

Editing the thesis



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Singular or plural?

- Axis
- Crises
- Criterion
- Nuclei
- Phenomenon
- Stimuli
- Stratum
- Matrix

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Consistency in singular/plural

• Axis	Axes
• Crisis	Crises
• Criterion	Criteria
• Nucleus	Nuclei
• Phenomenon	Phenomena
• Stimulus	Stimuli
• Stratum	Strata
• Matrix	Matrices

The data are / show / indicate – data as a group of different factors

The data is / shows / indicates – data as a whole unit (datum).

NB: foreign words ending in 'a' typically refer to plural forms, so require a verb that is plural. Es/i/

(Venolia, 1995)

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Consistency in spelling

American or British?

- Labour
Centre
Fiber
Organize
Realise
Dialog
Analogue
Traveler
Anesthesia
Programme

(Venolia, 1995)



Consistency in spelling

American	British
Labor	Labour
Center	Centre
Fiber	Fibre
Organize	Organise
Realize	Realise
Dialog	Dialogue
Analog	Analogue
Traveler	Traveller
Anesthesia	Anaesthesia
Program	Programme

Note:
American shortened version/as sounds
Use of z rather than s
Which ever you use be consistent

(Venolia, 1995)

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Common misspellings

- Accomodate Accommodate
- Definitely Definately
- Occurrence Occurence
- Independent Independant
- Questionnaire Questionaire
- Recommend Reccommend
- Compulsary Compulsory
- Catagories Categories



Commonly confused words

Clients were given good advise/advice about the procedure
This population has been effected/affected by droughts
The knock on effect/affect was a drop in house prices
Fish oil provides an alternate/alternative source of essential minerals
Participants took the medication on alternate/alternative days
Three discreet/discrete measurements were recorded
The interviewer was very discreet/discrete in addressing these difficult issues
Oatmeal serves as a complement/compliment to the babyfood
Following the group therapy session we observed an increased number of complements/compliments

TASK 1

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Subject-verb agreement

- Understanding of these concepts has/have been difficult
- Writing a report and submitting it is/are important
- The introduction and conclusion of the thesis has/have been corrected
 - Need to identify
 - Subject

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Subject-verb agreement

- Every infant, toddler and child is/are tested
- One in four participants has/have a score of ..
- Neither of the responses is/are correct
- The student's combined scores, excluding errors, is/are 126
- Cromewell & Sales specialise/s in ..

Need to identify Number
Two subjects joined by and = plural
unless preceded by each/every
company names

(Venolia, 1995)



Collective nouns

- Majority/percent/group/family-take either singular or plural
- The majority is/are Latin American
- A 52% majority is/are considered sufficient
- The group is/are finishing the task
- A group of students is/are waiting in the foyer
- A number of indicators suggest (s)
- The number of users has/have dropped

(Venolia, 1995)



Subject-pronoun agreement

- Each participant put their details on the form
- The third group nominated their leader
- Not one of the respondents mentioned their family background
- Five of the participants mentioned his or her experience of ...

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Parallel constructions

- In Britain, Spain and USA the majority of people use the
- This study aimed to find out people's views on euthanasia, measure their responses to the scenarios and collecting background information
- The use of mixed methods allows richness of data, control over questions and more robust
- There were many advantages of this approach, such as being easy to use, highly dependable, kept the questions relevant, downloaded quickly, and the responses very informative
- We collected 200 responses, grouped them and an analysis of themes carried out
- Participants were contacted, interviews were carried out and we did a follow up evaluation

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Anthropomorphism

(attributing human actions to inanimate objects)

- **This article argues**
 - Smith (1999) argues
 - This article reports
- **The report tests**
 - The report identifies / highlights
- **The results found**
 - The results showed / demonstrated
- **The research concludes**
 - The research findings lead to the conclusion
 - The researchers conclude

The framework points out (highlights/illustrates)

*Mining alerts people to the finite resources we have ..
Carbon footprinting tax divides people in their beliefs for ...*

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Verbs for referring to sources

Pattern 1: reporting verb + **that** + subject + verb

acknowledge	admit	agree	allege	argue
assert	assume	believe	claim	conclude
consider	decide	demonstrate	deny	determine
discover	doubt	emphasise	explain	find
hypothesise	imply	indicate	infer	note
object	observe	point out	prove	reveal
say	show	state	suggest	think

1. Da Souza **argues that** previous researchers have misinterpreted the data.

2. Researchers **have demonstrated that** the procedure is harmful.

3. Smith admits that aggregating the data limits the possible variations

(Smollet, Proctor & Plotnick, 2004)

Pattern 1: reporting verb + **that** + subject + verb

Common errors

Incorrect:

The researchers **expressed** that...

Correct:

must be followed by a

The researchers **expressed** ~~the~~ view that

Incorrect:

Jones **discussed** that...

Correct:

must be followed by a

noun

Jones **discussed** the use of ...

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Some Useful Resources

American Psychological Association. (2001). *Publication manual of the American Psychological Association* (5th ed.). Washington, DC: Author.

Becker, H.S., & P. Richards. (1986). *Writing for social scientists. How to start and finish your thesis, book or article.* Chicago: Chicago University Press.

Day, R.A. (1998). *How to write and publish a scientific paper* (5th ed.). Phoenix, AZ: The Oryx Press.

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Rountree, K. (1996). *Writing by degrees. A practical guide to writing theses and research papers.* Auckland: Longman.

Swales, J. & Feak, C. (1994). *Academic writing for graduate students: essential tasks and skills.* University of Michigan Press

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