**Activity- Verbs**

**Using verbs of reference**

Referring verbs are used to summarise another writer’s ideas:

*Previn* **argued** *that global warming was mainly caused by the solar cycle.*

*Bakewell (1992)* **found** *that most managers tended to use traditional terms . . .*

They may also be used to introduce a quotation.

*. . . as Scott* **observed:** *‘Comment is free but facts are sacred’.*

**Common referring verbs**

Most of these verbs are followed by a noun clause beginning with ‘that’.

**(a) The following mean that the writer is presenting a case:**

argue / claim / consider / hypothesize / suggest / believe / think / state / propose

Melville (1997) **suggested** that eating raw eggs could be harmful.

**(b) A second group describe a reaction to a previously stated position**:

accept / admit / agree / deny /doubt

Handlesmith **doubts** Melville’s suggestion that eating raw eggs. . .

**(c) Others include:**

Assume/ conclude /discover /explain / imply/ indicate /maintain

presume / reveal / show

Patel (2003) **assumes** that inflation will remain low.

**Practice A**

Fill in the blanks of the following statements to match what the writers said (more than one verb may be suitable). Use the past tense.

*Example:*

*Z: ‘My research shows that biofuels are environmentally*

*neutral’.*

*Z* **claimed/ argued** *that biofuels were environmentally neutral.*

1. A: ‘I may have made a mistake in my calculations on energy loss’.

A ………… that he made a mistake in his calculations on energy loss

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(b) B: ‘I did not say that women make better doctors than men’.

B………….. that he said women make better doctors than men

1. C: ‘Small firms are more dynamic than large ones’.

C …………… that small firms are more dynamic than large ones

(d) D: ‘I support C’s views on small firms’.

D ……………. C’s views on small firms

(e) E: ‘I’m not sure, but most people probably work to earn money’.

E ……… that most people work to earn money

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9(f) F: ‘After much research, I’ve found that allergies are becoming more common’.

F …………….that after much research he found allergies becoming

more common

(g) G: ‘I think it unlikely that electric cars will replace conventional ones’.

G ……………. that electric cars will replace conventional ones

(h) H: ‘Somebody should investigate the reasons for the increase in winter storms’.

H …………. that somebody should investigate the reasons for the increase in

winter storms’

1. X: ‘There may be a link between crime and sunspot activity’.
2. X ……………….. that there may be a link between crime and sunspot activity’.

**4 Further referring verbs**

A small group of verbs is followed by the pattern

**(somebody/ thing + for + noun/ gerund):**

*Lee (1998***) blamed** *the media for creating uncertainty.*

*Blame censure commend condemn criticize*

NB. All except ‘commend’ have a negative meaning.

Another group is followed by **(somebody/ thing + as + noun/ gerund):**

*Terry* **interprets** *rising oil prices as a result of the Asian recovery.*

*assess characterize classify define describe*

*evaluate identify interpret portray present*

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**Practice B**

Fill in the blanks to complete the following statements using verbs from the lists in (4).

Example: K: ‘Guttman’s work is responsible for many of the current

social problems.’

K **blamed** Guttman’s work for many of the current social problems.

1. L: ‘She was very careless about her research methods’.
2. L …………….. her for her careless research methods
3. M: ‘There are four main types of children in care’.
4. M …………… children into four main types

(c) N: ‘That company has an excellent record for workplace safety’.

N ………….. the company for the excellent record for workplace safety.

7 (d) O: ‘The noises whales make must be expressions of happiness’.

Whales are ………….. by the expressions of happiness they make/demonstrate