

Enumerative Nouns

In academic writing, you need to be able to substitute key words and phrases with "general words," also referred to as *enumerative nouns*. This type of word substitution is a very important part of paraphrasing.

This list of enumerative nouns will help you rephrase your own words or another writer's words. (Remember: if you paraphrase another writer, you may need to provide a citation. Make sure that you are aware of your instructors' expectations.)

In the examples below, each enumerative noun is displayed in **bold**. The word or phrase that the enumerative noun substitutes for is displayed in *italics*. These words or phrases may occur before or after the enumerative noun.

Enumerative Nouns	Example of Use
Approach	The WHO noted that the most popular reaction to a plague outbreak was <i>the attempted extermination of all rodents in the area</i> . However, this approach presented some major drawbacks...
Aspect Feature Characteristic	<i>The development of a testable hypothesis</i> is an important part of the scientific method and is a key aspect / feature / characteristic of good science.
Category Class	Most large-scale oil spills occur in marine environments. However, studies on the effects of the more general category / class of <i>freshwater pollutants</i> have been done.
Challenge Problem	If instances of <i>malaria</i> throughout the world are ignored, humanity may face a graver challenge / problem in the future should the disease evolve into a pathogen more ferocious and more difficult to combat.
Change	Following the Asian Financial Crisis, Malaysia <i>transitioned from a fixed currency peg to a managed float</i> . This change led to financial stability and was replicated in other economies.
Circumstance	Odonates are particularly sensitive to dissolved oxygen levels...Therefore, any circumstance which decreases dissolved oxygen has negative consequences for dragonfly and damselfly respiration.
Difficulty	Part of the difficulty in identifying the history of this trend is that <i>the data available for the period before 1965 is much less detailed than those data available afterwards</i> .

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Phase	Virgil takes the evolution of this Platonic concept to its next logical phase by placing more emphasis on his own role as an individual in the tradition.
Process	<i>Atherosclerosis</i> is the process of accumulating fatty substance, cholesterol, cellular waste, calcium and fibrin, on the inner lining of the arteries.
Purpose	The purpose of this experiment was to <i>determine the number of genes involved in each mutant phenotype</i> .
Reason	<i>Malaria is a major cause of economic distress</i> , which is a second reason the US should endeavor to control the disease.
Result	Figure 3-1 demonstrates that <i>small compensation is correlated to higher response in stock price</i> . This result is also consistent with the theory that highly compensated CEOs have less incentive to manage earnings in the event of an earnings announcement.
Stage	In Book VIII of <i>Republic</i> , Plato describes how states begin failing. For Plato, the first stage of deterioration is <i>from aristocracy to timocracy</i> .
Subject	For Suny, Thompson's emphasis on <i>the human element in labor history</i> , rather than obliterating the subject , made history into an "arena in which humans transmute structure into processes."
System	The remarkable success of immigrant Catholics into the middle and upper echelons of American society during the 20th century is sometimes seen as a product of a superior education received in <i>Catholic schools</i> . Ironically, a system once seen by the Protestant elite as defiant of American culture became such a force for Americanization?
Task	...psychiatrists would need to <i>determine if the displayed symptoms were actually severe enough to warrant diagnosis</i> ...This in itself would be a difficult task due to the different variables that may affect an individual.
Tendency	<i>Generalizations made across ethnic minority subgroups</i> can be inaccurate and misleading...There is a similar tendency to make broad generalizations in psychological research with cultural minorities.
Topic	<i>Rosenhan's claim that psychiatric behaviors are affected by environment</i> has been a topic of discussion for many years.
Trend	Table 1 shows that <i>the total value of capital inflows into rich countries exceeds the value of capital flowing into poor countries</i> . This trend has been stronger in recent periods.
Type (of)	Typically, people respond to stress with <i>"fight-or-flight"</i> . Recent studies suggest that this type of response may not be accurate when describing women's reactions to stress.

Sources: The source of this list of enumerative nouns is Eli Hinkel's *Teaching Academic ESL Writing: Practical Techniques in Vocabulary and Grammar*, p. 284. The "Examples of Use" for each enumerative noun are taken from *The Michigan Corpus of Upper Level Student Papers*, available at <http://micusp.elicorpora.info/>. Some examples have been paraphrased or altered for clarity or cohesion. Excerpted from the MICUSP Fair Use Statement: "The corpus files are freely available for study, research and teaching." Compiled by Kelvin Keown, May 2011. S:/TLC/Writing/Handouts/Enumerative Nouns.docx