

Writing English Medical Papers:
Errors and Suggested
Expressions
v2.4 (since 2007)

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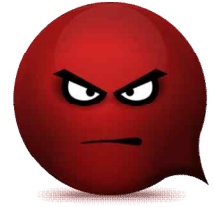
Aims of this presentation

- To assist manuscript **WRITERS** in English **writing** expressions
- To assist manuscript **EDITORS** in **correcting** English expressions

MY
MANUSCRIPT



REVIEWER



Upper case and lower case for titles

- Temporary **E**ndoscopic **S**timulation in **G**astroparesis-like **S**yndrome
(AMA Manual of Style)

Or...

- Temporary endoscopic stimulation in gastroparesis-like syndrome
- (Chicago Manual of Style, eg *NEJM*, *Nature*, *Science*, *Lancet*)

English name spelling

Given (christian) name

Middle name

Surname (family name)



Charles Philip Arthur George

DiSaia

DeHavilland

Rouhette-Berton

English name spelling

“홍 길 동”

Hong Gil Dong

HongGil Dong

Hong-Gil Dong

Hong, Gil Dong

GilDong Hong

Gil Dong Hong

Gil-Dong Hong

Gil-dong Hong

Gildong Hong

• <i>Practice</i>	&	<i>Practise</i>
• Aluminum	&	Aluminium
• Different than	&	Different to
• Gray	&	Grey
• Color	&	Colour
• Center	&	Centre
• Hemoglobin	&	Haemoglobin
• Hemorrhage	&	Haemorrhage

- 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"

Collins English Dictionary

The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL <http://www.collinsdictionary.com/dictionary/english/prevalent>. The page features the Collins logo and navigation links for Dictionaries, Thesaurus, Translator, Scrabble, Word Lovers' blog, and New. A search bar is visible with the text "English Dictionary" and a search button. Below the search bar, there are radio buttons for "British English" (selected) and "American English", and a dropdown menu for "Browse the English Dictionary (A-Z)".

The main content area displays the search results for "prevalent". The word is shown in a large font with its phonetic transcription '(ˈpreɪvələnt)' and a speaker icon. Below the word, there are sections for "Definitions" and "adjective". The definitions are:

- widespread or current
- superior in force or power; predominant

On the left side of the page, there is a vertical banner for "2015년 소비자 만족 대상" (2015 Consumer Satisfaction Award) with a gold medal icon and the text "종목 추천 실패 시 100%".

At the bottom of the page, there is a "Word Frequency" section with a "Start Download" button and a search video link: "Search Videos w/ HowToSimplified™ On How to Do it Yourself - Free!".

The Windows taskbar at the bottom shows the system clock as "오후 12:53 2016-04-14" and various application icons.

...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....

Better expressions, better grammar

- **cases** → **patients, subjects**
- **group** → **Group**
- **pts classified as** → **pts defined as**
- **MRI imaging** → **MR imaging**
- **finish** → **completion of**
- **given** → **administered**
- **died** → **expired, deceased**
- **centigrade** → **Celsius**
- **asked** → **questioned**

Better expressions, better grammar

- 4 times more → 4 fold greater
- it was seen that → observed that
- try to → attempt
- amount → quantity
- need → require
- get → obtain, acquire
- about → approximately
- nearby → adjacent to

Better expressions, better grammar

- how much → to what extent
- **till, til** → **until**
- faster → more rapid
- make diagnosis → arrive at diagnosis
- before → prior to
- shows (figure) → depicts
- long time → long periods
- right → correct
- cause → elicit

Better expressions, better grammar

- ..used 썼다 → ..employed 사용



Space errors

- ...observed.So... → ...observed. So...
- ...observed,and... → ...observed, and...
- ...observed;but... → ...observed; **b**ut...
- ...observed:many → ...observed: **m**any...

$P=0.05 \rightarrow P = 0.05$

(< 3 cm), 0.55 ± 0.21 ng

EXCEPT!

% ° °C

Brackets & spaces

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].
 - ...multiple site(s) MRI(s)

Surgery vs operation

- **Surgery**

- Greek: χειρουργική *cheirourgikē* , 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**



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?

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

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



Commas

- Tachykinins (TKs) are specific peptides including neurokinin (NK) A and B, and also substance P(,) which are expressed within the small diameter sensory fibers of the gut.
- Univariate analysis showed that IBS was associated with pet ownership, antibiotic usage, late dinner (> 21:00 hour) and consumption of Western meals, coffee(,) and bread.

Common grammatical errors

Ultrasound

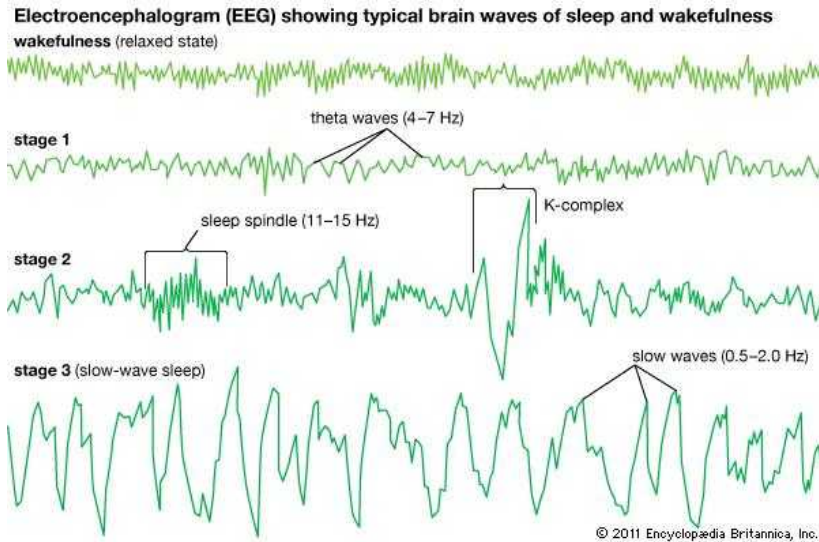


Ultrasonogram vs Ultrasonography

Mammogram vs
Mammography



Common grammatical errors

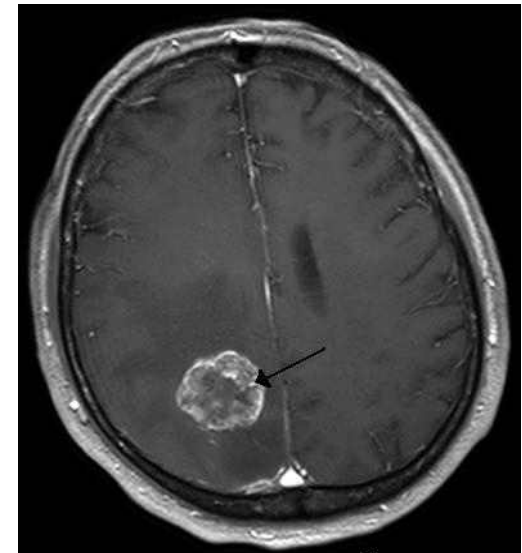


Electroencephalogram
vs Electroencephalography

Tense

동사의 시제 (時制)

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



- For Perm GES, 2 intramuscular electrodes **are** inserted by laparotomy or laparoscopy into the muscularis propria of the greater curvature of the stomach roughly 10 cm proximal to the pylorus, and a neurostimulator **is** positioned subcutaneously in the abdominal wall. The neurostimulator **was** positioned subcutaneously in the abdominal wall,

--- JNM



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*..."

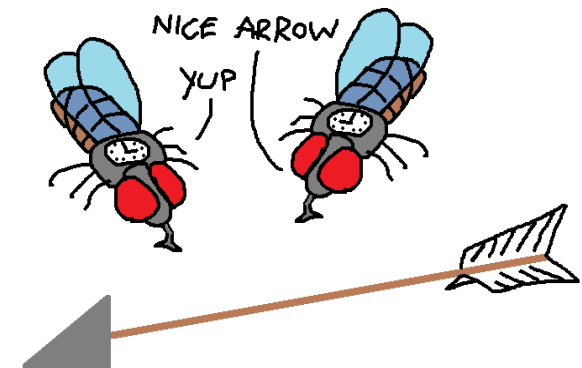
- syntactic ambiguity



- 의미: 시간의 흐름은 화살같이 **빨리** 간다

- *time* the speed of flies as quickly as you can

- Certain flies *enjoy* an arrow



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

Charlie Hebdo

“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....”



" It's one word!"
가운데 맞춤 Ctrl + E

“Although many Japanese people adopt a western diet, meals are not completely the same as in the **westerns**”

...whether there is **casual**
relationship between

dying patient → dyeing patient



“bring back **in** one piece”

VS

“bring back one piece”

care/intervention/ therapy/treatment/

- Care – preventive care, primary care
 - broad idea
- Intervention – cardiac catheterization
 - specific
- Therapy and treatment - synonymous

shall be/will be

...shall be... (cf: ...will be...)

used sometimes in UK English
in USA legal documents

AVOID “shall be”!

...can (could) be...

- "can" - ability or capability

Can you swim?

Can you speak Korean?

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

1% ~ 99%

may be & maybe

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

AVOID!

영국 국왕실 소속 산부인과 학회지
The Obstetrician and Gynecologist의
manuscript submission guidelines

“using absolute terms such as
‘always, never, sole’”

“using imprecise terms such as
**‘might, could, can, rare, uncommon,
usually, often, strongly, important’,
weakly, (***)weakly CCRT!!!)**”

AVOID!

Actual words used in journals

Noticeably
Obviously
Remarkably
Famous

‘Bear Tang’이 곰탕이라니...

한식 외국어 표기
오역 사례와
한국관광공사가
제시한 번역



육회

오역 영어 표기 ▶ Six Times
관광공사 제시한 번역 ▶ Beef Tartare



곰탕

Bear Tang
Beef Bone Soup



모래집(닭동집)볶음

Chicken Asshole House
Stir-fried Chicken Gizzards



생고기

Lifestyle Meat
Beef, Pork



동태찌개

Dynamic Stew
Pollack Stew

자료 한국

국인 조롱거리 ‘엉터리 한식 메뉴판’ 바로잡는다

일 낮 12시 종로구 인사동 거리. 나
어 있는 한식당들의 메뉴 입간판
아 보던 한 홍콩 관광객이 같이 여
일행에게 “한글로는 같은 메뉴인
에 영어 표기는 다 다르다”며 고
bean paste stew)’라 적었다. 이것만 한
국관광공사와 한식재단의 표기 방식에 맞
는 표기였다.
문화체육관광부와 농림축산식품부는
국립국어원, 한국관광공사, 한식재단, 한
국어문법학회 등과 함께 엉터리 이국

Dynamic Stew가 동태찌개
Six Times가 육회...

음식명 입력엔 영어·중국어·일어
3개 국어 표준 번역 나오게 추진

과’에 참여한 비육(중복 응답)이 절반

Bone Soup’로 써야 하는 곰탕을 ‘Bear
Tang’으로 번역한 경우도 있었다.

지난해 12월 순천향대 산학협력단이
한국관광공사에 제출한 ‘한식 메뉴 외국
어 표기 실태조사’ 보고서에 따르면 서울
시내 주요 관광지엔 중국어 메뉴판이 있
는 한식당 192곳 중 33.9%(65곳)는 1개
이상의 메뉴에 심각한 오역이 있는 것으로

체자와 번체자로 바르게 번역하
알려준다. ‘한식’의 경우 밥과
국·탕, 찌개, 전골 등 10여 종의
2300여 개의 음식 메뉴 표기법
있다. 한국관광공사는 또 네
색 포털 사이트와 협력해 검색
이름을 입력하면 영어·중
등 3개 국어로 된 표준 번역

possible & probable

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

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

who & whom

...35 patients were enrolled in this study,

and

who/whom (?)

showed that...

- Current English: use **who**

...comparison...

...group A patients showed significant
difference

“in comparison with”

VS

“compared to”

group B patients...

consist/comprise/composed

"...our patient group selection..."

- **consisted of...**
- **comprised of...**
- **was composed of...**

corroboration & collaboration

"...our results are in collaboration with..."

Corroborate - agree with (확증하다)

Collaborate - work together (협력하다)

...different...

...our results are different

- **from...**(USA & UK)
- **to...** (UK only)
- **than...** (x)

...compared to the above study

Number concept

few < **a few** < several < numerous

...plurals...

- DATA 자체가 복수형

→ ...datas... (x) data (o)

→ ...data is... (x) data are (o)

- Informationss (x)

- Equipmentss (x)

- Evidencess (x)

...plurals...

- Plurals → add lowercase *s*
(no apostrophe)
- eg,
 - MRIs
 - 1970s

...orthographic styling...

- [Periods](#) (stops)
- 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

...miscellaneous...

- GMT (Greenwich Mean Time)
 - UTC (Coordinated Universal Time)
- BC (before Christ)
 - Before christian/current/common era
- AD (anno domini)
 - CE (christian/current/common era)
- HACCP?

..the first step in solving a problem is recognizing that there is a problem...



Thank you! & Bye!

Merci!

Danke!

Grazie! `

お陰様で!

Спасибо!

Gracias!

σας ευχαριστώ!

Au revoir!

Auf Wiedersehen!

Arrivederci! `

さようなら!

до свидания!

¡adiós!

αντίο!