

Grammar webinars

'argue', 'argued', 'have argued' - three important verb tenses in academic communication If you need to choose a verb tense when writing academically, more than 95% of the time it will be one of these three. Using examples from a range of academic areas, this session will look at the key uses of present simple, past simple, and present perfect and the impact of tense choice on meaning.

Writing successful sentences (1): Focus on structure and accuracy Do you know the difference between simple, compound and complex sentences? Using examples from academic texts, this session will look at sentence structure to help improve the quality of your academic writing.

Writing successful sentences (2): Linking your ideas This session will focus how ideas can be linked within and across sentences to improve the flow and cohesion of your academic writing. We will look at common 'linking words' and how to use them accurately in your writing.

Writing successful sentences (3): Relative Clauses Relative clauses have many uses in academic writing including adding information to more precisely define an object, and developing an idea further by clarifying, explaining or commenting. This session will use examples from a range of disciplines to look at relative clause use in academic texts.

'the' or 'a' or zero? – effective article use Article use is “one of the most difficult points in English grammar” (Swan, 2005) and is often the last area that advanced language learners master. Join this session to learn more about when to use 'the', 'a/an' or no article in academic writing.

Noun Phrases: the building blocks of academic texts Noun phrases can convey complex academic information in a compact form. In this session we will look at the identification of long noun phrases to enhance your academic reading, and the creation of long noun phrases to improve your academic writing.

The passive - when to and when not to use it Although the passive voice is common in academic writing, it is important not to over-use it. This session will use examples of academic writing from a range of disciplines to look at effective and appropriate use of the passive voice.

'may', 'might', 'can', 'could', 'should' ... - An overview of modal verbs Modal verbs are an important tool in academic writing. This session will use academic examples to look at how modal verbs are employed to achieve different functions, such as softening or strengthening claims.

Reporting Verbs reporting verbs such as 'states; argues; claims; suggests' help the reader understand the relevance of sources in your writing and can help you build your argument. However, it is important to select the correct verb for the meaning you want to convey, and to use that verb accurately in your writing. This session will help you use reporting verbs successfully in your assignments.