

Between Different Styles of Academic Writing: Illustrations

1- Single authors in some fields use the first-person pronoun I (note that in some Engineering and hard science fields, single authors may choose we, given the collaborative nature of research in these areas). We, of course, is common in co-authored papers, which are increasingly the norm in publications. Research indicates that I or we can be used in academic writing, but many new authors are very reluctant to use I.

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2- The use of contraction in some fields is usual:

Export figures won't improve until the economy is stronger.

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Micropumps can be used in drug delivery, lab-on-a-chip analysis, etc.

Micropumps can be used in drug delivery, analysis, ink dispensing, and other specialized application that require self-contained, low power, miniature pumps

3- Sometimes the use of a direct question can be a very effective means to draw your reader's attention to a point. This may be particularly useful when laying out an argument or research questions to be answered. However, indirect questions, such as those on the right, are likely more common.

Many studies have investigated why antibiotic resistance has increased

instead of

Why has antibiotic resistance increased?

4- Adverb placement might be important. Often in academic writing adverbs are placed in mid-position rather than in the initial or final positions of sentences. In other contexts, English adverbs often occur at the beginning or end of sentences

This model was developed

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Then the morphology of the samples was analyzed using a

scanning electron microscope (SEM).

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References:

Academic Writing for Graduate Students, 3rd Edition: Essential Skills and Tasks. John M. Swales & Christine B. Feak <http://www.press.umich.edu/titleDetailDesc.do?id=2173936> Michigan ELT, 2012