

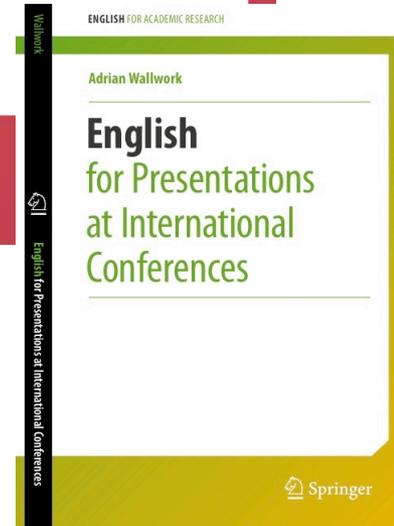
# Seminar 8

## Avoiding Mistakes

Google  
context.reverso

Adrian Wallwork & Anna Southern

## 100 Tips to Avoid Mistakes in Academic Writing and Presenting



Typical mistakes in  
online presentations

An example of  
an online  
presentation

The speaker is  
German

Wallwork



English for Presentations at International Conferences

ENGLISH FOR ACADEMIC RESEARCH

Adrian Wallwork

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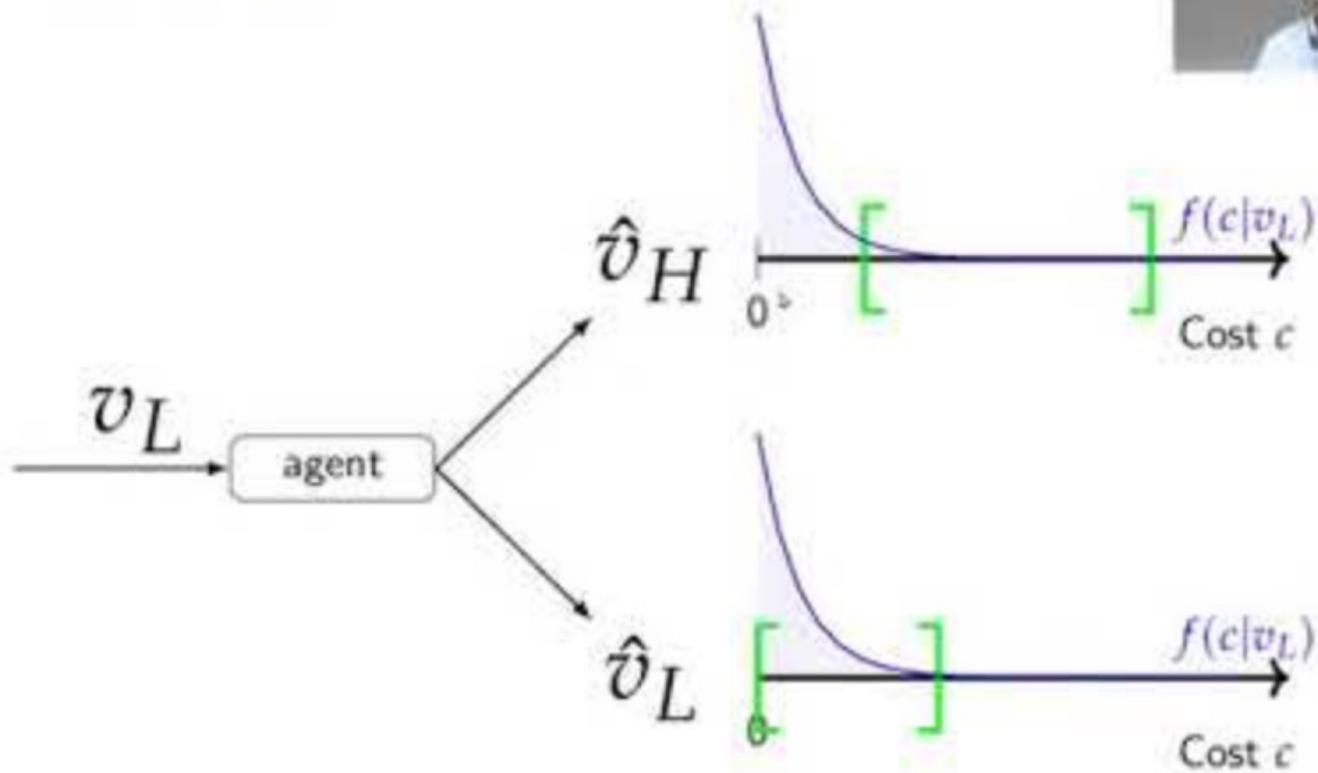
# English

## for Presentations at International Conferences

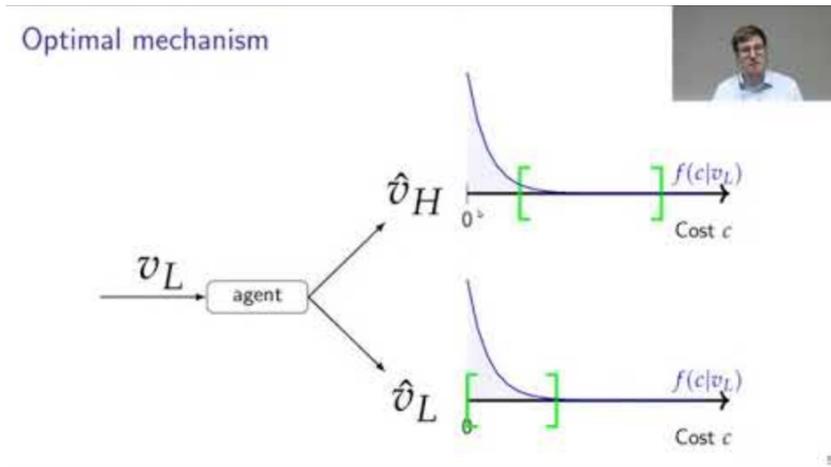
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# How typical is this online presentation?

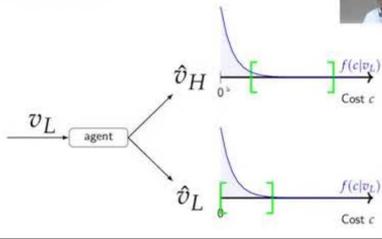
Optimal mechanism



# How could it be improved?



Optimal mechanism



No time for audience to tune in Accent

If you miss his first sentence it is difficult to know what he is talking about in his second slide

Headphones

Very fast

No examples (abstract *principal, agent*)

All text

No empathy

Now let's talk  
about how to  
avoid mistakes  
when  
writing



ENGLISH FOR ACADEMIC RESEARCH

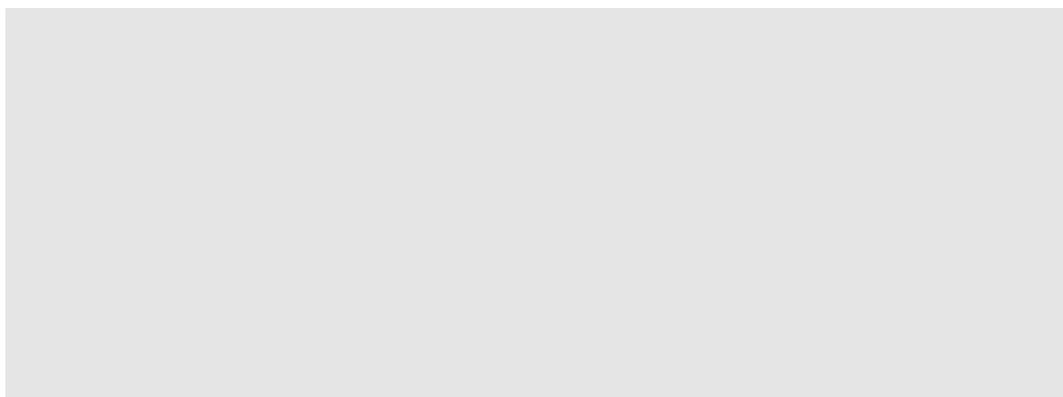
Adrian Wallwork & Anna Southern

**100 Tips to  
Avoid Mistakes  
in Academic  
Writing  
and Presenting**

 Springer



# Checking ~~you're~~ your English

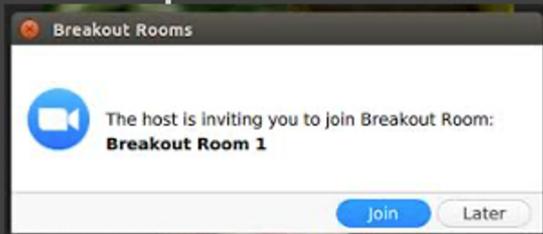


# Evil?

Google to correct /  
translate  
your English?



# Breakout





Is it a good idea to use Google Translate:

- a) to check a phrase that you have written in English?
- b) to translate a phrase from your language into English?
- c) to check the pronunciation of a text that you have written?

Which of the following do you use? How do you use them?

- a) Google Scholar
- b) [contextreverso.com](http://contextreverso.com)
- c) [linguee.com](http://linguee.com)
- d) [ludwig.guru](http://ludwig.guru)
- e) [wordreference.com](http://wordreference.com)
- f) Grammarly
- h) DeepL

# Should / Can you use Google Translate to check your English?

The screenshot shows the Google Translate web interface. At the top left is the Google logo. On the right, there are user account options: '+Adrian', a grid icon, a notification bell, a plus icon, and a profile picture. Below the logo is the word 'Translate' in red. The main interface has two input fields. The left field is set to 'English' and contains the text 'They are five years that I study English'. Below this text is a red annotation: 'This is the phrase that you have written and which you want to check.' The right field is set to 'Italian' and contains the translation 'Sono cinque anni che studio l'inglese'. A blue 'Translate' button is located between the two fields. At the bottom left, there is a prompt: 'Type text or a website address or [translate a document](#)'.

Google

+Adrian

Translate

English Italian Spanish Detect language

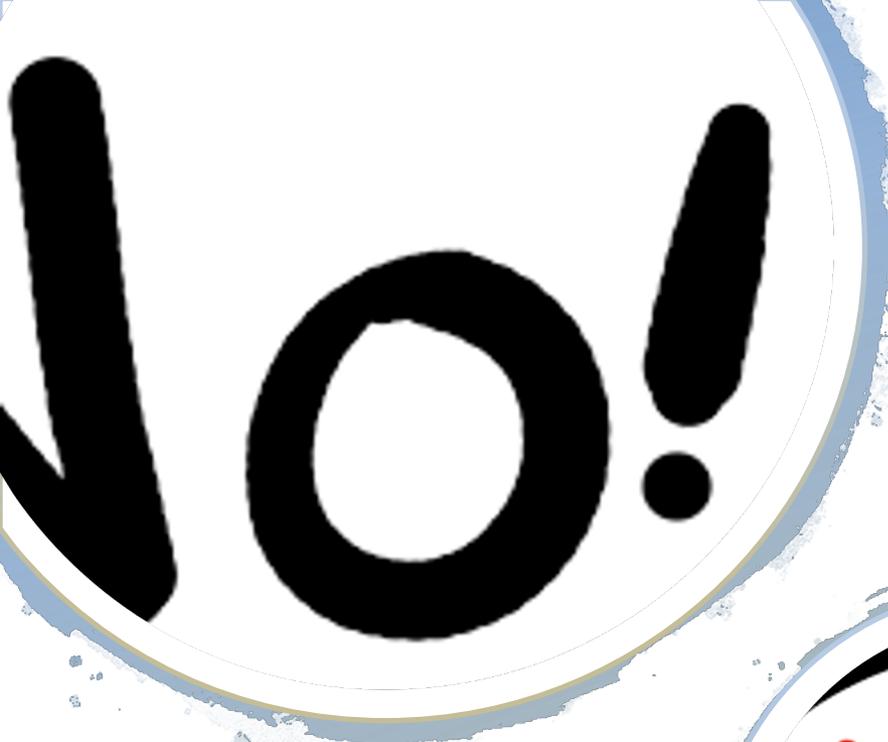
↔ Italian English Spanish Translate

They are five years that I study English

**This is the phrase that you have written and which you want to check.**

Sono cinque anni che studio l'inglese

Type text or a website address or [translate a document](#).



**Should / Can  
you use  
Google  
Translate to  
check your  
English?**



# How accurate is GT? My survey of prof and PhD students at Milan Uni

- Accuracy of papers written **directly in English** = 75%.
- GT accuracy (It to Eng), with **NO** corrections by author = ?%
- GT accuracy **with** corrections = ?%

# How accurate is GT? My survey of prof and PhD students at Milan Uni

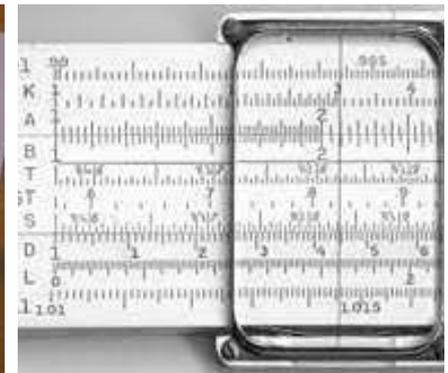
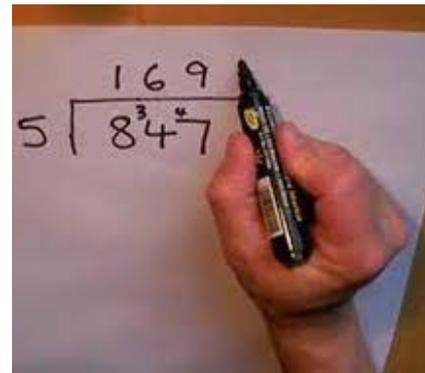
- Accuracy of papers written **directly in English** = 75%.
- GT accuracy (It to Eng), with **NO** corrections by author = **85-90%**
- GT accuracy **with** corrections = ?%

Working on the  
Italian version is  
much easier  
than working on  
the English  
version

Before submitting your text to GT, you need to make it more 'English' for example by:

- changing the word order to reflect English word order
- reducing the length of sentences
- replacing pronouns (e.g. *it, one, them*) with their respective nouns
- removing redundancy

Which do  
you prefer?  
Will your  
brain stop  
functioning  
if you use a  
calculator?  
And if you  
use GT?



# How accurate is GT? My survey of prof and PhD students at Milan Uni

- Accuracy of papers written **directly in English** = 75%.
- GT accuracy (It to Eng), with **NO** corrections by author = 85-90%
- GT accuracy **with** corrections = **95%**

It is highly  
like that GT is  
more  
accurate  
than you are



I would like you to test it out

# Dangers of using a simple Google search

Let's imagine you want to check the accuracy of this sentence:

“These informations are interesting.”

NOTA VERY BENE: In reality the sentence should be:

“This information n is interesting.”

# The dangers of Google

<https://books.google.it/books?ISBN=1483152952>

P. Martin Larsen, N. E. Hansen - 2014 - Technology & Engineering

**These informations** are obtained from the designers of plant and processes for which the process control system is to be applied. The information interface ...

## Nibiru (Planet X) How True These Informations Are ...



[www.youtube.com/watch?v=DpuvaU-7D\\_U](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DpuvaU-7D_U)

May 30, 2010 - Uploaded by Jerry Bacaron

Nibiru (Planet X) How True **These Informations Are**??? <a href="/channel/UCTPrL8Z1-EAm574j5wvVI5Q ...

## IP hiroba : Privacy Policy

[www.iphiroba.jp/en/privacy.html](http://www.iphiroba.jp/en/privacy.html) ▼

... we also collect the informations about the IP address of your PC. **These informations** are only used as the references to update our "SURFPOINT" database.

## Privacy - Pizzeria Stube Pantagrue

[www.pizzeriapantagrue.it/en/privacy.html](http://www.pizzeriapantagrue.it/en/privacy.html) ▼

"**These informations** are reported only for statistical purposes and are not used to

So is Google Scholar a better option?



# Google Scholar

Scholar

About 3,430 results (0.10 sec)

[PDF] [PEDIG: a fortran package for pedigree analysis suited for large populations](#)

[D Boichard - Proceedings of the 7th World Congress on Genetics ...](#), 2002 - [jouy.inra.fr](#)

... USER'S GUIDE All these programs read the same pedigree file, which could contain the following information, even if not all **these informations are** used by all programs : individual identification, from 1 to N; sire and dam Id; birth year; sex; group of origin; herd Id. ...

[Cited by 164](#) [Related articles](#) [All 6 versions](#) [Cite](#) [Save](#) [More](#)

[The point dipole approximation in magnetic force microscopy](#)

[U Hartmann - Physics Letters A](#), 1989 - Elsevier

... surface microfield of a sample. Since **these informations are** generally not experimentally available, image interpretation is more speculative than rigorously quantitative at the present time. This theoretical analysis confirms by ...

[Cited by 95](#) [Related articles](#) [All 5 versions](#) [Cite](#) [Save](#) [More](#)

[A new ant colony algorithm using the heterarchical concept aimed at optimization of multim minima continuous functions](#)

[J Dréo, P Siarry - Ant algorithms](#), 2002 - Springer

## Find articles

with **all** of the words

with the **exact phrase**

with **at least one** of the words

**without** the words

where my words occur

these informations are

anywhere in the article 

Return articles **authored by**

smith|

smith

Return articles **published in**

e.g., *J Biol Chem* or *Nature*

Return articles **dated between**

 — 

e.g., 1996





"these informations are" author:smith

Scholar

1 result (0.06 sec)

[PDF] Least square methods and covariance matrix applied to the relative efficiency calibration of a Ge (Li) detector

LP Geraldo, DL **Smith** - 1989 - iaea.org

... CALIBRATION OF A Ge(Li) DETECTOR Luiz Paulo Geraldo and Donald L. **Smith** PUBLICAÇÃO IPEN 243 JANEIRO/1989 SÃO PAULO Page 2. ... A Go(Li) DETECTOR Luiz Paulo Geraldo and Donald L. **Smith** DEPARTAMENTO DE FÍSICA E QUÍMICA NUCLEARES ...

# context.reverso.net

Translation • Dictionary • Conjugator



Translation "sono cinque anni che" in English



sono cinque anni che



Italian



English



Translations

for five years

It's been five years since

Five years we've

Five years I've

[...]



Next

In più **sono cinque anni che** non ci vediamo.

We haven't seen each other **for five years**.

**Sono cinque anni che** ti dico di metterlo in un ospizio!

**For five years**, I begged you, let's put him in a home!

Il mio problema è che **sono cinque anni che** non scalo.

My business is to climb and **I haven't** climbed in **five years**.

E adesso **sono cinque anni che** non ci parliamo.

And now **I haven't** even talked to her in five



Reverso

# Download the app



Reverso

Reverso Translation Context Spell check Synonyms Conjugation More

The download should start automatically. Not working? Retry download (macOS)

Italian English Sign up

Sono qui da anni

I've been here for years

Io sono qui da anni, e continuo a perdermi.  
↳ I've been here for years.

Sono qui da anni, Guy.  
↳ I've been here 800 years, Guy.

Alcuni di loro sono qui da anni.  
↳ Some of these guys have been here for years.

Sono qui da anni...  
↳ I've been here for ages...

**Register to see more examples**

Sign up with an email

**Find the perfect word or expression to convey your message**

- Enter a word or expression and find countless examples in context to understand subtleties between different translations.
- Refine your writing with the integrated AI-based Synonyms Dictionary (available in 13 languages).

# How does this sound?

Scrittori diversi hanno diverse metodi di organizzazione dei loro rapporti, e alcuni sembrano avere alcun methodo visibile a tutti. La maggior parte degli scrittori migliori, tuttavia, sembrano essere in straordinariamente vicino un accordo per l'approccio generale di organizzazione.

**What's the problem with this?**

**What's the solution?**

Good morning Adrain,

in attachment my presentation.

I hope there is not too many mistake!

Best regard,

# Research ppt and delivery Inbox x unimore x

**VINCENZO CRITELLI** <vincenzo.critelli@unimore.it>

 Tue, 14 Jan,

to me ▾

## 2 Attachments



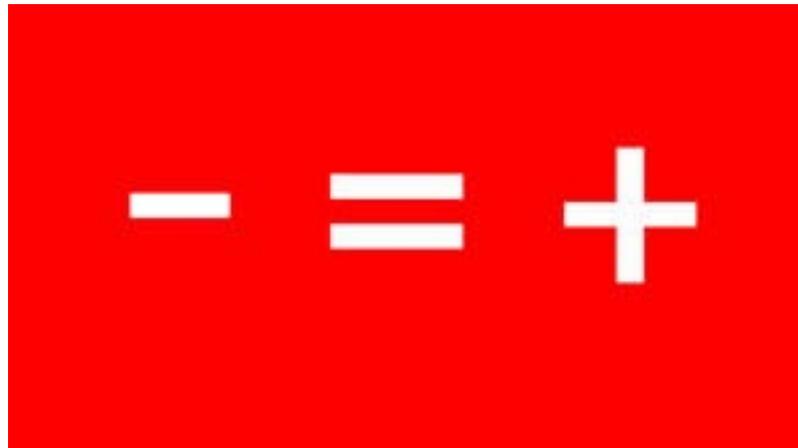
- If you don't need to write something, don't write it.
- This shows empathy for reader: reader not forced to read unnecessary text.
- If you write nothing, you will not make mistakes.
- The more you write, the more mistakes you make.



If you remember nothing else in this course, remember this:

**think about the reader:**

**write the minimal amount possible**



# When writing, what constitutes a mistake?

We read uncritically. We are not worried if we don't understand everything. **We don't even notice** that what we have read doesn't make any sense, or we think it is **our fault** for not understanding. Our expectations are not high.

So we **write** in the same way we read – uncritically, without checking that everything makes sense.

This is a mistake.

Only write what your readers will understand immediately and will give them value – delete everything else.

**Not thinking about the reader is a much bigger mistake than making a grammatical error.**



Intelligence  
test

In a class of 50 PhD students, what are the chances of two people having exactly the same birthday:

a) 3 in 100 or b) 97 in 100?

And in a class of just 23 students:

a) 1 in 100 or b) 50 in 100?

Write your birthday using the 'chat':  
e.g. 10/3 (10 March)



In a class of 50 PhD students, what are the chances of two people having exactly the same birthday:

a) 3 in 100 or b) 97 in 100?

And in a class of just 23 students:

a) 1 in 100 or b) 50 in 100?

**# b) in both cases**

# Methods and Results in 30 seconds

ENGLISH FOR ACADEMIC RESEARCH

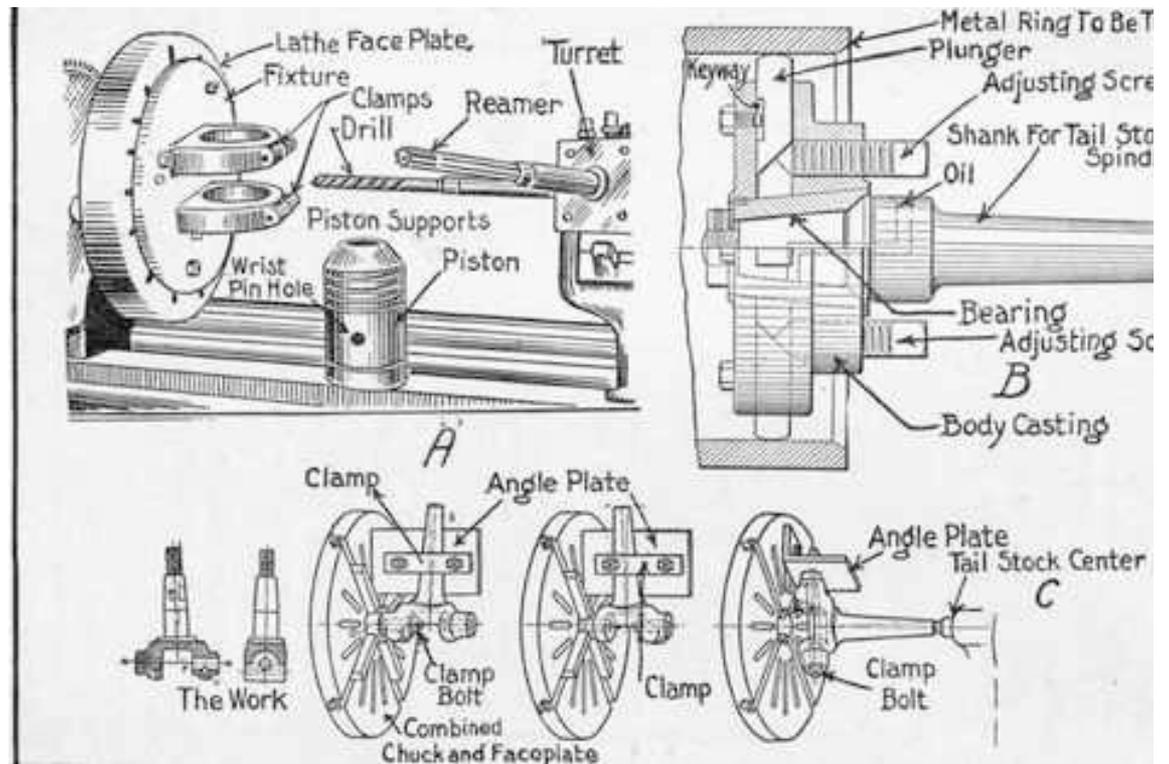
Adrian Wallwork

## English for Writing Research Papers

*Second Edition*

 Springer

# METHODS



# METHODS

**Past tense in  
the passive  
form to  
describe what  
you did**

Samples were  
taken from ...

The following  
equipment was  
used ...

A survey on XYZ  
was conducted ...

The procedure was  
adapted from  
Smith et al. (2020)  
...

All the items were  
classified as  
follows:

**METHODS**  
**present tense**  
**to give**  
**definitions,**  
**hypotheses or**  
**how an**  
**existing piece**  
**of equipment**  
**works**

Firstly, we **define** X as an exogenous measure of the natural rate of longevity of people.

As in Chakraborty (2016), we **assume** that ... The rule is thus given by the following formula:

Our machine **uses** diesel ... It **has** a 1000 hp engine ...

# RESULTS

Don't tell the reader ALL the results – just the most **relevant** and the most **unexpected**.

Put the rest in a **table**. If readers are interested in further details they can analyse the table.

---

Name	Time	Result
Test 1	1.25	Pass
Test 2	1.43	Fail
Test 3	1.51	Pass
Test 4	2.17	Fail

**Results:**

**Past Tense**

To say what happened  
during your experiments

The value of x **WAS**  
higher than expected.

The increase in pressure  
**HAD** no effect on this  
value

## Results:

## Present Tense

To refer to figures, tables  
etc

The results **are given** in  
Table 4

To say what the  
implications are.  
Typically after *show*,  
*explain*, *highlight*,  
*believe*, *mean*

Figure 1 *highlights* that  
X **equals** Y.

We *believe* that this  
means that our method  
**outperforms** previous  
methods



A lesson in  
incompetence