

Improving Reader-friendliness and Rhetoric

Use this worksheet to practice what is discussed in

- **Information Sheet 18: Improving Reader-friendliness and Rhetoric**

The information sheet on improving reader-friendliness contains four devices for making your texts easier to read:

- 1) Use descriptive verbs
- 2) Be aware of end-focus
- 3) Reduce nouns
- 4) Reduce prepositions.

Task 1: Identifying and Solving the Issue

Below are seven sentences that have an issue related to at least one of the four devices above. Identify the issue and re-write the sentence to improve it. Sometimes more than one issue is present. The first one has been done for you.

	Sentence	Issue
1.	The aim of this paper is to show ... <i>This paper shows ...</i> <u>Or</u> <i>This paper aims to show ...</i>	1 & 3
2.	The thermal expansion coefficients of LSCF have been experimentally studied. Besides those experimental approaches, a careful understanding of the thermal expansion behavior of LSCF from a theoretical perspective is scientifically desirable.	
3.	An investigation into crop types can be performed using satellite remote sensing equipment.	
4.	The analysis of the results from the tests was used to	
5.	There is a link between convective rainfall and cold fronts.	
6.	A quotation is easier to write than a paraphrase.	
7.	Women live with numerical underrepresentation in the parliaments and assemblies in modern democracies	



Possible Answers – your answers might differ

Sentence	Issue	Possible re-write
2	2	<i>Although the thermal expansion coefficients of LSCF have been experimentally studied, the results have not yet been underpinned by a solid theoretical understanding. Providing this understanding be desirable.</i>
3	1 & 3	<i>Crop types can be investigated using satellite remote sensing equipment.</i>
4	4	<i>The analysis of the test results was used to</i>
5	3	<i>Convective rainfall and cold fronts are linked.</i>
6	1	<i>It is easier to quote than to paraphrase. Or, Quoting is easier than paraphrasing.</i>
8	1 & 4	<i>Women are numerically underrepresented in modern democratic parliaments and assemblies.</i>

Task 2: Improving Reader-friendliness

The following text has been rather clumsily written. Can you improve it?

In this report on research into 12 academic papers on economic topics, the results of a textual analysis are shown. Six of the papers, which were written in English by English native speakers, were compared, in the analysis, to six other papers written in English by German native speaker. The results suggest that there are still factors causing problems that might be related to the cultural background of the writers although they are inconclusive. Providing the paper with a structure and presenting this structure to the reader appear to be the relevant factors.

Possible Answer – your answer might differ

This research reports on results from a textual analysis on 12 economic academic papers. Six papers written in English by English native speakers were compared with six papers written in English by German native speakers. Although inconclusive, the results suggest the German speakers might have problems with factors linked to their cultural background. The factors seem to be related to providing a structure for the text and presenting that structure to the reader.

