

WORDINESS

There seems to be a myth among authors that academic writing needs to look complicated to be considered authoritative. However, according to the American Psychological Association, “authors seeking publication and students completing assignments increase their chances of success when they write concisely”.

Wordiness is especially common among English as a second language (ESL) authors, who feel like they need to prove their fluency. While science requires specific terms, there is a difference between being clear and being too wordy.

Too many words

- It **is commonly known** among scientists that multiple steps **are involved** in **the process of** sample preparation...
- Scientists know sample preparation involves multiple steps...
- **After the conclusion** of the conference, we continued the discussion.
- **After** the conference, we continued the discussion.
- This final chapter **provides a summary** of what the author **was able to conclude** in his study.
- This final chapter **summarizes** what the author **concluded** in his study.

Too many words

Adjectives	Adverbs
True fact	Empty void
Two opposites	Completely anonymous
End result	Yearly annual
Exactly the same	Currently at this time
Free gift	Nouns
Future prospect	Consensus of opinion
Mutual agreement	Future ahead

Complicated vocabulary

Instead of...	Use...
Due to the fact that	Due to/Since
A considerable number of	Many
In the light of the fact that	Because
It is of interest to note that	Note that
Regardless of the fact that	Even though
After the conclusion of	After
At the present moment	Now

Redundancy and verbs

Advance- forward
Join- together
Share in- common
Cooperate- together
Retreat- back
Share- together
Raise- up
Return- back
Lower- down

Bas Straub

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I am Bas Straub, and it is my personal desire to help you to get accepted for publication. I know how challenging **the road to publishing** can be. This is why I have created Authoring Academy; to help you to get accepted for publication.

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To get published;

- you must get your **language** right,
- you must get your **manuscript** right,
- and you must get your **submission** right.

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Filler words

- After the chemical process the liquid became **blue in color**.
- After the chemical process the sample became **blue**.
- **The process of writing** a scientific article can be daunting.
- **Writing** a scientific article can be daunting.

Writing tips

- Highlight your key words in each paragraph and look at the words around these: are there unnecessary qualifiers, modifiers or adjectives? Is there any expression that can be simplified with fewer or simpler words? Have you used passive voice?
- When you get to the revision stage, remember to include wordiness among the things to watch out for before submitting.

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