

Clause

A group of words
that include a
subject and a verb

“I went to the store, and I left the dog behind.”

Independent clause: could stand on its own

Semicolons

Join two related independent clauses in place of a comma and a coordinating conjunction

Demonstrative pronouns

Demonstrative adjective – makes the reference unambiguous

The class I am taking is boring.

versus

This is boring.

RULE TWO !!!

In scientific writing, however,
demonstrative pronouns should
always be avoided.

Never use “This” as
the subject of the
sentence!!!

No:

~~“This is...”~~

Yes:

“This method is...”

“This theory is...”

“This measurement is...”

“This spectrum is...”

“This star is...”

Similar problems possible w/ “it”
~~“...but when it occurs...”~~

Compared to:

“...but when the process occurs...”

“...but when the event occurs...”

“...but when the shock occurs...”

“...but when the merger occurs...”

^ki.e., Be careful when “it” is meant to refer to a specific thing

Vague words for specific things

“objects”

Same as for “*system*”:

“These galaxies/stars/AGN/planets”
vs *“these objects”*

Over-qualifying and Intensifying

“relatively” = *“2x larger than”*

“somewhat” = *“<15%”*

“mostly” = *“>75%”*

“significantly” = *“>3.4 sigma”*

“very” = *“...”*

You're scientists.

Lay those measurements down!

Active vs. Passive Voice

- Active voice describes a sentence where the subject performs the action stated by the verb.
- In passive voice sentences, the subject is acted upon by the verb.

“We model the emission lines ...”

“The emission lines were modeled ...”

Active vs. Passive Voice

- Active voice reduces ambiguity.
- – Active: “*We reduced the ALMA data...*”
 - Passive: “*The ALMA data was reduced...*”,
but by who? ALMA data center? The authors?
- Active voice typically requires fewer words, producing shorter, clearer sentences.

Don't Mix Active and Passive Voice !
RULE 3!!