

Referencing Verbs

In the column on the left below is a list of common reporting verbs. Match them with the meanings on the right.

argue	a. To draw someone's attention to a fact or mistake
mention	b. To refer briefly to something or somebody, in spoken or written text
conclude	c. To say that something is true or correct and give reasons for this
point out	d. To offer a plausible explanation for something
suggest	e. To decide that something is true using the facts you have as a basis

Now match the next group of verbs to their meanings.

claim	a. To hold certain views or opinions strongly even if other people disagree
show	b. To say that something is true or correct without firm evidence to support
maintain	c. To discover or notice the existence of something
state	d. To give people information about something which is clear and convincing to other people
identify	e. To write or say something in a formal and certain way

Three of the words above are given with each of the quotations below. Choose one of the three to paraphrase or report the quotation. Where more than one choice is possible, decide on the best.

Example: 'Studying in an English speaking country seems to be one of the best methods of improving your English language (Farrelly, 1989: 43)

- i. lists ii. suggests iii. identifies

Answer: Farrelly (1989) suggests that studying in an English speaking country seems to be one of the best methods of improving your English language.

- a. 'There are three reasons why the English language has become so dominant. These are: ...'
(Maynard, 2009: 137)
- i. mentions ii. lists iii. Claims
- b. 'Despite some recent evidence to the contrary, I still believe that many heart attacks could be avoided with very limited changes in exercises and eating habits' (Mawali, 1999: 23)
- i. maintains ii. argues iii. concludes
- c. 'Poor food, bad housing, inadequate hygiene and large families are the major cause of infant mortality' (Popper and Friedman, 1991: 77)
- i. mention ii point out iii. identify
- d. It is worth noting that gardening has always been an effective therapy for those with depressive tendencies' (Armani, 1999: 72).
- i. maintains ii. concludes iii. points out
- e. 'When the mother tongue is banned from the classroom, the teaching tends to lead to the alienation of the students. This is because....' (Sargnagel, 2002: 20).
- i. suggests ii. argues iii. identifies
- f. 'Curative medicine has ensured great health improvements in developed countries. Nevertheless, preventative medicine is far more cost effective, and therefore better adapted to the developing world' (Carrow et al., 2000: 32)
- i. list ii maintain iii. conclude
- g. 'As a comparison, let me briefly refer to the great Persian poet, Rumi. In the Ma'navi...'
(Carter, 2012: 99).
- i. mentions ii. identifies iii. argues
- h. 'By analysing the colour of the eye, a range of illnesses can be diagnosed and treated' (Bastien, 1998: 67)
- i. suggests ii. lists iii. claims

Answers

- a. 'There are three reasons why the English language has become so dominant. These are: ...'
(Maynard, 2009: 137)
ii. mentions ii. **lists** iii. Claims
- b. 'Despite some recent evidence to the contrary, I still believe that many heart attacks could be avoided with very limited changes in exercises and eating habits' (Mawali, 1999: 23)
ii. **maintains** ii. argues iii. concludes
- c. 'Poor food, bad housing, inadequate hygiene and large families are the major cause of infant mortality' (Popper and Friedman, 1991: 77)
ii. mention ii. point out iii. **identify**
- d. It is worth noting that gardening has always been an effective therapy for those with depressive tendencies' (Armani, 1999: 72).
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- e. 'When the mother tongue is banned from the classroom, the teaching tends to lead to the alienation of the students. This is because....' (Sargnagel, 2002: 20).
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- f. 'Curative medicine has ensured great health improvements in developed countries. Nevertheless, preventative medicine is far more cost effective, and therefore better adapted to the developing world' (Carrow et al., 2000: 32)
ii. list ii. maintain iii. **conclude**
- g. 'As a comparison, let me briefly refer to the great Persian poet, Rumi. In the Ma'navi...' (Carter, 2012: 99).
j. **mentions** ii. identifies iii. argues
- h. 'By analysing the colour of the eye, a range of illnesses can be diagnosed and treated' (Bastien, 1998: 67)
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