

## Language for discussing results

### Comparing results with literature (similarities)

This study **confirms** that/the results of

This finding/result is **consistent/in line/in agreement with** that of

... **broadly/further supports** the results obtained by

These results **reflect/match** those of

This study **corroborates** the results/findings

**Similarly to** the study/research conducted by

There are **some/certain/important similarities** between

**Likewise**, this study also shows/demonstrates/confirms

This study **gives further support to** the idea/theory/hypothesis that

### Comparing results with literature (differences)

**Contrary/In contrast to** earlier findings/the results obtained by,

These results **differ** significantly/slightly/somewhat **from** those by

This **challenges** the idea that/validity of/assumptions

These results **put into question** the notion/idea that/the validity of

Our findings are **quite/somewhat/significantly different from** those

One **important/major/notable difference** between

**However/Nevertheless/On the other hand**, this study shows that

... were higher/lower **compared/in comparison with** Smith's findings.

... were **not confirmed by** this study.

This was **not shown/observed/demonstrated** in our study.

## Explaining the difference between your results and previous studies

This inconsistency may/could/might have been **caused by** and error in

...might/may/could have **affected/had an impact on** the observed level of

...might /may/could have **resulted in/led to/caused** these discrepancies.

One possible/likely/potential **reason for this discrepancy** is/could be...

**The observed difference** might have been caused by...

This difference is **likely/possibly/potentially due to**...

The **difference/discrepancy between our results and those of** previous studies could...

A probable/likely/potential **cause of** these discrepancies is...

## Explaining your results

Another/One/A possible/likely/plausible **explanation for** this result might be

These findings might/may/could **be explained by** (the fact that)

This might/may/could **be due to** (the fact that)

... might/may/could **be attributed to** (the fact that)

This might/may/could **explain why/the**

**It is likely/possible/probable that** these findings

The findings **are likely to be** due/related to

These results could **be explained** several ways.

## Interpreting your results

These findings **suggest/imply/indicate** that...

This **might mean** that...

These results could **be interpreted in** several ways.

## Being cautious when explaining and interpreting the findings

Below you can see the list of some of the most common expression for being cautious. The table is followed by example sentences:

Adverbs and adjectives	Verbs	Modal verbs
Some (patients)	Suggest that	Might
One (explanation)	Indicate that	May
Sometimes/often/frequently	Seem to	Can
It is <b>possible/likely/probable that</b>	Tend to	Could
X is <b>likely to</b>	Appear to	
Virtually/practically (all)		
Potentially/possibly (harmful)		

**One possible/likely/plausible** explanation for this result **might** be

These findings **might/may/could** be explained by (the fact that)

**It is likely/possible/probable that** these findings

The findings **are likely to be** due/related to