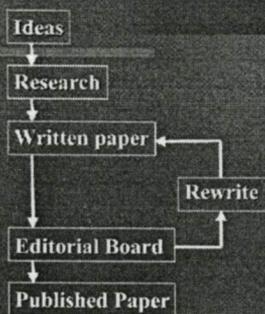


# Writing for International Journals

## Papers are written to:

- Increase the pool of knowledge and advance scientific practice
- Build reputations of staff and institutions

## From Ideas to First Draft



1

2

3

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## References

**Journal articles** Author Name(s). Title. Journal name  
Year; volume number; page numbers.

**Books** Author name(s). Title and subtitle,  
edition (other than first). City:  
publishing house, year; page numbers.

**Book chapters** Author name(s). Title of article or  
chapter, chapter number (if any). In:  
editors name(s), eds. Book Title, City:  
publishing house, year; page numbers.

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## Points to Consider When Planning Research

- Collaboration
- Statistician
- Good Clinical Practice

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## From Planned Research

- Brief communication
- Original article
- Short reports

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## After Unusual Findings or Problem Solving

- Brief communication
- Case report
- Collection of rare cases
- Methods/new equipment
- Letters

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## Commissioned Papers

(some journals are happy to publish unsolicited material; check the "Instructions to Authors.")

- Reviews
- Commentaries
- Book reviews
- Opinion/perspectives

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## Choosing a Journal

Is the topic of general or specialist interest?

*If it is specialist interest*

Who will want to read it?

Which journals do they read?

Which is the most prestigious?

What is the policy of the Editorial Board

Concerning the topics they will consider?

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## Types of Journals

- No fee required
- Subscription based
- Sponsored
- Academic institution journals
- Fee-based

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## Style & Structure

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## IMRAD

Introduction  
Methods  
Results and  
Discussion  
+  
Abstract

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## Introduction

- Know your audience
- Keep it short
- Say why you did the study
- Say why it is important

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## Methods

- Say how the study was designed:  
what was tested?
- Say how it was carried out:  
how was it tested?  
How accurate/trustworthy were the  
measurements
- Say how the data were analyzed

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## Results

- Use text to tell the story
- Use tables to give the bulk of the data
- Use figures to give dramatic impact
- Say how comparable your groups were
- Do not give results to greater degree of  
accuracy than the measurement or use % in  
groups of < 100 subjects
- Include unexpected results

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## Figures and Tables

- Should have an appropriate legend and stand alone
- Should be prepared according to the journal's instructions for authors
- Should only be used if they add clarity or dramatic impact to the paper

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**Table 1.**  
Chronological changes of Gallstone Types as identified at operation during the period of 1980-1988

Year	Gallstone Types			
	Total No.	Cholesterol	Black	Ca Bilinbinate
1980-82	446	328 (73.5%)	56 (12.6%)	62 (13.9%)
1983-85	560	408 (72.8%)	96 (17.1%)	56 (10.0%)
1986-88	658	440 (66.9%)	147 (22.3%)	71 (10.8%)

18

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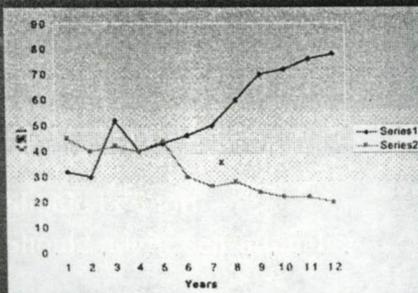
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## Discussion

- Should state the main findings
- Should highlight any shortcomings in the methods
- Should compare the results with other published findings
- Should discuss the implications of the findings

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## Final Paragraph

- What are you trying to say in your paper?
- Does the evidence you have given convincingly support this message?

21

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## Abstract

- Include aim, outline of methods, main results and conclusion
- Be clear and concise; avoid unnecessary detail

22

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## Title

- Should be as simple as possible
- Should be aimed at the target reader
- Should be short
- Should not be sensationalist

23

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Increased Production Tumor Necrosis Factor-alpha and Release of Soluble CD4 and CD8 Molecules, but

Decreased Responsiveness to Phytohemagglutinin in Patients with Nasopharyngeal Carcinoma

### Becomes

Immune Response in Nasopharyngeal Carcinoma: Tumour Necrosis Factor-alpha, Soluble CD4 and CD8 and Phytohemagglutinin

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21

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# Writing & Evaluation

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## Checklist Before Writing

- Type of paper
- Chosen journal
- Ordered information
- Data
- References

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## Writing

- Introduction - any order  
    Methods - any order  
    Results: Figures Tables - any order
- Discussion
- Abstract
- Title

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**Tell them what you are going to tell them.**

**Tell them.**

**Tell them what you have already told them.**

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## Common Deficiencies

- Rationale for the sample size not stated
- Primary outcome measure not designated
- Inadequate description of the method or treatment assignment
- Discrepancy in the number of patients enrolled with the number used in the analysis
- Source of support not stated

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## Checklist for Discrepancies

- If not all patients enrolled were analyzed, state:
  - How many patients were excluded
  - Why they were excluded
- Check that there are results for all the procedures mentioned in the methods section
- For percentages, make sure that it is clear how they were calculated
- Make sure that all numbers add up
- Make sure that all percentages and ratios are correct

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**It is a misconception that the utilization of complex syntax and polysyllabic designations is an indication of erudition**

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## Polishing

Structure  
Logic  
Grammar

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## Good English

**Choose the correct word** - use a dictionary to make sure that the word you have chosen is used in the correct context, and is spelled correctly.

**Select the shorter word rather than the longer one**

- Light vs illumination
- Most vs majority

**Select the simple word rather than the complicated one**

- Used vs employed

**Select the single word rather than the phrase**

- Now vs at this moment in time
- Few vs a small proportion

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## Expert Opinion Assesses the Paper as a Whole

**Obsessive opinion looks for:**

- Inconsistencies in the text
- Spelling mistakes
- Grammatical mistakes
- Typing mistakes

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## Proofing

- To confirm, or correct, that sentences flow smoothly and achieve the desired clarity
- Incorrect words and typographical errors are not present
- Tables and figures are inserted in the right place and are of appropriate size
- There is consistency throughout the article in punctuation, grammar, spelling and details of format

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## Hints for Proof Reading

- Read the paper several times, one for each objective
- To check spelling, read the paper backwards
- Ask other people to help you

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## Checklist Before Submission

### Title page

- All authors listed?
- Correct qualifications and affiliations?

### Figures and tables

- In logical order and with clear legends?
- Prints or negatives?

### Acknowledgements

- Technical and scientific  
NOT  
Administrative and secretarial

### Double-spaced clean manuscript

- How many copies?
- Also on computer disk?

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## Covering Letter

Use official notepaper.

Say:

- Who you are submitting
- Why you think it should appear in this journal
- Ask all authors to sign the letter.

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## The Production Process

### At the publisher

- Final edit for style
- Page layout
- Proof reading

### At the journal office

- Final proof read (not all journals)

### Return to authors

- Final proof read

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## Ethics

- Submission
- Original work only
- No simultaneous submissions
- Credit all who contributed to the work
- Obtain permission for copyright items

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## Conclusion

- Ideas
- Research
- Data
- Written paper

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## Conclusion

- Introduction
- Methods
- Results  
and
- Discussion

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## In Print!

Now is the time to start writing  
the next paper.

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