Academic English

Producing academic texts

Tracing and revising inexpedient language use

Morten Pilegaard
mpi@asb.dk; +45 2617 4622

Morten Pilegaard
Danish Ramazzini Centre

Two steps: Effective writing for medical science

Rules & conventions matter if you want to publish!

Step 1
Know "the rules"

1. Consult reporting guidelines on contents
2. Follow journals' instructions
3. Learn academic writing conventions

1. Reporting guidelines

A catalogue of reporting guidelines for health research. Eur J Clin Invest 2010 ; 40(1): 35-53
http://cdn.elsevier.com/promis_misc/Reporting%20Guidelines.pdf

What?

International guidelines on **contents** and style
- reflect experts' consensus opinion
- endorsed by journals
- research design-specific checklists & advice

Where?

equator network

http://www.equator-network.org/

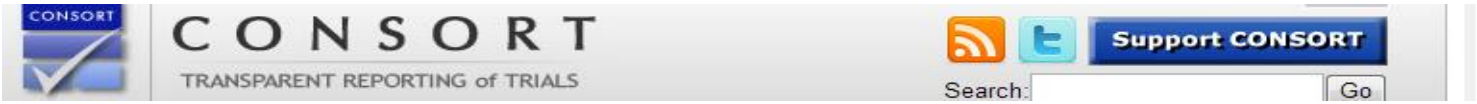
Two steps: Effective writing for medical science

Contents Design-specific

- **Strobe**: Observational study
- **Grade**: Meta-analysis
- **Orion**: Infection control

Prisma: Systematic review
Stard: Diagnostic accuracy
Consort: Randomized studies

Consort
Introduction
Discussion



2a Background and rationale
2b Specific objectives/hypotheses

20 Limitations (bias, imprecision…)
21 Generalizability (validity…)
22 Interpretation of results

Contents Journal-specific

1 Nature and scope of problem
2 Brief review of pertinent literature
3 Rationale of study
4 Purpose of paper
5 Rationale for choice of method
Int. J Oral Maxillofacial Surgery

1 Principal findings
2 Strengths/weaknesses of study
3 Str/weak of results comp to others'
5 Meaning of study; implications
5 Unanswered questions
6 Future research
BMJ

Check move structure in target journal if no set move structure is prescribed!

Morten Pilegaard
Danish Ramazzini Centre

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Contents – A functional perspective
or "what are we doing with words"

Conven-tions

Moves & steps

1. **Introduce research area**
   a) Summarize previous research
   b) Claim general importance
   c) Make topic generalization
2. **Establish research niche**
   a) Indicating gap or
   b) Raise question/doubt or
   c) Make counter-claim or
   d) Claim benefit, take next step
3. **Occupy research niche**
   a) State purpose
   b) State main results (some displ)
   c) Describe structure (some displ)

1. Background (optional)
2. **Present own results**
3. Ex/unexpected outcome (option)
4. **Compare with other research**
5. Explain result / the unexpected
6. Example supporting explanation
7. **Deduct/conclude/claim)**
8. Hypothesis (optional)
9. Support for 7-8 (optional)
10. Recommendation (optional)
11. **Suggest future work**

Repeated for every main finding

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Danish Ramazzini Centre

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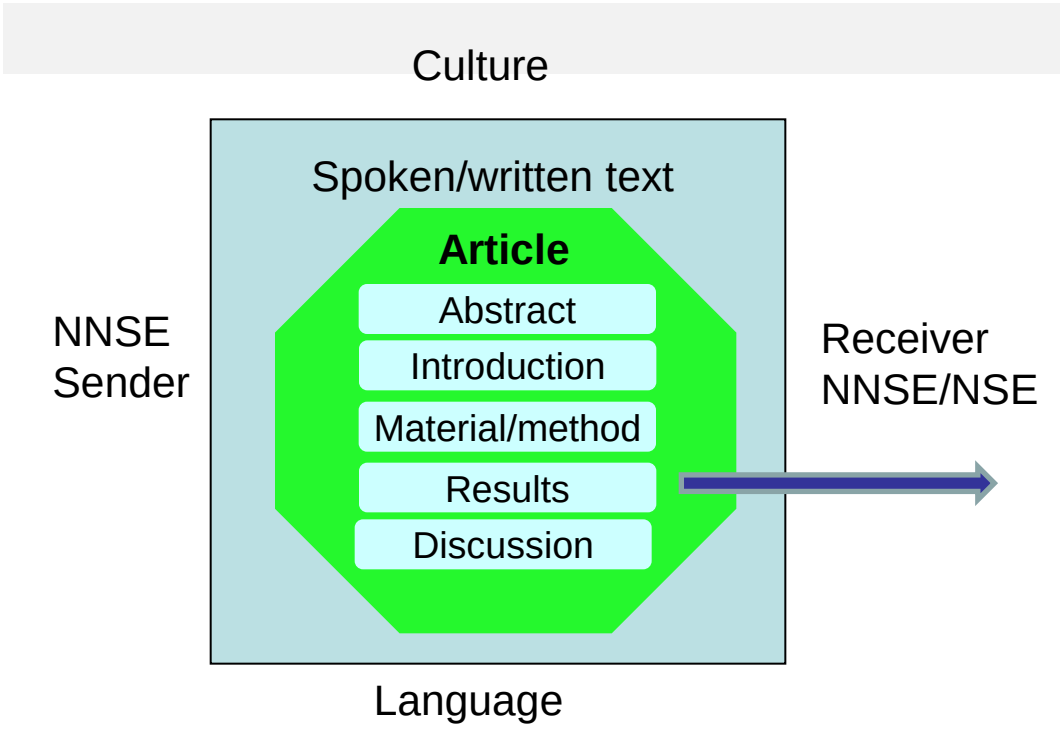
Move structure conventions are genre/subgenre-specific

Conventions are followed at the levels of

- Culture/genre-specific **schematic structures** (general or design-specific moves & steps)
- Target **language conventions**, grammar & usage (tool usage)



Contents/moves
(e.g. Consort)

Contents/moves

1a. Participant flow
1b. Losses/exclusions
2a. Recruitment
2b. Reason for stopping
3. Baseline data
4. Numbers analyzed
5a. Outcomes, estimates
5b. Binary outcomes
6. Ancillary analyses

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1b "There was only one protocol deviation, in a woman in the study group. She had an abnormal pelvic measurement and was scheduled for elective caesarean section. However, a trial of labour was judged acceptable; caesarean section was done when there was no progress in the first stage of labour

http://www.consort-statement.org/consort-statement/13-19---results/item13b_losses-exclusions/

Conventional features!
Not cast in iron!

Language

Nominal structure
Dichotomies/hierarchies

Past tense
No hedging
Agent-less passives
Main sentences

Theme/rheme structure
Declarative sentences
Lexical cohesion

Contents/moves

1a. Participant flow
1b. Losses/exclusions
2a. Recruitment
2b. Reason for stopping
3. Baseline data
4. Numbers analyzed
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Language

Nominal structure
Dichotomies/hierarchies

Past tense
No hedging
Agent-less passives
Main sentences

Theme/rheme structure
Declarative sentences
Lexical cohesion

Move/step

1a. Participant flow
1b. Losses/exclusions
2a. Recruitment
2b. Reason for stopping
3. Baseline data
4. Numbers analyzed
5a. Outcomes, estimates
5b. Binary outcomes
6. Ancillary analyses

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Theme: What we talk about. In Results section often sentence subject

Rheme: What we say about the theme. In Results section often the rest of the sentence

1b "There was only one protocol deviation, in a woman in the study group. She had an abnormal pelvic measurement and was scheduled for elective caesarean section. However, a trial of labour was judged acceptable; caesarean section was done when there was no progress in the first stage of labour

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Two steps: Writing conventions

3. Conventions in academic writing

Conventions are situated and genre-specific

Every text exists in a **context**
Every text serves a context-specific **purpose** in two ways

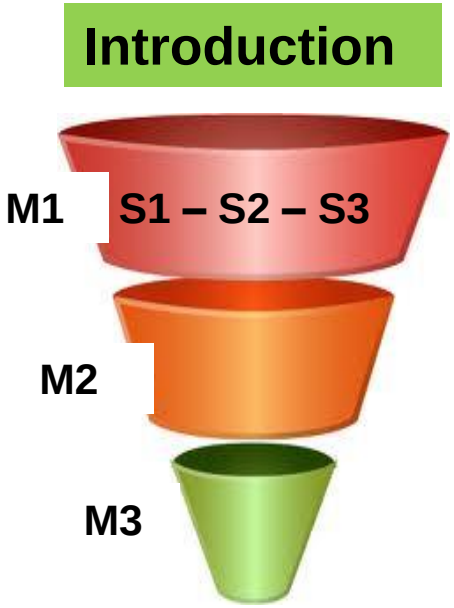
a) by its structure/composition → Move / Step
b) by its language repertoire → Word / Sentence

Texts form **genres** (e.g. research paper, poster)
Genres serve **contextual purposes** in genre-specific ways
Some genres may be broken down to **subgenres**
Subgenres serve contextual purposes in subgenre-specific ways

Two steps: Effective writing for medical science

Four levels of functional text analysis

1. Genre Whole text (meta)	**Research paper** (IMRaD)	Disseminate research
2. Subgenre Text section (macro)	**Introduction**	Set stage for own research and outline rationale
3. Move Sentence/clause (meso)	**M1 Intro res.** M2 Create niche M3 Occupy niche	Spur reader's interest
4. Step Clause/phrase (micro)	**S1 Rev pre res** S2 Claim import S3 Generalize	Update reader on relevant research on chosen topic



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Subgenre - Abstract

Genre features of Abstract

• Purpose	Short recap of main text; presents results
• Structure	Move structure and size (word count) defined by journals
• Form	Description (and some exposition)
• Language	Syntax: Simple, main sentences Compact noun groups; short, mostly main sentences
Move structure: (general)	1. Short introduction (”setting the scene“; 1-2 sentences) 2. Short section on materials and methods 3. Main results (75% of body of text) 4. Short discussion (2-3 sentences)

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Always consult *Instructions*, to see if structured abstract is required by the journal

Subgenre - abstract

Specific move structures: BMJ (Max 250 words) http://www.mco.edu/lib/instr/libinsta.html

1. **Objectives**	a clear statement of the main aim of the study and the major hypothesis tested or research question posed
2. **Design**	including factors such as prospective, randomization, blinding, placebo control, case control, crossover, standards for tests etc.
3. **Setting or**	level of care, e.g. primary, secondary; number of centers
4. **Participants**	who, how selected, what entry and exclusion criteria, etc.
5. **Interventions**	what, how, for how long
6. **Measures**	main outcome measures planned in protocol, those finally measured; if different, explain why
7. **Results**	main results with (for quantitative studies) 95% confidence intervals and, where appropriate, the exact level of statistical significance
8. **Conclusions**	primary conclusions and their implications, suggest areas for further research if appropriate

Morten Pilegaard
Danish Ramazzini Centre

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Exercise: 1) Read the below abstract intended for the BMJ. 2) Does its move structure fit the BMJ (objective, design, setting/participants, intervention, effect measures, results, conclusion)? 3) Does the choice of words clearly signal the intended communicative purpose of each move?

The calcium antagonist verapamil has been shown to increase oxygen extraction of ischemic tissues in coronary and peripheral disease. Since the balance between beneficial and deleterious effects of vasodilation in ischemic disease may be delicate we investigated the clinical and hemodynamic effects of verapamil in 44 patients with intermittent claudication (Fontaine's stage IIb - III) in a randomized double-blind placebo controlled crossover study (4 weeks with placebo/ verapamil) after individual optimal dose of the drug had been evaluated in a dose response study. Eight, 8, 14, and 14 patients revealed the longest walking distance on 120, 240, 360, and 480 mg, respectively of slow-release verapamil once daily. In individually optimal doses verapamil increased pain free walking distance by 27% from 44.9 to 57.8 m (p<0.001) and maximal walking distance by 49% from 100.7 to 149.8 m (p<0.001) as compared to placebo. The increase in maximal walking distance after verapamil administration was positively correlated to initial systolic ankle pressure (...) and to ankle/brachial index (...) and to no other parameter.

Two steps: Effective writing for medical science

BMJ abstract moves: objective, design, setting/participant, intervention, effect measures, results, conclusion

Moves

Objective

Design

Participants

Intervention

Effect

Results

Conclusion

The aim of this study is to investigate the clinical and hemodynamic effects of verapamil. A dose-response study was performed to determine optimal, individual verapamil dosages. On this basis a randomized double-blind placebo-controlled cross-over study was performed to assess the drug's clinical and hemodynamic effects. Forty-four patients with intermittent claudication (Fontaine's stage IIb - III) were included in the study. Slow-release verapamil was administered. Its effect was determined from walking ability, absence of pain on walking, and maximal walking distance. The optimal, single daily dose of slow-release verapamil in terms of walking ability was 120 mg (8 patients), 240 mg (8 patients), 360 mg (14 patients) and 480 mg (14 patients). Optimal doses increased pain-free walking distance by 27% from 44.9 to 57.8 m ($p<0.001$) and maximal walking distance by 49% from 100.7 to 149.8 m ($p<0.001$). The increase in maximal walking distance correlated positively only with initial systolic ankle pressure (...) and ankle/brachial index. In conclusion, verapamil increases a patient's ability to walk

Two steps: Effective writing for medical science

Subgenre - Introduction

Genre features

- Purpose — Outline background - State research rationale - Set the scene
- Structure — Defined by design and by convention (3 moves)
  Move 1: Funnel paragraph structure
- Form — Mainly expository with elements of description and argumentation in move 1
- Language — Syntax: Varied (main + subordinate sentences) with occasional fronted sub-ordinate sentences and inverted word order
  Lexis: "Strong" verbs; adjectives/adverbs; hedging; argumentative cohesion

Two steps: Effective writing for medical science

Purpose:

Outline background
State research rationale
Set the scene for own research

= Exposition

Move structure

1. Introduce research area
   1a. Summary of previous research
   1b. Claim general importance
   1c. Make topic generalization
2. Establish research niche
   2a. Indicating a gap
   2b. Raise question or doubt about existing research
   2c. Make counter-claim / contrast
   2d. Claim benefit of or take step in planned research project
3. Occupy the niche
   3a. State purpose of research
   3b. Give main expected results (optional)
   3c. Describe structure of paper (optional)

Move 1: Outline research field
1b: Claim general importance

1a: Give summary of research

1c: Make topic generalization

1a: Summary of previous research

Move 2: Create your niche

2b: Describe lack in existing research

Move 3: Occupy your niche

1a:State purpose

Urinary incontinence in women is a common distressing, and costly health problem. Studies have shown that only about a quarter of affected women consult a doctor for their symptoms, and the treatment [illegible] probably not optimal (ref.). The c[illegible] practitione[illegible] to diagnose[illegible] Several t[illegible]ent of urinary inco[illegible]reatments are suitable in g[illegible] primary care staff (ref.). In two controlled t[illegible] general practice most of the women had improved or were cured after management; similar results were found in a study in which treatments were administered by nurses (ref.).

Mention only that which is of <u>immediate</u> relevance to your niche & purpose

Such studies, however, are often performed by one dedicated doctor or specially trained staff, so the results may not reflect what is attainable in ordinary practices.

The aim of this study is to conduct an observational study of treatment of urinary incontinence in women in general practice in a community where a group of general practitioners serves the total population.

Two steps: Effective writing for medical science

Language form suggests function (purpose) **of move/step :**

Move 1 - Step 1a: Claiming centrality

The growing /emerging interest in systemic NSAIDs has augmented/ hightened/ increased /spurred the need for tools suitable to assess their adverse, mainly gastrointestinal side effects. Of particular interest/ urgency/ topicality is how to foretell/ foresee/ foreshadow/ predict/ is increased/augmented...

Lexis:

Growing/ emerging interest

Augmented/ hightened need

Particular interest/ urgency

Syntax (inversion):

Of particular interest/urgency…. is

Other expressions: inversion

Particularly important ...
Especially interesting ....
Rather more significant ...
Especially noteworthy
Of greater concern ...

Two steps: Effective writing for medical science

Language form suggests function (purpose) **of move/step :**

Transition: From move 1 to move 2: Step 2b: Indicating a gap

Negative subject

Uncountable	*However,*	*little information ...* *little attention ...* *little work ...* *little data ...* *little research ...*
Countable	*However,*	*few studies ...* *few investigations ...* *few researchers ...* *few attempts*

Exercise: 1) Read the below introduction and see if you can trace its move structure. 2) Then turn overleaf, compare the two texts and comment on the difference between them in terms of thematic structure (sentence by sentence)

Painful diseases in the motor system constitute one of the largest groups of diseases that require medical treatment. Even though systemic treatment of such diseases with non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) has proven to be efficient, dose-dependent side effects, especially gastrointestinal, are unfortunately not uncommon. An alternative to systemic NSAID administration would be percutaneous administration. Recently, a new NSAID cream (DOLGITR, Dolorgiet, Germany) has been tested. The tests have shown that the active substances in this cream is concentrated specifically in the muscle fascia, muscle tissue (1).
The purpose of many clinical studies has been to evaluate the antinociceptive effect of systemic NSAIDs in humans, but so far only few experimental studies have been performed (2, 3, 4).
Topical application of NSAID cream has recently shown to be efficient for e.g. treatment of tendopathies (5, 6) and sports-related injuries (7). This indicates that topical NSAID can be an alternative treatment to systemic NSAID.
So far no experimental studies have been performed to assess the effect of topical NSAID application. In rheumatology there is a need for suitable experimental models. Clinical assessment of pain with Visual Analogue Scales (VAS) is useful for many purposes, but is difficult to use for conditions where a localised pain relief is investigated e.g. one joint or muscle is treated whereas the surrounding joints and muscles are untreated.
In the present placebo controlled double-blind study, we have used a pressure algometer to measure finger joint pain thresholds to assess the effect of 5% ibuprofen cream applied to a single finger joint in patients with symmetric rheumatoid arthritis (RA).

Exercise: 1) Read the below introduction and see if you can trace its move structure. 2) Then turn overleaf, compare the two texts and comment on the difference between them in terms of thematic structure (sentence by sentence)

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Research niche:
”few experimental studies of topical NSAID use for localised pain relief

Topical application of NSAID cream has recently shown to be efficient for e.g. treatment of tendopathies (5, 6) and sports-related injuries (7). This indicates that topical NSAID can be an alternative treatment to systemic NSAID.

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In the present placebo controlled double-blind study, we have used a pressure algometer to measure finger joint pain thresholds to assess the effect of 5% ibuprofen cream applied to a single finger joint in patients with symmetric rheumatoid arthritis (RA).

1. Painful diseases in the motor system constitute one of the largest groups of diseases that require medical treatment

2. Even though systemic treatment of such diseases wi nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) has pr en to be efficient, dose-dependent side effects especiall gastrointestinal are unfortunately not uncommon.

3. An alternative to systemic NSAID administration would be percutaneous administration.

4. Recently, a new NSAID cream (DOLGITR, Ger nany) has been tested.

5. The tests have shown that the active substanc es in this cream is concentrated specifically in the muscle fascia, muscle tissue, joint capsule, and in the synovial fluid and muscle tissue

6. The purpose of many clinical studies has been to evaluate the antinociceptive effect of systemic NSAIDs in humans, but so far few experimental studies have been perfo med

7. Topical application of NSAID cream has recen ly shown to be efficient for e.g. treatment of tendopathies and sports-rel ted injuries.

8. In rheumatology there is a need for suitable exper ental models.

9. Clinical assessment of pain with Visual Analogue Scales is useful for many purposes, but is difficult to use fo conditions where a localised pain relief is investigat e.g. one joint or muscle is treated whereas the surroun ng joints and muscles are untreated.

10. In the present placebo controlled double-blind study have used a pressure algometer to measure finger joint p thresholds to assess the effect of 5% ibuprofen cream applied to a single finger joint in patients with symmetric rheumatoid arthritis

Topic sentence

1. Medical treatment of painful diseases in the motor system can be performed in a number of ways.

2. Systemic treatment has included administration of non-steroidal, anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs). Though efficient, NSAIDs have had dose-dependent, mainly gastrointestinal, side effects.

3. Systemic NSAID treatment has so far focused on the anti-nociceptive effect in humans, and experimental studies have been few.

4. Percutaneous NSAIDs treatment could be an alternative to systemic NSAID treatment.

5. A new NSAID cream (DOLGITR, Germany) has recently been tested.

6. This antinociceptive cream has been shown to act specifically on the muscle fascia, muscle tissue, joint capsule and on the synovial fluid and muscle tissue.

7. The cream has also proven efficient in topical treatment of tendopathies and sports-related in

Topic sentence

8. Pain can be assessed in many ways, eg by Visual Analogue Scales (VAS).

This method is not optimal where localized pain relief is sought, eg if a joint or muscle is being treated while adjacent joints and muscles are left untreated.

9. VAS therefore cannot be applied, so new experimental models for pain assessment are needed

10. A double-blind, placebo-controlled study was hence designed to measure finger joint pain thresholds by pressure algometry in patient with rheumatoid arthritis (RA) treated with 5% ibuprofen cream applied to a single finger joint.

1. Background (repeat Purpose)
2. **Own results (main/part)**
3. Poss. Resume of result
4. **Compare/assess results**
5. **Conclude on study, context**
6. **Discuss/assess study**
7. **What follows from the study**

Discussion: Hopkins & Dudley-Evans

The single patient with biopsy-proved hepatic involvement also had a positive spleen. This is in accord with the original observation of the Stanford group, who reported no instance of hepatic involvement without concomitant splenic involvement. The liver scan was primarily responsible for 8 of 9 false-positive liver evaluations. We conclude that as with the spleen scan, the liver scan has little value in the initial staging of Hodgkin's disease. Since liver function tests are also unreliable, it is clear that open biopsy is necessary in order to evaluate the liver more definitively. Even the latter technique is subject to the limitations of sampling procedures. One patient died of an acute myocardial infarction three months after staging laparotomy with negative liver biopsy. Hepatic involvement was found at autopsy.

2. Result (part result)

4. Compare to other research

Own **result** sup-ports other research

5. Conclusion 1

Result Restatement

5 Conclusion 2

5a Reservation Conclusion 2

Result supports reservation (5a)

1. Background (repeat Purpose)
2. **Own results (main/part)**
3. Poss. Resume of result
4. **Compare/assess results**
5. **Conclude on study, context**
6. **Discuss/assess study**
7. **What follows from the study**

Academic Phrasebank

Click on the following:

Major Sections
Introducing work
Reviewing literature
Describing methods
Reporting results
Discussing findings
Writing conclusions

General Functions
Being critical
Classifying and listing
Compare and
Defining
Explai
Exp
Des
Descri
Giving exa
Writing about the
Preview and transition

phrasebank.pdf
Useful links
Home

MANCHESTER 1824

suggests move/step function: Discussion

Moves: Language form
2: State results
3: Resume of overall results
4: Compare with(support) previous research (contradict)
5: Conclude on study, context

Verbs: **Confirm**
Corroborate, verify, tally with, confirm, agreement with

Verbs: **Contradict**
is not in keeping … *inconsistent* … *contrast to*

…proposition:
…*suggests* that..
X *may* be evidence
X *led* to the conclusion that …

Build your own disciplinary-specific move and phrase bank

…lial infarction three months after
…y with negative liver biopsy. Hepatic
…found at autopsy.

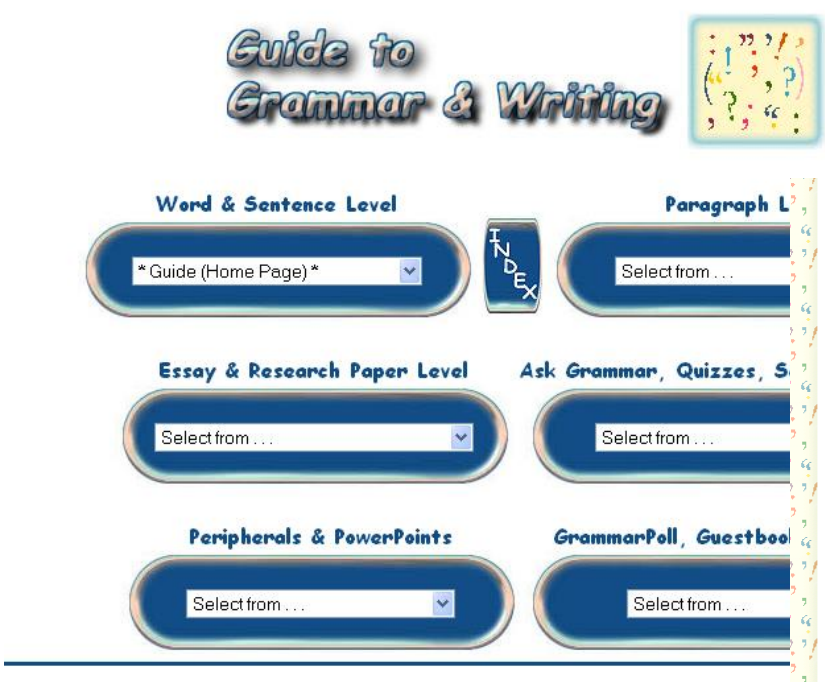
…ww.phrasebank.manchester.ac.uk/causes.htm

Two steps: Effective writing for medical science

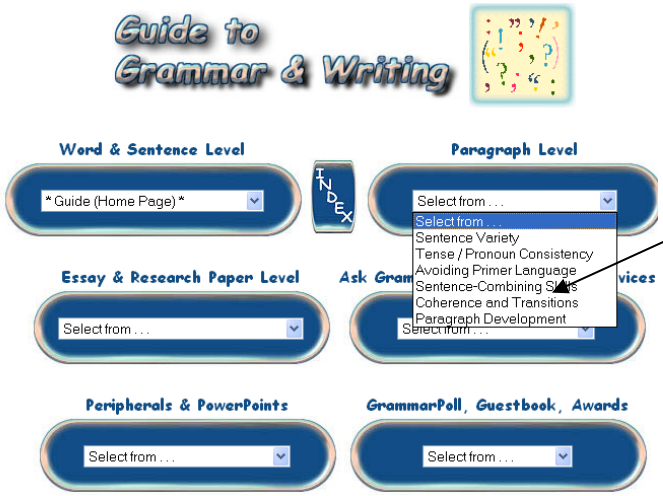
Step 2: Language matters if you want to publish!

Webster Online http://grammar.ccc.commnet.edu/grammar/

Information from Webster on grammar; linguistic and text composition exercises.



Grammar levels: Word/sentence/paragraph
Discourse levels: Research papers, essays

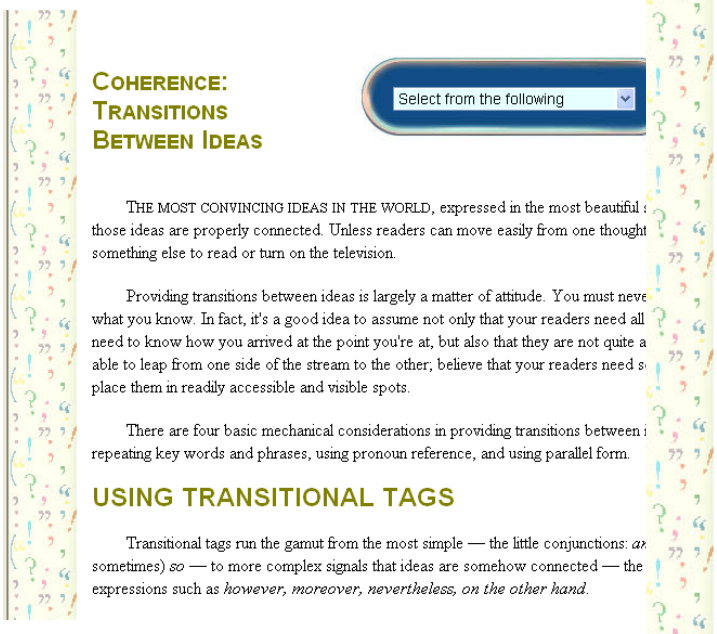


Drop-down menus

Two steps: Effective writing for medical science

Online grammars and writing tools

Webster Online: Transition between ideas - coherence



COHERENCE: TRANSITIONS BETWEEN IDEAS

Select from the following

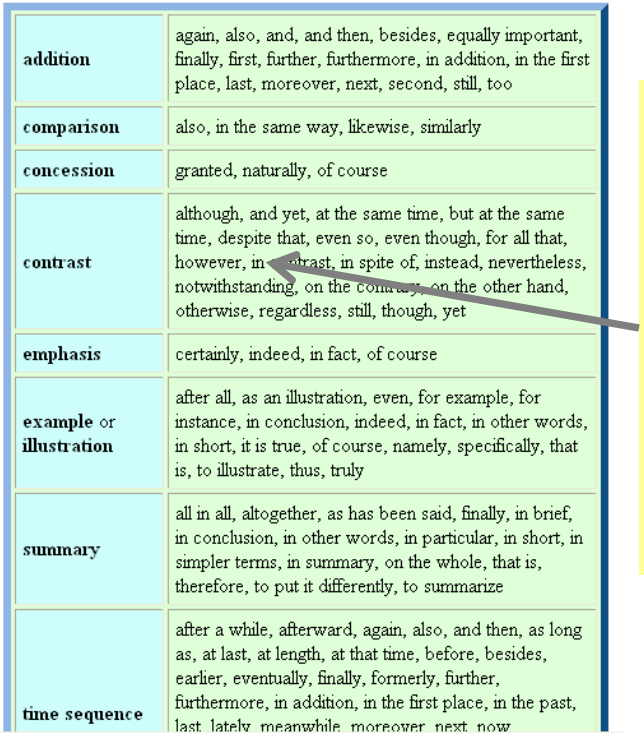
THE MOST CONVINCING IDEAS IN THE WORLD, expressed in the most beautiful s
those ideas are properly connected. Unless readers can move easily from one thought
something else to read or turn on the television.

Providing transitions between ideas is largely a matter of attitude. You must neve
what you know. In fact, it's a good idea to assume not only that your readers need all
need to know how you arrived at the point you're at, but also that they are not quite a
able to leap from one side of the stream to the other; believe that your readers need s
place them in readily accessible and visible spots.

There are four basic mechanical considerations in providing transitions between i
repeating key words and phrases, using pronoun reference, and using parallel form.

USING TRANSITIONAL TAGS

Transitional tags run the gamut from the most simple — the little conjunctions: *an*
sometimes) *so* — to more complex signals that ideas are somehow connected — the
expressions such as *however, moreover, nevertheless, on the other hand.*



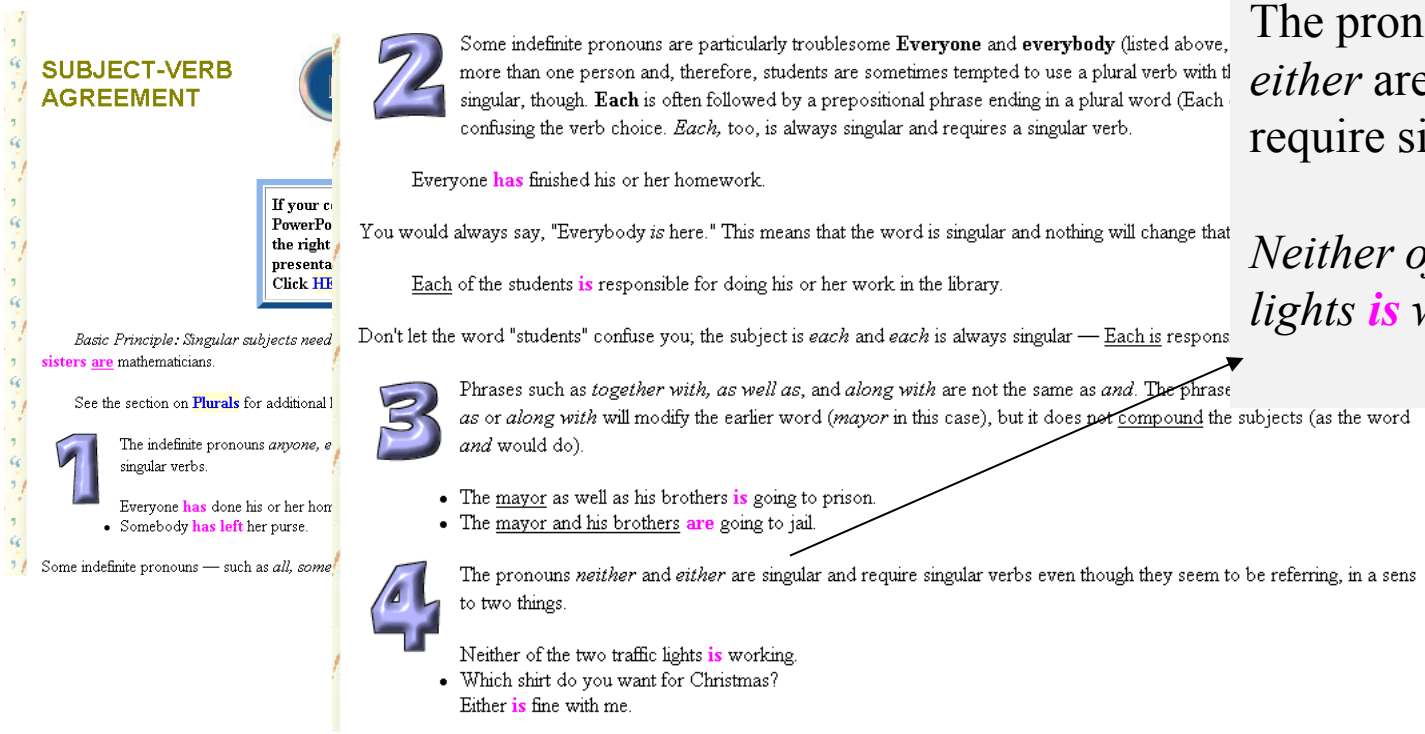
addition	again, also, and, and then, besides, equally important, finally, first, further, furthermore, in addition, in the first place, last, moreover, next, second, still, too
comparison	also, in the same way, likewise, similarly
concession	granted, naturally, of course
contrast	although, and yet, at the same time, but at the same time, despite that, even so, even though, for all that, however, in contrast, in spite of, instead, nevertheless, notwithstanding, on the contrary, on the other hand, otherwise, regardless, still, though, yet
emphasis	certainly, indeed, in fact, of course
example or **illustration**	after all, as an illustration, even, for example, for instance, in conclusion, indeed, in fact, in other words, in short, it is true, of course, namely, specifically, that is, to illustrate, thus, truly
summary	all in all, altogether, as has been said, finally, in brief, in conclusion, in other words, in particular, in short, in simpler terms, in summary, on the whole, that is, therefore, to put it differently, to summarize
time sequence	after a while, afterward, again, also, and then, as long as, at last, at length, at that time, before, besides, earlier, eventually, finally, formerly, further, furthermore, in addition, in the first place, in the past, last, lately, meanwhile, moreover, next, now

- Addition
- Comparison
- Concession
- Contrast (*howeveritis)*
- Emphasis
- Etc.

Two steps: Effective writing for medical science

Online grammars and writing tools

Word/sentence level: Subject-verb agreement



SUBJECT-VERB AGREEMENT

Basic Principle: Singular subjects need sisters are mathematicians.

See the section on Plurals for additional

1 The indefinite pronouns *anyone, e* singular verbs.

Everyone has done his or her hon
- Somebody has left her purse.

Some indefinite pronouns — such as *all, some*

2 Some indefinite pronouns are particularly troublesome **Everyone** and **everybody** (listed above, more than one person and, therefore, students are sometimes tempted to use a plural verb with t singular, though. **Each** is often followed by a prepositional phrase ending in a plural word (Each confusing the verb choice. *Each,* too, is always singular and requires a singular verb.

Everyone has finished his or her homework.

You would always say, "Everybody *is* here." This means that the word is singular and nothing will change that

Each of the students is responsible for doing his or her work in the library.

Don't let the word "students" confuse you; the subject is *each* and *each* is always singular — Each is respons

3 Phrases such as *together with, as well as,* and *along with* are not the same as *and*. The phrase *as* or *along with* will modify the earlier word (*mayor* in this case), but it does not compound the subjects (as the word *and* would do).

- The mayor as well as his brothers is going to prison.
- The mayor and his brothers are going to jail.

4 The pronouns *neither* and *either* are singular and require singular verbs even though they seem to be referring, in a sens to two things.

Neither of the two traffic lights is working.
- Which shirt do you want for Christmas?
  Either is fine with me.

The pronouns *neither* and *either* are singular and require singular verbs.

*Neither of the two traffic lights **is** working.*

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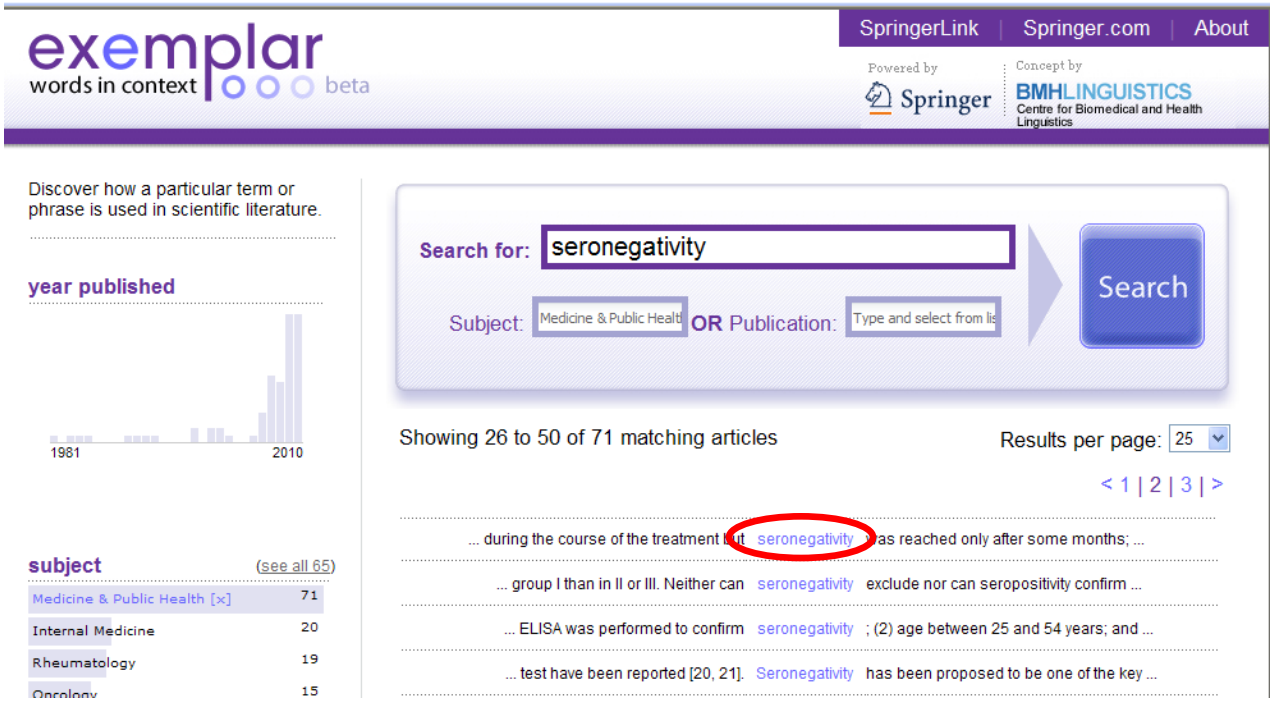
Specialized language text banks (corpora)

Springer Exemplar
http://www.springerexemplar.com/

Why use this site?
- Quality data bank
- Real-life language
- Check usage
- Find collocations
- Link to articles



Verb + noun: *to confirm / propose / reach seronegativity*

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Language system differences

DK adverb ➔ UK adjective

Danglish	English
The patient admitted to smoking a cigarette *occasionally*	The patient admitted to smoking an *occasional* cigarette
Agitation was interrupted *occasionally* to allow admixture of fresh medium	*Occasional* interruptions of agitation allowed addition of fresh medium
Twenty *more* subjects were admitted to the trial	*Another* twenty subjects were admitted to the trial

Study differences at level of word classes, syntax, grammar:

What are the differences between English and your mother tongue

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Language system differences

DK adverb ➔ UK verb

Danglish	English
This hypothesis may be *unverifiable*	This hypothesis *resists* verification
The shortage of penicillin *still* gives cause for concern	The shortage of penicillin *continues to cause* concern
The equipment has now been upgraded *so* as to include incinerators	The equipment has now been upgraded *to include* incinerators
Nonlinear equations are *unsolvable*	Nonlinear equations *defy* solution

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Language system differences

DK preposition ➔ UK –*ing (participle)* form

Danglish	English
The rules *for* this procedure are explained in the manufacturer's instructions	The rules *governing* this procedure are explained in the manufacturer's instructions
The surgical principle *for* abdominorectal incision is ...	The surgical principle *underlying* abdominorectal incision is ...
An incision was made *towards* the anterior aspect	The incision was made *facing* the anterior aspect

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Language system differences

Develop general rules: Reduce number of prepositions

Danglish	English
Prepositional postmodification	**Adjectival premodification**
Individuals without training	*Unskilled individuals*
Individuals on early retirement	*Early retirees*
Individuals with little education	*Poorly educated individuals*

	Participial construction
The rules for this procedure	*The rules governing this procedure*
The surgical principle for X	*The surgical principle underlying X*
An incision was made towards X	*An incision was made facing X*

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All the traditional problems! Dangling participles

Participle (*–ing, -ed, -ent* added to infinitive form of verb) relates to preceding noun
Participle dangles if the implied subject is not subject of main clause of sentence

Caution:

**ing*
*by + *ing*
*by + *ed*
*when + *ing*
*when + *ed*
based on
following
considering
using

≠ Paying attention to the rules of writing, most texts can be improved

≠ After terminating drug treatment, behavioural therapy is recommended

≠ Based on the rare occurrence of haemophilia A in women, experience regarding the use of Helixate NexGen 1000 IU during pregnancy and breast-feeding is not available

≠ Considering that saquinavir has the weakest CYP3A4 inhibitory potency among all protease inhibitors, midazolam should be systematically reduced during prolonged infusion when administered in combination with protease inhibitors other than saquinavir

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Exercise: Check the below sentences. Identify any dangling participles. Note that some of the sentences may be ok

Based on the results, we concluded that the drugs are equally effective

Based on the results, our conclusion is that the drugs are equally effective

After preparing the samples, our focus was on collecting the data

After preparing the samples, we focused on collecting the data

To investigate the relationship, a series of experiments were designed

We designed a series of experiments to investigate the relationship

Advice: **1)** Be on alert for dangling modifiers at **beginning of sentences**
2) Ask **who or what** is doing action; make sure implied subject is doing it
3) Write in **active voice** whenever possible

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Exercise: Check the below sentences. Identify any dangling participles. Note that some of the sentences may be ok

1) After a quick change into my hospital gown, the nurse told me to relax
2) Dentists provide many useful tips for your health. For instance, flossing your teeth daily, gum disease can be prevented
3) Before engaging in aerobic exercises, warm-up activities are necessary
4) Stung by wasps, bees or other insects, toxins can bring on allergic reactions
5) When following a strict diet – one high in protein and low in carbohydrates – weight loss programs can make a difference in the quality of life.
6) Inhaling the fumes from paint thinner, statistics show that significant brain damage can occur
7) Having applied a tourniquet, the bleeding finally stopped
8) Medical research offers the modern world many miracles. Using a small amount of infected nutrient, serums can be prepared to inoculate people against polio.
9) While making experiments, the problem of bacteriology of drain puzzled us
10) Disgusted with his own dangling modifiers, the teacher reviewed his handouts and felt ill

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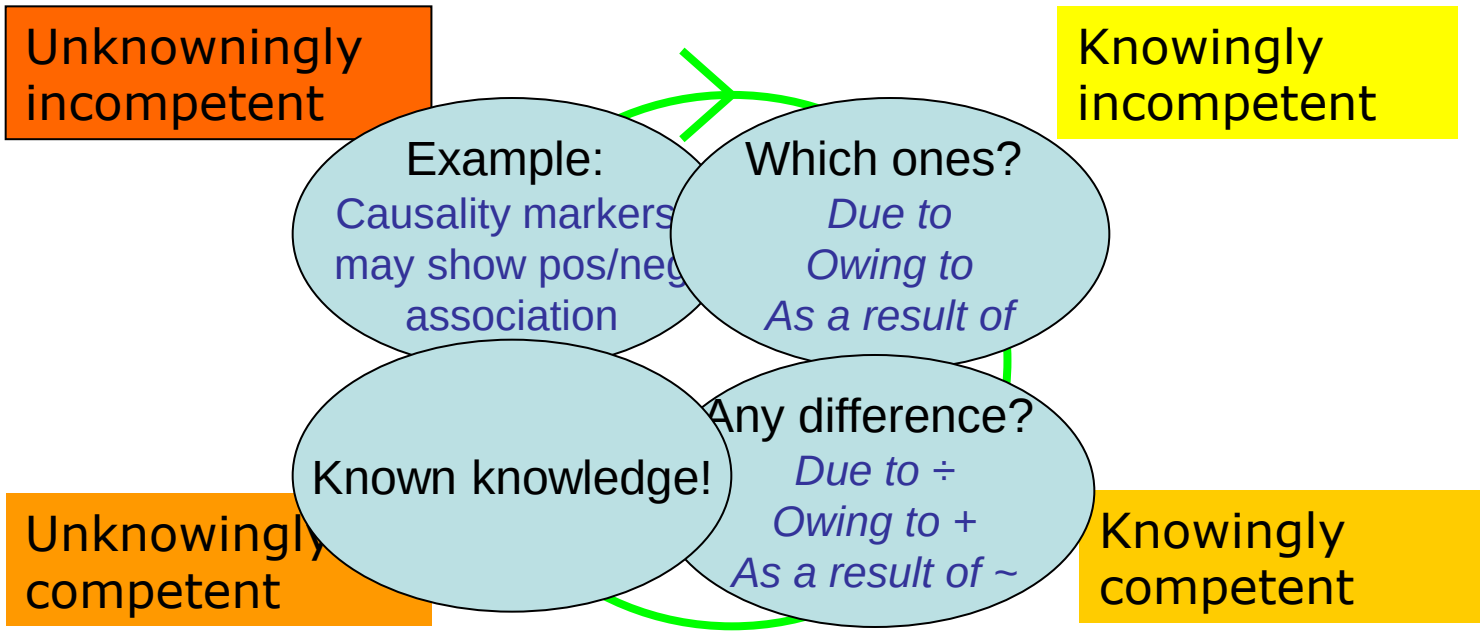
Know what you don't know!

Causality



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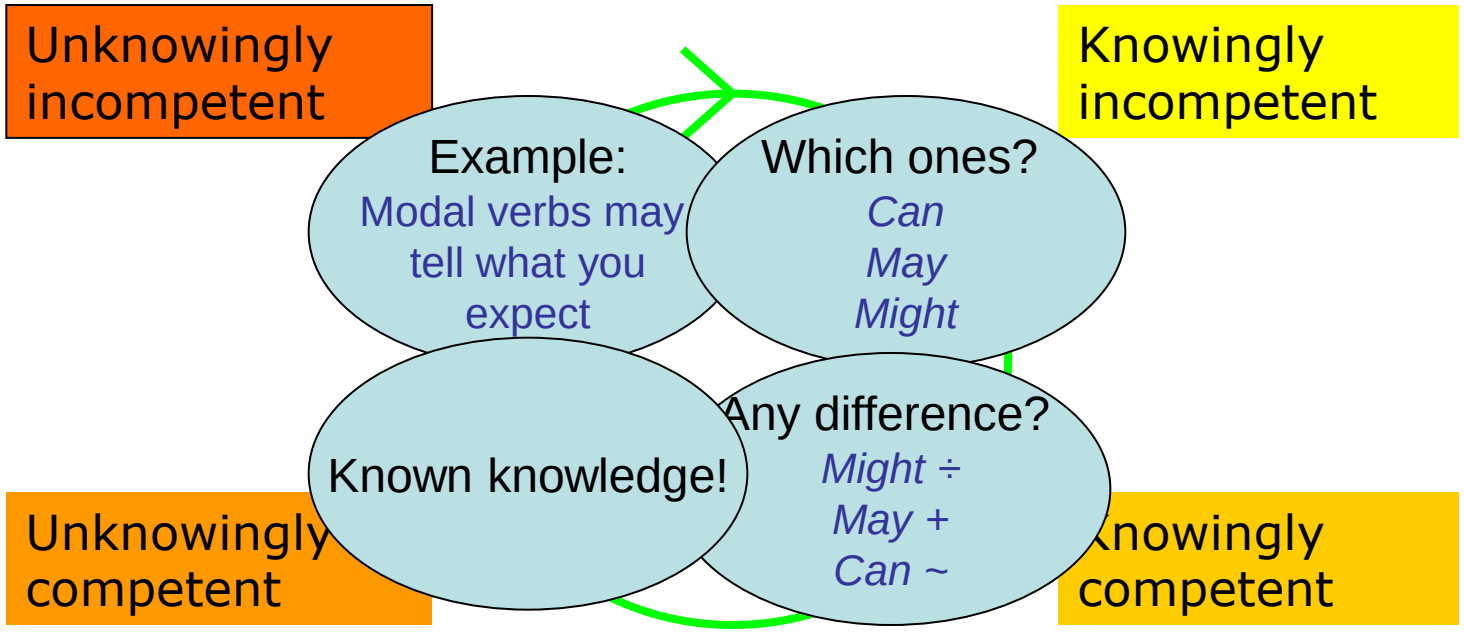
Know what you don't know!

Likelihood – modal verbs

Free advice:
Know your tool box!
Spend 30 min every day



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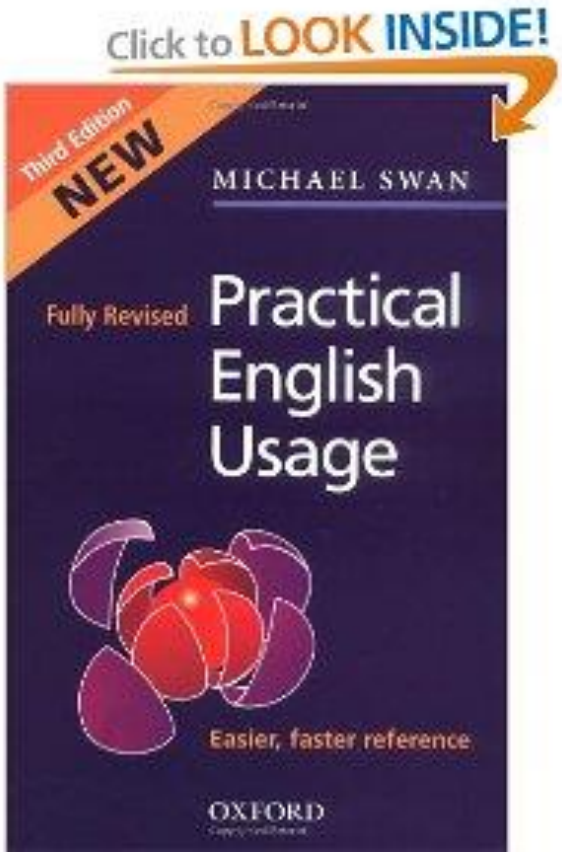
Buy – and use this book!

331 **may** and **might:** possibility

Might is not used as a past form of *may:* both *may and* might are used to talk about the present or future. *Might* is mostly used as a less definite or more hesitant form of *may*, suggesting a smaller chance – it is used when people think something is possible, but not very likely



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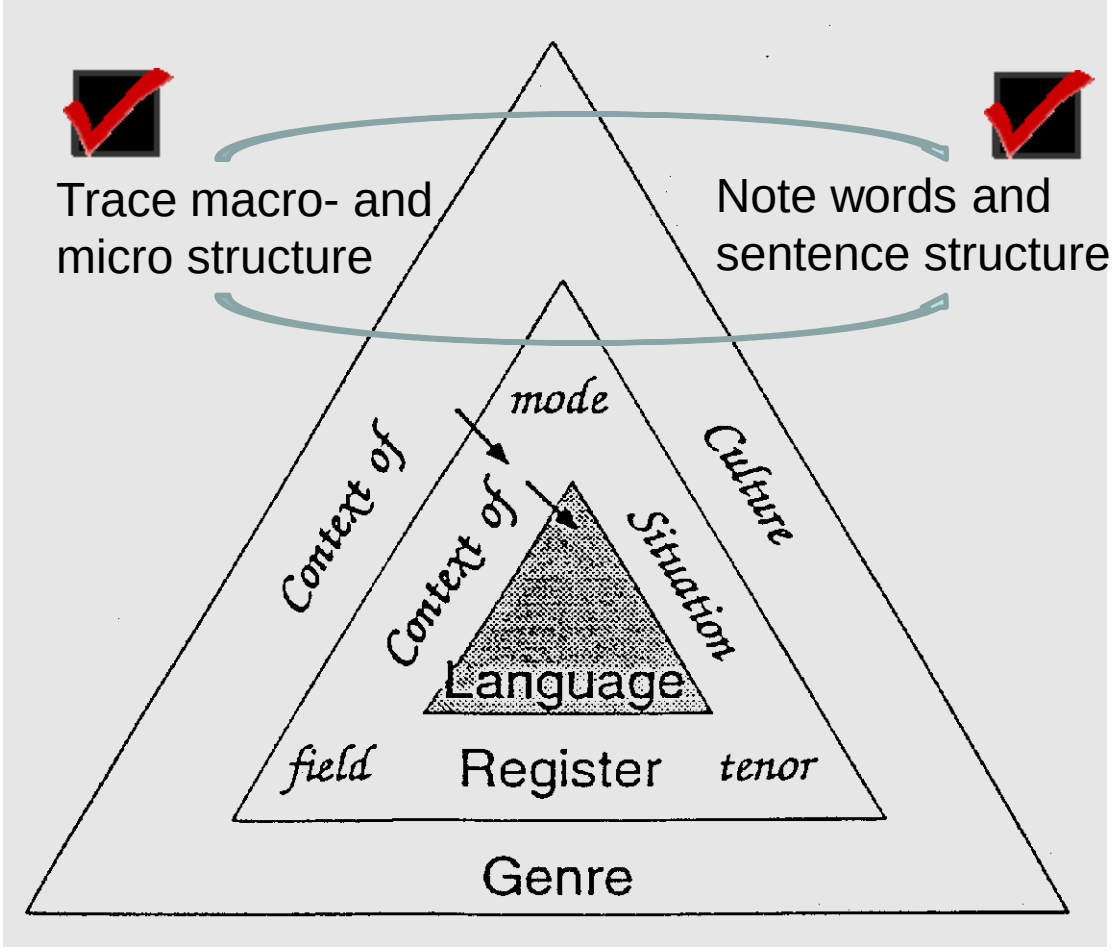
Read, observe & practice



Make your own move & step recipe

VidenskabeligKommunikation
oversættelse | sprogrevision | kurser

… or CALL for help!

Focus:

- Structure
- Clarity & correctness
- Source language interference

Form:

- Track changes
- Notes
  - explaining errors
  - suggesting change

Abstract mangler klar trækstruktur (fx

Baggrundstræk er for "lærebogsagtigt".

Der sættes komma mellem helsætninger,

Formålet bør signaleres eksplicit vha. formuleringen *The aim ..is..* Jeg synes, du bør have en sætning om, hvor meget svin og menneske ligner hinanden måske med tilføjelsen til sætningen: *We used porcine HpHb because it exhibits a 82% sequence identity with its human counterpart*

Denne sætning rummer, som jeg ser det,

I engelsk bør man i videst muligt omfang

"-ing"-/"-ed"-former i bisætninger eller biled skal kunne finde sit subjektet (grundleddet) eller objekt (genstandsled) i hovedsætningen - indsæt "*which*" som erstatning for manglende henførende led

Abstract:

Hemoglobin (Hb) is a fu… d

other vertebrates. In the… d release Hb into

…-phase protein

…(HpHb) is

su… …tor CD163. The aim

of th… …e porcine HpHb

complex determined at 2.9 Å resolution. The structure reveals how two Hp molecules dimerize through ~~an~~ β-strand swap between complement control protein (CCP) ~~(for Complement Control Protein)~~ domains, and thereby forming a very tight interaction. The ~~SP (for~~ serine protease (SP) domain of Hp is responsible for Hb binding and interacts with both the α- and β- subunits which result~~sing~~ in one of the strongest non-covalent interactions observed in plasma.

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Design-specific guidelines
Journal-specific instructions
Disciplinary move conventions

+

Appropriate text structure
Purposeful language usage
Proper English language

= Publication success ☺ !

Comments/questions?

mpi@asb.dk; +45 2617 4622