A result that resists a headline

CEFR C2 | Unit 5: Interpretation | Reading

Read the original text. You may underline evidence and reread as needed.

Name _____ Date _____

FICTIONAL RESEARCH EXTRACT

A small observational study compares completion of an online form before and after its wording is simplified. Completion rises from 62 to 71 percent among recorded visits. The authors note that device type and recruitment channel also changed between periods. After adjusting for recorded device type, the estimated difference becomes smaller, although the direction remains positive. The study cannot adjust for unrecorded differences in why visitors arrived.

PUBLIC DRAFT

"Clearer words make nine percent more people complete forms."

The draft compresses several distinct claims. The observed change is nine percentage points, not a nine-percent relative increase. The study concerns recorded visits, which may include repeat visitors, rather than a verified count of people. Its observational design does not isolate wording as the cause. None of these qualifications makes the finding worthless; together, they define what the finding can responsibly support.

An explanation for a non-specialist could describe the two completion proportions and say that the increase coincided with simplified wording and other changes. It should explain adjustment as an attempt to account for a recorded difference, not as a procedure that removes every possible bias.

The authors recommend a follow-up that keeps recruitment conditions more consistent and checks whether users understand the form as well as finish it. A subject specialist would need to check any technical translation. The language task is to preserve the study's limits while making its reasoning accessible, including the distinction between a useful observation and an established causal explanation.

Original Ilmiya practice text. Scenarios and research examples are fictional.