Academic Writing in English

Methods



Methods

- ◆ 1. Be exhaustive but do not include unnecessary details (strictly keep to methods relevant for result presented in paper)
- ◆ 2. Don't loose sight of goal: replicability/ answering questions of reader
- ◆ 3. Use a crystal clear style: short and simple sentences
- ◆ 4. Use imagery/illustration/concrete examples!

Structure

- **◆**Participants
- ◆Stimuli/task/questionnaire
- **♦**Procedure
- ◆Data analysis

The structure can vary across different disciplines!

Language

- **◆**Passives
- **♦**Tense
- ◆Use of "the"

Passives

- ◆In formal academic writing, when you report what you did, use passive voice.
- ◆You don't write 'by us' or 'by me' when changing the sentence from active to passive. You simply leave the agent out, creating an agentless passive.
- ◆You can use "we" to refer to the authors here but not "I".

Tense

- ◆Use past simple tense
- Unless you are describing something normal or standard

For example, evoked potentials were recorded in an odd ball paradigm, which is used to test preattentive detection of changes.

Use of "the"

◆"The" is used when you want to refer to any particular part of your experiment but not "participants".

Let's read examples!

