

Editing the thesis



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Good presentation



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Most common mistakes (Cargill & O'Connor, 2009)

Incorrect use of

- **Prepositions**
Composed by, in contrast to, consistent with, equivalent to
- **Part of speech**
Drought resistance varieties
- **Articles**
In the animals, in inner cortex, bacteria are released into cell cytosol
- **Modal verbs**
In the second study under glass house conditions we could find a significant difference between the two seed types
- **Singular/plural**
Each of the samples were treated with the same dose of antibiotics
- **Over complex/inaccurate grammatical structures**
This may be due to lower pH hinders dissolution of soil organic matter and decreases total Cu concentration
- **Tense**
Since the start of the dotcom era a great deal of research is conducted

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10 things to watch out for

Writing correctly, clearly, concisely and comprehensively

- Subject-verb agreement
- Subject-pronoun agreement
- Ambiguous sentences
- Contrasts
- Parallel constructs
- Clauses
- Tense
- Developing the point
- Good paragraphs
- Flabby writing

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Subject-verb agreement

- Understanding of these concepts **has/have** been difficult
- The introduction and conclusion of the thesis **has/have** been corrected
- The analysis of the results **reveal/s** a significant difference between the groups.
The participants who enter the study **receive/s** questionnaires.
- The percentage of correct responses as well as the speed of the responses significantly **increase/s** with practice.
- A small number of male participants **was/were** included
- The small number of responses **was/were** surprising
- A total of 1000 responses **was/were** required
- Half of the participants **was/were** allocated to the control condition
- Every infant, toddler and child **is/are** tested
- One in four participants **has/have** a score of ..
- Neither of the responses **is/are** correct

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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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Ambiguities

- Although bacteria infected the host, it was not lethal
- A high number of responses came in a short time frame, which is encouraging
- If you put this sheet in your notebook you can refer to it
<http://owl.english.purdue.edu/>
- The child's mind unfolds just like his body as a result of developmental processes
- Most researchers rely on subnormal intelligence as the key definitional feature of mental retardation
(Walters, 1999, p46)
- The percentage scores were low and ranged from 15 to 30. This is slightly higher than the lowest overall scores recorded
- "The National Institute of Nutrition has issued warnings about excessive sugar consumption. Disappointingly, it has not been given much attention in the press."

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Contrasts

- The asteroid belt is approximately 1000 times farther from the sun than the earth and moon
- *The asteroid belt is approximately 1000 times farther from the sun than the earth is from the moon*
- Treatment with Compound A generated more muscle growth than Compound B
- *Treatment with Compound A generated more muscle growth than treatment with Compound B*
- The growth rate of *Mycobacterium smegmatis* is faster than *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*
- *The growth rate of Mycobacterium smegmatis is faster than that of Mycobacterium tuberculosis*
- The bond length of dioxygen is similar to carbon monoxide
- *The bond length of dioxygen is similar to that of carbon monoxide*
<https://expertedge.journalexperts.com/2012/07/24/editing-tip-of-the-week-avoiding-vague-problems/>
- <http://www.phrasebank.manchester.ac.uk/comparing.htm>

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Parallel constructs

- Farm X has a herd size of 400, produces 9,000 kg cem/cow and a forage area of 500 ha.
- Participants were contacted, interviews were carried out and we did a follow up evaluation
- In Britain, Spain and USA the majority of people use the
- The purpose of this study was to explore people's views on euthanasia, home care and demographic information
- Participants were contacted by phone, e-mail, SMS and person
- We observed an increased uptake of iodine, a stabilizing of nitrogen emissions, a growth of new roots and shoots developing
- We observed an increased uptake of CO₂, NO₂, water and shoot length
- Participants reported that they found the task difficult, had difficulty understanding the instructions and the room was poorly ventilated

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Defining and non-defining clauses

- Royal jelly is the highly nutritive substance **that** is produced by the queen bee
- The meeting room is a place **where** clients can go and reflect on their experiences
- The architects **that** came up with the initials plans deny responsibility
- At least 5 people **who** registered did not respond
- This was followed by a meta analysis **that/which** was more complex
- Foraging birds, **which** are predominantly Australasian in origin, tend to survive better in ...
- Foraging birds **that** are Australasian in origin tend to survive ...
- The students **whose** results were above average were contacted
- The project, the outcome of which was only partially successful, had its funding cut
(Swan, 2002)

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Defining and non-defining clauses

- **Referring to whole of a previous clause**
- The findings were not significant, **which** is surprising
- The number of cases of obesity has doubled in the last 5 years, **which** is alarming
- **Non identifying-quantifying**
- Five trucks filled with refugees, **some of whom** were very ill
- Five trials were conducted, **none of which** were positive
- Seven countries, **all of which** have GDP's of less than ...

(Swan, 2002)

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Tense

- **Method**
- In order to examine the position of connectors, **we examined** the occurrence of ...The sample **consisted of** all items appearing in the third issue of the 1992 volumes of...The sample amounted to about ..**We included** items like... Each occurrence **was identified and then coded**. Table 2 illustrates the coding system.
- The standard AOAC methods (AOAC, 1975) **were used** for the determination of total solids, nitrogen...Total sugars **were determined** by the method of Potter et al. (1968), and the total carbohydrates **were assayed** according toThe method of Kohler (1967) **was followed** for determining amino acid composition
(Swales & Feak, 1994)

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Tense

Results

- A total of 400 X **were found**, averaging ... **This large number is somewhat surprising**. **Eleven out of 12 used connectors with frequency**, with totals ranging from 20-30. The one exception **was** **This may be due to its heavy use of** **Seventy examples of X were found**. Those that occurred four times or more **are listed** in Table 1. In **Table 2** all connectors **are categorized**.

(Swales & Feak, 1994)

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Tense

Introduction

Many commentators **have noted that**...are an important and useful element in **Researchers have frequently reported** on **Some attention has also been given to** ... **Green (2000) observes** that **The only attempt to explain the different positions in terms of X.. is** in Salo's (2001) paper. He **measured** the frequency of **but his study only deals with**... **None of the studies provides** descriptive evidence of the actual **In the present paper, we report on** a preliminary study of ...

(Swales & Feak, 1994)

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Tense

Discussion

The objective of this study **was to** ...

This study **brings** together

The interrelationship of bird and worm populations **is** very complex

Compare

As can be seen in Table 1 **78%** of students **performed** above average

The results indicate that *the students performed* above average

The analysis **has concentrated on** ...

The findings of this study **are restricted to** ...

The lack of **means we cannot be certain** ...

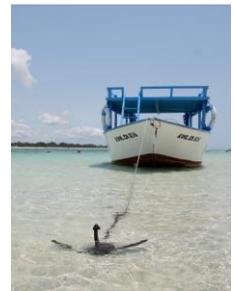
Despite its preliminary character, the research reported here **indicates**

(Swales & Feak, 1994)

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Development of ideas

Make a point

Show evidence to back it up

Show how it relates to the bigger issue-how does it move us forward in our thinking

The results partially support Johnson's (2008) findings.

Under conditions of X we also saw a significant change in Y.

However, Johnson also reported a significant change in Z.

This may be explained by the

We observed no change in cell size following the treatment with *Carbosylus*. Joll (2012), in contrast, observed a 25% increase in cell size using Carboxydrin, a compound with a similar molecular structure. *This difference, however, might be due to the medium used. We used a solution of sodium*

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A few more examples ...

This study is a first in showing the importance of the early embryonic period in the development of lambs and indicated significant biological and economical implications of the uterine environment in sheep production. *Supplements at this early stage would reduce likelihood of infection and the potential for stillborns later on.*

This study provides greater understanding and direction for future research into this disease in livestock in New Zealand. *The enzyme reaction we observed has the potential to be used as the basis of a vaccine for ...*

This research is potentially very useful to the timber industry. *It allows growers to distinguish hybrids from pure species and therefore ensure the trees when fully established have the qualities required of ...*

This study provides greater understanding and direction for future research into this disease in livestock in New Zealand. *The enzyme reaction we observed has the potential to be used as the basis of a vaccine for ...*

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Acknowledging the need for further research

Reinforce the contribution of your own research and acknowledge the need for further research in the area

This research has made important contributions to X and Y but there is scope for future work in this area.

The development of a more general X that applies to networks other than Y and Z remains an enormous challenge. Another recurring issue is ... The methods we introduce in this thesis present a vast improvement in terms of X; however Y makes these methods unsuitable for very large networks. There is still much work that needs to be done in terms of ...

A further line of work that would be of considerable interest...

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Paragraphing

- Clear topic sentence that reflects the whole paragraph
- One point per paragraph
- Make sure the paragraphs fit together i.e flow



During the past decade bullying has received growing attention in organization research. Researchers have reported alarming findings about the negative consequences associated with bullying, both for the individuals and the organizations concerned. As for the effects on the organization, bullying has been shown to be associated with higher turnover and intent to leave the organization, higher absenteeism, and decreased commitment and productivity (Hoel et al., 2003; Keashly & Jagatic, 2003). In addition, for the victim bullying has been reported to result in both lower levels of job satisfaction, psychosomatic symptoms and physical illness, and possible expulsion from the labour market (Hoel & Cooper, 2000; Keashly & Jagatic, 2003; Leymann, 1996; Vartia, 2001). Thus, bullying is very costly for both organizations and society as a whole (cf. Leymann, 1992a). What is more, although substantive task conflict has been shown to increase performance under certain circumstances, affective relationship conflict, which bullying usually is, does not have such positive effects (Jehn, 1995). (Salin, 2003)

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- Our experimental results demonstrate that space-and propagule-limitation both regulate *S.muticum* recruitment. Our finding that *S.muticum* recruitment was positively related to propagule input is similar to those of two previous studies (Parker 2001; Thompsen *et al.* 2006), in which the propagule input of invasive plants was manipulated. In our control treatment space was limiting, a result that has also been found in previous studies of *S.muticum* recruitment (Deysner & Norton 1982; De Wreede 1983; Snachez & Fernandez 2006)

(Britton-Simmons & Abbott, 2008)

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Antibiotic use in curing pig diseases

A number of studies have demonstrated the importance of antibiotics in improving pig performance. Droon (2001) and Jacob (2002) both demonstrated the increased rate of growth. Similarly Wells (2001) showed

However, concerns raised by consumers and political groups have drawn attention to the problems of antibiotic use.

Studies carried out among regular pork consumers have shown higher than average levels of allergies including asthma, eczema and other forms of skin irritation.

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The most direct route from A to B



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Is your writing flabby?

- Subjects (characters) are short and specific and have clearly identifiable verb
 - Use of abstract nouns derived from verbs or adjectives (nominalisation) makes writing **hard work**
 - **Analysis** **Expression**
 - **Failure** **Definition**
 - **Evaluation** **Examination**
 - An evaluation of our outcomes is necessary if we are to see an improvement in our service
 - *Evaluating outcomes will improve our services*
 - The intention of the IRD is to collect information on fraudulent claims
 - *The IRD intends to collect*
 - There was speculation by financial experts that the economy would experience a slow regeneration
- Forever discovering *Financial experts speculate that*

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Is your writing flabby?

- Our communities depend on volunteers, either directly or indirectly but the contribution volunteers make is not always seen. There is a problem in assigning a value to volunteering that is measurable. Volunteering is seen as an activity that is
- The plate inhibition assay has several limitations. The first limitation is that different fungal species have different growth rates on the PDA media used in this study. Another limitation of plate inhibition is that the inhibition of growth of the competitions has only been investigated in ...
- **The plate inhibition assay has several limitations.** The different fungal species have different growth rates on the PDA media used in this study. As long as dothistromin is not degraded, slow growing species are more likely to be exposed to a higher concentration of dothistromin as it accumulates in time. The results might be different on other media with optimal growth conditions for the competitor species. However, growth conditions in nature are usually sub-optimal and *S. septosporum* grows sub-optimally on PDA media (Ganley 2001). **Another limitation** of this assay is that the inhibition of growth of the competitors caused by the *D. septosporum* dot* has only been investigated in one environmental condition.
(Kaiser et al., 2003)

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Useful links

- <http://www.victoria.ac.nz/lals/resources/academicwordlist/>
- <http://writersdiet.com/WT.php?home>
- <https://expertedge.journalexperts.com/>
- <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/>
- Manchester University's Academic [phrasebank](#) for phrases

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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.
- Evans, D.G. (2000). *How to write a better thesis*. Carlton: Melbourne University Press.
- 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
- Swan, M. (2002). *Practical English Usage*. Oxford University Press
- Vencila, J. (1995). *Write right. A desktop digest of punctuation, grammar and style*. California: Ten Speed Press
- Walters, D. (1999). *The readable thesis: A guide to clear and effective writing*. USA: Avocet Publishing

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