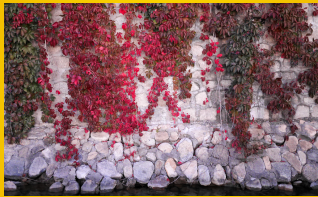


Scientific Writing in English
—英语科研论文写作—

MODULE 2



Lecture 8: Friday 16.10.2015
(7-8.40pm)

Scientific Writing in English
—英语科研论文写作—

Overview

1. Task 13 Formal Grammar Style - Solutions
2. Module 2 - Formal Grammar (Style cont.)
3. Task 14 Formal Grammar Style – Exercise
4. Discussion & Re-Submission

Scientific Writing in English
—英语科研论文写作—

1. Task 13 Formal Grammar Style - Solutions

TASK 13 - PART 1

1. Crash test dummies are **really important for/an integral part of** automotive crash tests.
2. In Hong Kong there is one cell phone for **just about/nearly every** two people.
3. There has been **a lot of/considerable** interest in how background sounds such as music affect an individual's ability to concentrate.
4. We **got/obtained** encouraging results using structural bamboo rather than timber.
5. Consumer interest in electronic billing and payment is **getting bigger and bigger/increasing**.

TASK 13 - PART 1

Results: (526/463 submissions)

Phrase	first round	second round
...an integral part of	94%	98%
...nearly	93%	97%
...considerable	95%	98%
...obtained	94%	97%
...increasing	96%	97%



PART 1

1. Crash test dummies are ~~really important for/~~ **an integral part of** automotive crash tests.
2. In Hong Kong there is one cell phone for ~~just about/nearly~~ **every** two people.
3. There has been ~~a lot of/~~ **considerable** interest in how background sounds such as music affect an individual's ability to concentrate.
4. We ~~got/~~ **obtained** encouraging results using structural bamboo rather than timber.
5. Consumer interest in electronic billing and payment is ~~getting bigger and bigger/~~ **increasing**.

TASK 13 PART 2

6. The competition faced by U.S. growers from imports of Mexican fresh vegetables has ***gotten more intense***.
7. Many urban areas ***do not have enough*** land to build new public schools.
8. Allergic reactions to local dental anesthesia ***do not happen very often***.
9. The doors on these ferries were ***made bigger to make it easier to load and unload*** vehicles.

-> no choices, higher degree of difficulty

PART 2

6. The competition faced by U.S. growers from imports of Mexican fresh vegetables has ***gotten more intense***.

1. round

2. round

has become increasingly/
more fierce/intense
gotten more fierce/
intense
intense
intensified

increased/intensified
increasingly intense

increased/intensified


PART 2

7. Many urban areas ***do not have enough*** land to build new public schools.

possible answers: **do not possess sufficient, are lacking, have insufficient, have limited land available**


PART 2

8. Allergic reactions to local dental anesthesia *do not happen very often*.
possible answers: **rarely occur/are rare/occur rarely occur occasionally**




PART 2

9. The doors on these ferries were *made bigger to make it easier to load and unload vehicles*.
possible other answers:
enlarged to facilitate loading of vehicles
increased in size to simplify loading of vehicles
expanded to facilitate loading of vehicles



Scientific Writing in English
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2. Module 2 - Formal Grammar (Style cont.)



Module 2 Unit 1 – Style (cont.)

Formal Grammar Style – Some Recommendations

1a. Avoid **contractions** (indicated by apostrophe '')

Examples:

Export figures won't improve this year.

Our result didn't match previous reports.

The assay couldn't detect the proteins.

Style

Formal Grammar Style – Some Recommendations

1a. Avoid contractions (indicated by apostrophe '')

Examples:

Export figures won't improve this year.	Export figures will not improve this year.
Our result didn't match previous reports.	Our results did not match previous reports.
The assay couldn't detect the proteins.	The assay did not detect the proteins. (Why not 'could not'?)

Style

Formal Grammar Style – Some Recommendations

1a. Avoid contractions – often not even required

Examples:

Export figures won't improve this year.	Export figures show little improvement this year.
Our result didn't match previous reports.	Our results yielded no matches to previous reports.
The assay couldn't detect the proteins.	The proteins were undetectable in this assay.

Style

Formal Grammar Style – Some Recommendations

1b. Do not use (Avoid) apostrophes altogether!

-> re-structure your statements accordingly

Exception in Methods Section:

The assay was performed according to the **manufacturer's instructions**.

Style

Formal Grammar Style – some recommendations

2. Use formal negative forms

The analysis didn't get us any new results.	The analysis yielded no new results.
The government didn't allocate much funding for the program.	The government allocated little funding for the program.
This problem doesn't have many viable solutions.	This problem has few viable solutions.

Style

Formal Grammar Style – some recommendations

3. Avoid the use of "run-on" expressions (and so forth, and so on, etc.)

This receptor family has protein X, Y, Z <u>and so on</u> .	This receptor family contains several members, including protein X, Y, Z.
These semiconductors are put into mobile phones, TVs, robots <u>etc</u> .	These semiconductors are used in mobile phones, TVs, robots and other electronic devices.

Style

Formal Grammar Style – some recommendations

3. Avoid the use of "run-on" expressions (and so forth, and so on, etc.)

Example from a recently edited manuscript

Glycans are usually attached to macromolecules to form important complexes, say glycoproteins, glycosphingolipids, and proteoglycans, etc.

Example from a recently edited manuscript

Glycans are usually attached to macromolecules to form important complexes, say glycoproteins, glycosphingolipids, and proteoglycans, etc.

better:

Glycans are usually attached to macromolecules to form important complexes, **including** glycoproteins, glyco-sphingolipids and proteoglycans.

Style

Formal Grammar Style – some recommendations

4. Avoid using You, They (But: We and Our accepted)

You can see the results in Table 1.	The results are shown in Table 1.
You can split the participants into low-sugar and high-sugar types.	The participants are split into low-sugar and high-sugar types.
They showed that protein X is downstream of receptor Y.	Recently, it was shown that protein X is a downstream target of receptor Y (Ref.).

Style

Formal Grammar Style – some recommendations

5. Usually, direct questions are not used in **original scientific** publications (accept in Review articles)

TO NOTE:

* different to a research proposal, where you are required formulate direct questions

Style

Formal Grammar Style – some recommendations

5. Usually, direct questions are not used in **original scientific** publications (accept in Review articles)

What can be done to lower the costs?	It is necessary to consider how costs may be lowered.
How does this fit with a previously proposed model?	Next, we considered how our results fit into a previously proposed model.

Style

Formal Grammar Style – some recommendations

6. Some adverbs are better put/placed within the verb

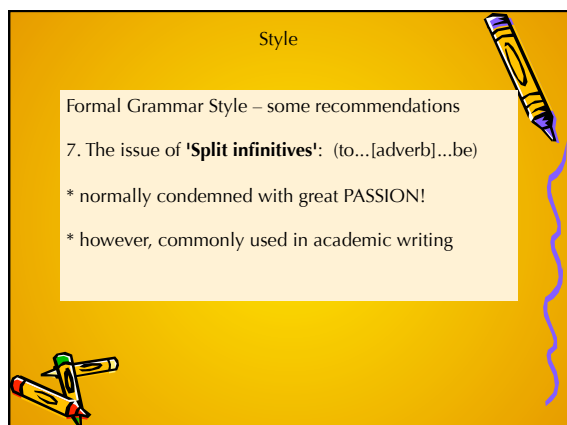
Actually, formaldehyde is present in all vertebrate cells.	Formaldehyde is actually present in all vertebrate cells.
This model was developed by Smith et al. (1956) originally.	This model was originally developed by Smith et al. (1956).
Two manuscripts have been edited by you and your team excellently.	Two manuscripts <u>have been excellently edited</u> by you and your team.

Style

Formal Grammar Style – some recommendations

7. The issue of '**Split infinitives**': (to...[adverb]...be)

- * normally condemned with great PASSION!
- * however, commonly used in academic writing



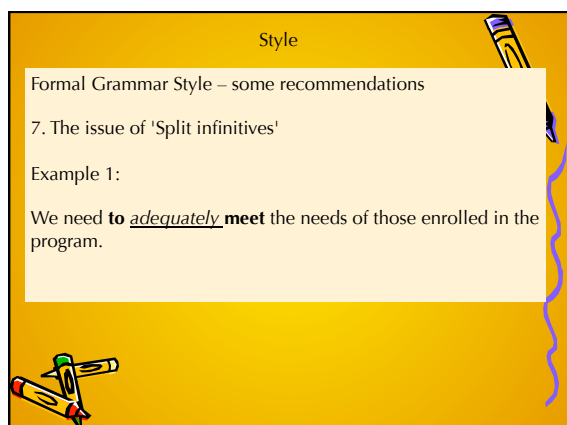
Style

Formal Grammar Style – some recommendations

7. The issue of 'Split infinitives'

Example 1:

We need to adequately **meet** the needs of those enrolled in the program.



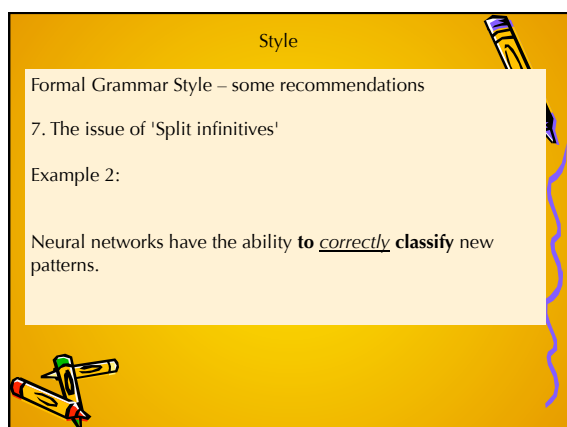
Style

Formal Grammar Style – some recommendations

7. The issue of 'Split infinitives'

Example 2:

Neural networks have the ability to correctly **classify** new patterns.



Style

Formal Grammar Style – some recommendations

7. The issue of 'Split infinitives'

Example 3:

The size of the container was modified **to downwardly adjust** the portion size and amount of consumption.

Style

Summary

- > if you find an expression/verb/noun in the literature relevant to your field, use it! If not, do not!
- > avoid the use of phrases and shortcuts found in informal speech in your academic writing
- > language is alive, it moves and transforms and adapts and assimilates – adopt the style of your time

TASK 14:

1. You can use this model to analyze the effects of several parameter changes.
2. OK, what are the reasons that coffee prices have fallen? There're a lot of possibilities.
3. You can see the difference between these two approaches to designing underground subway stations clearly.
4. Recent research has shown that the arms are used commonly for protection during a fall to the ground.
5. So far there hasn't been any comprehensive study looking into the role of smiling in getting the initial trust of individuals.
6. There are some studies that have concluded that bamboo could be used by builders more widely than it is now as a construction material.
7. These special tax laws have been enacted in six states: Illinois, Iowa, Ohio, etc.
8. There isn't very much research on the use of oil palm shell as coarse aggregate in the production of concrete.
