epax study skills online

Change the vocabulary of these sentences to make them more formal, and remember, there might be several possible answers.

A **<u>Six</u> of the sentences below sound too strong because they are opinions rather than facts. Soften these six sentences by adding less definite verbs.**
e.g. Smoking <u>kills</u> people.   Smoking <u>can kill</u> people.

1. Learning a language makes students more open-minded.
2. Learning a language takes time.
3. The Internet will replace books.
4. The Internet is global.
5. Qualifications are useful in finding a well-paid job.
6. Qualifications result in a well-paid job.
7. Water boils at 100°C at sea level.
8. Democracy is not the best political system.
9. The Euro will collapse next year.
10. Doing regular exercise leads to a long life.

B **Add adverbs to make these sentences more precise. Where you see (+), make the sentence stronger; where you see (-), make the sentence weaker.**
e.g. Smoking kills people. (+)   Smoking <u>definitely</u> kills people.

1. Learning a language makes students more open-minded. (-)
2. Learning a language takes time. (+)
3. Qualifications are useful. (+)
4. Qualifications are useful. (-)
5. Democracy is not the best political system. (-)
6. The evidence was weak. (+)
7. The unemployment rate rose. (-)
8. The unemployment rate rose. (+)
9. The tutor was on time. (-)
10. Cheating is wrong. (+)

C Match the 2/3 words to the 1 word version.

1.	Find out	A	Rise
2.	Turn down (e.g. an offer)	B	Investigate/Discover
3.	Put up with	C	Follow
4.	Talk about	D	Discuss/Analyse
5.	Stick to (e.g. rules)	E	Eliminate
6.	Set up	F	Reject
7.	Put off	G	Tolerate
8.	Get rid of	H	Establish
9.	Cut down	I	Delay
10.	Go up	J	Reduce

D Circle the more formal words.

1. They had loads of/a great deal of work to finish.
2. It was extremely/really difficult.
3. The college was big/large.
4. They got/achieved high marks in the test.
5. Her manager/boss was helpful.
6. It was slightly/a bit worrying.
7. They raised a number of issues/things.
8. The room was massive/spacious.
9. The results were great/impressive.
10. They collected materials/stuff for the experiment.

E Change the underlined emotive or visual words to more neutral ones.

1. Her essay is <u>fantastic</u>.
2. The recession has been <u>awful</u>.
3. The invention was <u>unbelievable</u>.
4. It was a <u>cheap</u> solution. (Hint - maybe use a negative/positive pattern.)
5. His results were <u>wrong</u>. (Hint - maybe use a negative/positive pattern, plus adverb to soften it.)
6. The lesson was <u>boring</u>. (Hint - maybe use a negative/positive pattern, plus adverb to soften it.)
7. He was a <u>liar</u>. (Hint - maybe use a negative/positive pattern, maybe switch to a noun.)

8. They <u>kept an eye on</u> her progress. (Hint - use a less visual, one word version.)

9. The essay structure <u>was all over the place</u>. (Hint - use a less visual, one word version.)

10. Her <u>heart was in the right place</u>. (Hint - use a less visual, one word version, i.e. start with 'She was..' and use an adjective.)

F Match the abstract words on the left with specific examples on the right.

1.	Clothing	A	Foxes, badgers, deer
2.	Wildlife	B	Towns, cities, lakes, rivers, mountains
3.	Technology	C	Rain, snow, sun
4.	Housing	D	Buses, trains, planes
5.	Transport	E	Trousers, skirts, coats
6.	Climate	F	Laws, bylaws
7.	Education	G	Working, playing, swearing
8.	Legislation	H	Computers, mobiles, MP3s
9.	Behaviour	I	Houses, bungalows, flats
10.	Environment	J	Schools, colleges, universities

G Change the abbreviations to the full form.

1. This <u>won't</u> be a problem.
2. It <u>can't</u> be changed.
3. <u>There'll</u> be many opportunities.
4. <u>It's</u> solid proof.
5. <u>It's</u> been the situation for some time.
6. <u>He'd</u> passed the course.
7. <u>He'd</u> be a doctor if he could choose.
8. <u>They'll</u> make several changes, <u>e.g.</u> increasing prices and lowering charges.
9. Increasing prices, lowering charges <u>etc</u> will hopefully solve the problem.
10. She applied to work in the home of the film industry, <u>i.e.</u> Hollywood.

Answers

A

1. Learning a language **can/might/may/could/would appear** to make students more open-minded.
3. The Internet **can/might/may/could** replace books.
6. Qualifications **can/might/may/could** result in a well-paid job.
8. Democracy **might not/may not** be the best political system.
9. The Euro **might/may/could** collapse next year.
10. Doing regular exercise **can/might/may/could/would appear to** lead to a long life.

B

1. Learning a language **possibly/probably** makes students more open-minded.
2. Learning a language **definitely/always** takes time.
3. Qualifications are **definitely/always** useful.
4. Qualifications are **possibly/probably/sometimes/rarely** useful.
5. Democracy is **possibly not/probably not/sometimes not/rarely** the best political system.
6. The evidence was **definitely** weak.
7. The unemployment rate rose **slightly/gradually**.
8. The unemployment rate rose **sharply/dramatically**.
9. The tutor was **sometimes/rarely** on time.
10. Cheating is **definitely/always** wrong.

C

1.	Find out	B	Investigate/Discover
2.	Turn down (e.g. an offer)	F	Reject
3.	Put up with	G	Tolerate
4.	Talk about	D	Discuss/Analyse
5.	Stick to (e.g. rules)	C	Follow
6.	Set up	H	Establish
7.	Put off	I	Delay
8.	Get rid of	E	Eliminate
9.	Cut down	J	Reduce
10.	Go up	A	Rise

D

1. They had **a great deal of** work to finish.
2. It was **extremely** difficult.
3. The college was **large**.
4. They **achieved** high marks in the test.
5. Her **manager** was helpful.
6. It was **slightly** worrying.
7. They raised a number of **issues**.

Answers contd.

8. The room was **spacious**.
9. The results were **impressive**.
10. They collected **materials** for the experiment.

E

1. Her essay is **well written/impressive/first class/excellent**.
2. The recession has been **damaging/harmful**.
3. The invention was **remarkable/impressive**.
4. It was an **inexpensive** solution.
5. His results were **possibly incorrect/mistaken/flawed/questionable/lacked rigour**.
6. The lesson was **not very motivating/interesting/lacked interest**.
7. He was **dishonest/lacked honesty**.
8. They **monitored** her progress.
9. The essay structure was **disorganised**.
10. She was **compassionate/caring**.

F

1.	Clothing	E	Trousers, skirts, coats
2.	Wildlife	A	Foxes, badgers, deer
3.	Technology	H	Computers, mobiles, MP3s
4.	Housing	I	Houses, bungalows, flats
5.	Transport	D	Buses, trains, planes
6.	Climate	C	Rain, snow, sun
7.	Education	J	Schools, colleges, universities
8.	Legislation	F	Laws, bylaws
9.	Behaviour	G	Working, playing, swearing
10.	Environment	B	Towns, cities, lakes, rivers, mountains

G

1. This **will not** be a problem.
2. It **cannot** be changed.
3. **There will** be many opportunities.
4. **It is** solid proof.
5. **It has** been the situation for some time.
6. **He had** passed the course.
7. **He would** be a doctor if he could choose.
8. **They will** make several changes, **for example** increasing prices and lowering charges.
9. Increasing prices, lowering charges **and so on** will hopefully solve the problem.
10. She applied to work in the home of the film industry, **namely/meaning** Hollywood.