

10 Tips for Better Research Writing

Tip	Reasoning	Incorrect	Correct
Write Clearly	Confused writing annoys reviewers.	⊗ Our study has confirmed our hypothesis that	✓ We found
Be Concise	Long sentences confuse readers.	⊗ In order to ⊗ Due to the fact that	✓ To ✓ Because
Use Active Voice	Passive voice bores readers and hides your true meaning.	⊗ The growth of <i>S. aureus</i> was studied ⊗ A method is suggested to measure molecular vibrations	✓ We studied the growth of <i>S. aureus</i> ✓ We suggest a method to measure molecular vibrations
Eliminate Hedges	Hedges show you are uncertain about your results. One hedge is common.	⊗ Our results suggest that HELA cells may undergo	✓ Our results suggest that HELA cells undergo
Eliminate Jargon	Jargon confuses readers.	⊗ Etiology ⊗ Diabetic patients	✓ Cause ✓ Patients with diabetes mellitus
Use pronouns (I, We, You)	Readers relate to pronouns.	⊗ The drug was weighed ⊗ Incident light was measured	✓ I weighed the drug ✓ We measured the incident light
Avoid Normalization	Normalization changes a strong verb into a weak noun.	⊗ The visualization of the reflected light was done by software X ⊗ The interpretation of our results	✓ The reflected light was visualized by software X ✓ We interpret our results
Use Numbers and Stats	Comparisons without numbers and stats are ineffective.	⊗ Drug A inhibited the release of hormone Z much more than drug B	✓ Drug A decreased hormone release by 236% compared to drug B ($p=0.003$)
Use Examples	Examples help readers understand your point.	⊗ There is a need to train new nurses	✓ There is a need to train new nurses because by 2030 there is expected to be 30% less nurses than required
Use the Right Word (Affect vs. Effect) (As vs. Because)	Using the wrong words conveys the wrong meaning and confuses readers.	⊗ Drug A effected (caused) the patients' recovery ⊗ We did not notice as (while) the room was dark	✓ Drug A affected (influenced) the patients' recovery ✓ We did not notice because (for the reason that) the room was dark

