, 1982; Kroll, 1977; O’Donnell, 1974).
   a ‘Structural elaboration’ means structurally more complex academic writing.
   b ‘Structural elaboration’ means to contain longer sentences, longer combinations of main clauses and dependent clauses, and a greater use of subordinate clauses than speech.
   c ‘Structural elaboration’ means a main clause plus all associated dependent clauses.
   d ‘Structural elaboration’ means to have more clauses, and longer clauses and ‘t-units’.

3 Definitions of disciplinary terminology can be found in:
   a a dictionary.
   b a world cloud.
   c a glossary.
   d the Oxford Dictionaries Online.

4 Select the most appropriate academic word for the following sentence from Wilkes and Gurney (2009, p. 160): One way of teaching these skills to students is through library
workshops during orientation week; however, there are two main complaints by librarians regarding this __________.

a problem

b theory

c area

d approach

5 Maintaining a single point of view in writing means:

a writing from only one perspective by selecting only those points of view that are correct.

b writing from a critical perspective.

c writing from the perspective of an academic.

d writing from just one perspective.

6 ‘Unpacking academic language’ means to re-write it:

a in a simple style.

b so that the meaning is stated more precisely.

c so that the meaning is clearer for the reader.

d so as to reveal all the complexities in the language.

7 A ‘label’ is:

a a group of words whose function is to refer either backwards or forwards to a section of text as a means of creating cohesion.

b a term created by Francis to name a group of words whose function is to be academic.

c the name of a thing referred to in the text.

d the name of a word that is used in an academic context as disciplinary terminology.

8 Which of the following cannot be a label?

a point of view

b theory

c terminology
d however

9 Read the following extract from Turner and Williams (2007, p. 64): Most college students at major universities are required to take large introductory courses. It is not uncommon for these courses to be taught in a lecture format and to assess student knowledge through multiple-choice exams.

How is cohesion created?

a Connectives join parts of both sentences in such a way that the relationship between the parts is clearly shown.

b The topic of the first sentence is repeated as the topic of the second sentence.

c The same point of view is created by using the comment in the first sentence as the topic in the second sentence.

d The author uses a nominal group or ‘label’, which allows him or her to refer to a stretch of text.

10 Read the following extract from Coxhead (2000, p. 214):

An academic word list should play a crucial role in setting vocabulary goals for language courses, guiding learners in their independent study, and informing course and material designers in selecting texts and developing learning activities. ________, given the problems with currently available academic vocabulary lists, there is a need for a new academic word list based on data gathered from a large, well-designed corpus of academic English.

Which is the most appropriate connective to use?

a However

b On the other hand

c Also

d Moreover

Answers

1 D

2 B

3 C

4 D

5 D

6 C

7 A

© Oxford University Press 2011