

Shortening Texts

Use this worksheet to practice what is discussed in

- **Information Sheet 5: Shortening texts.**

Task

The sentences below can all be shortened using the methods 1-10 in the information sheet. How would you shorten them?

Although the headings for each sentence indicate one shortening option, many sentences have multiple options.

1. Use active not passive

Two different methods were used in this research to identify degraded peatlands.

2. Change nouns to verbs

In the past, the focus of contrastive rhetoric was on the identification of cultural differences in writing.

3. Reduce roundabout phrases

If the results are inconsistent, the researcher is able to re-test a third time.

4. Omit unnecessary modifiers

During the time span between 2000 and 2008, the number of jobs as well as the number of internships increased by over a third.

5. Remove empty modifiers and padding

From a theoretical perspective, contrastive rhetoric is a well-established and known concept.

6. Reduce hedging

However, from the SAR interferometry analysis, it appears that not all areas in this research were experiencing land deformation.

7. Remove adverbs and adjectives

Massive and extremely intensive deforestation in west Indonesia reached its highest peak in the 1980s and 1990s and has been occurring until the present day.

Worksheet 5

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8. Replace “of” by genitive “s” or compound noun

The identification of causes is difficult.

9. Remove “that”

The graphs that are shown in Figure 7 reveal a different story.

10. Change phrasal verbs to one-word alternative

This research was partly paid for by funds from the German Research Association.

Possible answers

1. This research used two methods to identify degraded peatlands.
2. Previously, contrastive rhetoric focused on identifying cultural differences in writing.
3. If the results are inconsistent, the researcher can re-test a third time.
4. From 2000 to 2008, the number of both jobs and internships increased by over a third.
5. Contrastive rhetoric is a theoretically well-established concept.
6. However, the SAR interferometry analysis revealed that not all areas were experiencing land deformation.
7. Massive intensive deforestation in west Indonesia peaked in the 1980s and 1990s and is still occurring.
8. Cause identification is difficult.
9. The graphs in Figure 7 reveal a different story.
10. This research was partly funded by the German Research Association.



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