
 A might write...	 An would write...
very big	huge, extremely large, major
little	small, minor
very small	minor, barely significant, hardly noticeable, tiny
I can see that...	It can be observed that.../it is clear that....
it's a/it'll be a good thing	This is bound to be/may well be a positive development
was/were good	was/were impressive/beneficial/favourable
eat/drink	consume
things are not good	the situation is unfortunate
nearly all people	the vast majority
just a few	only a minority
is pretty much the same	virtually identical to...
is quite like	is broadly similar to...
every place	everywhere/ubiquitous
all over the place	widespread
every place in the world	worldwide/globally

Sample paragraphs contrasting some of these expressions



Informal

In the picture is numbers of drinkers of coffee in 1970-2010. Coffee drinking went up fast at the time in the table and was at its biggest in 2010. Australia was big coffee drinking country. Situation in America was pretty much the same. I can see that in future a big increase is gonna happen. It'll be a good thing for coffee makers.



Formal

The graph shows data for coffee consumption from 1970 to 2010. Consumption rose rapidly during the period shown, and peaked in 2010. Australia was a major consumer of coffee. The situation was virtually identical in America. It is clear that in future significant growth is highly likely, which will be a positive development for coffee manufacturers.