

Words



"I'm a man of few words."

Words

- There are many words (350,000ish) – how do you choose?
 - What words mean
 - What you want to say
 - Who the readers are

Words

- What words mean
 - Usually pretty obvious (pretty?)
 - Cleave
 - Best/Worst
 - Counterfeit
 - Use a dictionary!

Words

- What the writer wants to say
 - Alternative energy sources (wind, solar, tidal, geothermal) cost more money per Gigawatt than conventional fossil fuels.

Words

- Who the readers are
 - Science/Nature
 - Physical Review E
 - Proposal
 - Thesis
 - Interview

Words

- Long Words, Short Words, and Jargon
 - flatulence vs fart
 - utilize/use, consequently/thus, approximately/about
 - Technical words – save length and enhance clarity
 - Becomes jargon if simpler words suffices
 - acronyms and initialisms

Words

- Nominalizations
 - *We conducted an analysis* of the data... **vs** *We analyzed* the data...
 - The adaptive lens *had* superior *performance*... **vs** The adapted lens *performed* better...
 - Our *intention is* to... **vs** We *intend* to...
 - McNamara (2008) *provided a review of*... **vs** McNamara (2005) *reviewed*...

Words

- Troublesome words
 - affect/effect
 - principal/principle
 - which/that - *My bike which/that has a broken seat is in the garage*
 - Data/criteria as singular?
 - Look for lists and post them at your desk

Today's workshop

Words markup

- Choose a passage from a methods section
 - Identify few words that would be jargon – they necessary?
 - Find nominalizations – remove them and see how it reads? Improved?