Results Section – Presenting Data, Charts, and Statistics

Course: English for Research and Thesis Writing (UEF 2.1) **Target:** 1st Year Master's Students (Economics & Management)

1. The Purpose of the Results Section

The Results section presents the findings of your study without interpretation. In the IMRAD structure, this is where you show **what** you found (the Discussion section will later explain *why* it matters).

Key Writing Principles:

- **Objectivity:** Report the data exactly as they are.
- **Clarity:** Use tables and figures to summarize complex data.
- **Tense:** Use the **Past Tense** to describe what was found (e.g., "The average score was...").
- **Tense:** Use the **Present Tense** to refer to a table or figure (e.g., "Table 1 shows...").

2. Referring to Visual Aids (Tables & Figures)

Never just insert a chart; you must always introduce it in the text first.

Phrase Type	Academic Examples
Direct Reference	"As shown in **Table 1**, the inflation rate increased by..."
Indirect Reference	"The data indicate a sharp decline in sales **(see Figure 2)**."
Descriptive	"**Figure 3 illustrates** the correlation between X and Y."
Summarizing	"**Table 4 summarizes** the demographic characteristics of the sample."

3. Describing Trends and Changes

In Economics and Management, you often describe how numbers move over time.

Verbs for Movement:

- **Upward:** *Increase, Rise, Grow, Peak, Surge.*
- **Downward:** *Decrease, Decline, Fall, Drop, Plummet.*
- **Stability:** *Remain steady, Stabilize, Plateau.*

Adverbs for Degree of Change:

- **Small change:** *Slightly, Gradually, Marginally.*
- **Big change:** *Significantly, Sharply, Dramatically, Considerably.*

Example: "The company's revenue **increased significantly** between 2020 and 2022."

4. Reporting Statistical Findings

When reporting results from software like SPSS or Excel, use precise academic phrasing.
- **Significance:** "The results show a **statistically significant difference** between the two groups ($p < 0.05$)."
- **Correlation:** "A strong **positive correlation** was found between training and performance ($r = 0.85$)."
- **Proportions:** "The **majority** of respondents (65%) expressed satisfaction with the service."
- **Comparison:** "Group A performed **markedly better** than Group B under the new conditions."

5. Practical Exercise: Describing a Chart

Scenario: You have a bar chart showing that 80% of Algerian consumers prefer mobile payments over cash in 2024, compared to only 30% in 2020.
Task: Write two sentences describing this result using the vocabulary from Section 3 and 4.
Model Answer: > "As illustrated in **Figure 1**, there has been a **dramatic increase** in the preference for mobile payments in Algeria. Specifically, the percentage of consumers using mobile options **rose sharply** from 30% in 2020 to 80% in 2024."

6. Self-Check: Results Section Dos and Don'ts

- **DO** use the past tense for your findings.
- **DO** point the reader toward your tables/figures.
- **DO** highlight the most important numbers (don't list every single number).
- **DON'T** interpret the results yet (avoid words like "surprisingly" or "this means that...").
- **DON'T** repeat the same data in a table AND a chart; choose the best visual.