

B2 to C1 Academic Register Transformation Worksheet

A companion resource to the TeflToday Knowledge Base article "From B2 Conversational English to C1 Academic English: Five Grammatical Structures of Academic Register." Educational use. © 2026 TeflToday.org

Part 1 — Transform each sentence into academic register

Rewrite the conversational sentence using the target structure. A model answer is given on the right; cover it while you work.

1. Nominalisation

Conversational	Academic (model answer)
The economy declined sharply.	The sharp decline of the economy...
We analysed the data.	The analysis of the data...
The results are significant.	The significance of the results...
People are aware of the risks.	Public awareness of the risks...
The two groups differed.	The difference between the two groups...

2. Cleft sentences

Conversational	Academic (model answer)
The methodology produced these results.	It was the methodology that produced these results.
The study demonstrated a consistent effect.	What the study demonstrated was that the effect was consistent.
The evidence suggests the policy was effective.	All the evidence suggests that the policy was effective.

3. The impersonal passive

Conversational	Academic (model answer)
I think the results are reliable.	It is argued that the results are reliable.
We collected the data over six months.	The data were collected over six months.
You can see a clear pattern.	A clear pattern can be observed.
I should mention a limitation.	It should be noted that the sample was small.

4. Inversion for emphasis

Conversational	Academic (model answer)
The results not only confirmed the hypothesis, but also revealed a new pattern.	Not only did the results confirm the hypothesis, but they also revealed a new pattern.
A study has rarely demonstrated such a clear effect.	Rarely has a study demonstrated such a clear effect.
The pattern only emerged when the variables were controlled.	Only when the variables were controlled did the pattern emerge.

5. Participle clauses

Conversational	Academic (model answer)
After we analysed the data, we concluded that...	Having analysed the data, the researchers concluded that...
Because the sample was small, treat the results with care.	Given the small sample, the results should be treated with care.
If we base our conclusions on the evidence, we can say that...	Based on the evidence, it can be concluded that...

Part 2 — Register self-assessment checklist

Tick each item as you revise a piece of academic writing.

- Have I nominalised key actions where density is needed?
- Have I used a cleft sentence to emphasise my central claim?
- Have I used the impersonal passive for methods and hedged claims?
- Have I used inversion to give rhetorical force to a key argument?
- Have I opened any sentences with participle clauses for concision?
- Have I avoided dangling participles and over-nominalisation?

Part 3 — Paragraph rewriting task

Conversational version (rewrite this as one academic paragraph, applying at least four of the five structures):

We looked at the data and we found something interesting. The two groups were really different. I think this is important. It only showed up when we controlled the variables. After we checked everything, we decided the policy had worked.

Model answer:

Analysis of the data revealed a notable finding: a clear difference between the two groups. It is argued that this difference is significant. Only when the variables were controlled did the effect emerge. Having examined the evidence, the researchers concluded that the policy had been effective.