



Australian  
National  
University

# Studying and living in English

ANU Academic Skills

# Discuss in pairs

- Which skills are you best at:
  - Listening
  - Reading
  - Speaking
  - Writing
- What could you do to improve these areas?

# ACADEMIC SKILLS

## WRITING CENTRE

Bring a fresh perspective to your work!

LEVEL 3

DI RIDDELL STUDENT CENTRE

OPEN ALL YEAR



For more information, or to book an appointment



[anu.edu.au/academicskills](https://anu.edu.au/academicskills)



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**ANU**  
ACADEMIC  
SKILLS



DISCUSS YOUR WRITING AND ASSIGNMENTS  
WITH A TRAINED PEER MENTOR

# PEER WRITING SERVICE

**MON – FRI**

11AM TO 1PM

MARIE REAY  
TEACHING CENTRE

DURING  
SEMESTER



# LET'S SPEAK ENGLISH!

Join fun conversation groups,  
make new friends and meet  
local students! All ANU  
students welcome.  
Weeks 1-12, semester 1 and 2



12-1pm  
Mon-Fri



Moran G7  
Building  
#26B



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**ANU**  
ACADEMIC  
SKILLS

# Discuss in pairs

- Which skills are you best at:
  - Listening      } Receptive
  - Reading      }
  - Speaking      } Productive – faster and harder
  - Writing      }
- What could you do to improve these areas?

# Overview

- Spoken academic English
- Academic reading and writing
- Everyday English







*Immerse yourself in English to help  
with your self-directed learning*

# Spoken academic English



# Sharing your views

- Your point of view matters
- Your views should be based on evidence
  - "I think that..."
  - "Based on... I think that..."
  - "From my perspective..."
  - "I see this as..."

# Asking questions

- You can do this at any time:
  - "I might have misunderstood..."
  - "I could have this mixed up..."
  - "Correct me if I'm wrong, but..."
  - "I have a question..."



# How can you disagree respectfully?

- Acknowledge their perspective
- Offer an alternative
- Support your position
  - "I can see your point, but..."
  - "I tend to think that..."
  - "My reason is..."
  - "The evidence suggests..."

Consider the scenarios and discuss your responses with your partner.



# Reading and writing

- What are some differences between spoken and written academic English?
  - Different formats (e.g. essay, report)
  - Vocabulary
  - Being specific is very important
  - Academic English is like learning another new language

<b>Not very academic</b>	<b>More academic</b>
Jones (2009) said that...	Jones (2009) argued that...
The refugees couldn't put up with the situation any longer.	The refugees could not tolerate the situation any longer.
The Australian government always likes to trade with its neighbours.	Since the 1970s, the Australian government has had a more positive view of trade with its neighbours.



## Not very academic

Lots of scientists say that we have to do more to tackle climate change right now

I believe that ...

This is an interesting method of analysis.

There was a fantastic improvement in the 2018 performance.

## More academic

## Not very academic

Lots of scientists say that we have to do more to tackle climate change right now

I believe that ...

This is an interesting method of analysis.

There was a fantastic improvement in the 2018 performance.

## More academic

Scientists argue that more immediate action needs to be taken to address climate change (reference).

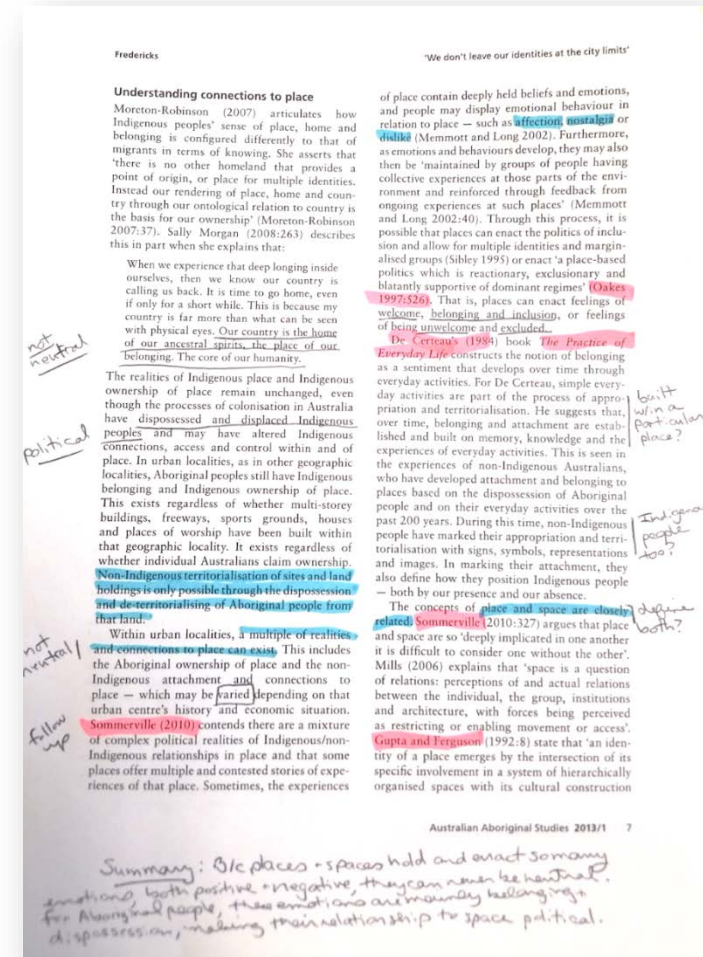
I argue that ...  
I contend that ...

This method of analysis is unusual compared to ... (reference)

There was a significant improvement in the 2018 performance (reference).

# Active reading for content and context ...

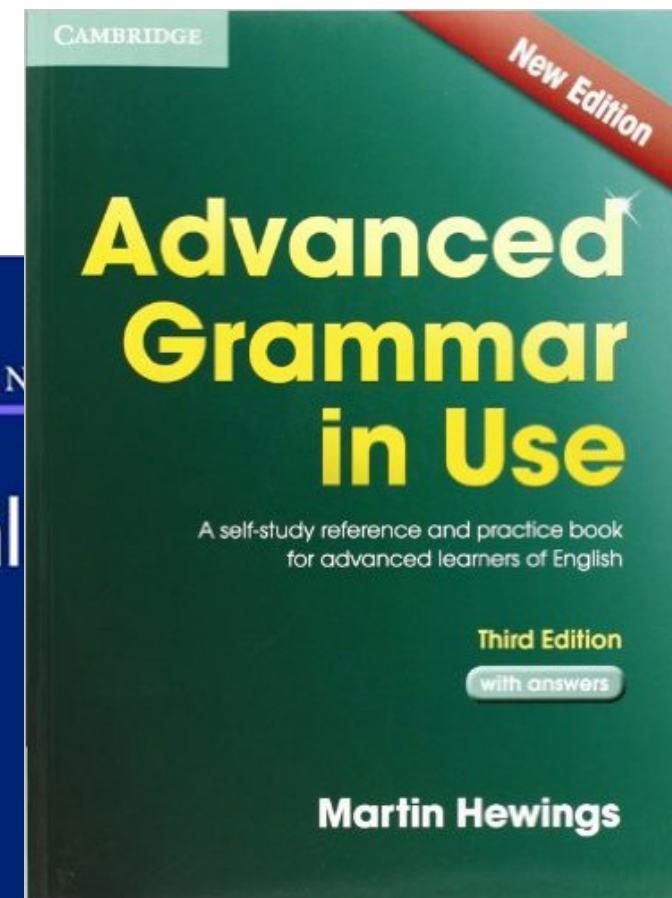
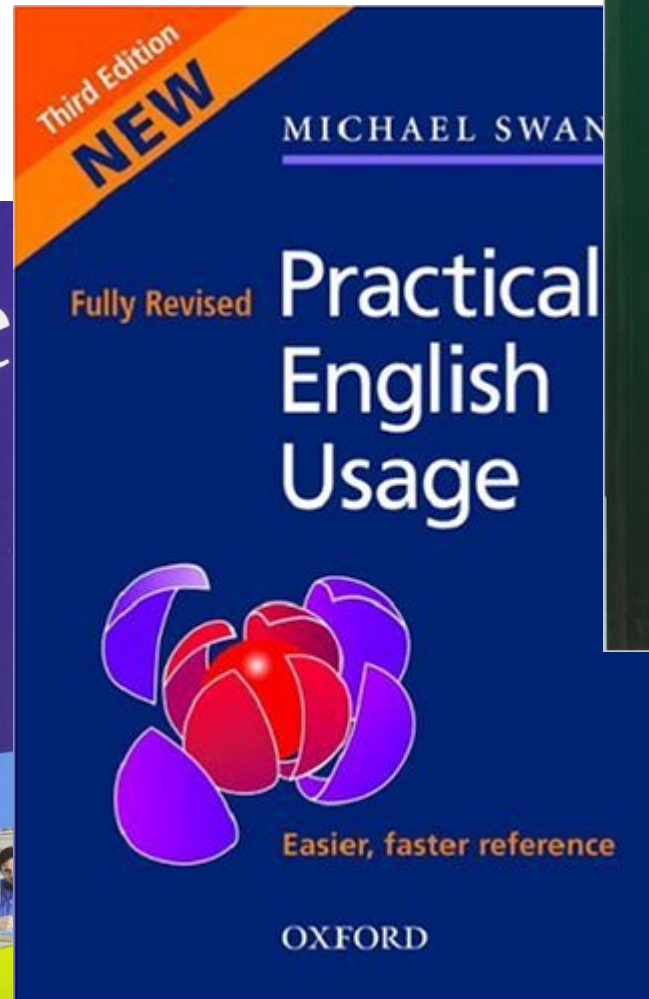
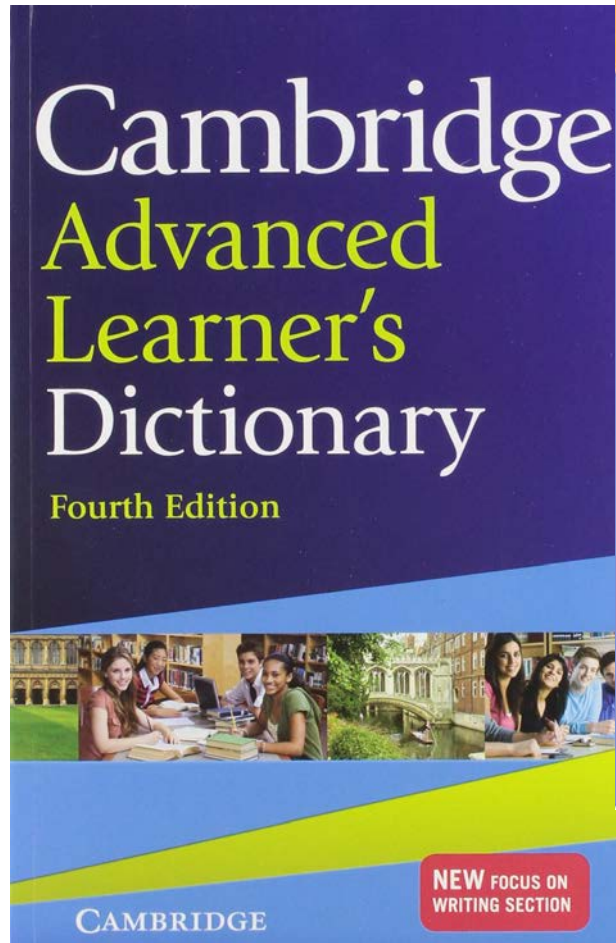
- Managing the reading
- New vocabulary?
  - Concentrate on the main ideas first
  - Guess the meaning from the context
- Read a variety of texts about the topic



# ... and then vocabulary

- Make a glossary
- Notice common terms and phrases in your disciplines
- Academic word list
- Vocabulary size test







# How can you improve your writing?

- Read and write regularly
- Seek feedback
- Act on feedback
- Be patient – it takes time and practice



# Everyday English

# Everyday English

- What can you do to immerse yourself in everyday English?

# Handy hints

- Live in English
  - Change your devices to English
  - Watch television, YouTube, movies in English
  - Set regular time to practice
- Get familiar with safe small talk topics
  - Weather
  - Movies & TV
  - Hobbies & sport





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ANU boasts almost 150 clubs, offering unique educational, sporting, cultural and social opportunities to members.

[See the full list of clubs here.](#)





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