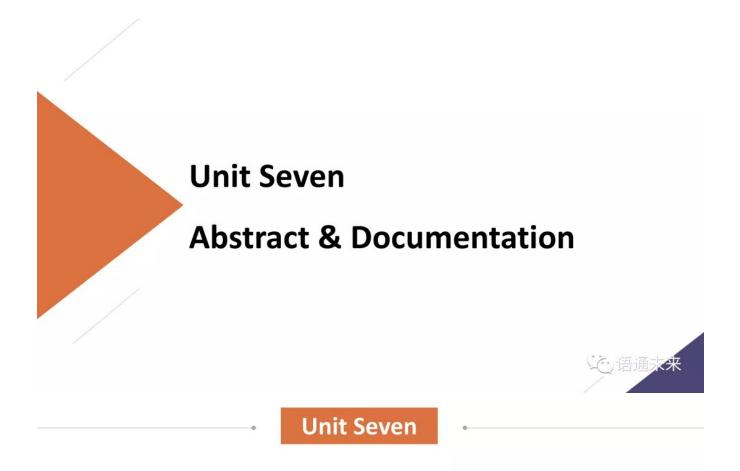
English Academic Writing: Unit 7 Abstract&Documentation

凌建辉 语通未来 1周前

English Academic Writing: Unit 7 Abstract&Documentation



Learning Objectives

- To understand the elements and features of an abstract;
- To become aware of the use of verbs and tenses in an abstract;
- · To learn how to provide keywords in an abstract;
- · To understand reference styles;
- To write an abstract and create a reference list.

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I. The information elements of an abstract.

a. background	b. objective	c. materials	d. approach
e. findings	f. conclusion	g. implication	h. limitation

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II. Keywords.

In order to increase the probability that a paper will be read and retrieved, it is necessary to select 3–5 keywords from categories like discipline, topic, location, methods, and data so that they can potentially improve citation counts and journal impacts.

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III. Language Focus

1. Verbs, Sentence Patterns, and Verb Tenses

In writing an abstract, verbs, sentence patterns, and verb tenses should be considered carefully. The following two tables demonstrate some good points that you can refer to when writing an abstract. Table 1 presents verbs and sentence patterns and Table 2 is related to verb tenses.

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III. Language Focus

Table 1 Verbs and Sentence Patterns in an Abstract

Information Elements	Verbs	Sentence Patterns	
Background	originate, provide, summarize, review,	The theory comes/stems/emerges/originates from The theory is obtained from	
Objective	develop, explain, address, aim, attempt,	This paper develops a theoretical framework toThis report/thesis/presentationexplains/outlines/ summaries/evaluates/surveys/develops/investigates/ discusses/focuses onthe results of	
Researchfocus(es)	present, discover, include, study,	The chief aim/main purpose/primary object/major objective/ principal goal of the study is to presentThe main purpose of this essay is to discover	
Research process examine, conduct, analyze, discuss, consider, investigate,		Firstly,was examined, and then, the experiment on was conducted.Afterwas analyzed, the results were discussed. Before the questionnaire was designed,must be considered.	

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Information Elements	Verbs	Sentence Patterns
Methods	observe, collect, estimate, calculate, measure,	The curative effect/sensitivity/function of certain drug/kit/ organ was observed/detected/studied. The experiment was designed to collect the data on
Research results	show, present, indicate, demonstrate, illustrate, imply,	It has been found/observed/proved/shown thatThese experiments indicate/reveal/show/demonstrate that The approach/method/framework promises to beThe results show/indicate/suggest that It is shown/concluded/proposed that This could imply thatThese studies are of significance to These results have direct application to
Conclusion	summarize, introduce, conclude,	This article summarizesThe experiment has introducedThis causes/results in/leads to/brings about/gives rise to The data leads us to thatThe data enables us to conclude that

Table 7-2 Verb Tenses in an Abstract

Types of Information	Verb Tenses	Examples
Giving background details	The simple present tense	The industry <u>is</u> already well known for its efforts to improve the eco-efficiency of its processes.
Describing researchactivities		The study <u>focused</u> on twomain areas.The framework for life cycleanalysis <u>has been</u> developed.

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Types of Information	Verb Tenses	Examples
Describing methods	The simple past tense (active or passive) (sometimes the simple present tense according to the journal's requirements)	We <u>carried out</u> a series of fieldtests.A large number of samples <u>were tested</u> for fracturing.
Reporting results	The simple past tense (sometimes the simple present tense according to the journal's requirements)	Results <u>indicated</u> that the problem is even more serious than previously predicted. The third model <u>proved</u> to be more durable than the other four.
Stating conclusions	The simple present tense	This indicates that there <u>are</u> , in fact, several factors contributing to the decrease. It <u>appears</u> that the incidence of human error cannot be eliminated at any stage. There <u>might</u> be a need for revising the list of criteria within the <u>appears</u> 3-10 years.

IV. Making a Reference List

All of the sources you refer to in the main body of your paper need to be listed at the end on a reference list. On this list, you need to list those sources from which you have either quoted or paraphrased.

A reference includes at least the following three functions:

- First, it is used to avoid plagiarism;
- Second, it tells editors and readers what sources have been cited in the paper;
- •Third, it can help readers to refer to the materials when they write papers.

And a good reference should adhere to the following three rules:

- •First, it must be authoritative. Choosing an authoritative expert and an authoritative journal in a related field to refer to is quite safe and preferable when citing others' work.
- •Second, it should be up-to-date. Except old but typical books or articles, your references should be of the latest study to convince your readers.
- •Third, you can use two or three articles in the journal that you want to submit to as your references, which can help to enhance your target journal's influence.

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There are at least two different types of references. The Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) style is widely used in writing research papers, commonly in technical fields, particularly in computer science.

Modern Language Association (MLA) style is an academic style guide widely used in the United States, Canada, and other countries, providing guidelines for writing and documentation of research in social sciences.



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