

# Plagiarism

## What is plagiarism?

“The action or practice of taking someone else's work, idea, etc., and passing it off as one's own; literary theft.”

Source: [Oxford English Dictionary](#)

“Plagiarism is the representation of other people's work or ideas as your own without appropriate referencing or acknowledgement.”

Source: [Academic Integrity](#), UCL.

# Failure to cite correctly:

## Error of omission

Bridget's mistakes:

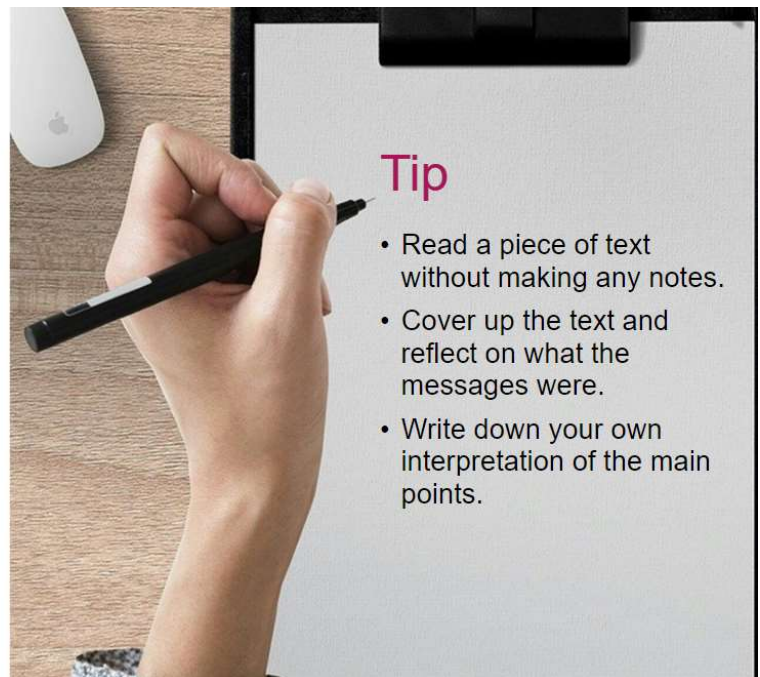
- Copied and pasted without making note of her source
- Does not know which words are hers and which came from the source.
- Failed to cite her sources.

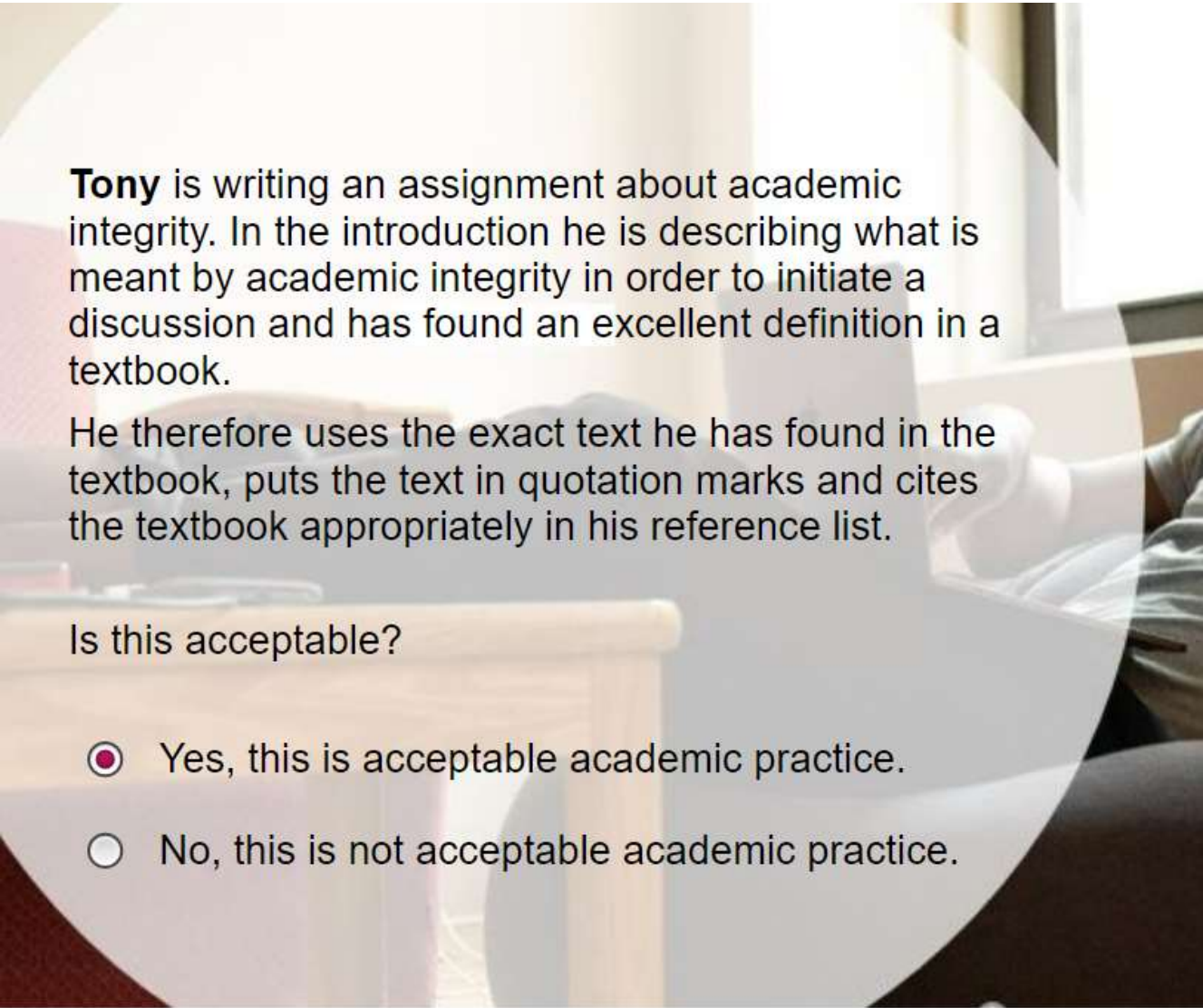
Is it acceptable to rewrite someone else's thoughts in your own words?

- ☐ Yes, this is acceptable academic practice.
- ☐ No, this is not acceptable academic practice.

## Paraphrasing

- Rewriting a piece of work in your own words.
- Demonstrates you have understood the academic context of the piece and allows you to support your argument.
- Not enough to just change a few words from the original.



A person is sitting at a desk, writing in a notebook. A desk lamp is on the desk, and a window is in the background. The scene is dimly lit, with the lamp providing the main source of light.

**Tony** is writing an assignment about academic integrity. In the introduction he is describing what is meant by academic integrity in order to initiate a discussion and has found an excellent definition in a textbook.

He therefore uses the exact text he has found in the textbook, puts the text in quotation marks and cites the textbook appropriately in his reference list.

Is this acceptable?

- ☒ Yes, this is acceptable academic practice.
- ☐ No, this is not acceptable academic practice.

# Quoting

Using the exact words of another author.

## **When to use quotes:**

- A memorable phrase.
- Expressing someone else's viewpoint to then comment on it yourself.

## **When not to use quotes:**

- When summarising or describing ideas.
- In place of your own ideas.



## Quoting tips

- Are the words you have selected really worth quoting?
- Always use quotation marks.
- Retain the flow of the text.

# Common knowledge

Common knowledge is information which is:

- well known in a particular field – a widely known fact;
- easily verified by consulting standard textbooks or encyclopaedias such as undisputed historical facts or well known formulas or equations.

## Common knowledge

- Queen Elizabeth I died in 1603 = Common knowledge.

- Elizabeth kept the last letter that Leicester wrote to her by her bedside = Not common knowledge, reference needed.

# Copying

- Submitting someone else's work as your own.
- Copying words or ideas from someone else without giving credit.
- Changing words but copying the sentence structure of a source without giving credit.
- Copying so many words or ideas from a source that it makes up the majority of your work, whether you give credit or not.

# Freely available online information

- Using unacknowledged freely available information from the Internet is a case of plagiarism.
- The expression of original ideas is intellectual property and is protected by copyright law.



# Self-plagiarism

- Self plagiarism is when you re-use your own previously written work or data in a new assignment and do not reference it appropriately.
- You may use extracts of your own previous work but you should always cite where it has come from.

## Tip

If in doubt, talk to your tutor or supervisor.

# Self-plagiarism

Self-plagiarism “is the reproduction or resubmission of a student’s own work which has been submitted for assessment at UCL or any other institution. This does not include earlier formative drafts of the particular assessment, or instances where the department has explicitly permitted the re-use of formative assessments but does include all other formative work except where permitted.”

Source: [Academic Manual](#), *UCL*.

# Use of a third party

It is not acceptable to use a third party agency to help with writing your academic work.

Your submitted work must be completely your own work.

Using a third party to complete your assessed work for you is known as contract cheating. It is strictly forbidden and consequences can be severe.

Using a third party or software to check spelling and grammar is acceptable, but if it results in substantive changes this may be considered academic misconduct.

See [Academic Integrity](#), UCL.



# Collusion

- Unauthorised collaboration with other people on any assessment.
- It includes: contributing to group work and passing off a group member's work as your own.
- If asking a friend for feedback on your work, ensure they do not make changes for you.
- All work you submit should be entirely your own.



# Failure to cite correctly

This includes:

- Failure to use quotation marks for a direct quote.
- Failure to include a citation within your text.
- Failure to produce a full and correct bibliography.

## **Remember:**

This can happen by accident – always make sure you keep a record of where you have found information.

## **How to avoid Plagiarism**

# Why do people plagiarise?

By accident:

- Unclear about how to reference properly.
- Error of omission.
- Cultural differences.

By design:

- Time pressure, borrow a friend's work.
- Easier to copy and paste from the Internet than do the work.
- Don't believe they will get caught.

**In either case, plagiarism will be penalised.**

It is worth noting that UCL subscribes to Turnitin, which is plagiarism detection software.

# Potential penalties

- Substantial marks deduction;
- Zero marks on the work;
- Note on your file (affecting references);
- Could cost you your degree.
- 'Poor Academic Practice' – less severe.

# How to avoid plagiarism

## Notes

- Write notes in your own words and keep a record of where you read the information.

## Paraphrasing

- Use your own words to show you understand the academic context and to support your argument.

## Quoting

- Are the words worth quoting and always use quotation marks

## Citations

- Cite all sources (correctly!) even if it is not a direct quotation.



# Turnitin

- Turnitin – a ‘text-matching’ or ‘plagiarism detection’ tool.
- Database of journal articles, websites and other students’ work.
- Similarity index score, expressed as a percentage.

You can check your work via  
[Plagiarism and academic writing for students](#)  
Moodle course.

Check for plagiarism [UCL Moodle: Log in to the site](#)

Plagiarism and academic writing ( ... ) Check your work here with Turnitin. - Pa. >

What's New

Originality GraderMark PeerMark

MS  
BY ANGELA C YOUNG

turnitin 22%  
OUT OF 100

**Match Overview**

1	T. Hayton. "Grey matte..."	6%
2	Yamout, B., Z. Issa, A. ...	6%
3	Udupa, Jayaram K., La...	5%
4	Joshua T. Cohen. "Wal..."	4%

[Guidance for students submitting work to Turnitin via Moodle](#)

**main menu**

**Expanded Disability Status Scale (EDSS)**

The most commonly used tool for quantifying clinical disability in MS is the expanded disability status scale (EDSS) (Kurtzke 1983). This is an ordinal scale in which an assessing clinician examines 8 functional systems – visual, brainstem, pyramidal, cerebellar, sensory, bowel/bladder, cerebral and ambulatory function - and assigns a score of 0-5 for each one (0-6 in the case of the visual system) according to defined examination findings. An overall score from 0-10 is assigned based on the combined scores from each functional system and an estimation of mobility and independent function: zero represents no detectable neurological deficit and 10 death due to MS.

Despite being widely used, the EDSS is heavily weighted towards mobility and relatively insensitive to upper limb, cognitive and visual dysfunction (Cutter et al 1999); has relatively poor intra- and inter-rater reproducibility (Noseworthy et al 1990); and is vulnerable to subjective investigator bias (Noseworthy et al 1994). Because of this the National MS Society established a task force to develop a more objective and reproducible assessment scale. The result was the multiple sclerosis functional composite (MSFC).

Why acknowledge your sources ?

# Why acknowledge your sources?

- Scholar's courtesy:
  - Identify which ideas are yours.
  - Show how you have built on the ideas of others.
- Demonstrate how widely you have read.
- Provide evidence and support for your assertions.
- The reader can follow up source ideas in more depth.
- Academic honesty.
  - [UCL Academic Integrity website](#)

Keep track of your sources so you can acknowledge them.

# What information do you need to record in order to cite sources correctly?

- Who has 'made' the item (the author, creator, compiler...)?
- What is it called?
- If part of a larger work, what is that called?
- Where was (is) it disseminated/published?
- By whom?
- When?
- A direct quotation, or allusion, should always include the page number(s).

## Book chapter

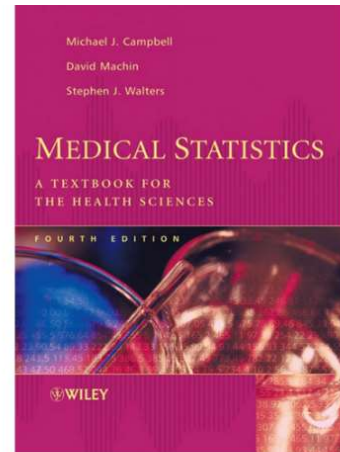
From the cover of the book we have noted:

- Book authors or editors
- Book title and subtitle
- Book edition
- Publisher's name

This information may also be found on the title page.

What other information do you need in order to cite a book chapter?  
Select all that apply.

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chapter author(s)               | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Year of publication     |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Title of chapter (and subtitle) | <input type="checkbox"/> Place of publication               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> ISBN                                       | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Page numbers of chapter |





The other information required may be found on the contents page, or the reverse of the title page.

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On the contents page you should find the chapter title and page numbers.

You may need to go to the chapter itself to find the chapter authors.

On the reverse of the title page you should find the year and place of publication

[illegible]

## Journal article

What information do you think you need in order to cite a journal article?

Select all that apply.

**thebmj** Research - Education - News & Views - Campaigns Archive

**Research**

**Congenital Zika syndrome with arthrogryposis: retrospective case series study**

*BMJ* 2016; 354: doi: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1136/bmj.3899> (Published 09 August 2016)

Cite this as: *BMJ* 2016;354:h999

Article	Related content	Metrics	Responses	Peer review
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Olavass Gomes de Linden, paediatric neurologist<sup>1</sup>, Epitacio Leite Rolim Filho, paediatric orthopaedic surgeon<sup>1,2</sup>, Vanessa Gomes Lima, clinical neurophysiologist<sup>3</sup>, Ana van der Linden, paediatric neurologist<sup>4</sup>, Maria de Fátima Viana Vasco Aragão, radiologist<sup>4,5</sup>, Alessandra Merten Brainer-Lima, radiologist<sup>4,6</sup>, Danielle Di Cavalcanti Sousa Cruz, paediatrician<sup>4</sup>, Maria Angela Wanderley Rocha, paediatric neurologist<sup>4</sup>, Paula Fabiana Sobral da Silva, paediatrician<sup>4</sup>, Marice Durce Costa Gomes Carvalho, paediatric neurologist<sup>4</sup>, Fernando José do Amaral, radiologist<sup>4</sup>, Joelma Arruís Gomes, paediatrician<sup>4</sup>, Igor Colço Ribeiro de Medeiros, paediatrician<sup>4</sup>, Camila V Ventura, ophthalmologist<sup>7,8</sup>, Regina Celi Ramos, paediatric infectologist<sup>9</sup>

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**Accepted** 5 July 2016

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Author(s)                      | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Year of publication  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Title of article               | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Place of publication |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Title of journal               | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Volume number        |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Page numbers or article number | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Issue number         |

## Online information

What additional information do you think is required to cite online information, such as a website or blog?

## Incorrect

The URL, or website address, and the date you accessed the site are required. The date is helpful for readers when following up a reference, in case that information is no longer on the website. The copyright date and link to accessibility statement are not required.

Continue

# Citing your sources

- Citations and bibliographies must consistently adhere to a particular style.
- Hundreds of different styles, mostly very similar.
- Usually based on 'author/date' or 'numerical' style.

Most important! Choose a style and **stick to it**. Citations formatting must be consistent.

Refer to your tutor or departmental handbook for advice on which style to use.



# Citing your sources

Citations consist of 2 elements:

## In-text citations:

- A consensus on diagnosis of Crohn's disease (1) reports that ...
- A consensus on diagnosis of Crohn's disease (Travis et al., 2006) reports that...

## Bibliography / Reference List:

- Needs to provide enough information that the reader would be able to identify the exact information source.

See the library's guide to [Referencing, citations and avoiding plagiarism](#) for examples.

# What's a Bibliography?

*Published June 7, 2017*

A bibliography is a list of all of the sources you have used (whether referenced or not) in the process of researching your work. In general, a bibliography should include:

- the authors' names
- the titles of the works
- the names and locations of the companies that published your copies of the sources
- the dates your copies were published
- the page numbers of your sources (if they are part of multi-source volumes)

<https://www.plagiarism.org/article/whats-a-bibliography>



## Harvard

- Bibliography is alphabetical by author's name.
- All resources in one list.
- Where the same author has more than one publication, list them in chronological order with the earliest first. If these publications also occur in the same year, add a letter to the year to distinguish them. Eg. 1999a, 1999b.

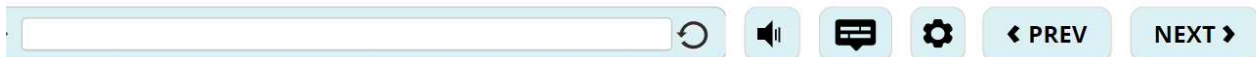


### In the text

A consensus on diagnosis of Crohn's disease (Strange, 2006) reports that...

### In the bibliography

Strange, E.F. 2006. European evidence based consensus on the diagnosis and management of Crohn's disease: current management. *New England Journal of Medicine*, 55(Suppl. 1): pp. i16-i35.



## Why use Harvard



### Pros

- Author in text so do not need to keep referring to bibliography.
- Date in text allows for chronological argument.
- Can easily add additional references at any point in the text.

### Cons

- Can be confusing where many references have no date or no author, e.g. websites, TV, and audio-visual items.

# Vancouver

- In numeric order.
- All resources in one list.
- Publications by the same author in the same year do not need to have letters by the year to distinguish them.
- For up to six authors include all names; if there are more than six, give the first six authors' surnames and initials followed by et al.

## In the text

A consensus on diagnosis of Crohn's disease (14) reports that...

## In the bibliography

- (14) Strange EF. European evidence based consensus on the diagnosis and management of Crohn's disease: current management. N Engl J Med. 2006;55(Suppl. 1): i16-i35.

# Why use Vancouver

Used widely in medicine and engineering.

## Pros

- Number in the in-text citation does not interrupt the flow of the text.
- Good where references do not have an author or date.

## Cons

- You need to refer to the bibliography to know the author and date of the reference.
- May be harder to add additional references at any point in the text.

# Reference management software

- Create your own library of references.
- Interacts with Word:
  - Insert references in your essay.
  - Format bibliographies and in-text citations in the style of your choice.
  - Still need to check formatting is correct.
  - Saves you time.

EndNote, Mendeley, Zotero.

See library guide to [Reference Management Software](#) – includes guides to each package and details of training and support.



Reference management software:- [What is reference management software - Reference management software - LibGuides at University College London, Global \(ucl.ac.uk\)](#)

# Summary: hints and tips

- Keep full details of any references you might use – it can be impossible to find this information later.
- Clearly mark any direct quotations in your notes and include a record of the page number the quote came from.
- Ensure your citations are complete and consistent.
- Make use of reference management software (EndNote, Mendeley, Zotero, etc.) to manage your bibliography and help you cite your references correctly.

[Referencing and plagiarism \(ucl.ac.uk\)](http://ucl.ac.uk)