

Technical English for Engineers
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Lecture - 32
Understanding the Mechanics of Publishable Essays

In today's lecture, I will take you through the process of writing academic essays and academic papers of publicable or publishable quality. Now, what do we understand by publishable quality, publishable papers?

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If you are in your final years of academics or academic life or even a research scholar or doing your post graduate studies, now I am sure at some stage or the other you have been told about the need for publishing a paper and in academic jargon, we call or we desire rather publication in a refereed journal. A refereed journal is that journal that has a process of certain experts going through your submission, the paper you have submitted for publication. So, of course, it is most important to identify the kind of journal you would want to publish in. For example, if I want to publish, then I should look for those kinds of journals that are interested in the areas that I researched in, or I work on. Likewise, if you work in the area of let us say metallurgy, you should be able to publish in journals of metallurgy,

in journals of applied mechanics, in journals of all these areas that are related to your domain of study or domain of interest; environmental sciences, for example; social sciences, for example; there are excellent journals of economics as well.

So, what I am trying to tell you is that, first identify where you want to publish if you are serious about your academics and pursuing a life of academics. Then, there is no way that you can ignore this aspect of writing. So, it is not enough that you know how to write a descriptive essay; it is not enough if you know how to write an argumentative or analytical essay. All these things, knowledge of these things should lead you towards writing a good dissertation of course, and finally, a good publishable paper, a good paper, which has some kind of worth that will be referred to and cited by future scientists and experts in your domain. **So, That** is what we understand by a refereed publication, publication which is reviewed by a bunch of experts. And then, they give certain suggestions where you can improve your paper, the quality of your paper, the language of your paper, and if you satisfy all the conditions, and of course, if your paper has that kind of merit it will get published. And, let me tell you, it is an enormous achievement to get published in refereed journals. That is what all of us should be moving towards.

So, once you identify a journal that you want to publish in, you must define what you want to work on. Of course, you already know what you work on, the topic you want to work on, but narrow it down. Try to define or redefine the subject of the essay. Let me tell you at the outset, writing on vague and imprecise topics and subjects are always dangerous, whether it is an academic essay or a report or a publishable essay; you have to be very clear about what you are writing. It is your responsibility to try and define the subject and understand it thoroughly, and then approach it. Ask yourself, what am I trying to do? what am I supposed to do here? Remember the verbs, analyze, define, you have to compare and contrast; you have to argue. All these things help you in developing approaches, to writing something. And, once you have analyzed the way the question is worded or your subject is worded, you can begin to develop your ideas.

Always make notes and research. Read a lot. Reading is a very complex skill. People find it difficult to sit through text books and lengthy books, ok. Nowadays people have very short attention spans and going through text books of enormous lengths is a difficult activity in itself; but, try to do that; that is what is going to help you in the long run. The more you read, the more you will understand, what experts are working on.

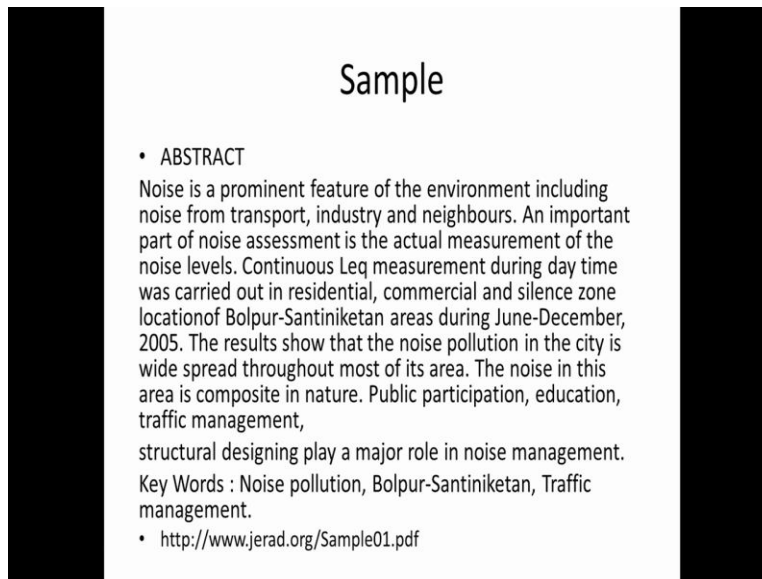
Again, it is important that, as you read make notes, keep records of all your materials, including bibliographical details. It is very important to always look at the bibliography of published sources and materials. You never know, what important thing you may come across; what important work or a published journal or a book chapter you may come across, that you can use in your dissertation or in the paper that you are trying to publish. Of course, it goes without saying that, all citation should be made when you are using someone else's language and ideas. Never try to pass off someone else's language and ideas as your own. That is plagiarism, and that always leads to serious consequences. When you are writing a dissertation or when you are writing a paper that you wish to get published, remember to make appropriate sections.

Your mentor, your supervisor, should be able to help you; but there are various guidelines that are available on the net also, that you can use. But it is always, if it is your one of your early papers and you have not done much writing before, it is always advisable to take someone else's opinion, someone who is more experienced in these areas. And then, remember, you have to make a very strong introduction and a strong conclusion. Traditionally, an academic paper has 6 to 7 main sections. It is always you need to have an abstract, you need to have an introduction, your methodology should be clearly defined and spell out, the body of your essay should go at length, should be, you should go at lengths to explain the method that you have followed; and I am basically talking about papers that are more scientific in nature.

Also, in certain areas of social sciences; for example, sociology, there too you need to analyze case studies and explain your method in great detail. Then, you should be able to talk about your research questions, your results, and an overall discussion, conclusion, and at the end, your reference list.

Look at this slide and here I am giving you a sample abstract.

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Sample

- ABSTRACT

Noise is a prominent feature of the environment including noise from transport, industry and neighbours. An important part of noise assessment is the actual measurement of the noise levels. Continuous Leq measurement during day time was carried out in residential, commercial and silence zone location of Bolpur-Santiniketan areas during June-December, 2005. The results show that the noise pollution in the city is wide spread throughout most of its area. The noise in this area is composite in nature. Public participation, education, traffic management, structural designing play a major role in noise management.

Key Words : Noise pollution, Bolpur-Santiniketan, Traffic management.

- <http://www.jerad.org/Sample01.pdf>

The source is given at the bottom, and read it and tell me how good an abstract it is.

‘Noise is a prominent feature of the environment including noise from transport, industry and neighbours. An important part of noise assessment is the actual measurement of the noise levels. Continuous Leq measurement during day time was carried out in residential, commercial, and silence zone location of Bolpur - Santiniketan areas, during June to December 2005. The results show that the noise pollution in the city is widespread throughout most of its area. The noise in this area is composite in nature. Public participation, education, traffic management, structural designing play a major role in noise management arrangement; and look at the key words here, it is talking about noise pollution, Bolpur – Santiniketan, traffic management; these are the keywords.

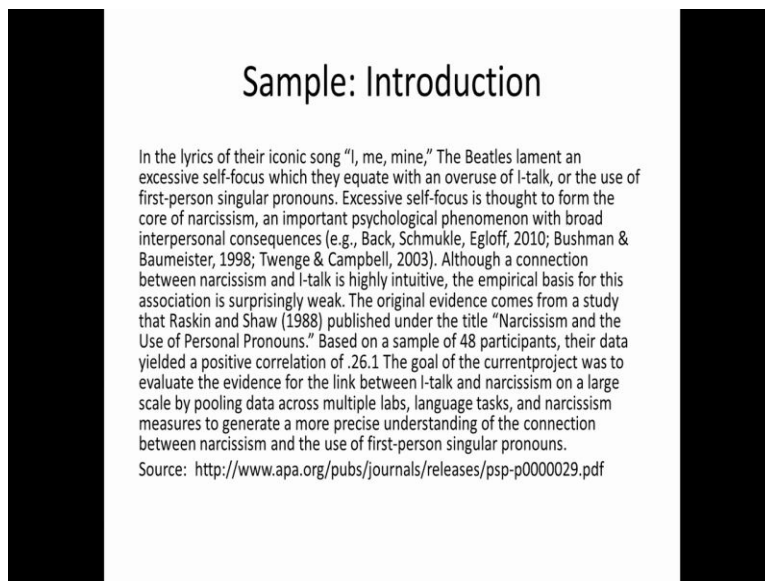
See, please Understand that, an abstract, a good abstract, is very precise about what your paper is all about; what your dissertation is all about. And, key words give the reader an indication of what is going to be at the center of this writing. So here of course, you have it is a passage on or it is a write-up on noise pollution, and the abstract gives you a good overview of what we can expect from the rest of the essay. So, this is what you are supposed to do. Construct an abstract with relevant keywords, and then, you can start circulating your abstract. Most often, journals want to look at the abstract before they consider publication. But, abstract is a must.

Let me tell you, even if you send your paper, potential paper for publication to a journal editor, first thing he or she is going to look at, is your abstract and the keywords. Not that they will not look at the rest of the essay, but it is also important that you pay great attention to your abstract. It should be very clear; the idea should be clearly brought about that what you want to do.

For introduction, and this is another important area, you need to follow something called the inverted pyramid. You know what is a pyramid and what it looks like; I am talking about it, inverted; a pyramidal structure, you start broad and then narrow down to a specific thesis, or a research question; that is your inverted pyramid. When we were doing academic essays, we have seen that this structure is very often followed. Remember, your introduction should give suggestion that, you have some broad knowledge of the overall topic. And, after that, you go on to focus on the main point of the paper.

Here is an example of introduction; look at the slide please.

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Sample: Introduction

In the lyrics of their iconic song “I, me, mine,” The Beatles lament an excessive self-focus which they equate with an overuse of I-talk, or the use of first-person singular pronouns. Excessive self-focus is thought to form the core of narcissism, an important psychological phenomenon with broad interpersonal consequences (e.g., Back, Schmukle, Egloff, 2010; Bushman & Baumeister, 1998; Twenge & Campbell, 2003). Although a connection between narcissism and I-talk is highly intuitive, the empirical basis for this association is surprisingly weak. The original evidence comes from a study that Raskin and Shaw (1988) published under the title “Narcissism and the Use of Personal Pronouns.” Based on a sample of 48 participants, their data yielded a positive correlation of .26.1 The goal of the current project was to evaluate the evidence for the link between I-talk and narcissism on a large scale by pooling data across multiple labs, language tasks, and narcissism measures to generate a more precise understanding of the connection between narcissism and the use of first-person singular pronouns.

Source: <http://www.apa.org/pubs/journals/releases/psp-p0000029.pdf>

This is taken from another essay. The source is given at the bottom. Please look and read. ‘In the lyrics of their iconic song “I, me, mine” the Beatles’, you remember the Beatles, the great rock and pop band from Britain, ‘they lament an excessive self focus, which they equate with an overuse of I-talk, or the use of first person singular pronouns. Excessive self-focus is thought to form the core of narcissism, an

important psychological phenomenon with broad interpersonal consequences'. And these are some references are already given to work done in this area. 'Although connection between narcissism and I-talk is highly intuitive, the empirical basis for this association is surprisingly weak. The original evidence comes from a study that Raskin and Shaw published under the title "Narcissism and the use of personal pronouns". Based on a sample of 48 participants, the data yielded a positive correlation of 26.1. The goal of the current project was to evaluate the evidence, for the link between I-talk and narcissism, on a large scale by pooling data across multiple labs, language tasks and narcissism measures to generate a more precise understanding of the connection between narcissism and the use of first person singular pronouns'.

Now, look at the inverted pyramid structure. They begin with the Beatles, "I, me and mine" and how Beatles deride the use of the first person singular, and how narcissists take it sound. Narcissistic, this is too much of importance to the self, self importance; a sense of self importance, where you know and also in good writing. I am just digressing a bit, so forgive me; but let me also give you an example that, when you in good writing, if you keep on starting, beginning every sentence with an I or I think, with my opinion, my work, and all every sentence there are people who talk that way and write that way. It is extremely off-putting to many people. We would not want, generally, you know we want people who give respect to others point of view as well. And, someone who is so I-centric, obsessed by his own self; he or she is definitely not going to pay attention or pay respect to any other, someone else's point of view. So, that is the idea. And look at the way the essay begins so generally; talking about the Beatles and then, gradually narrows down talking about work done by a couple of experts and then, tells us what the writer is trying to prove here.

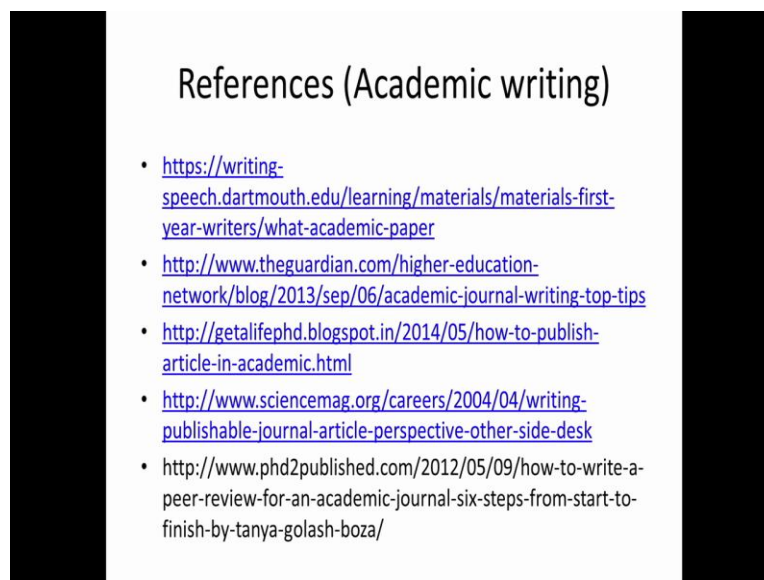
The idea is that, 'goal was, to evaluate the evidence of the link between I-talk and narcissism on a large scale by pooling data across multiple labs, language tasks, and narcissism measures to generate a more precise understanding of the connection between narcissism and the use of first person singular pronouns'. So see, from the Beatles, and from other studies and then, going on to very specific problem or a very specific question.

So, this is an example of a superior kind of an introduction. It tells you what the writer is trying to do; the researcher is trying to do. So, this is what, this I have given you some good examples, writing an abstract and a sample introduction. Once you are comfortable with these and then, you develop your the body; you have to give a strong conclusion.

And remember, always to write several drafts. Writing is a very demanding process. This is not your semi-formal email writing. An academic publishable paper quality of writing demands lot of time, attention, energy. You have to write several drafts. You have to revise them. Always show your work to a friend or colleague or your instructor for suggestions, before sending to an academic journal for publication. And, always remember to apply a self check for plagiarism. Your colleagues, your instructor, may not be aware or may not be able to spot something that intentionally or unintentionally has crept in your work, that is not your own. Always apply a self check; even if you feel your work is very original, it would not hurt if you apply or make it go through the process of plagiarism. You may be surprised that, there are occasions when the report may show that there are certain overlaps and you have to revisit and reconsider your write.

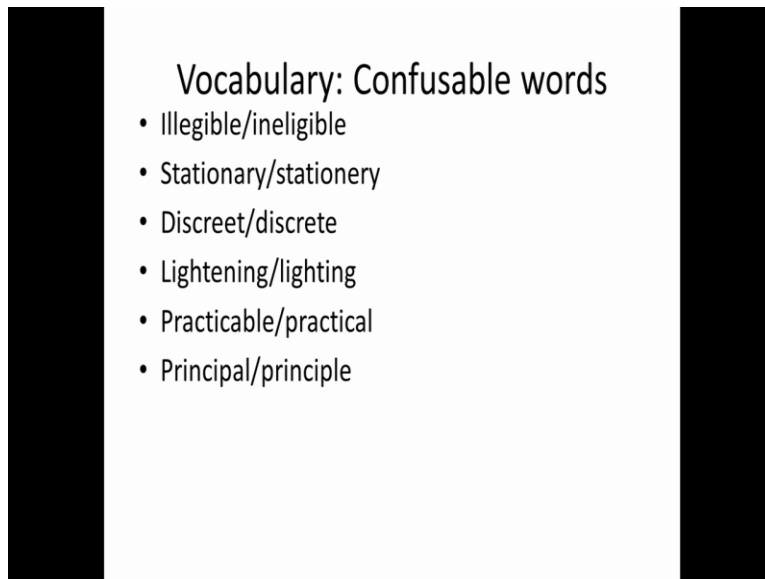
Here is a slide, please look at it.

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References for academic writing and publishable paper; please make a note of these very useful sites. Alright, now let us talk about usage. So, good writing necessarily involves good usage and I am going to now give you a list of confusable words. We have been doing this for quite a while. Please look at the slide here.

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Illegible - ineligible, stationary - stationery, discreet - discrete, lightening - lighting, practicable - practical, principal - principle; subtle differences of pronunciation, subtle differences in spellings, but look they have so much potential for creating lot of confusion.

So, let me now talk about something that is that often bothers editors when, or peer reviewers, when they see some kinds of academic papers; they may have the right kind of information, right kind of references, even vocabulary might be not so bad, but the paper suffers on grounds of punctuation. Yes, we have done quite an amount of punctuation, but it would not hurt if while coming to the end of this course, we do revise little bit of punctuation as well.

So, I am sure all of you have heard of that panda. You know what is a panda? Who goes to a rest room, he eats, and then, shoots everyone around. He is arrested, and the policeman demands a sane explanation for what he has done, and the panda declares; well, I am a panda, and a panda eats, shoots and leaves. Now, what do you understand here?

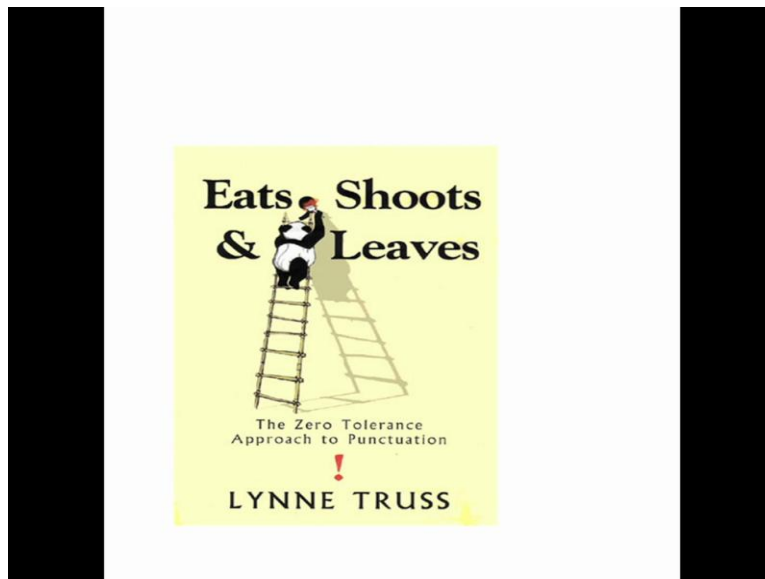
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Eats, shoots and leaves, 3 verbs. You eat, you shoot and you leave. So, that is what I did. Now, here is an example of error in punctuation or also error in the way we use word categories. Actually, a panda is defined as an animal that eats shoots and leaves. Now, shoots, what is shoots? It is a form of vegetation, a form of grass. So, you eat shoots and leaves. But here, this is just a humorous incident and they are an anecdote rather. Shoots is used in verb form. If you take it more seriously, then it has to be taken in a noun form, shoots and leaves. So, that is the humor lies in understanding the distinction between verb and a noun and also punctuations.

So, if you say eats, shoots and leaves, OK. And you can take it as a noun; but, you can also take it as a verb. Now, here, look at this book.

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The Zero Tolerance Approach to Punctuation by Lynne Truss, “Eats, shoots and leaves”. This is a panda, standing up punctuation ladder, is a very popular book. I would suggest that, if you are interested in knowing more about punctuations, the writer has taken plenty of examples from higher order literature; so, if that interests you, this is the book for you.

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Correct the errors in punctuation

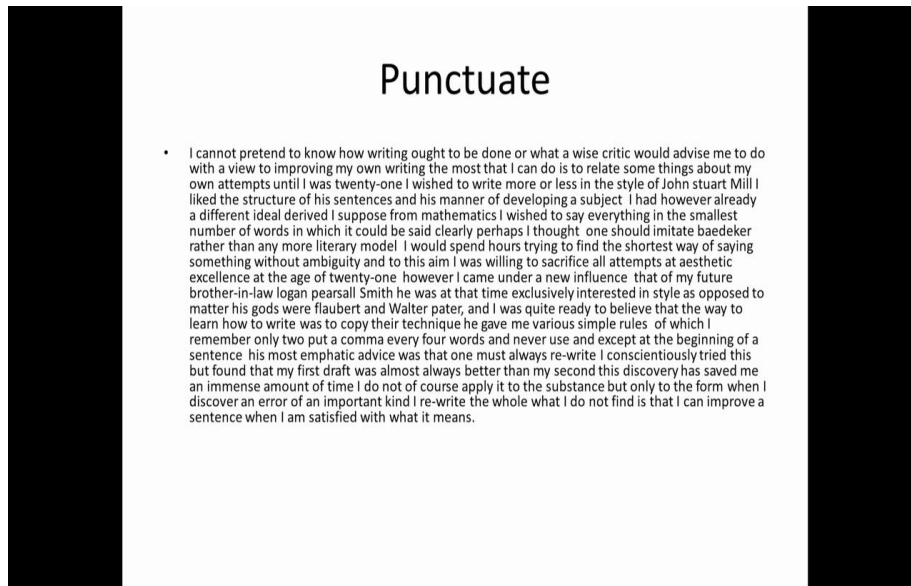
- Your 16 today!
- Ive come to take an interest in Physics.
- Here’s a great baby’s shop.
- The food was at it’s best at the party.
- He I still cant believe it jumped into the river.

Here is a slide; I would like you to look at these sentences, correct the errors in punctuation here. Please look at these sentences. Your 16 today! I have come to take an interest in Physics. Here is a great baby's shop. The food was at its best at the party. He I still cannot believe it jumped into the river.

And, here are your answers. You are 16 today! I have come, look at the apostrophe missing, come to take an interest in physics. Here again, here is a great baby's shops; not, if you say great baby's and b a b y apostrophe s, it looks like the baby is great. Here, you are talking about a great shop for babies. So, babies', look at the plural and look at the way apostrophe, apostrophe is used here. The food was at its best, you do not need an apostrophe after it in this sentence. And then, look at the way the sentence has been constructed, the last one; I still cannot believe it, separated by a pair of commas, jumped into the river.

Here is an exercise for you. Please look at it.

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Punctuate

- I cannot pretend to know how writing ought to be done or what a wise critic would advise me to do with a view to improving my own writing the most that I can do is to relate some things about my own attempts until I was twenty-one I wished to write more or less in the style of John Stuart Mill I liked the structure of his sentences and his manner of developing a subject I had however already a different ideal derived I suppose from mathematics I wished to say everything in the smallest number of words in which it could be said clearly perhaps I thought one should imitate Baedeker rather than any more literary model I would spend hours trying to find the shortest way of saying something without ambiguity and to this aim I was willing to sacrifice all attempts at aesthetic excellence at the age of twenty-one however I came under a new influence that of my future brother-in-law Logan Pearsall Smith he was at that time exclusively interested in style as opposed to matter his gods were Flaubert and Walter Pater, and I was quite ready to believe that the way to learn how to write was to copy their technique he gave me various simple rules of which I remember only two put a comma every four words and never use an except at the beginning of a sentence his most emphatic advice was that one must always re-write I conscientiously tried this but found that my first draft was almost always better than my second this discovery has saved me an immense amount of time I do not of course apply it to the substance but only to the form when I discover an error of an important kind I re-write the whole what I do not find is that I can improve a sentence when I am satisfied with what it means.

I cannot pretend to know how writing ought to be done or what a wise critic would advise me to do with a view to improving my own writing the most that I can do is to relate some things about my own attempts until I was twenty one I wished to write more or less in the style of John Stuart Mill I liked the

structure of his sentences and his manner of developing a subject I had however already a different ideal derived I suppose from mathematics I wished to say everything in the smallest numbers of words in which it could be said clearly perhaps I thought one should imitate baedeker rather than any more literary model I would spend hours trying to find the shortest way of saying something without ambiguity and to this aim I was willing to sacrifice all attempts at aesthetic excellence at the age of twenty one however I came under a new influence that of my future brother in law logan pearsall Smith he was at that time exclusively interested in style as opposed to matter his gods were flaubert and Walter pater and I was quite ready to believe that the way to learn how to write was to copy their technique he gave me various simple rules of which I remember only two put a comma every four words and never use and except at the beginning of a sentence his most emphatic advice was that one must always re-write I conscientiously tried this but found that my first draft was almost always better than my second this discovery has saved me an immense amount of time I do not of course apply it to the substance but only to the form when I discover an error of an important kind I re-write the whole what I do not find is that I can improve a sentence when I am satisfied with what it means'. I have, your exercise here is to punctuate wherever necessary.

This is a passage taken from the writings of Bertrand Russell. If you are interested in good essay writing and Bertrand Russell was a scientist, a writer, an essayist, and I would suggest that, you look up his writings. Please now do this exercise, you can consult your friends, work in pairs or groups as you wish.

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Answer

- I cannot pretend to know how writing ought to be done, or what a wise critic would advise me to do with a view to improving my own writing. The most that I can do is to relate some things about my own attempts. Until I was twenty-one, I wished to write more or less in the style of John Stuart Mill. I liked the structure of his sentences and his manner of developing a subject. I had, however, already a different ideal, derived, I suppose, from mathematics. I wished to say everything in the smallest number of words in which it could be said clearly. Perhaps, I thought, one should imitate Baedeker rather than any more literary model. I would spend hours trying to find the shortest way of saying something without ambiguity, and to this aim I was willing to sacrifice all attempts at aesthetic excellence. At the age of twenty-one, however, I came under a new influence, that of my future brother-in-law, Logan Pearsall Smith. He was at that time exclusively interested in style as opposed to matter. His gods were Flaubert and Walter Pater, and I was quite ready to believe that the way to learn how to write was to copy their technique. He gave me various simple rules, of which I remember only two: 'Put a comma every four words,' and 'never use "and" except at the beginning of a sentence.' His most emphatic advice was that one must always re-write. I conscientiously tried this, but found that my first draft was almost always better than my second. This discovery has saved me an immense amount of time. I do not, of course, apply it to the substance, but only to the form. When I discover an error of an important kind, I re-write the whole. What I do not find is that I can improve a sentence when I am satisfied with what it means.

By Bertrand Russell

Here is the answer; observe the use of capitalization; observe the use of commas and full stops and also colon. In one of our earlier lectures, we have talked about, that whenever there is a list of things or an advice or something like that, you use colon. And see, in one of the last few lines, he says, only to and the colon, put comma every four words. You also pay attention to the use of speech that is direct inverted commas.

Now, I want you to look at these sentences; very common errors. Look at the slide.

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Correct the errors

- i. His hairs have turned grey.
- ii. There are nice-nice shops on MG Road.
- iii. You have heard him many times, isn't it?
- iv. They lost their luggages at the airport.
- v. I am going to my native today.

Correct the errors. His hairs have turned grey. There are nice-nice shops on M G Road. You have heard him many times, isn't it? They lost their luggages at the airport. I am going to my native today.

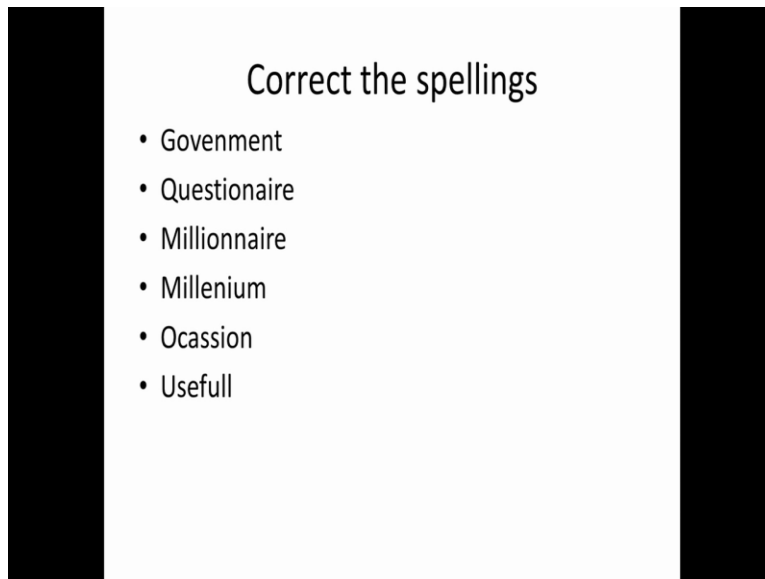
Perhaps, you feel that you already know all these things; but, it would not hurt if we revise some of the things that we have been doing so far in this course. And trust me there are many people out there, who do not know these things. So perhaps, some of you may know the answer and some you may feel that there is a bit of repetition, but there are still a number of students who get confused in this kind of usage; this exercise is particularly for them. So, let us correct them.

His hairs have turned grey; you do not generally use hair in plural. Hair is hair. She has brown hair not brown hairs. But, there is a hair in my soup. So, there is a, or I found some hairs in my soup, perhaps; but generally, we talk about hair as in a singular no matter how abundant your hair is. There are nice-nice shops on M G Road. This is an error of reduplication. Nice is enough. You use these things, such kinds of adjective, only once. But, some of us have a tendency, especially in speaking; we do make such kinds of errors. There are big-big shops. There are small-small children running all over; OK, avoid that. You see, once you practice speaking and you speak well, it will automatically get reflected in your writing.

And, it is the other way works as well. So, try to use as correct a model of spoken and written English as possible. You have heard him many times, isn't it? Now, this is an error of question tag. You see the tag at the end of the sentence isn't it; that is a tag. Now, if the main verb is of course, main verb is heard but have is the model here; the model verb here. So, you have heard him and the tag will follow the model verb here, so it is haven't you; it is not isn't it. She is pretty, isn't she? This is huge, isn't it? That is the way we make our tags. They lost their luggages at the airport. Again, the problem is of the use of plural. Certain nouns do not use a plural. For example, we have already done equipment, jewelry, scenery, they always remain in plural. So, no matter how many pieces of luggage you have, it remains luggage.

I am going to my native today; a very common error. No, native is rather archaic, no longer used in standard form of English; a better use would be, I am going to my hometown today. And, of course, you may always argue that, many of us use it all the time, but you are doing this course in order to improve your English. And, whenever you have such kinds of doubts that, I have been using this structure or this kind of vocabulary all my life, so what is so wrong with it, people understand me fine. People understand you, because they do not know what is the correct usage and therefore, you have taken the course. So, if you feel that, you have been using it throughout your life, and that is the way you intend to use, I give you your choice for it. This is the correct way. You can always look up the net, and find out. I have already given you several links. So, you can look at countable and uncountable nouns all over. You can look at topics like question tags all over, and there, they will give you immense amount of practice; several examples, where these kinds of doubts will be cleared.

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Correct the spellings

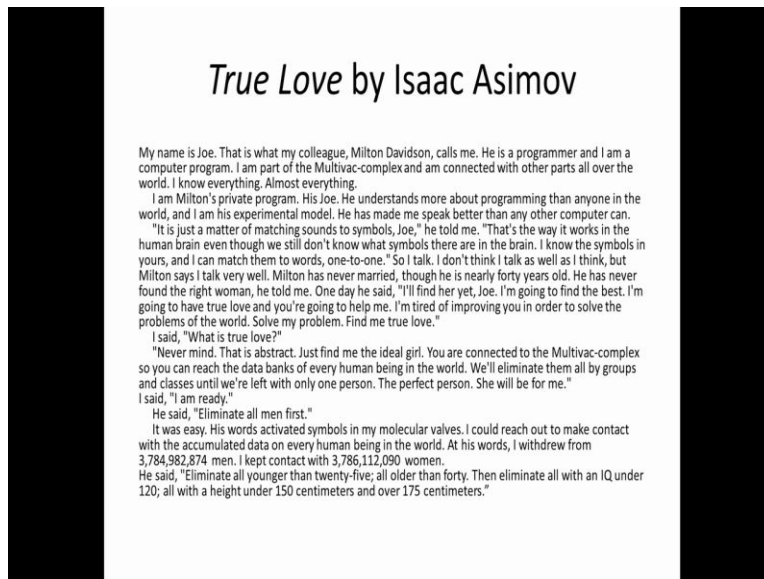
- Govenment
- Questionaire
- Millionnaire
- Millenium
- Ocassion
- Usefull

Here is a list of words. Please look at it and correct their spellings; very common spelling errors. Govenment, questionnaire, millionaire, millenium, ocassion, usefull. Please look up your dictionaries, find the correct meaning and the correct spelling, of course. Exercise is correct the spelling; so, find the correct spellings of these words. Do not always depend on your spell-check to help you. Have some kind of control over your writing; good vocabulary, good usage and some control over the way you spell your words will give you lot of confidence.

We have been doing so much of writing and I am encouraging you now, to write a paper, hopefully, of publishable quality and here, is a list of topics. Please look at the slide. Write a research article, that means, do some research, do some background reading, do some case studies and try to write an article on alternative sources of energy, the growth of supermarket in our country and supermarkets in our country, and managing traffic conditions in our country. All these areas have tremendous amount and scope of research, and publication. However, it completely depends on your area of interest. Here is a good starting point and a good area or good topic to practice; and then later on of course, I am sure you will publish a lot.

Now, let us look at this wonderful short story.

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Let us look at the slide. This is True Love by Isaac Asimov, another great scientist writer. The story is True Love and let me read out the story, I just an excerpt from the story; let us look at it.

‘My name is Joe. That is what my colleague, Milton Davidson, calls me. He is a programmer and I am a computer program. I am part of the Multivac-complex and am connected with other parts, all over the world. I know everything. Almost everything?’.

Look at the style, ok; but, all of us are not Isaac Asimov. So, let us go easy on this kind of technique and style, when we are just beginning to write. And, of course, this is a short story, a creative piece of writing, little bit difficult; the style is little different from the way you write your academic essays. But, given the fact that, it is a short story, it is a brilliant, brilliantly told short story.

I am Milton's private program. His Joe. He understands more about programming, than anyone in the world, and I am his experimental model. He has made me speak better than any other computer can.

“It is just a matter of matching sounds to symbols Joe”, he told me. “That’s is the way it works in the human brain, even though, we still don't know what symbols there are in the brain. I know the symbols in yours, and I can match them to words, one to one”. So, I talk. I don't think I talk as well as I think, but Milton says, I talk very well. Milton has never married, though he is nearly 40 years old. He

has never found the right woman, he told me. One day he said, "I'll find her yet, Joe. I'm am going to find the best. I'm am going to have true love and you're are going to help me. I'm am tired of improving you, in order to solve the problems of the world. Solve my problem, and find me true love".

I said, "What is true love?"

"Never mind. That is abstract. Just find me the ideal girl. You are connected to the Multivac-complex. So you can reach the data banks of every human being in the world. We'll will eliminate them all, by groups and classes, until we're are left with only one person. The perfect person. She will be for me".

I said, "I am ready."

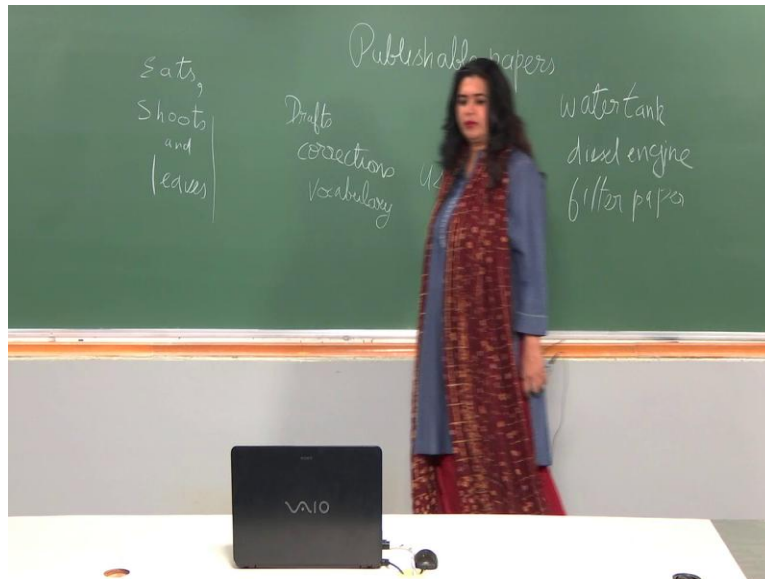
He said, "Eliminate all men first."

It was easy. His words activated symbols in my molecular valves. I could reach out to make contact with the accumulated data on every human being in the world. At his words, I withdrew from so many men. I kept contact with so many women.

He said, "Eliminate all younger than twenty-five; or all older than 40. Then, eliminate with an IQ under 120; all with a height under 150 centimeters, and over 175 centimeters."

Alright, so if you are further interested in this story, I would like you to look this up; True Love by Isaac Asimov, a very entertaining story. And, here is your exercise, what I want you to do. I want you to attempt an essay. Now, this is not a publishable essay, but an essay that I want you to discuss with your friends. Sit in a group and write. Let us put a word limit to it, 500 words, on men's relationship to machines in modern society; men's relationship to machines in modern society. Now, I want you to take you to another area. It is called compound nouns.

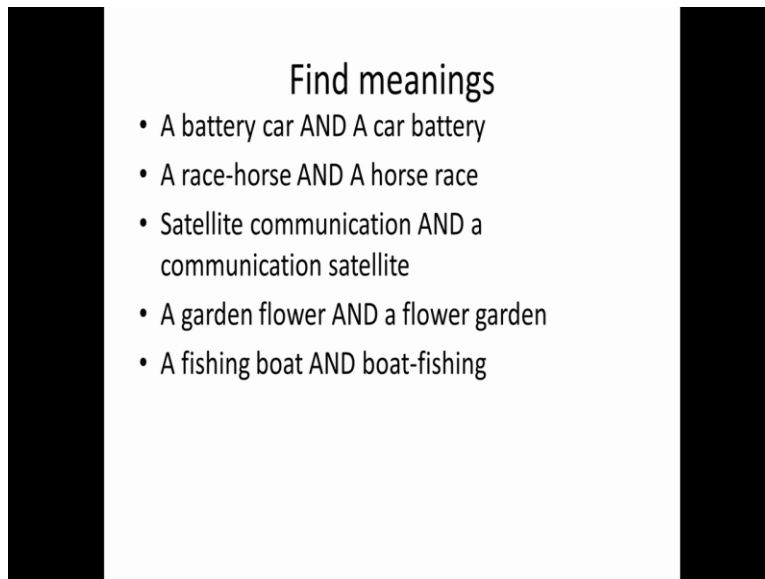
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Look at words like water tank, diesel engine. Observe the way we are bringing two nouns together; filter paper. These are called compound nouns. Just few examples, motorcycle, policeman, dining table, all these are examples of compound nouns.

What are compound nouns? A compound noun, a word that is a compound noun, consists of two or more things joined together. They normally have two parts. The first part tells us what kind of object or person it is, or what the purpose is. The second part identifies the object or person in question. So, tank, water tank, engine, what kind of engine, diesel engine, paper, what kind of paper, filter paper, not writing paper. Compound nouns often have a meaning that is different, or more specific than the two separate words. So, water has another meaning, tank has another meaning; when they are brought together, they form another meaning. Remember, as scientists and as a technocrats, you will be using or you will be making frequent use of compound nouns in your scientific and technical writing, because they bring about a sense of conciseness and precision. If you look carefully, you will find that, scientific journals contain more compound nouns, than any other kind of writing. Please look at the slide and this is your exercise.

(Refer Slide Time: 40:23)



Find meanings

- A battery car AND A car battery
- A race-horse AND A horse race
- Satellite communication AND a communication satellite
- A garden flower AND a flower garden
- A fishing boat AND boat-fishing

A battery car AND A car battery; I want you to give definitions of this. A race-horse AND A horse race; satellite communication AND a communication satellite; a garden flower AND a flower garden; a fishing boat AND boat fishing; see how different the meanings are. You just have to reverse the order of the words.

And, here is another exercise for you; please look at the slide.

(Refer Slide Time: 41:03)

Make compound nouns

- The box for the tools
- Wire made of copper
- Plugs with two pins
- Wire for fuse
- A factory for making small cars

I want you to make compound nouns from this or from these phrases. The box for the tools; wire made of copper; plugs with two pins; wire for fuse; a factory for making small cars. What should be the compound nouns?

(Refer Slide Time: 41:20)

References

- <http://www.gingersoftware.com/content/grammar-rules/nouns/compound-nouns/>
- <https://www.englishclub.com/grammar/nouns-compound.htm>
- <http://grammar.yourdictionary.com/parts-of-speech/nouns/compound-noun.html>

And, here is your reference. Please look at the slide. And, do a lot of practice; go to these links here. Make optimum use of these references.

Thank you very much.

Tags

Reading English, English for Engineers, English words, English Exercise, Exercises in English, Grammar usage, English Grammar, vocabulary, words and phrases, spoken communication, written communication, English writing, English speaking, scientific English, report writing, CV, formal letter, Speech-Preposition, Noun Phrases, Countable and uncountable nouns, singular, plural, Modals and Voice, Tenses, Effective Speaking

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