Exercises: Key verbs

1. Match each verb from column A with its synonym from column B.

Affect	Compute
Attempt	Distinguish
Calculate	Give
Challenge	Influence
Demonstrate	Involve
Identify	Question
Include	Show
Investigate	Study
Provide	try

2. Choose the best verb from the list to complete these sentences. Put the verb into the correct form.

classify	to be seen	attempt
establish	present	explain
account for	show	explore
emphasise	describe	affect
effect	develop	

a. As can _____ from Table II, participation figures have been steadily falling since 1970.

b. Different authors have _____ for the President's actions in different ways.

c. Mendel attempted to devise a system for _____ the many different type of pea plant that he grew.

d. It is often most effective _____ your data in a chart or table.

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e. The data we have collected _____ that there has been a downward trend with regard to job satisfaction over the last 50 years.

f. The aim of the research is _____ a new software application which will help aviation engineers design more sophisticated aircraft.

g. The archeologists should be able to use carbon dating techniques _____ exactly how old the bones are.

h. Charles Darwin attempted _____ the existence of different species in terms of evolution.

3. Explain the difference between the sentences in each pair:

1. Greig's article supports Park's theory.	Greig's article challenges Park's theory.
2. Describe the new tax regulations.	Discuss the new tax regulations.
3. Lodhi provides new data.	Lodhi considers new data.
4. Titova conducted four sets of experiments.	Titova examined four sets of experiments.
5. Lee established why such changes occur.	Lee investigated why such changes occur.
6. Okaz assumed that the data were reliable.	Okaz proved that the data were reliable.
7. Illustrate the magnitude of the deceleration	Find the magnitude of the deceleration.
8. . The events effected economic development.	The events affected economic development.

4. Rewrite each sentence using the word in brackets and make any necessary changes to other words.

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a. Erikson's theory explains the fluctuations in the figures for this period. (PROVIDES)

b. Bevan explored the relationship between family background and political ambition. (EXPLORATION)

c. The book describes the life and times of Abraham Lincoln. (DESCRIPTION)

d. Cheng's theory emphasizes the importance of extensive reading in language acquisition. (PUTS)

5. In academic style, noun phrases can often be used instead of some key verbs. Complete each phrase with the appropriate noun. Use a dictionary if necessary.

   a. Investigate = conduct , carry out an _____ into/of

   b. Illustrate = provide an _____ of

   c. Analyse = provide, carry out an _____ of

   d. Affect = have an _____ on

   e. Attempt = make an _____to/at

   f. Classify = make, provide a _____ of

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