

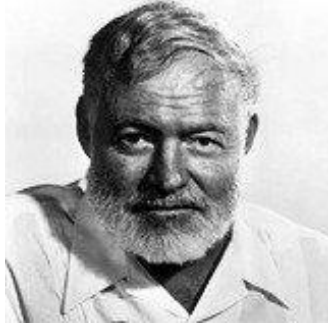
Writing English Medical Papers:
Errors and Suggested
Expressions
v2.1 (since 2007)

Kihong Chang
Ajou University School of Medicine

Experience

- *BTRT* consultant editor
- *The Obstetrician and Gynecologist*
(Royal College of Obstetricians &
Gynecologists)
– International Advisory Board

Simplicity



“He has never been known to
use a word that may send the
reader to the dictionary”

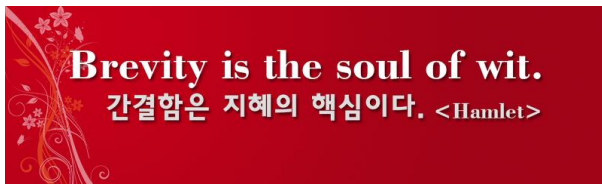
Ernest Hemingway (1899 - 1961)

Editors and reviewers look for

Brevity 간결

Clarity 명료

Validity



짜증!!!

화가난다



Title

- No abbreviations are used in the title.

"Digoxin and Risk of Death in Adults with Atrial Fibrillation: The ATRIA-CVRN Study"

Circ Arrhythm Electrophysiol. 2014 Nov 20

"The associations between the MCP-1 -2518 A/G polymorphism and ischemic heart disease and ischemic stroke"

Mol Biol Rep 2014 Nov 21

Upper case and lower case

- Characteristics and **T**reatments of **L**arge **C**ystic **B**rain **M**etastasis: **R**adiosurgery and **S**tereotactic **A**spiration
or...
- Characteristics and **t**reatments of **l**arge **c**ystic **b**rain **m**etastasis: **r**adiosurgery and **s**tereotactic **a**spiration
- **B**rain **t**umor **R**esearch **A**nd **t**reatment (x)

English name spelling

“홍길동”

Hong Gil Dong
HongGil Dong
Hong-Gil Dong
Hong, Gil Dong

DiSaia
DeHavilland
Rouhette-Berton

GilDong Hong
Gil Dong Hong
Gil-Dong Hong
Gil-dong Hong

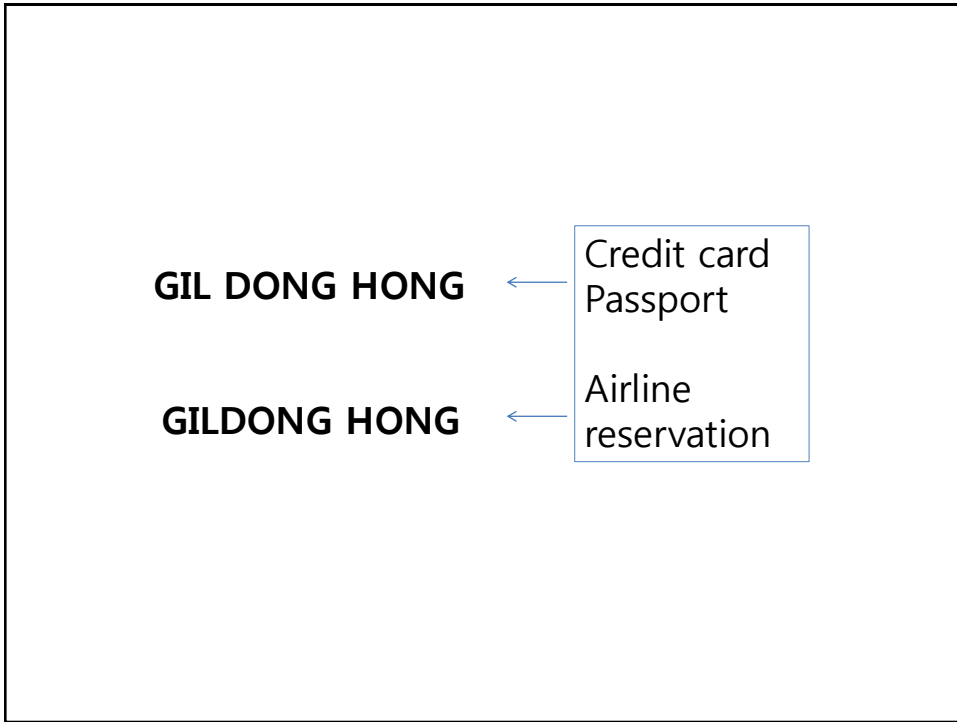
Gildong Hong



Charles Philip Arthur George



John Rhys-Davies



SKT 95% 오전 11:01

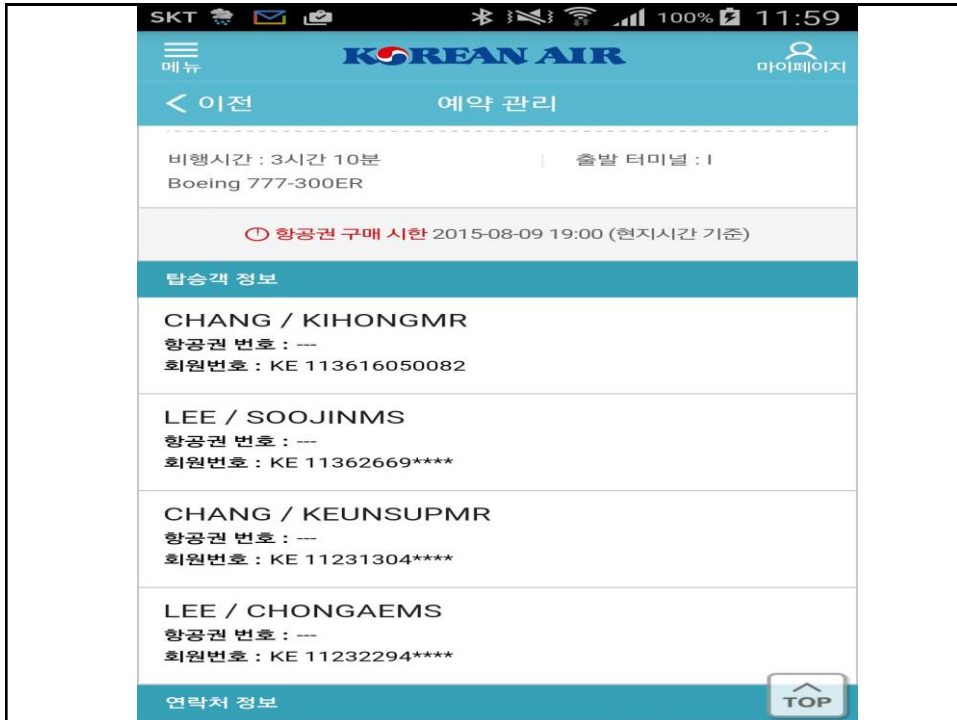
예약

장기홍 고객님의 예약 내역입니다.
 예약번호: 57664207
 예약명:

ICN → CTS 2015년 1월 26일 월요일 10:05 - 12:45 PRESTIGE	KE765 터미널:
CTS → ICN 2015년 1월 30일 금요일 14:05 - 17:15 PRESTIGE	KE766 터미널:

탑승객

KIHONG CHANG	
항공권 번호	스카이패스 번호 BK30311267
KEUNSUP CHANG	
항공권 번호	스카이패스 번호 BK0191665



Foreign names

Denmark



Jensen

Nielsen

Hansen

Andersen

Christensen

Sorensen

Finland



Korhonen

Virtanen

Makinen

Nieminen

Heikkinen

Koskinen

Sweden



Andersson

Johansson

Karlsson

Eriksson

Larsson

Olsson

Norway



Hansen

Johansen

Olsen

Pedersen

Nielsen

Kristiansen

Main Text

Introduction

No data or conclusions
are to be reported

Results

- Do not repeat all results in the text
- Only significant key results
- The remaining in the tables and figures
- Advantages and disadvantages of results → to discussion

잡담 1

USA and the UK

UK

- Primary school
- Secondary school
(grammar school, public school)
eg Eton College, Harrow School)
- University (3 years, read)



Eton College

USA

- Elementary (grammar) school
- Middle school (junior high)
- High school
- College (4 years, major)

- Aluminum & Aluminium
 - Different than & to
 - Gray & Grey
 - **Practice** & **Practise**
 - Color & Colour
 - Center & Centre
 - Hemoglobin & Haemoglobin
 - Hemorrhage & Haemorrhage
- cf: **Analyze** & Analyse (BJOG)

- British Journal of Dermatology
"Manuscripts must be written in
British English"
- British Journal of Cancer
- British Journal of *Pharmacology*
"USA English"
- European Heart Journal
"Oxford English spelling should be used"
- Journal of Neurosurgery
"U.S. English"

- medical *license/licence*
- facial *complexion/complection*
- the test was *canceled/cancelled*
- *dependent/dependant*
- vertebral *hard disk/compact disc*
- treatment *program/programme*
- field of *specialty/speciality*
- morphine *sulfate/sulphate*

잡담 2 USA and the UK

Mr Mrs Ms Dr St Ave (US)

vs

Mr. , Mrs. , Ms. Dr. St. Ave. (UK)


Alternate words for... ...study...

- investigation
- research
- examination
- review
- report
- evaluation

Alternate words for... ...determine...

- clarify
- identify
- verify
- confirm
- ascertain
- delineate
- establish

Alternate words for... ...reported that...

- concluded that
 - summarized that
 - observed that
 - stated that
 - described that
 - revealed that
 - demonstrated that
 - found that
 - inferred that
 - opinioned that
- 

**Alternate words for...
...suggest...**

- advise
- advocate
- conjecture
- exhort
- offer
- propose
- recommend
- submit

**Alternate words for...
...disadvantage...**

- limitation
- shortfalls
- fault
- flaw
- drawback

Webster's Dictionary

Thesaurus (유의어 사전)

...never never never...

- **Can't** be done
→ **cannot** be ...
- **Don't** perform this procedure
→ **do not** ...
- **We're** analyzing this
→ **we are** ...

...never never never...

Sentence begins with...

- **But** we observed in our study that...**x**
→ However,
- **And** the following patients...**x**
- **45** patients were enrolled in this study...**x**
→ Forty five patients....

Do's & Don'ts

- could, can, might...**x** → maybe...√
- biggest study...**x** → largest study...√
- important...**x** → of significance, critical...√
- done.. **x** taken...**x** → performed... √



잡담 3

- Cesarean section
 - Julius Caesar was ***NOT*** born by Cesarean section!!!!!!!!!!
 - Latin "caedere"; to cut



Common grammatical errors

- ...observed.So... → ...observed. So...
- ...observed,and... → ...observed, and...
- ...observed;but... → ...observed; but...
- ...observed:many → ... observed: many...

- P=0.05 → P = 0.05
- %, °C

Better expressions, better grammar

- **Surgery**

- Greek: χειρουργική *cheirurgikē*, Latin: *chirurgiae*, meaning "hand work"

- **Operation**

1) 운영 2) 작전 3) 사업 4) 수술 5) 활동

- Surgeries → **surgical** procedures
- Undergo **surgery**
- Surgical duration → **operation** time
- Operation note → **surgical** note/record
cf: pre - **operative**, post - **operative**



Better expressions, better grammar

- 4 times more... → 4 fold greater...
- cases... → patients, subjects
- group... → Group...
- pts classified as... → pts defined as...
- MRI imaging → MR imaging
- about... → approximately
- nearby... → adjacent to
- few, a few, several, numerous

Better expressions, better grammar

- ..it was seen that → ..observed that
- ..try to → ..attempt
- ..amount → ..quantity
- ..finish → ..completion of
- ..like → ..such as
- ..given → ..administered
- ..need → ..require
- ..get → ..obtain, acquire
- ..died → ..expired, deceased

Better expressions, better grammar

- ..used 썼다 → ..employed 사용



Staff 스텝 (step?) & Faculty

- "Staff only"
 - "Restricted area"
 - "No entry"
 - "Private"
 - "Entry forbidden"
 - "No unauthorized access or entry"
- "직원외 출입금지"
"staff" → "faculty"

design HUG



STAFF ONLY



Better expressions, better grammar

....and and and and....

- subsequently...
- followed by...
- leading to...
- resulting in...
- consequently...
- finally...

Commas

- ...alpha, bravo, charlie, **delta** and **echo**
- ...alpha, bravo, charlie, **delta**, and **echo**

Commas

At the last follow-up there was clinical improvement in terms of VAS and NDI scores and the postoperative flexion-extension range of motion at the operative site and adjacent levels was well maintained.

- Comma where?

잡담 4

- Cell phone
- Mobile phone
- Hand (held) phone
- Smart phone
- Hand held device



1973, 2kg

Common grammatical errors

Ultrasound



Ultrasonogram vs Ultrasonography

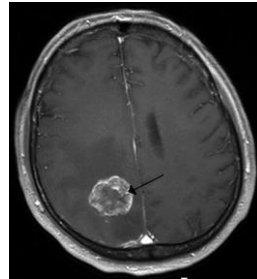
Mammogram vs
Mammography



Tense

동사의 시제 (時制)

- Result: **past** tense
...our results showed that...
- Figures and Tables: **present** tense
...arrow indicates...
...arrow pointing to lesion...



A poorly written paper is not enjoyable to read

Spell check!!

ㄱ ㄴ ㄷ
√

왕 짜증!!!



When writing a paper:

‘... blood, toil, tears and sweat...’

Winston Churchill, 13 May 1940

Syntax

- 통어론 (統語論), 구문론 (構文論)
- Language rules
- The grammatical arrangement of words in sentences

eg,

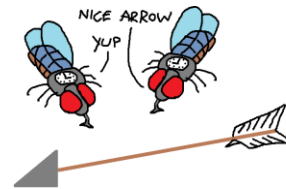
"...*time flies like arrows*..."

- syntactic ambiguity



- 의미: 시간의 흐름은 화살같이 **빨리** 간다
- *time* the speed of flies as quickly as you can

- Certain flies *enjoy* an arrow



DO NOT USE!!!

- Dash/Hyphen (-)
- ...shall be... (cf: ...will be...)
used sometimes in UK English
in USA legal documents

Brackets

사과(沙果)는 과일이다
사과 (apple)

- (Fig.1) → (Fig. 1)
- (Table 1.) → (Table 1).
- Brown et al(1987) → Brown et al (1987)
- Figure 2:(a,b,c) → Figure 2: (a, b, c)
- (apple) → (apple)
- **EXCEPT!**
...diagnosed with idiopathic hypertrophic
pachymeningitis [1,4,9].

1st, 2nd, 3rd degree relative

- 아버지 어머니 아들 딸
- 형 누나
- 삼촌 사촌



대통령의 5촌 조카

Bi -, Semi -

- Biweekly – every 2 weeks
- Bimonthly – every 2 months
- Semimonthly – every 2 weeks
- Semiannually – every 6 months
- Quarterly – every 3 months

잡담 5

"The pen is mightier than the sword"

"펜은 칼보다 강하다"

The power (less?) of the keyboard??

"...morphine sulfate is a powerful opiate used to **relive** pain...."



can be & maybe

- "can" - ability or capability

***Can** she swim?*

***Can** you speak Korean?*

... our results shows that it can be...

- "**maybe**" – probable

may be & maybe

- **may be** (two words) *might be, could be, or would be* = possibly
- **maybe** (one word) = probable

who & whom

...35 patients were enrolled in this study,
and
who/whom (?)
showed that...

- Current English: use **who** in all contexts

possible & probable & perhaps

- **Possible** – it could happen < 50%
- **Probable** – more likely to happen > 50%

"...our results show that the outcome is **probably** more favorable.... "

consist/comprise/composed

- "...our patient group selection..."
- consisted of...
 - comprised of...
 - was composed of...

English Medical Abbreviations

Abbreviation 약어 略語

- Used frequently in medicine, military
- Boost efficiency
- Disadvantages:
 - difficult communication, understanding
 - ambiguity

THAAD

- 세드? 새드? SAD?



- Terminal High Altitude Area Defense
(전구 고고도 지역방어)

...in medicine...

- [Methionylthreonylthreonylglutaminylarginyl.....isoleucine](#) 186,819 letters
- **Pneumonoultramicroscopicsilicovolcanoconiosis** – longest word in English dictionary

Orthographic styling

- [Periods](#) (stops): used in styling abbreviations
- Prevalent practice today is unnecessary

Ph.D	→	PhD
M.D.	→	MD
C.O.P.D.	→	COPD
e.g.,	→	eg
c.f.	→	cf

April 16th → Apr. 16 → Apr 16

...plurals...

- Plurals for medical acronyms
 - add lowercase *s* (no apostrophe)
- eg,
 - *one OCP, two OCPs*
(oral contraceptive pills)
 - MRIs
 - 1970s

Do Not Use! (JCI)

- IU [international unit](#) mistaken for "IV" or "10"
- MgSO4 [magnesium sulfate](#) may be confused with "MSO4"

논문 번역 의뢰

- All terminology in English
- eg
Objective: 이 연구의 목적은 Traumatic brain injury (TBI) 후 early period에 Unfavorable neurological outcome을 예측할 수 있는 clinical and radiological risk factors를 identify해서, 궁극적으로 TBI후 초기에 neurological outcome을 improvement를 목적으로 clinical trials를 시도하기 위한 대상 환자 선정 기준 (selection criteria guideline) 을 마련하는데 있다.

Thank you!

Merci!

Danke!

Grazie!

お陰様で!

Спасибо!

Gracias!

σας ευχαριστώ!

Siyakubonga!