

Parts of a Study: Key Vocabulary

Key Term	Translation	Description
Background		A description of previous research on the same topic as the study
Aim		The research question which the psychologist intends to investigate. E.g. To find out the effect of gender on mathematical ability
Hypothesis		A prediction about what will happen in the study
Method		The type of study – it could be an experiment, observation, case study, self-report (questionnaire or interview) or a correlation
Sample		Participants
Procedure		A step by step description of how the study has been carried out (this includes how participants were recruited)
Results		The information found out by the study. If this is numerical (quantitative), it is often shown in a graph Findings may be included which describe trends and comparisons in past tense.
Conclusion		An analysis of what has been found out in relation to the aim of the study. Conclusions are written in present tense. Conclusions should include a suggestion about why the findings turned out the way they did.
Evaluation		An analysis of the strengths and weaknesses of the way the study was carried out. This analysis is likely to involve comments on how true to life and how ethical the study was.